

Regular School Board Meeting  
November 23, 2009  
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

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

Ms. Hathcock made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2009 regular school board meeting. The vote for approval was 5/0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:

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

Retirement  
Cookie Collyar

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to approve the retirement. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Dr. Gordon Floyd reviewed the Student Services Report.

Dr. Gooden and Dr. Mehl presented certificates to the Southside High School Confederettes Volleyball Team for winning the 2009 State Championship, Coaches Ann Fitzhugh and Steve Haaser, Loribeth Alexander, Katy Hayes, Kacie Ballard, Kalee Holloway, Kylie Blazic, Carson Hunter, Olivia Caldwell, Maddy Jordan, Christina Chapman, Chelsea McKim, Taylor Douglas Nicollette Milam, Amy Driscoll, Kylee Stallings, Brooke Hale, India Stinson, Elise Harpenau; Mr. Hank Needham, Cavanaugh Elementary School, AAEP Administrator of the Year; and Valerie Gaunt, Cavanaugh Elementary School, AAEP Office Professional of the Year.

Dr. Gooden noted that Cavanaugh Elementary School will host an open house on Sunday, December 13, 2009 at which time the building improvements will be reviewed.

Dr. Gooden also informed the Board that signs for building projects funded with ARRA money will be posted this week.

FINANCE COMMITTEE  
REPORT:

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

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the Financial Report for October 26, 2009. The vote for approval was 6/0.

PROPERTIES  
COMMITTEE REPORT:

Dr. Mehl recognized Ms. Hathcock for the Properties Committee Report.

Ms. Hathcock made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hunton, to add three school busses, Bus 25-1979 Chevy, Bus 10-1989 GMC, and Bus-15-1991 Blue Bird, to a surplus property list previously approved for items to be auctioned on December 10, 2009. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Ms. Hathcock made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hunton, to approve the purchase of two pieces of property north of Northside High School, 402 North 22<sup>nd</sup> for \$41,000 and 2211 North "D" Street for \$23,400. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Ms. Hathcock made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve two stimulus project change orders at Sunnymede Elementary School and at Southside High School. The vote for approval was 6/0. (A copy of the change orders is attached).

OTHER:

Dr. Hunton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to move the December board meeting to December 21, 2009 due to the Christmas holiday. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to move the January 25, 2010 board meeting to Thursday, January 21 due to a yearly Board meeting conflict on Dr. Gooden's schedule. The vote for approval was 5/1 with Mr. Wade abstaining.

BOARD MEMBERS  
FORUM:

Dr. Mehl noted that November 19 was Education Day for Leadership Fort Smith. The full day began at Tilles Elementary School at 6:45 a.m. and finished at 5:15 p.m. She thanked FSPS staff and other board members involved for the productive and informative day.

CITIZEN  
PARTICIPATION:

Ms. Barbara Karber was present for citizen participation. Ms. Karber stated that she was a speech language pathologist and had been in education for 38 years and worked for FSPS for 27 years.

Ms. Karber feels that as a nation, we have lost our FOCUS (For Our Children's Unraveling Schools) on public education and she was speaking for young people and her grandchildren. She also feels that citizens have been left out of the process and that the federal government and politicians are the biggest in our schools and not parents and teachers. She stated that teachers are very stressed right now and morale is at an all time low in our District.

Dr. Mehl and Ms. Cole noted that they recognize these feelings and agree that teachers are the heart of our system. Ms. Cole stated that she has made many trips to Washington, D.C. and Little Rock and has spoken with legislators and Congress. They have all agreed there is a problem, but no one has proposed solutions. Dr. Mehl thanked the teachers for their presence at the meeting.

ADJOURN:

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

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Dr. Deanie Mehl, President

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Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Secretary