

Regular School Board Meeting
November 24, 2008
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Ms. Jeannie Cole, 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. Hunton arrived at 5:40. 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. Randy Bridges gave the invocation.

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to approve the minutes of the October 27, 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

Sparkie Miner
Janet Wilson
Julie Woods

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

Recommendations for Employment

Patti L. Buxton
Jaymie M. Mackey
Kathryn A. Price

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

Dr. Gooden and Ms. Cole presented a certificate to Ms. Stacey Glover, art teacher at Euper Lane Elementary School, who was named 2008 Middle School Art Educator of the Year by the Arkansas Art Education Association.

Dr. Gooden informed the Board that eleven FSPS teachers have been awarded National Board certification bringing the District total to 48.

He also noted that Southside has advanced in the playoffs and will play Har-Ber at home this Friday night.

November 24, 2008

FINANCE COMMITTEE
REPORT:

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

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hunton, to approve the Financial Report for October 31, 2008. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Mehl made a recommendation from the Joint Finance and Personnel Committees to approve ING as the Common Remitter to manage FSPS employee 403(b) and 457(b) plans to comply with new IRS regulations. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Mehl made a recommendation from the Committee to designate the Superintendent of Schools to execute any documents necessary to implement the amended 403(b) and 457(b) plans and new program for compliance, including the Information Sharing Agreement and Services Agreement. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Mehl introduced Mr. Mark Lux, Przybysz and Associates who reviewed the highlights of the audit. Mr. Lux noted the District received an "Unqualified Opinion" which is the highest rating possible. Dr. Mehl made a recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve the 2007-08 FSPS audit. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hunton, to dispense with the reading of an ethics disclosure resolution. Ms. Blatt left the room while the matter was discussed.

Liberty Bank is a regular bidder for deposits in the form of Certificates of Deposit. Ms. Blatt is disclosing that her half-sister is a branch manager for Liberty Bank. Act 1599 does not appear to address this specific relationship; however, it lists family members to include brothers and sisters of the individual or the spouse. Dr. Gooden and Ms. Blatt feel it is appropriate to disclose it, even though Ms. Blatt nor any other member of the Board has involvement in the investment of funds.

Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to approve a resolution disclosing potential ethics issues between board member Shannon Blatt and Liberty Bank. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to approve the ethics disclosure for submission to the Arkansas Department of Education for approval. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Board of Education
Page 2
November 24, 2008

BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hunton, to move the

FORUM:

December board meeting to December 15, 2008 due to the Christmas holiday. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Ms. Cole noted that she had recently received a call from a former FSPS teacher stating what an excellent District Fort Smith is and that she had received many helpful and professional development sessions when she was employed by the District.

CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION:

No one was present for citizen participation.

ADJOURN:

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

Ms. Jeannie Cole, President

Ms. Shannon Blatt, Secretary