

Regular School Board Meeting
August 24, 2009
5:30 p.m

PRESENT: Ms. Jeannie Cole, president, called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Ms. Shannon Blatt, Dr. David Hunton, Ms. Barbara Hathcock, 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.

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2009 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.

Resignation
Amanda Thompson

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

Recommendation for Employment
Maureen L. Austin

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

Dr. David Hunton arrived.

Dr. Gooden noted that enrollment for the 2009-10 school year is down slightly. The Arkansas Department of Education has moved the date two weeks forward for children entering kindergarten and this accounts for the drop in kindergarten enrollment. Enrollment in the junior high and high schools is up with Southside, Chaffin, Kimmons and Ramsey closed for transfers. He noted that there have been 237 students transferred due to class size and that two teachers have been reassigned. The enrollment for today, August 24, is 13,704.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
REPORT:

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

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the July 31, 2009 financial report. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Mehl made a Committee recommendation to approve the 2009-2010 Fort Smith Public Schools Budget and for electronic data submission to the Arkansas Department of Education. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Mehl made a Committee recommendation to approve Dr. Gooden to make application for all federal/state funds and to serve as the authorized representative for these programs. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Mehl made a Committee recommendation 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. Nancy Powell, Ms. Becky Hartsfield, and Dr. Ron McInroe. The vote for approval was 7/0.

PROPERTIES
COMMITTEE REPORT:

Ms. Cole recognized Ms. Hathcock for the Properties Committee Report.

Ms. Hathcock made a Committee recommendation to approve Stimulus Project change orders. These are changes in building projects being made with ARRA funds. A list of the changes are attached. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Ms. Hathcock made a Committee recommendation to approve Hobbs Construction Company, the low bidder, for \$517,000 for renovation of property located on Rogers Avenue across from Northside High School. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Ms. Hathcock made a Committee recommendation to approve Dr. Gooden to enter into a purchasing agreement for property located at 100 North 23rd street (Rogers Avenue, 23rd and "B" streets). The vote for approval was 7/0.

PERSONNEL
Report.

Ms. Cole recognized Mr. Wade for the Personnel Committee

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Wade made a Committee recommendation to approve a list of employee ethics disclosures as required by Act 1599. Dr. Gooden read the list aloud. The vote for approval was 7/0. (A copy of the list is attached).

Mr. Wade yielded to Dr. Hunton.

Dr. Hunton stated that the Board had expressed a desire to name the Southside High School Stadium in honor of Mr. Jim Rowland, Director of Athletics and Student Activities. Dr. Hunton read aloud a resolution prepared by Dr. Gooden. Dr. Hunton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to approve a resolution to designate the stadium at Southside High School to be known as the "Jim Rowland Stadium." The vote for approval was 7/0. The stadium will be dedicated on October 2 at the Southside v. Bentonville game.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM:

Ms. Hathcock welcomed Mr. Warren to his first board meeting as Director of Finance. She also congratulated Dr. Michael Farrell and his family being named by Mayor Baker as Family of the Year.

Dr. Mehl also commended Mr. Ellison on the completion of the Southside High School parking lot before school started. Dr. Hunton noted that the front of Southside High School is a significant improvement.

Ms. Cole noted that she had a letter from Dr. Layton Jackson and that he was concerned with the curriculum taught in elementary classrooms after seeing Pike math test scores.

Ms. Cole also noted that she had communicated with members of the Fort Smith Classroom Teachers Association regarding several issues they would like addressed, i.e., curriculum issues, elementary speller list, being able to have a self evaluation of themselves, and a teacher being able to evaluate paraprofessionals, paperwork volume, and having a shredder in all classrooms. Ms. Cole indicated that the Classroom Teachers Association also noted the absence of spelling books in the classroom. Dr. Gooden noted that teachers now use a word list that is associated with other curriculum material the students use. Ms. Cole said that the CTA suggested perhaps there were gaps in the curriculum.

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CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

There was no one present for citizen participation.

ADJOURN:

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Ms. Jeannie Cole, President

Ms. Shannon Blatt, Secretary