

Regular School Board Meeting
June 25, 2007
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Barbara Hathcock, president. Board members present were Ms. Shannon Blatt, Ms. Jeannie Cole, Dr. Deanie Mehl, and Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr. Dr. David Hunton arrived at 5:40. Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin was absent. Also present were Dr. Benny Gooden, superintendent, Dr. Johnny Owen, Deputy Superintendent and Ms. Nadine Brooks, executive secretary.

The pledge of allegiance was recited and Dr. Gordon Floyd gave the invocation.

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Shannon Blatt, to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2007 regular school board meeting. The vote for approval was 6/0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:

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

Resignations

Cartwright, Nelson
Cumbie, Candice
Giles, Patty
Graumann, Megan
McMahan, Jill
White, Susan
Wintory, Debra
Villalba, Eric

Retirements

Craine, Kathy
Mohnkern, Roy

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Jeanne Cole, to approve the resignations and retirements. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Recommendations for Employment

Bailey, Andrea
Baker, Mary
Been, Kimberly
Biggerstaff, Angela
Brown, Crystal

Recommendations for Employment

Butcher, Anne
Calvillo, Kristin
Chapman, Christy
Crozier, Jessica
Elliott, Brenda
Emfinger, Jennifer
Fowler, Kerri
Garvey, Jason
Gipson, Lindsey
Harris, Stephen
Heffner, Cordelia
Hughes II, Steven
Jones, Christopher
Mason, Alyson
Massengale, Johanna
McAllister, Patricia
Norady, Angie
Pendleton, Rachel
Rainwater, Jenna
Stegall, Sandra
Steinsiek, Taryn
Tarrant, Johnny
Williams, Candace
Coats, Adam
Redwine, Stephanie
Southerland, Mary
Vineyard, Lara

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blatt, to approve the recommendations for employment for 2007-2008. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Leave of Absence

Ham, Jennifer

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mehl to approve the leave of absence. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Mr. Wade noted that thirteen of the 2007/2008 hires were UA Fort Smith graduates and acknowledged our appreciation of Dr. Beran and UA Fort Smith. Dr. Sellers addressed the Board regarding the partnership that FSPS has with UA Fort Smith and the College of Education as well through the Teacher Education Council.

Dr. Gooden and Ms. Hathcock presented certificates to Chaffin Junior High School co-editors Cathryn Klusmeier and William Roberts of the *Cougar Print*, stating that William received an excellent rating in column and review and Cathryn received an excellent rating in sports column and feature photograph noting that it was indeed an honor for a junior high to receive this recognition.

Dr. Gooden noted that the School Board election is scheduled for Tuesday, September 18, 2007. Position 5, elected at large, currently held by Dr. David Hunton and Position 6, elected from Zone I, held by Ms. Barbara Hathcock are open. The deadline to establish candidacy is Monday, August 6, 2007.

Dr. Gooden reported that summer school is in session with over 200 students enrolled, 100 enrolled in CPEP, Reading Camp is underway at Cook Elementary and the Summer Meal Program is available at six Fort Smith Schools. He noted that 30,000 meals were provided last year through this program.

Dr. Gooden noted that all administrative appointments for 2007-2008 have now been filled and several administrative staff re-titled to best optimize their responsibilities for the structuring of the FSPS Administrative Team.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
REPORT:

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

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hunton, to approve the Financial Report for the month of May. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Ms. Cole made a recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve the low bid of \$12,986 premium per year from Miclette, Britt and Merry Insurance for boiler insurance. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Ms. Cole made a recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve an increase in school lunches to \$1.00 for breakfast meals for elementary, junior and senior high students and \$1.75 for elementary lunch meals and \$2.00 for junior and senior high lunch meals. After discussion that 2003 was the last year that meal prices had been increased, the vote for approval was 6/0

Ms. Cole made a recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve the 2008-09 proposed budget of expenditures with tax levy for publication as required by Arkansas statute for the 2007 school board election. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Ms. Cole made a recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve an agreement for legal services for Mr. Mitch Llewellyn for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2007 and extending through June 30, 2008 at an hourly rate of \$175.00. Mr. Wade noted that there was no increase in the hourly rate from previous contract for Mr. Llewellyn. The vote for approval was 6/0.

