

Regular School Board Meeting
December 17, 2007
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

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

The pledge of allegiance was recited and Dr. Barry Owen gave the invocation.

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2007 regular school board meeting. The vote for approval was 7/0. Ms. Hathcock made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2007 meeting. The vote for approval was 7/0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:

Dr. Benny Gooden yielded to Dr. Gordon Floyd to review the professional staff recommendations.

Resignation
Virginia Nedelev

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

Recommendations for Employment
Martha Joann Black
Vicki Chamlee

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

Ms. Sami Welch, music instructor at Tilles Elementary School and ten choir members were present and sang Christmas carols from their new "We Believe" CD.

Dr. Gooden and Dr. Hunton presented a certificate to Ms. Lana Neumeier, Tilles Elementary School, for receiving the Bessie B. Moore award from Economics Arkansas.

Dr. Gooden recognized Dr. Barry Owen, chairman of the FSPS United Way Drive for 2007, noting that the Fort Smith School District won the Education Division Award.

Dr. Gooden noted that all documents had been signed and work will begin soon on additions and renovations to Albert Pike Elementary.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
REPORT:

Dr. Hunton recognized Ms. Blatt for the Finance Committee Report.

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the Financial Report for November 26, 2007. The vote for approval was 7/0.

BOARD MEMBERS
FORUM:

Mr. Wade read a Christmas poem entitled, A Soldier's Christmas.

CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION:

No one was present for citizen participation.

ADJOURN:

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m. to meet as a Committee of the Whole.

Dr. David Hunton, President

Dr. Deanie Mehl, Secretary

Committee of the Whole Meeting
December 17, 2007
6:10 p.m.

The Committee of the Whole met at 6:10 p.m. immediately following the regular school board meeting. Present were Dr. David Hunton, Ms. Shannon Blatt, Ms. Jeannie Cole, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Ms. Barbara Hathcock, Dr. Deanie Mehl, and Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr. Administrators present were Dr. Benny Gooden, Dr. Gordon Floyd, Dr. Brenda Sellers, Dr. Barry Owen, Ms. Ellen Terry, Dr. Randy Bridges, Mr. Lynn Ellison and Ms. Zena Featherston. Ms. Carolyn Kincaid was also present.

Dr. Gooden and the Committee discussed the options available to accommodate the continued student growth and the limited space in our schools. The options included: adding on to the two high schools to include ninth grade; build a third high school and realign grades to kindergarten through fifth grade, sixth through eighth grade and ninth through 12th grade; build two new elementary schools or add onto existing primary and secondary campuses.

There was discussion about the costs of each option, the concern of major businesses closing and enrollment declining, and how this might affect sports and other student organizations.

After time for discussion, Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, To authorize Dr. Gooden to pursue land options for school sites within the District. The vote for approval was 7/0.

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.