

Regular School Board Meeting  
February 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. 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 Ms. Keaton-Martin gave the invocation.

Dr. Gooden presented a brief history of Darby Junior High School and the distinguished career of William O. Darby, for whom the school was named.

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2008 regular school board 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.

Resignations

Blake Decker  
Amanda Honkala

Retirements

Sharon Ellis  
Rick Foti

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

Recommendation for Employment

Heather D. Moon

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

Leaves of Absence

Kimberly Suzanne Brooks  
Jennifer Ham  
Kimberly Heath  
Misty Jackson  
Tommye Thompson  
Duane Walker

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

Dr. Floyd reviewed the Student Services Report.

Dr. Gooden and Dr. Hunton presented certificates to the following: Southside Rebels Girls' Bowling Team, 7A-6A State champions, Audrey Brown, Melissa Dunn, Kaylee Gauthier, Amanda Jester, Jessica Kinsey, Courtney Moon, Caryn Price and Elyse Stanton and coaches Cheryl Higginbotham and David Johnston; Northside High School Cheer Team, Arkansas Cheer Coaches Association State Academic Award, Amy Callaway, Emily Coats, Madison Coleman, Laura Beth Echols, Chelsey Gilbreth, Allison Harpenau, Carter Honea, Kourtney Jackson, Stephanie Sharum Shelby Turner, and coach Terri Freeny; All State Musician awards, 1<sup>st</sup> chair, Northside High School, Francisco Diaz, bassoon, band and Zach Plumlee, guitar, jazz band; Southside students, 1<sup>st</sup> chair, Emily Goodwin, contrabass, clarinet, band, Paul Mosley, tuba, band; Nick Shirl, viola, orchestra, Kevin Staggs, bass clarinet, band, Jasmyn Strassman, alto clarinet, band, and Ben Williams, percussion, band.

Dr. Gooden informed the Board that bids to award contracts for the Howard Elementary School addition are being postponed until Wednesday in hopes of receiving more bids, keeping prices competitive. He also noted that work at Albert Pike Elementary School has slowed due to heavy rain and that turf will soon be laid at the new Southside High School Activity Center.

The Fort Smith School District received official notification from the Arkansas Department of Education placing the District in School Improvement. This was not unexpected and Dr. Gooden and Ms. Cole discussed the need for changes in the NCLB legislation.

FINANCE COMMITTEE  
REPORT:

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

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to approve the Financial Report for January 2008. The vote for approval was 7/0.

BOARD MEMBERS  
FORUM:

Ms. Cole recently returned from the NSBA Federal Relations Network conference in Washington DC and noted that in general, politicians on either side seemed to be ready to make changes to the No Child Left Behind legislation.

Ms. Cole has also been in Little Rock at the Arkansas Leadership Academy Board and encouraged FSPS staff to apply to attend the Arkansas Leadership Academy.

Dr. Mehl commended the Northside High School cheerleaders for receiving the Coaches Academic Award for highest GPA of 3.731.

Ms. Hathcock inquired about the Southside High School Activity Center dedication. Dr. Gooden stated that hopefully the center would be completed in late spring.

Mr. Wade recognized a group of education students attending the Board meeting from the University of Arkansas Fort Smith.

Ms. Blatt noted that Albert Pike Elementary School would be having a garage sale in early April to raise money for new playground equipment.

CITIZEN  
PARTICIPATION:

No one was present for citizen participation.

ADJOURN:

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

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Dr. David Hunton, President

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Dr. Deanie Mehl, Secretary