

Regular School Board Meeting
October 26, 2009
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Dr. Deanie Mehl, president, called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Ms. Shannon Blatt, Ms. Jeannie Cole, Ms. Barbara Hathcock, and Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr. Dr. David Hunton, and Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin 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 in lieu of an invocation, Mr. Wade referenced some inspirational events that occurred in October and recited several inspirational quotes from famous persons.

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the minutes of the September 28, 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 recommendations.

Retirements

Susan Pillar
Artheia Hageman

Resignations

Jane Bittle
Micaela Shropshire
Gina Tabor

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to approve the retirements and resignations. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Recommendations for Employment

Kathryn A. Berrios
Teena M. Crotty
Debra E. James

Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blatt, to approve the recommendations for employment. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Leave of Absence

Mariah Freeman

Ms. Hathcock made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blatt, to approve the leave of absence. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Dr. Gordon Floyd reviewed the Student Services Report.

Dr. Gooden and Dr. Mehl presented a certificate to Ms. Sarah Kraus-Rogers, Tilles Elementary School, as Arkansas Association for Teacher Educator's Outstanding Mentor Teacher.

Dr. Gooden noted that Governor Beebe announced a \$100,000,000 cut in the state budget, which included almost \$40,000,000 in education cuts for K-12 education. The Arkansas Department of Education had carry forward authority which provide funds to absorb these cuts.

He also noted that the District began giving flu vaccines today to FSPS staff. A Sebastian County Drive-by Flu Event is scheduled for Friday, October 30 at Kay Rodgers Park. Students will be dismissed for one half day to enable them to attend.

Dr Gooden said that hand washing stations have been installed in all school classrooms. We have approximately three campuses reporting over 9 percent absence and these data are reported to the Arkansas Department of Health.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
REPORT:

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

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to approve the Financial Report for September 28, 2009. The vote for approval was 5/0.

COMMITTEE OF
WHOLE REPORT:

Dr. Mehl recognized Ms. Cole for the first item in the Committee of the Whole Report.

Ms. Cole made a recommendation from the Committee of the Whole to approve Boardman Speech Pathology for speech services and In-Sync Pediatric Therapy Center for occupational therapy, for students with disabilities. Both are at the rate of \$85 per hour. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Ms. Cole made a recommendation from the Committee of the Whole to approve the proposed elementary textbook adoption committee. The vote for approval was 5/0. (A copy of the textbook adoption committee is attached).

Ms. Cole made a recommendation from the Committee of the Whole to approve the proposed secondary textbook adoption committee. The vote for approval was 5/0. (A copy of the textbook adoption committee is attached).

Ms. Blatt made a recommendation from the Committee of the Whole to authorize Dr. Gooden to proceed with the refunding of a series of FSPS construction bonds dated November 1, 2004, when the market is favorable. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to adopt a resolution to authorize Stephens, Inc., the low bidder, to issue Qualified School Construction Bonds for FSPS in the amount of \$5,125,000.00. This will result in savings for the District and taxpayers. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Ms. Hathcock made a recommendation from the Committee of the Whole to approve a proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the Fort Smith Police Department, which would dedicate a School Resource Officer in each senior high school. Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the document to include a change on page 2, number 6, to read "all student programs" instead of "Student Council programs." Mr. Wade recused himself from the vote as he serves as the attorney for the City of Fort Smith. The vote for approval was 4/0.

Ms. Cole made a recommendation from the Committee of the Whole to approve the Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (ACSIP). The vote for approval was 5/0.

Ms. Cole made a recommendation from the Committee of the Whole to approve the Elementary and Secondary Education Assurances, Title I programs. The vote for approval was 5/0.

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

Ms. Hathcock read aloud a proposed ethics disclosure as required by Act 1599 for FSPS employee Abbi Peoples. She made a motion, seconded

by Ms. Cole, to approve the ethics resolution disclosure. The vote for approval was 5/0.

PROPERTIES

COMMITTEE REPORT:

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

Ms. Hathcock made a recommendation from the Committee of the Whole to approve the proposed Stimulus Project change orders at Chaffin Junior High School, Southside High School, and Sutton Elementary School. The vote for approval was 5/0. (A copy of the change orders is attached).

Mr. Wade inquired about posting signs at schools using ARRA funds and Dr. Gooden said he would research the appropriate design.

BOARD MEMBERS
FORUM:

Dr. Mehl welcomed everyone to the Board meeting, noting the large crowd and welcomed everyone back to future meetings.

Ms. Hathcock nominated Dr. Deanie Mehl as the designated Board delegate at the ASBA Conference, in Little Rock scheduled for December 9-11, 2009. Ms. Blatt seconded the motion and the vote for approval was 5/0.

Ms. Blatt inquired about the changes in board policy limiting parent permission absences to five days with regard to sick days and absences. Dr. Gooden noted that anyone with questions about absences should be directed to Student Services. He also noted that student illness was not the target of the revised policy

CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION:

There was no one present for citizen participation.

ADJOURN:

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

Dr. Deanie Mehl, President

Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Secretary