Dr. Deanie Mehl, president, called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Ms. Susan McFerran, Ms. Talicia Richardson, Mr. Wade Gilkey, Mr. Bill Hanesworth and Ms. Jeannie Cole. Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Dr. Gordon Floyd, Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Annette Henderson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Support Services, Dr. Barry Owen, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Director of Communication and Community Partnerships and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent were present.

Dr. Brubaker reported that he has made contacts regarding FOIA training and will work toward getting that set within the next few weeks.

He also reported that his 90-Day Entry plan is available on the District website. He has been visiting schools, meeting with principals and staff as well as community leaders.

**FOIA Lawsuit/Settlement Offer**

Dr. Mehl reported that a December 22 proposal presented by Attorney Joey McCutchen regarding FOIA case, June Bradshaw vs. FSPS has been withdrawn. A discussion surrounding this proposal resulted in a tabled motion at the December 29 meeting.

Dr. Mehl presented a proposal dated Thursday, January 26. It expires on February 2. This proposal requires that the school board pay the plaintiff’s attorney fees that the attorney has indicated will be donated to Darby Junior High for purchase of scoreboards. Dr. Mehl also presented another possible counter by the Board for consideration.

Dr. Mehl stated that it is her opinion that the Bradshaw proposal leaves an impression of intentional misconduct in the exchange of emails. She noted that copies of these emails were available at the board meeting and were included in the October minutes. No action was taken by email. Dr. Mehl also stated that the Bradshaw proposal specifies a Court-ordered injunction against the FSPS School Board to “never violate FOIA again.” This injunction would result in automatic contempt of court charges for the current and all future Boards if the District’s governing body was to inadvertently violate FOIA again. Ms. McFerran stated that she didn’t want to agree to the proposal because she didn’t believe this will end the lawsuit. Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin agreed with McFerran and added that sponsors may also donate for the scoreboards at Darby. Mr. Gilkey dissented stating that he would like to see the money be spent on the hearing go toward classroom use instead of the lawsuit. Mr. Hanesworth stated that he believes the Board violated FOIA unintentionally and without malice. He suggested a counter proposal. Ms. Cole added that many of her constituents asked the Board to refuse the proposal. Ms. Richardson stated that her previously stated opinion had not changed.

After discussion, Dr. Mehl identified three options, 1. accept the proposal as presented, 2. reject it and go to trial, or 3. propose another counter offer. Ms. McFerran made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin to reject the proposal and
go to trial. The motion passed 5/2. Dr. Mehl added that Judge Tabor’s office had provided dates to be considered for the hearing. She asked that the Board review the dates and let Ms. Brooks know of their availability. Mr. Hanesworth thanked the group of citizens associated with “Stand with the School Board” for their support. Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hanesworth to adjourn. The motion passed 7/0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

ADJOURN:

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Deanie Mehl, President

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Bill Hanesworth, Secretary