

Regular School Board Meeting
August 25, 2008
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. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Dr. Deanie Mehl and Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr. Ms. Barbara Hathcock was 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.

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blatt, to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2008 regular school board meeting. The vote for approval was 6/0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:

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

Resignations

Amber Dedmon

Kathy Ross

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mehl, to approve the resignations. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Recommendations for Employment

Michael J. Benoit

Susan E. Bishop

Chelsey J. Clopton

Larissa D. Grigsby

Deborah J. Heffington

Kristin E. Jones

Tiffany R. Reeves

Sharon L. Stevenson

Melissa G. Wilson

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

Dr. Gooden and Dr. Hunton presented a certificate recognizing Southside and Northside High Schools for receiving the Arkansas Activities Association McDonald's Sportsmanship Award. Mr. Wayne Haver, Mr. Martin Mahan, and Mr. Darrell Henry were present to receive the recognition.

Dr. Gooden noted that the school board election is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2008. The candidates are running unopposed and there is no increase in millage. The Sebastian County Election Commission has recommended that the District open one polling site in each of the four zones and a site in Barling. The sites are Southside Senior Center, Zone I, First Christian Church, Zone II, East Side Baptist Church, Zone III, the Windsor Branch of the Fort Smith Library, Zone IV and the Barling Senior Center.

Dr. Gooden noted that enrollment for the 2008-09 school year is up slightly with 13,798 in attendance on the fifth day of school, plus 200 pre-kindergarten students. A number of schools are near full capacity and 250 students have been transferred due to mandatory class size.

Dr. Gooden informed the Board that our School Improvement status is substantially the same as last year. The Arkansas Department of Education has figured some student scores using incorrect parameters. Dr. Gooden will give the Board a complete report when these numbers are corrected.

He also informed the Board that the ACT scores were in and although national scores were down, Fort Smith Schools were up .05 scale score points. Fort Smith also had an additional 55 students taking the test this year.

He noted that tomorrow night, August 26, was the annual School of Information at Fairview Elementary School. He also commended the City for having Park Avenue cleared for parents by the first day of school at Albert Pike Elementary School.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
REPORT:**

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

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the July 31, 2008 financial report. The vote for approval was 6/0.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT:

Dr. Hunton noted that the Finance Committee met on Tuesday, August 19 and voted unanimously to meet as a committee of the whole as all board members were present.

Dr. Hunton made a recommendation from the Committee of the Whole to approve contracts for services for children with disabilities. The contracts are with Vista Health of Barling, Horizon-Western Arkansas Counseling and Guidance Center and Brownwood School, Inc. Individual providers are Dr. Kay Feild, Dr. Nancy Powell, Ms. Becky Hartsfield, and Dr. Ron McInroe. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Dr. Hunton made a recommendation from the Committee of the Whole to approve the 2008-09 FSPS budget with approval for electronic data submission to the Arkansas Department of Education. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Dr. Hunton made a recommendation from the Committee of the Whole to authorize the Superintendent to make application for all federal and state funds and to serve as the authorized representative for these programs. The vote for approval was 6/0.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM:

Dr. Mehl thanked Dr. Sellers for her work in hiring all the new teachers needed for the upcoming school year.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

Ms. Liz Armstrong, 141 N. 51st Street was present to request that the Board consider revising the District policy regarding head lice.

She asked that the parents be notified earlier if a child in the class had head lice, particularly in a classroom with fewer than 15 students.

The Board noted her request and stated they would consider the matter.

ADJOURN:

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Dr. David Hunton, President

Dr. Deanie Mehl, Secretary