

Regular School Board Meeting  
March 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 present.

The pledge of allegiance was recited and Mr. Wade spoke briefly regarding the advancement of women in the last century as the United States Congress had declared March Women's History month.

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hunton, to approve the minutes of the February 26, 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.

Resignations

Maureen Austin  
Jamie Creekmore  
Kimberly Endel  
Cassandra Greene  
Natalie Newcomb  
Brenda Person  
Kim Vongphachanh  
Heather Wright

Retirements

Carolyn Barnett  
Susan Besancon  
Gary Branch  
Fred Brandli  
Rose Davidson  
Janice Edwards  
Vicki Ellison  
Patsy Ethridge  
Sherma Granger  
Susan Horton  
Ida Howell

Retirements (continued)

LaRonda Jacobs  
Suzanne Karr  
Glenda Lewis  
Ray Martin  
Kathryn Orlor  
Johnny Owen  
Becky Pickle  
John Thellman  
Winston Turpin  
Shirley Williamson

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Yvonne Keaton-Martin, to approve the resignations and retirements. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Recommendations for Employment

Barry N. Henry  
John J. Vitale  
Debra A. Wintory

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

Leave of Absence

Lyle Lorensen

Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the leave 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 the **Northside High School 2006-07 State Champion Grizzly Basketball Team**-Kevin Arnold, DAdrian Hinkle, Josh Morris, Kodi Burns, Bobby Hogan, Nick Murry, Charles Carter, Allen Johnson, Jacob Robinson, Shamar Davis, Jeff Hipsher, Zac Roy, Gunner DeLay, Jr., Stephan Johnson, Phillip Smith, Jr., Alfredo Delpozo, Antonio Jones, Will Smith, Carlton Gray,

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Matt Jones, Terrance Triplett, Lucas Hackett, David Kinnard, Michael Vann, Jr., Terry Harris, Jr., Zac Mankins, Michael Watson, Jr., Paul Henry, Blake Mitchem, Marquis Williams, Coaches Johnny Mason, , Billy Smith, Ralph Brown, Jr., Ben Goode and Trainer Sherry Riggins; **Northside High School 2006-07 State Champion Lady Bears Basketball Team**—Shanita Arnold, Meghann LaBorn, Arika Smith, Rashana Bond, Amanda Lensing, Kaleigh Streeter, Shanelle Clardy, Sierra McFerren, Daliesha Taylor, Candace Culver, Iesha McReynolds, Tanisha Tucker, Shaquindlyn (Quin) Culver, Synora Phillips, Anitra Walls, Kendra Flemming, Teondra Poole, Joie Williams, Shatoya Flemming, Shaniqua Releford, Lacreia Wilson, Allison Harpenau, Emily Rideout, Marian Kursh, Amara Shepard, Coaches Rickey Smith, Jason Clemons, Scott and Regina Thompson, Trainer Sherry Riggins; and **Northside High School JROTC Precision Rifle Team**—1<sup>st</sup> place in Precision Rifle Team Competition—Matt Disch, Veronica Grimes, Sara Smith, Aminta Urrutia, Colonel Earl Massey, and Sergeant Johnny Martin.

Dr. Gooden informed the Board that Deputy Superintendent, Johnny Owen would be retiring this year after 35 years of service. Dr. Gordon Floyd, currently Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, has been named the new Deputy Superintendent effective July 1, 2007.

Dr. Gooden stated that the Arkansas Department of Education has named 18 school districts in Arkansas that are currently in alert for potential School Improvement Status. This classification is based on the failure of selected subgroups to meet established Adequate Yearly Progress levels despite the fact that overall scores exceeded the standard at all levels and in every category. He also noted that many of these are large urban districts with a great deal of diversity and have a difficult time measuring up to 95% students tested as required by the No Child Left Behind Act.

He also informed the Board that Thursday, April 12 the Fort Smith Public Schools Foundation will hold a Gala fund-raising event at Golden Ventures, to raise money for the endowment fund for the Fort Smith Public Schools Foundation. A number of local citizens will be honored by the Foundation for their contributions to public education.

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Dr. Gooden noted that the 86<sup>th</sup> General Assembly is still in session and an important bill regarding funding for Arkansas school districts had passed and been signed by the Governor. He also noted that over 300 bills have been introduced regarding education.

FINANCE COMMITTEE  
REPORT:

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

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the Financial Report for February 28, 2007. The vote for approval was 7/0.

PERSONNEL  
COMMITTEE REPORT:

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

Dr. Hunton made a recommendation from the Personnel Committee to approve the 2007-08 personnel employee contracts. The vote for approval was 7/0.

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 365 days for possession of weapons on school campus. The vote for approval was 7/0.

BOARD MEMBERS  
FORUM:

Ms. Hathcock and Ms. Cole stated how proud they were of FSPS District teachers, staff, students, and especially the parents for all the many accomplishments and awards received this year. Ms. Cole also noted that the current issue of *Good Things* was excellent and commended Ms. Zena Featherston for a job well done.

CITIZEN  
PARTICIPATION:

Ms. Sharon Nabors was present and informed the Board that she had concerns regarding the Parker v. Perry lawsuit filed by Mr. Oscar Stilley. She is a client of Mr. Stilley and asked the Board if they had concerns about the FSPS attorney requiring her personal files be turned over to the Court.

She also questioned why the charges Mr. Stilley has been ordered to pay to the Fort Smith School District is considerably more than charged by the University of Arkansas regarding this suit.

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Dr. Gooden informed the Board that the District had considerably more exposure than the University and had been the lead in filing and pursuing this suit filed by Mr. Oscar Stilley against the District.

Mr. Wade explained to Ms. Nabors that a circuit court judge had made the order for client data to be reviewed and the Board of Education had no authority in the matter.

ADJOURN:

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

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Ms. Barbara Hathcock, President

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Dr. David Hunton, Secretary