Regular School Board Meeting
October 22, 2007
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Dr. David Hunton, president, called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Ms. Shannon Blatt, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Dr. Deanie Mehl, and Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr. Ms. Jeannie Cole and Ms. Barbara Hathcock were not present. 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. Gordon Floyd gave the invocation.

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2007 regular school board meeting. The vote for approval was 4/0. Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Dr. Deanie Mehl to approve the minutes of the October 17 meeting. The vote for approval was 4/0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

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

Resignations
Stacie Allison Russell

Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mehl, to approve the resignation. The vote for approval was 4/0.

(Ms. Shannon Blatt arrived).

Recommendations for Employment
Alicia D. Brewer, Special Education
Andrea M. James, Elementary
Charles A. Mackey, Jr., Construction Technology
Virginia K. Nedeleff, Elementary
Jane C. Williamson, Secondary

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blatt, to approve the recommendations for employment. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Dr. Gooden noted that the Arkansas Department of Education has released the School Improvement List for Adequate Yearly progress as required by the No Child Left Behind Act. FSPS has seven elementary schools, three junior highs and one high school that did not achieve adequate yearly progress. Dr. Gooden noted that 90% of students in these elementary schools were on free and reduced lunch, and another 40 percent were language minority.

He also noted that Tilles met Adequate Yearly Progress standards when all subgroups were added together, yet Tilles did not meet the standards for each sub-group, as Tilles has so many categories.

Dr. Gooden reviewed the recent visit from AdvancED/NCA/CASI. This organization is responsible for evaluating the Fort Smith School District for district accreditation. The Quality Assurance Review (QAR) Team was comprised of 17 individuals from Arkansas and several other states. The team interviewed more than 400 people during the three-day visit. FSPS did receive a recommendation for 5-year District accreditation and the Team will provide the District with a written report within 30 days.

Dr. Gooden noted that Southside High School had won the 7A Volleyball Conference Championship and will compete in the state tournament in Cabot next week. He also noted that the marching band contest is tomorrow, Tuesday, October 23 at Mayo Thompson stadium.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

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

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the Financial Report for September 24, 2007. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Ms. Blatt yielded to Dr. Gooden to review the ethics disclosure resolutions. Dr. Gooden noted Ms. Tenley Willey, B. Willey Piano Tuning, and Ms. Sarah Higgins, Higgins Construction Company had disclosed potential ethics issues for consideration. Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mehl, to approve the ethics resolutions for these two individuals. The vote for approval was 5/0.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT:

Dr. Hunton recognized Dr. Deanie Mehl for the Curriculum Committee Report.

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blatt, to approve the required

assurances to receive special education funding from the individuals With Disabilities Education Act as follows; Headstart Grant, School Age Services-Fiscal Year 2007-08, and Pre-School Services- Fiscal Year 2007-08. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the proposed Textbook Selection Committee for secondary social studies. The vote for approval was 5/0. A copy of the committee is attached.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE REPORT: Dr. Hunton recognized Ms. Keaton-Martin for the Properties Committee report in Ms. Cole's absence.

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a recommendation from the Properties Committee to approve renovation and additions to Albert Pike Elementary School. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mehl, to approve the purchase of property located at 301 N. 22nd Street for the appraised price of $50,000. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Dr. Hunton appointed Dr. Deanie Mehl to serve as the Fort Smith Public Schools delegate at the Arkansas School Boards Association Conference in December in Little Rock, AR.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: No one was present for citizen participation.

ADJOURN: There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

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Dr. David Hunton, President

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Dr. Deanie Mehl, Secretary