Regular School Board Meeting
October 24, 2016
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Dr. Deanie Mehl, president, called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Ms. Jeannie Cole, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Bill Hanesworth, Ms. Susan McFerran, and Ms. Talicia Richardson. Mr. Wade Gilkey was absent. Dr. Gordon Floyd, Superintendent, Dr. Annette Henderson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Support Services, Dr. Barry Owen, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Darian Layes, Director of Student Services, Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Director of Communication and Community Partnerships and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent were present.

The pledge of allegiance was recited and Mr. Charles Warren gave the invocation.

The consent agenda included the September School Board minutes, September Financial Report, and the October Student Services Report. Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Susan McFerran, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote passed 6/0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Gordon Floyd yielded to Dr. Annette Henderson to review the professional staff recommendations.

Retirement - December Cone, Laura

Mr. Bill Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Susan McFerran, to approve the retirement. The vote passed 6/0.

Recommendation for Employment Babitzke, Crystal

Mr. Bill Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jeannie Cole, to approve the recommendation for employment. The vote passed 6/0.

Dr. Gordon Floyd and Dr. Deanie Mehl recognized Ms. LaDawna Dillman, Art Teacher at Northside High School, as the 2016 Arkansas Art Educator of the Year by the Arkansas Art Educators Association.

Dr. Floyd reminded the Board that the Arkansas School Board Association Regional meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 25 at 5:30 p.m. in Clarksville. He noted that several Board members were attending.

Dr. Floyd reported that the October 1 K-12 Enrollment is 14,407 with an increase of 30 K-12 students since the October 1 Report of 2015. He stated that elementary enrollment was still up and secondary still down from first week of school. Pre-K enrollment is 536 for a total enrollment of 14,943 for the District.

Dr. Floyd introduced Mr. Steve Arnold, Southside High School Assistant Principal and 188th Wing Captain.
Arnold attended a National Guard Conference in Baltimore, Maryland where General Mark Welsh spoke about visiting Fort Smith Arkansas when the 188th was being considered for closing. He reported that FSPS elementary students had presented General Welsh, Chief of Staff of the Air Force at that time with six binders of letters of support for the 188th. Captain Arnold stated that during General Welsh’s speech it became apparent that he used these letters from FSPS students as tools to teach other officers about the bond that forms among guard units and the community they serve.

Dr. Floyd introduced Ms. Sami Sue Welch as the spotlight teacher of the month. Ms. Welch, music teacher, spoke about innovative teaching and Recorder Karates. Her Tilles students performed with recorders.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

After brief discussion, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin presented the following proposed slate of officers for 2016/2017.

- Dr. Deanie Mehl, President
- Ms. Susan McFerran, Vice President
- Mr. Bill Hanesworth, Secretary
- Mr. Charles Warren, Treasurer

Dr. Mehl addressed Board members asking if all were in agreement with the proposed Board officers. No changes to the slate of officers were proposed.

Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Susan McFerran to accept the slate of officers. The vote passed 6/0. (Emails regarding the slate of officers are attached.)

**OTHER:**

**Designation of Board Disbursing Officers**

Dr. Deanie Mehl noted that it is customary to designate the President as primary board disbursing officer and the Vice President as alternate board disbursing officer for the District. Ms. Jeannie Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Talicia Richardson, to designate Dr. Deanie Mehl as primary disbursing officer and Ms. Susan McFerran as alternate disbursing officer. The vote passed 6/0.

**ASBA Delegate Assembly Representative**

Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jeannie Cole, to elect Board President Deanie Mehl to serve as the voting representative at the ASBA Annual Conference in December. The vote passed 6/0.

**Elementary and Secondary Textbook Selection Committees**

Ms. Jeannie Cole made a committee recommendation to adopt the Secondary Career Education and Elementary Science textbook committee members as presented. These committees are charged with the selection of curriculum to be introduced in 2017/2018. The vote passed 6/0.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT:**

**ACT 1120 Resolution**

Ms. Susan McFerran presented the Resolution Required by Act 1120 of 2013 with a list of employees who received a 5% or more salary increase for 2015/2016.
Ms. Susan McFerran made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jeannie Cole, to waive the formal reading of the resolution. The vote for approval was 6/0. Ms. McFerran stated that this resolution is to be approved by the Board and kept on file as part of the annual audit. Ms. Susan McFerran made a committee motion to adopt the resolution. The vote passed 6/0.

BOARD MEMBERS: Ms. McFerran reported that she attended a Robot Demo Mentoring Program at Bonneville and Orr elementary schools that was presented by Chaffin Junior High students. Dr. Mehl gave an update on the Superintendent Search.

FORUM: No one was present for citizen participation.

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

ADJOURN: ___________________________________

Deanie Mehl, President

_____________________________________

Bill Hanesworth, Secretary
RE: 2016-17 Board Officers

Wade Gilkey <mgilkey@shelterinsurance.com>  
Thu, Oct 13, 2016 at 10:36 AM  
To: Talicia Richardson <taliarchardson@gmail.com>, Virginia Mehl <kdmehl@aol.com>  
Cc: Bill Hanesworth <wchanesworth@littlefieldoil.com>, Yvonne Keaton-Martin <foxyamaha@att.net>, Susan McFerran <susanmc5@aol.com>, Jeannie Cole <jeannie@thecolefamily.com>, Gordon Floyd <gfloyd@fortsmithschools.org>, Zena <zfeather@fortsmithschools.org>, Nadine <nbrooks@fortsmithschools.org>

I agree with the current proposed slate of officers.

