Dr. Deanie Mehl, president, called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Bill Hanesworth, Ms. Jeannie Cole, Mr. Wade Gilkey, Ms. Susan McFerran and Dr. David Hunton. Dr. Benny Gooden, Superintendent, Dr. Gordon Floyd, Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Barry Owen, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, Mr. Charles Warren, Director of Financial Services, 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 was present.

The pledge of allegiance was recited and Dr. Barry Owen gave the invocation.

The consent agenda included the January School Board minutes, January Financial Report and February Student Services Report. Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Susan McFerran, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote for approval was 7/0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Benny Gooden yielded to Dr. Gordon Floyd to review the professional staff recommendations.

**Resignation**

Dollar, Hannah

Ms. Jeannie Cole made a motion, seconded by Dr. David Hunton, to approve the resignation. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**Recommendations for Employment**

Hancock, Danielle

Ms. Susan McFerran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade Gilkey, to approve the recommendation for employment. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Benny Gooden and Dr. Deanie Mehl recognized the Darby Junior High Cheer Team who recently won first place in the 2015/2016 Best of the Best State Competition: Elisabeth Abeyta, Jocelyn Ayala, Angelia Christian, Mariela Delpozo, Ann Marie Diaz, Maricela Garcia, Abby Hope, Aaliyah Huff, Shameila Jones, Yanira Laguna, Michelle Pedraza, Diana Ramirez, Shykira Sampson, Lorena Sanabria, Dede Swinson, and Sierra Wise. They are coached by: Jody Presson and Rachael Presson

2016 All-State First Chair Musicians recognized were: Nick Cadelli, Gavin Clark, Ben Keating, Alex Konzelman, Thomas Nguyen, and Alexandra Salamone. In total, 103 students earned 115 positions in All State Bands, Choirs and Orchestras. These musicians are directed by Sean Carrier, Gordon Manley, Michael Relland, Steven Hughes, Bill Cromer and Gaye McClure.
Band Director Josh Ray was recognized for the SHS Symphonic Band, Selection and Performance as the 2015-2016 AAAA Honor Band by Arkansas School Band and Orchestra Association.

Dr. Barry Owen summarized District accomplishments in Secondary Instruction from the detailed presentation during the Committee of the Whole meeting on February 15. These included that high school seniors are projected to receive 10 million in scholarships this year, ACT scores are above state and national averages, and SHS has the largest FBLA organization in the state. He reported on the concurrent credit and WATC partnerships with University of Arkansas at Fort Smith.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT:**

**ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY TEXTBOOK ADOPTIONS**
Ms. Jeannie Cole made a committee motion to approve the textbooks from Pearson Education and National Geographic Learning/Cengage Learning Publishers recommended by the Elementary Social Studies Selection Committee. The vote for approval was 7/0. Ms. Jeannie Cole made a committee motion to approve the textbooks from Pearson Education, McGraw Hill Education, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and Bedford Freeman Worth publishers recommended by the Secondary Social Studies and World Languages Selection Committee for secondary social studies. The vote for approval was 7/0. Ms. Jeannie Cole made a committee motion to approve the textbooks from Pearson Education, McGraw Hill Education, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and Bedford Freeman Worth Publishers recommended by the Secondary Social Studies and World Languages Selection Committee for secondary world languages. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**REFUNDING OF BONDS RESOLUTION**
Mr. Bill Hanesworth reported that the District had the opportunity to refund bonds issued in 2010 to achieve a lower interest rate for a savings of over $401,000 with $361,000 of the savings to be realized in 2016. He added that the funds have to be used on facility improvements and equipment improvements. These projected savings will go back into the General Fund to be used for capital expenses. Mr. Hanesworth made a committee motion to approve the resolution for Stephens Inc. to publish and offer the sale of the bonds going before the Board again in March to offer the bonds for sale in April. Mr. Hanesworth added that Stephens Inc. has the opportunity to withdraw the bonds for sale should the market become unfavorable. Mr. Hanesworth made a committee motion that the Board approve this resolution to allow Stephens Inc. to move forward with the sale. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**SWOT ANALYSIS OF DISTRICT**
Mr. Bill Hanesworth made a committee motion for the Board to meet with District administrators, parents, teachers, and community members to analyze the District’s Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT). Dr. Deanie Mehl asked Dr. Gooden to work up a format for the SWOT analysis meetings. Dr. Gooden said
he and staff will do some preliminary work and present it to the Board for possible scheduling in March and April. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**FUTURE SCHOOL OF FORT SMITH DISTRIBUTION OF BROCHURES**

Ms. Susan McFerran reported that since the Board had voted to support the Future School of Fort Smith, her committee recommendation was to allow the Future School representatives to distribute brochures at Parent Teacher conferences on March 15 and March 17 from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. to ninth grade students in all four junior high schools. After discussion, the vote for approval was 5/2 with Cole and Keaton-Martin opposing.

Ms. Jeannie Cole asked that Northside High School and Southside High School be represented at the Parent Teacher conferences also so that students and parents can be made aware of the opportunities available at the FSPS high schools. Mr. Bill Hanesworth asked if there is a venue for parents to see what is offered at the high schools. Dr. Barry Owen stated that WATC has activity for ninth graders to see what is offered. Counselors from both campuses go out and meet with 9th graders in the spring and give them a course catalog with enrollment sheets. Dr. Barry Owen discussed pairing of options available at the high schools with Parent Teacher conferences to make parents also aware. Dr. David Hunton suggested website and social media for further exposure.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin was appreciative of the Kimmons Orchestra which played for the 20th anniversary of Delta Sigma Beta sorority. Ms. Jeannie Cole attended Ms. Cagle’s Kindergarten class on February 12 which was a Foundation grant reading program. Ms. Jeannie Cole added on February 3, PTA Founders Day was celebrated, recognizing Ms. Patti Pinter for her many efforts. Dr. Deanie Mehl added that Board member Susan McFerran was given a lifetime membership in the Fort Smith Council of PTA.

**FORUM:**

**CITIZENS PARTICIPATION:**

There was no one present for citizen participation.

**ADJOURN:**

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

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Deanie Mehl, President

_____________________________________
Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Secretary