

Regular School Board Meeting
February 22, 2010
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, Dr. David Hunton, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, 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 Dr. Barry Owen gave the invocation.

The Board had no items to be removed from the consent agenda. The consent agenda, including the January school board minutes, the January 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.

Leaves of Absence

Sarah Carrier
Kimberly Heath
Tommye Thompson

Ms. Hathcock made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the leaves of absence. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Dr. Hunton arrived.

Dr. Gooden and Dr. Mehl awarded certificates to All State Musicians Southside, Will Davis, 1st chair, trumpet, wind symphony, Solveig Hendryx, 1st chair, string bass, orchestra; Nathan Lee, 1st chair, tenor, choir, Marcus Terry, 1st chair, alto clarinet, wind symphony; Stephen Thorn, 1st chair, trumpet, jazz band; Northside Terrell Montgomery, 1st chair, string bass, wind symphony; and Lynn Ellison, Director of Buildings and Grounds, President's Blue Ribbon Award by the Arkansas School Plant and the FSPS Board of Education for receiving the ASBA Master Board Award.

Dr. Gooden informed Board members that there continues to be discussion from the Governor's office of an adjustment of up to approximately \$4 million dollars in stimulus dollars intended for the Fort Smith School District. These funds will most likely be redistributed for higher education.

February 22, 2010

Ms. Cole inquired about Arne Duncan, the new U.S. Secretary of Education and his emphasis on distributing funds through competitive grants instead of a formula funding method. Dr. Gooden noted that he felt the greatest problem with distributing money using this method is that often the neediest districts do not receive as much, but rather advantaged districts with the best grant writers. He noted that Title I and IDEA would still be distributed through formula funding.

CURRICULUM
COMMITTEE REPORT:

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to approve Western Arkansas Counseling and Guidance Center to replace Dr. Kay Feild, to provide required supervision for selected FSPS staff whose licensure requires the oversight of a Licensed Psychologist. The vote for approval was 7/0.

PROPERTIES
COMMITTEE REPORT:

Ms. Hathcock made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the purchase of Lot 6, Block 19, Griffin and Nix Addition, for \$5,400 adjacent to Howard Elementary School. The vote for approval was 7/0.

This property was thought to have been included in a combination of property acquired from the City of Fort Smith while addressing flood plain issues with the expansion of Howard Elementary School. Dr. Gooden agreed with Mr. Wade's suggestion that upon closing a release of liability be executed inasmuch as the District had inadvertently fenced her property.

OTHER:

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to move the March board meeting date to Monday, March 29, 2010. The vote for approval was 6/1 with Dr. Mehl abstaining.

BOARD MEMBERS
FORUM:

Ms. Keaton-Martin thanked Mr. Charles Warren for the new format of the Financial Report.

Ms. Hathcock noted that one of the District's junior high principals and his family had been named Family of the Year by the Mayor.

Mr. Wade expressed sympathy to Dr. Mehl in the loss of her father.

Ms. Cole noted she had heard from two citizens, one critical of students releasing balloons for various celebrations and its affect on the atmosphere, and the other about their son receiving less attention in the classroom because of a great deal of emphasis on test-giving due to the NCLB Act. She also noted that she had attended the

NSBA Federal Relations Conference in Washington D.C. where E-rate funding, early childhood education and competitive grant funding was discussed. She also noted current discussion in Congress regarding the reauthorization and restructuring of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (NCLB).

CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION:

There was no one present for citizen participation.

ADJOURN:

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

The Board reconvened in the auditorium for a study session.

Dr. Deanie Mehl, President

Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Secretary

Board Study Session
Committee of the Whole
February 22, 2010, 6:30 p.m.

The Board met immediately following the regular February school board meeting to review four different sites and discuss acquisition of land for a new high school. All Board members were present. Others present were Dr. Benny Gooden, Dr. Gordon Floyd, Dr. Brenda Sellers, Dr. Barry Owen, Mr. Charles Warren, Mr. Lynn Ellison, Mr. Charles Howell, Ms. Zena Featherston and Ms. Carolyn Kincaid, were present.

Dr. Gooden presented a power point presentation that is attached.

In conclusion, Dr. Hunton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to view proposed sites C and D as locations for a third high school. The vote for approval was 7/0.

There was no further business and the meeting concluded at 8:00 p.m.

Dr. Deanie Mehl, President

Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Secretary

