

Regular School Board Meeting  
February 26, 2007  
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Barbara Hathcock, president. Other Board members present were Ms. Shannon Blatt, Ms. Jeannie Cole, Dr. David Hunton, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Dr. Deanie Mehl, and Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr. Dr. Benny Gooden, superintendent, Dr. Johnny Owen, Deputy Superintendent and Ms. Carolyn Kincaid, executive secretary was also present.

The pledge of allegiance was recited and Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin gave the invocation.

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2007 regular school board meeting. The vote for approval was 7/0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:

Dr. Benny Gooden yielded to Dr. Johnny Owen for the professional staff recommendations.

Resignation  
Donna Meigs

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the resignation. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Recommendations for Employment  
Kimberly M. Endel, Elementary Music  
Roy L. Grinder, Science

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mehl, to approve the recommendations for employment. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Leave of Absence – 2006-2007  
Kimberly Suzanne Brooks

Leaves of Absence – 2007-2008  
Kimberly Suzanne Brooks  
Mary Burkett  
Kimberly Heath  
Misty Jackson  
Wyann Stanton  
Tommye Thompson  
Duane Walker  
Laurete Wright

February 26, 2007

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the Leaves of Absence. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Johnny Owen reviewed the student services report.

Dr. Gooden and Ms. Hathcock presented certificates to 13 teachers who recently received their National board certification-- Mandy Becker, Tilles, Sherry Cawhorn Christopher, Darby, Shantelle Edwards, Howard, Tracy Gilmore, Sunnymede, Kathy Glidewell, Euper Lane, Jennifer Ham, Albert Pike, Steve Holyfield, Chaffin, Jeff Mosby, Ramsey, David Rathbun, Chaffin, Heather Robertson, Darby, Kelley Todd, Southside, Vernetta Turner, Howard, Judy Weisenfels, Beard; Southside High School Science Bowl Winners, Wesley Johnson-Graves, Captain, Miranda Pitsch, Tyler Evans, Reed Stiles, and Jarid Kinder; Breandan Kelly, first chair, Tenor II, Mixed Chorus, Southside, Lam Pham 1<sup>st</sup> chair, Bassoon and 1<sup>st</sup> chair Bari Sax, Northside, Colin Standefer, 1<sup>st</sup> chair, piano, Northside, Mark Lewis, 1<sup>st</sup> chair, Bass, Southside, Elise Geraghty, 1<sup>st</sup> chair, flute, Southside High School, Emily Goodwin, 1<sup>st</sup> chair Eb Contra Clarinet, Southside, Devin Nelson, 1<sup>st</sup> chair, French Horn, Southside, Ross Payne, 1<sup>st</sup> chair, bass trombone, Northside, and Kevin Staggs, 1<sup>st</sup> chair, bass clarinet, Southside; and Bill Cromer, Distinguished Director Award, Northside.

Dr. Gooden updated the Board on adequacy funding issues currently in the 86<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

School attorney, Mitch Llewellyn was present and reviewed with the Board the status of results from the Lawrence Picus and Allan Odden Adequacy Study, the Van Buren School District case regarding time issues for teachers with before and after school duty, duty free lunches and passing time between classes. and the Oscar Stilley Case. The attorney for UAFS is requesting that Oscar Stilley be forced to abide by the court order requiring payment to the District and UAFS.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE  
REPORT:**

Ms. Hathcock recognized Ms. Cole for the Finance Committee Report.

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mehl, to approve the Financial Report for January 31, 2007. The vote for approval was 7/0.

PROPERTIES  
COMMITTEE REPORT:

Ms. Hathcock recognized Ms. Keaton-Martin for the Properties Committee Report.

Ms. Keaton-Martin made recommendation from the Properties Committee to approve the sale of excess equipment to the highest bidder. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a recommendation from the Properties Committee to approve the authorization of the Superintendent of Schools to secure construction management services for the Southside High School Activity Center. The vote for approval was 7/0.

CURRICULUM  
COMMITTEE REPORT:

Ms. Hathcock recognized Dr. Mehl for the Curriculum Committee Report.

Dr. Mehl made a recommendation from the Curriculum Committee to approve *Scott Foresman Science* for science textbooks grades K-6 and *Kids for Health* for health textbooks, grades K-6. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Mehl made a recommendation from the Curriculum Committee to approve *Glencoe Science* for science for grades 7-9 and *Decisions for Health*, for health for grades 8 and 10-12. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Mehl reported that the Curriculum Committee met on Monday, February 19 and after lengthy discussion had rejected high school courses based on the National Council on Bible Curriculum in Public Schools.

Because of public interest in this subject, Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to allow the proposed Bible curriculum to be voted on by the full Board. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blatt, to uphold the Curriculum Committee's recommendation and reject the proposed National Council on Bible Curriculum in Public Schools. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Board of Education  
Page 4  
February 26, 2007

STUDENT AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE REPORT:

Ms. Hathcock recognized Mr. Wade for the Student Affairs Committee Report.

Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the expulsion of one student, from Southside High School for the current

school year for being under the influence of a controlled substance; second offense. The vote for approval was 7/0.

BOARD MEMBERS  
FORUM:

Ms. Cole informed the Board that she had attended the ASBA Federal Relations Network Conference in Washington, DC on January 28 and that three of our legislators signed a pledge to America's school children. She stated that she was confident that our legislators were trying to improve schools for the State of Arkansas.

Mr. Wade commended the Curriculum Committee for the attention and time given to making a decision regarding the Bible Curriculum. He informed the Board that he had contacted the school district in Lee County, Florida where a portion of a Hebrew Bible curriculum had been allowed in school. He stated the course had been eliminated because of lack of interest. He also stated that he would like to research other possible religion curriculums to be considered.

CITIZEN  
PARTICIPATION:

Ms. Connie Williams was present and informed the Board that she had an issue with Southside High School and told the Board that she felt this issue had not been handled properly. Dr. Gooden informed Ms. Williams that the Board had been informed of this issue and had been forwarded all correspondence involved.

Ms. Paula Bodnar, Northside High School, was present to voice her concern about the District not having a District wide recycling program. Dr. Gooden noted that each school has recycling receptacles and that recycling receptacles are at all service center locations.

Mr. Mike Ramsey had signed up to speak but was not present.

Mr. Tony Tidwell was present and apologized to members of the Curriculum Committee for questioning their faith. He also noted that he was still in support of teaching the Bible in our schools.

Board of Education  
Page 5  
February 26, 2007

Mr. Jay Vearrier was present to voice his support of teaching the Bible in school.

ADJOURN:

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

---

Ms. Barbara Hathcock, President

---

Dr. David Hunton, Secretary