

Regular School Board Meeting  
December 21, 2009  
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Dr. Deanie Mehl, president, called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Ms. Jeannie Cole, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, and Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr. Dr. David Hunton arrived at 5: 35 p.m. Ms. Shannon Blatt and Ms. Barbara Hathcock were 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 Ms. Keaton-Martin gave the invocation.

Dr. Mehl noted that the Board has agreed to present the board minutes, financial report and student services report in a consent agenda format to streamline the meeting. These items will be reviewed preceding the meeting and will be voted on in one action at the meeting. The procedure will be reviewed for board policy modification in February.

The Board had no items to be removed from the consent agenda. The consent agenda, including the November school board minutes, the November Financial Report and the Student Services Report, were approved unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:

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

Recommendations for Employment

Majetta S. Green  
Jessica Heather Miller  
Isela Pena

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the recommendations for employment. The vote for approval was 4/0.

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve a report compiled by the Arkansas School Boards Association of professional development hours for the Fort Smith Board of Education into the December minutes for confirmation. The vote for approval was 5/0. The professional development hours were submitted to the Arkansas Department of Education in September in accordance with Act 1775.

Dr. Gooden noted that Wyman R. Wade, Jr. was recognized by the Arkansas School Boards Association for achieving "Pinnacle" status based on more than 200 hours of Board training.

COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE REPORT:

Dr. Mehl recognized Ms. Cole in Ms. Blatt's absence for the first committee item, the Fort Smith Public Schools audit.

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to amend the order of committee items and move the Master Facility Plan to number two on the Committee of the Whole Report. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Mr. Marc Lux, Przybysz and Associates, was present and reviewed the highlights of the FSPS audit. There was discussion afterwards regarding the number of days needed in reserve for school districts.

Ms. Cole made a committee recommendation to approve the 2008-09 FSPS audit. The vote for approval was 5/0. Dr. Mehl thanked Dr. Gooden and staff for the excellent manner in which District finances are handled during these difficult economic times. The audit is on file in the Superintendent's office and on the District website.

Dr. Mehl recognized Dr. Gooden to review the Master Facility Plan.

Dr. Gooden presented a brief power point presentation reviewing the District's Master Facility Plan. He noted that this portion of the meeting served as the official public hearing, which is a required element of the Plan. (A copy of the power point presentation is attached and on file in the superintendent's office).

The Master Facility Plan will be on the January 2010 agenda for approval.

Dr. Mehl recognized Dr. Gooden to address the refunding issue for consideration. Dr. Gooden introduced Mr. Dennis Hunt, Stephens, Inc. He stated that the reissue was to get a lower interest rate. Stephens, Inc presented the low bid of 3.455639 for \$7,005,800. Ms. Cole made a motion from the committee of the whole to approve the low bid from Stephens, Inc. for the sale of \$7,005,800 in bonds at a rate of 3.455639. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Dr. Mehl recognized Mr. Wade for the proposed 2010-2011 FSPS calendar.

Mr. Wade made a committee recommendation to approve the proposed 2010-2011 FSPS calendar. The vote for approval was 5/0. (A copy of the 2010-2011 FSPS calendar is attached.)

Dr. Mehl recognized Ms. Keaton-Martin for the Northside High School Project bids.

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a committee recommendation to approve the low bid from Milestone Construction Company of Springdale for \$4,925,000 for the Northside High School Project. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Dr. Mehl made a committee recommendation to move the January board meeting date to Wednesday, January 27, 2010 because of calendar conflicts. The vote for approval was 5/0.

PROPERTIES  
COMMITTEE REPORT:

Dr. Mehl recognized Ms. Keaton-Martin for the Properties Committee Report.

Ms. Keaton-Martin yielded to Dr. Gooden to review the stimulus change orders. Dr. Gooden noted that there were 17 change orders but only one of them significant. This was for overtime labor for an ongoing project at Chaffin Junior High School, which required three weeks of asbestos abatement. The accelerated work enabled school to open on schedule.

Mr. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the stimulus change orders. The vote for approval was 5/0.

BOARD MEMBERS  
FORUM:

Ms. Keaton-Martin wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

CITIZEN  
PARTICIPATION:

There was no one present for citizen participation.

ADJOURN:

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

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Dr. Deanie Mehl, President

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Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Secretary