



Board of Education

Minutes of Regular School Board Meeting
The Board of Education

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held November 27, 2017, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg. B.

Ms. Susan McFerran, president, called the meeting to order. Board members present were Mr. Greg Magness, Ms. Talicia Richardson, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Wade Gilkey and Mr. Bill Hanesworth. Ms. Jeannie Cole was absent. Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Dr. Gordon Floyd, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Terry Morawski, Chief Operations Officer, Dr. Barry Owen, Chief Academic Officer, Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Executive Director of Communication and Community Partnerships, Ms. Sherri Penix, Human Resources Supervisor and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Dr. Barry Owen gave the Invocation.

The consent agenda included the minutes of the October Regular School Board Meeting, the October Financial Report and the November Student Services Report. Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bill Hanesworth, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote passed 6/0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Professional Staff Recommendations

Dr. Brubaker yielded to Ms. Penix to present the professional staff recommendations.

Resignation

Roper, Paul

Retirement

Turner, Ann

Tomlin, Marcia

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade Gilkey, to approve the resignation and retirements. The vote passed 6/0.

Presentations

Dr. Brubaker, Ms. McFerran and Mr. Magness recognized the following students and teacher.

Eight elementary students were introduced as Superintendent's Stars for October: Joan Lopez, sixth-grader at Trusty Elementary; Cristian Diaz Padron, sixth-grader at Sutton Elementary; Grant York, first-grader at Woods Elementary; Madison Berry, second-grader at Spradling Elementary; Vernon McNabb, first grader at Bonneville Elementary; Hector Portillo, sixth-grader at Euper Lane; Ta'Shanti Holden, sixth grader at Howard Elementary; Zoey Bershers, fifth-grader at Carnall Elementary. Two elementary students were unable to attend and will be invited to be recognized at the December Board meeting.

Ms. Julie Cobb was recognized as a Google for Education Certified Trainer. She is one of thirteen in the state.

The following teachers were recognized as Bessie B Moore Award winners:

Kathryn Robinson of Chaffin Junior High with her entry *Economics by Accident: Teaching Economics in the Classroom Everyday*

Kimberly Been and Kimberly Dawn from Woods Elementary School and their winning entry *We're Not "Fowling" Up Things in Economics*

Jessica Howald and Samantha Rodebush from Woods Elementary with their entry *Woods Wondrous Wacky World*.

Ms. Jennifer Rosar, secretary to the Supervisor of Purchasing, was recognized as the Educational Office Professional of the Year from the Arkansas Association of Educational Office Professionals. Dr. Mary Ann Johns, Director of Secondary Education was recognized as Educational Administrator of the Year by the same organization.

Principal Andrea Schwartz and Woods Elementary School student and staff were recognized as a High Achieving Elementary English Language Arts School. Woods Elementary was also designated as a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School.

Strategic Planning Update

Dr. Brubaker reported that the work by the seven action teams was completed November 17. He reported that the Strategic Planning Team would meet on December 4 to review and revise the work of the seven action teams and consider making a recommendation to the Board at the December Board meeting.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Ethics Disclosures

Dr. Brubaker reported that § 6-24-101 et seq. and the ADE rules adopted pursuant to this section of state law regulates the issue known as “Ethics Disclosures”. Ethics disclosure promotes the transparency of the District entering into transactions with entities that are owned or controlled by District employees, the employee’s household, and for some employees, the employee’s family. Dr. Brubaker reported that the summary of the three new disclosures should be reviewed for Board approval. These three disclosures would need to be read aloud and approved by the School Board in a resolution.

The Board recognized Mr. Warren, Chief Financial Officer, to read the three employees names aloud. Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the three disclosures as read aloud. The vote passed 6/0.

Fire Alarm Inspections

Mr. Morawski reported that the District released a bid for annual inspections of all district fire alarm systems. The bid was advertised on October 28, 2017 and bids were received on November 3, 2017. The administration recommends the low bid from Marmic Fire and Safety and recommends board approval. Mr. Hanesworth made a committee motion to accept the bid of \$6,250 yearly and a 5 year bid of \$31,250 from Marmic Fire and Safety for Spring of 2018 through Spring 2022. The vote passed 6/0.

2018-2019 Calendar

Dr. Floyd reported that the administration and the Fort Smith Classroom Teachers Association have met and agreed upon a calendar for the 2018-2019 school year. He reported that a waiver granted by the Arkansas State Board of Education allowed the school year to begin earlier than the date mandated by statute. The District 2018-2019 calendar school will start on Wednesday, August 15, 2018.

Dr. Floyd reported that the administration recommends that the Board adopt the 2018-2019 calendar as presented. Ms. Keaton-Martin made a committee motion to adopt the 2018-2019 school calendar as presented. The vote passed 6/0.

Consider Replacement of Committee of the Whole Meetings with Work Sessions and Postpone the Appointment of Standing Committee

Dr. Brubaker reported that for a number of years, the Board has met as a Committee of the Whole roughly once per month prior to its regular meetings on the fourth Monday of the month. During Committee of the Whole meetings, the Board has discussed individual agenda items and made recommendations to the Board for further action at regular meetings. At

regular meetings, agenda items that have come as recommendations from the Committee of the Whole have not required a second prior to taking a vote.

This operating procedure stems from a time when committees made up of three Board members, as described in policies BDBA and BDE, met to discuss agenda items that could later be submitted as agenda items for the committee of the whole. These policies were last updated in 2000.

The Board has an opportunity to modify the structure of its meetings to promote transparency, align more closely with its operations, simplify its procedures, and facilitate the efficient flow of information. Dr. Brubaker reported that the administration is also working with district counsel to update policies based on ASBA model policies. The following changes are recommended as an initial step toward modernizing the Board's operations:

- Replace Committee Meetings with Work Sessions.
- Postpone appointment of standing committees outlined in Policies BDE and BDBA pending the outcome of the policy review process.
- Replace the "Committee of the Whole" section of the regular Board meeting agenda with a "Work Session" section within the Consent Agenda for items that have been discussed during the work session.

Mr. Hanesworth made a committee motion to replace Committee of the Whole meetings with Work Sessions and to postpone appointment of the six standing committees outlined in Policies BDBA and BDE pending the outcome of the policy review process as described in the agenda. The vote passed 6/0.

CONSIDER CHANGING THE TIME OF THE DECEMBER 18 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Dr. Brubaker reported that on April 24, 2017, the Board approved a meeting calendar that included a regular meeting on December 18 instead of the fourth Monday of December, which is Christmas Day.

There is a scheduling conflict on December 18 that would be alleviated by moving the meeting time from 5:30 PM to 5:00 PM.

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin to reschedule the December Regular Board Meeting on December 18 from 5:30 PM to 5:00 PM. The vote passed 6/0.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

Board members discussed funding cuts for mental health services for students and expressed interest in meeting with mental health providers at a later date.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

There was no one present for citizen participation.

ADJOURN

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to adjourn at 6:20 p.m.

Susan McFerran, President

Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Secretary