ATHLETIC/ACTIVITIES
COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Hathcock recognized Ms. Blatt for the Athletic/Activities Committee Report.

Ms. Blatt reported that Sparks Health Systems has employed Brent Griffis and Cooper Clinic has employed Sherry Riggins in previous years but funding has been discontinued for these individuals. Both health care providers offered partial assistance for the 2007/2008 school year. Ms. Blatt made a Committee recommendation to approve FSPS providing two athletic trainers 213 day contracts in support of student athletes for all secondary schools. The vote for approval was 6/0.

PERSONNEL
COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Hathcock recognized Dr. Hunton for the Personnel Committee Report.

Dr. Hunton reported that three employees disclosed potential ethics issues for consideration. Dr. Gooden noted that Arkansas Law requires that employees disclose this possible conflict of interest.

Dr. Hunton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blatt, to approve contract disclosure forms for Samantha Jill Geren, Ace Fence Co.; Caroline Neel, Jerry Neel's Bar-B-Q; and Sheryl L. Waggoner, Fort Smith Structural, Inc. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Dr. Hunton made a motion from the Personnel Committee to approve the superintendent's contract with an increment of \$6,000, making his salary \$190,000, extend his contract by one year to 2010 based on the 3% and to keep his salary in alignment with other 7A schools. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mehl, to waive the reading of certified and classified personnel policy revisions to be voted on. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Dr. Hunton made a recommendation from the Personnel Committee to approve the proposed revisions to both Certified and Classified policies for second and final reading. The policies are:

Certified

GCBA – Salary Schedule

GCBDBA – Sick Leave

Classified

Ethical conduct (new policy)

GDBDCC – Family Illness

GDACB – Employment Requirements (Paraprofessionals)

Civic Duties

Tobacco Use by Staff Members

Sick Leave

The vote for approval upon second reading was 6/0

STUDENT AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE REPORT:

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

Mr. Wade made a recommendation from the Student Affairs Committee to approve the following policies for second and final reading:

JFC – Student Conduct Not Permitted on School Premises or at any Activity Related to School

JGD – Suspension of Students

JGE – Expulsion

JGEA – Expulsion Procedures

The vote for approval upon second reading was 6/0.

CURRICULUM
COMMITTEE REPORT:

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

Dr. Mehl made a recommendation from the Curriculum Committee to approve revisions to academic/student policies as listed below for second and final reading.

JO – Student Records

JOA – Protection and Retention of Students

IKE – Promotion and Retention of Students

ID – School Day

The vote for approval upon second reading was 6/0.

PROPERTIES
COMMITTEE REPORT:

Ms. Hathcock recognized Dr. Hunton for the Properties Committee Report in Ms. Keaton-Martin's absence.

Dr. Hunton reported on the bids received for Student Services Office Renovations by several contractors. Dr. Hunton moved that the low bid of \$307,880 from Turnkey Construction be approved, Jeannie Cole seconded this motion. The vote for approval was 6/0.

BOARD MEMBERS
FORUM

Dr. Gooden and Board members recognized Dr. Owen's attendance at his last board meeting and thanked him for his many years of service to Fort Smith Public Schools. Mr. Wade stated to Dr. Owen that he appreciated his professionalism and humor as did Ms. Hathcock and Ms. Cole.

Dr. Mehl recognized Kathy Craine's retirement by stating how much she appreciated and how privileged she was to have known her as a teacher of the FSPS. She stated that she will be missed.

CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION:

There was no one present for citizen participation.

ADJOURN:

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Barbara Hathcock, President

David Hunton, Secretary