

Regular School Board Meeting
September 26, 2005
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. David Cordell, president. Board members present were Ms. Jeannie Cole, Mr. Lewis Eady, Ms. Barbara Hathcock, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Dr. David Hunton, and Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr. Also present were Dr. Benny Gooden, superintendent, Dr. Johnny Owen, deputy superintendent and Ms. Carolyn Kincaid, executive secretary.

Mr. Cordell thanked the new 2005-06 PTA Presidents, board members from the FSPS Foundation, Partners in Education and Children Service League for attending.

The pledge of allegiance was recited and Mr. Rick Wade highlighted historical events for the month of September.

Dr. Gooden presented the 2004-05 Annual Report to the Public. He emphasized the growing number of students who qualify for free or reduced price meals. This factor combined with a large number of language minority students presents a challenge for the District. The report also noted the 100 year celebration of the Peabody School (Adult Education Center). There was a period of time for discussion between those in attendance about what the community can do to help improve schools and how schools can help the community. (A copy of the presentation is attached).

Ms. Hathcock made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2005, regular school board meeting. The vote for approval was 7/0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:

Dr. Benny Gooden yielded to Dr. Johnny Owen who reviewed the recommendations for employment.

Recommendations for Employment

Adina N. Boatright
Gina C. Johnson
Marla K. King
Ruby B. McCowan
Serena L. McGinley
Mark W. Minnick
Heather R. Moyer
Whitney D. Sharp
Kaylan D. Smith
Melinda L. Young

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to approve the recommendations for employment. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Johnny Owen reviewed the Student Services Report.

Dr. Gooden and Mr. Cordell presented certificates to Ms. Phyllis Bridges, Ms. Susan Haines, Ms. Kathryn Robinson, and Mr. Bruce Vick, Chaffin Junior High School, for being selected Category Winner, Senior High and Ms. Sheila Humphrey, Woods Elementary School, Category Winner, Primary Division, in the Tenth Annual Bessie B. Moore Arkansas Awards program for Excellence in Teaching Economics.

Dr. Gooden reported the results of the 2005 annual school board election. Ms. Deanie Mehl was elected to position 2, At Large and Ms. Shannon Blatt was elected to position 1, Zone II for three year terms. The vote for the continuation of the 36.5 mill school tax was also approved. Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eady, to accept the returns as a matter of record, and incorporate the results into the minutes. The vote for approval was 7/0. (A certified copy of the school board election results is attached).

Dr. Gooden noted that enrollment is up this year by approximately 400 students, with the largest increase being in kindergarten students.

Dr. Gooden noted that at the present time, the Fort Smith School District has enrolled 100 Hurricane Katrina evacuees and that they seem to be assimilating into our schools very well. Dr. Gooden stated that special thanks goes to our Transportation Department for working long hours on short timelines in helping transport the evacuees.

Dr. Gooden informed the Board that because of the high cost of fuel and increased ridership, the District is working to reduce discretionary field trips.

Dr. Gooden informed the Board that the District has received funding under the Academic Facilities Immediate Repair Program. These funds will be used for a roof at Chaffin Junior High School, Video surveillance at secondary schools, HVAC-Belle Point, electric service upgrade at Southside and emergency lighting.

He also reported that the District is reviewing the new State Regulations for Nutrition and that they will severely limit the distribution of any food outside normal lunch hours. There is also more regulations on main lunch items. The rules are very stringent, but the District intends to comply fully.

Dr. Gooden noted that we expect to hear a report from the Special Masters Report this Friday.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
REPORT:

Mr. Cordell recognized Mr. Eady for the Finance Committee Report.

Mr. Eady made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to approve the Financial Report for the month of August. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Mr. Cordell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to adjourn the 2004-05 school board *sine die*. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Ms. Keaton-Martin presented plaques to Mr. Cordell and Mr. Eady and thanked them for their time of service on the Board.

Mr. Cordell and Mr. Eady both thanked the Board and FSPS administration for working with them and both stated that they hope to remain involved with Fort Smith Public Schools.

The Board welcomed Ms. Mehl and Ms. Blatt to the Board and Dr. Hunton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to call the 2005-06 Board into order. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Gooden presided and noted a motion for new officers was in order.

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hunton, to approve a proposed slate of officers as follows:

Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, President
Ms. Barbara Hathcock, Vice-President
Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Secretary
Ms. Ellen Terry, Treasurer

The vote for approval was 6/0. Ms. Mehl has not taken her Oath of Office and therefore abstained from voting.

Dr. Hunton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to designate President Yvonne Keaton-Martin as the primary board disbursing officer and Vice-President Barbara Hathcock as the alternate board disbursing officer. The vote for approval was 6/0. Ms. Mehl has not taken her Oath of Office and therefore abstained from voting.

BOARD MEMBERS
FORUM:

Ms. Hathcock thanked board members from the Partners in Education Advisory Board, FSPS Foundation, Children Service League and PTA Presidents for attending.

CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION:

There were no requests to speak.

ADJOURN:

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Yvonne Keaton-Martin, President

Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Secretary