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From: Talicia Richardson [mailto:taliarchardson@gmail.com]  
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 10:09 AM  
To: Virginia Mehl  
Cc: Bill Hanesworth; Yvonne Keaton-Martin; Susan McFerran; Wade Gilkey; Jeannie Cole; Gordon Floyd; Zena; Nadine  
Subject: Re: 2016-17 Board Officers

Greetings everyone,

As the newest member, I am in support of continuity, as well as experience, with our officers during this very important time. Personally speaking, the knowledge they possess in their role and parliamentarian procedures will allow others with less than 2 years of experience in a school board role to become properly trained and accumulated.

Thanks, Talicia

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On Thu, Oct 13, 2016 at 8:55 AM, Virginia Mehl <kdmehl@aol.com> wrote:

Good Morning!

Based on the comments made last night the tentative slate of officers appears to be as follows:

Deanie Mehl - President
Susan McFerran - Vice President
Yvonne Keaton-Martin - Secretary

The chair welcomes any additional comments on this subject. I do agree with Bill, our focus must be the selection of a new superintendent and the possible millage increase. DM

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On Oct 12, 2016, at 8:54 PM, Bill Hanesworth <wchanesworth@littlefieldoil.com> wrote:

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=6d1c5f6065&view=pt&gfu=1&safe=off&ui=2&res=UQGF&ssl=1&sfvrsn=157beb02813582d5&sfvrsn=157beb02813582d5
To all, I am ok with Yvonne staying in place as
Sec. As mentioned in my email we need to be focused on the legacy of our district and this board as we chose a new leader. That is my single focus!! BH

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 12, 2016, at 8:45 PM, Yvonne Keaton-Martin <foxynana9@att.net> wrote:

If the ASBA information that Susan sent is correct then my term as secretary is still place for another year. Just saying.
Sent from my iPhone

On 11, 2016, at 7:47 PM, Susan McFerran <susanmcf5@aol.com> wrote:

ASBA recommends that officers stay in place at least 3 years. I, too, am sorry Jeannie has chosen not to serve as VP. I'm happy to serve in that capacity if that's what the board would like for 2016-2017.

Susan McFerran
Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 11, 2016, at 4:26 PM, Wade Gilkey <mgilkey@shelterinsurance.com> wrote:

I'm sorry to hear that Jeannie didn't want to serve as our Vice President. I would like to present a new slate of officers that integrates newer board members into the officer rotation, while maintaining consistency at the top during this period of transition.

Deanie Mehl—President
Susan McFerran – Vice President
Bill Hanesworth – Secretary

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Wade Gilkey

From: John Mehl [mailto:kdmehl@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, October 10, 2016 11:36 AM
To: Jeannie Cole
Cc: Yvonne Keaton-Martin; Susan McFerran; Bill Hanesworth; Wade Gilkey; Talicia Richardson; Dr. Floyd; Zena; Nadine
Subject: Re: 2016-17 Board Officers
Good morning,

Ms. Cole has indicated that she is not willing to serve as the Vice-president of the board for the coming year; consequently, the slate of officers proposed by Ms. McFerran at the committee meeting on September 29th is no longer valid. At this time, I am requesting that board members suggest a new slate of officers.

Again be sure when you respond to this email that you use the "reply all" indication. Deanie

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 8, 2016, at 3:47 PM, Jeannie Cole <jeannie@thecolefamily.com> wrote:

Fellow FSPS Board Members,

Since we must vote on the 2016-17 officers at our October meeting, I wanted to give you notice that I prefer not to accept the Vice Presidency for an additional year. I was taken aback at the committee meeting when this was proposed, so I was not prepared to voice or defend my position. But all my leadership training was whispering in my ear that keeping the same officers for an additional year is not in the district's best interest. I don't believe this would be healthy for the Board for the following reasons:

- For as long as I am aware, the Fort Smith Board of Education has selected a new set of officers each year. It has been our tradition for a board member to be appointed to the new secretary position, the outgoing secretary to move up to VP, the outgoing VP to move up to President, the outgoing President to rotate off of the officer rotation for the upcoming year - and perhaps to return to the officer rotation a few years later after others have had the opportunity to serve.
- With 3 year terms, it is important that we keep that rotation. It is not only tradition, but it keeps leadership growing and moving forward. Some districts have 5 year terms, and perhaps it is not as essential that they keep rotating officers every year, but with 3 year terms, I believe that is the healthiest way to develop leadership.
- Why is leadership development important? Because we have such short terms. Let's think through a possible scenario if we keep the same officers for the 2016-17 year that we currently have. Yvonne, Deanie and my terms end September 2017. I believe I have heard both Deanie and Yvonne say this will be their last term - that they currently were not planning to run for another 3 year term. If that is the case, and I do not get re-elected or just choose not to run myself, then that would mean for the 2017-18 school year, there would be 3 brand new board members and 4 fairly new board members.
who have never held an officer position. And this scenario could happen in the future if we do not stick with our standard.

- Perhaps this past year was an exception and we did best by not changing officers, but to do so again could send the message to some that we are in crisis mode. I do not believe that to be the case. We have got to move on and look forward.

- The Secretary position is fairly easy, but it does require signing a number of documents - sometimes coming in on short notice to sign something with a short deadline. The Vice President also signs documents and must be prepared to chair a general or committee of the whole meeting - sometimes with very little notice. As Vice President over the years, I have chaired a number of meetings that I did not know before hand that I would be chairing. Yes, parliamentary procedure skills are essential. The Presidency position requires quite a bit more time than a standard board member - many documents to sign, many documents to digest so they can be fairly presented, speaking for the Board to the public and media, public appearances at schools and other events, and taking the heat when someone is upset, etc. No, I am not trying to talk anyone out taking an officer position, but the positions should not be taken lightly.

I trust we will think this through and come to a good decision for our students. Please "reply to all" if you have additional thoughts to share.

Jeannie Cole, Vice President
Fort Smith Board of Education