

Regular School Board Meeting  
July 28, 2008  
5:30 p.m

PRESENT:

Ms. Jeannie Cole, vice president, called the meeting to order in Dr. David Hunton's absence. Other Board members present were Ms. Shannon Blatt, 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. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2008 regular school board meeting. The vote for approval was 6/0. Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to approve minutes of July 21, 2008 called school board meeting. The vote for approval 6/0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:

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

Resignations

Venita Fantroy  
Ashley Moad  
Catherine Sandy  
Bradley Webber

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

Recommendations for Employment

Larry R. Austin  
Kelly N. Bisby  
Mary Ann Brody  
Lea Anne Brooks  
Ellen Renee Bucella  
Tina C. Capelle-Besse  
Carol A. Copeland  
Carrie L. Curtis  
LaDawna L. Dillman  
Felipa Garcia  
Ashley N. Gerhardson  
Cassandra C. Greene  
Vickie S. Heppel  
Lisa K. Lane

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Recommendations for Employment

Summer D. Padgett

Lori L. Smith

Billy B. Spicer

Zachary C. Thomas

Melissa B. Walker

Tiffany D. Weatherford

Brooke N. West

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

Dr. Gooden and Ms. Cole presented a certificate to Colin Fleck, Southside High School, first place, visual arts, senior division, Arkansas PTA Reflections Contest.

Dr. Gooden noted that contracts would soon be ready to execute the purchase of land and donation from PRADCO Outdoor Brands, Inc. Ms. Cole and Dr. Gooden both commended PRADCO for being such a good community citizen and their support for the Fort Smith Public Schools.

Dr. Gooden noted that the school board election is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2008 and board members Shannon Blatt and Deanie Mehl are both running unopposed. The District will be rededicating a debt service tax and authorizing additional bonds, but no increase in millage. The Election Commission has recommended opening one polling site in each of the four zones and a site in Barling.

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to approve the notice of publication for the election and the proposed polling sites to be advertised in the newspaper 20 days before the election. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Dr. Gooden reminded the Board that they are invited to the Nuts N'Bolts Meeting and luncheon on Friday, August 1 and the General Teachers Meeting on Monday, August 11, 2008.

FINANCE COMMITTEE  
REPORT:

Ms. Cole recognized Ms. Shannon Blatt for the Finance Committee Report.

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to approve the Financial Report for June 2008. The vote for approval was 6/0.

CURRICULUM  
COMMITTEE REPORT:

Ms. Cole recognized Dr. Mehl for the Curriculum Committee Report.

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to waive the formal reading of Policy IKF, Graduation Requirements. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Dr. Mehl made a Committee recommendation to approve revisions to Policy IKF, Graduation Requirements, for second and final reading. The vote for approval was 6/0.

BOARD MEMBERS  
FORUM:

Mr. Wade thanked the Board and school administration for their contacts and prayers during his recent stay in the hospital.

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

CITIZEN  
PARTICIPATION:

Ms. Mary Atkerson was present for citizen participation.

She stated that she had addressed the Board in June alleging abuse of her disabled granddaughter at Southside High School. She requested an update on the investigation.

Ms. Cole yielded to Dr. Gooden. Dr. Gooden informed Ms. Atkerson that he had spoken to the appropriate staff the day after the Board meeting. Procedures and sensitivity issues dealing with disabled students were discussed. He also stated that he could not discuss a particular student in a public meeting.

Ms. Atkerson alleged abuse in other schools in the District and a referenced specific allegation. Dr. Gooden noted that the incident occurred several years ago and was turned over to the Fort Smith Police Department but the accusations were never substantiated.

Ms. Cole noted that the Board does not take action on such matters at a Board meeting and that the matter had been addressed.

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