Regular School Board Meeting  
March 28, 2016  
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: 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. Annette Henderson, 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 Mr. Charles Warren gave the invocation.

The consent agenda included the February School Board minutes, February Financial Report and March Student Services Report. Mr. Bill Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Susan McFerran, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

Dr. Benny Gooden was recognized for 50 years in education and 30 years as superintendent by the Fort Smith Principals Association. The plaque was presented by Mr. Wayne Haver and Mr. Bill Spicer.

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

Resignation  
Fowler, Ruby

Ms. Jeannie Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, to approve the resignation. The vote passed 7/0.

Dr. Benny Gooden and Dr. Deanie Mehl recognized the Chaffin Junior High GATE students for their championship win in the Women’s Foundation of Arkansas Girls of Promise State Coding Competition. They include Emily Austin, Lauragale Ralston, Ashleigh Mathews, Emily Patterson, Lauren Le Roy and Amber Tran. Amy Markham is their advisor.

Northside DECA was recognized for winning first place in Financial Literacy Project at the DECA State Conference on March 6. Team members are: Emily Craig, Madi Geels and Matheson Ladd. DECA advisors are Jennifer Craig, Melinda Briscoe and Cee Cee Hollimon. These students qualify for the National Competition. Northside also received several chapter awards at the competition.

Southside DECA students were also recognized for winning first place at the DECA State Conference. Jacob Day in Accounting Applications, Gabriella Hernandez Donato in Entrepreneurship Start-Up Business Plan and, Brianna Franco & Isabella
Wright in Fashion Merchandising Promotion Plan. Ms. Adina Boatright is their advisor.

Dr. Gooden reminded Board members of upcoming events. He also reported on synthetic turf replacement at Northside and Southside. Work has started at NHS. SHS work is scheduled after graduation.

Dr. Deanie Mehl suggested moving the Student Achievement and Accountability presentation nearer the end of the agenda. Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bill Hanesworth. The vote passed 7/0.

FINANCE

REFUNDING OF BONDS ISSUE

Mr. Bill Hanesworth reported that the sale of bonds approved at the February meeting was expected to save the District more than $400,000 and could exceed more than $600,000.00. Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jeannie Cole to accept the bid of $610,329.36 submitted by Stifle, Nicolaus & Co., Inc. The vote for approval was 7/0.

PERSONNEL

COMMITTEE:

Ms. Susan McFerran reported that an employee has requested a closed hearing to appeal his termination of employment. Dr. Mehl noted that the hearing will be held after other agenda items.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT:

Dr. Kellie Cohen and Ms. Caroline Neel summarized assessment information given previously during the Committee of the Whole meeting on March 10.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM:

Ms. McFerran reported that she visited when Britt Humphries’ Fairview Elementary School, special education students displayed their technology projects. She invited Board members to attend the Student Learning Showcase at Chaffin Junior High on Tuesday, April 5.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION:

There was no one present for citizen participation.

Dr. Mehl declared the general meeting adjourned and reported that Board members would adjourn to closed session for an employee hearing. (See Attached Committee Minutes)

Returning from closed session at 8:00 p.m., Dr. Mehl called the meeting to order. Mr. Bill Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jeannie Cole to uphold the recommended termination of the employee as presented by Superintendent Benny L. Gooden. The vote passed 7/0.
ADJOURN: There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 8:05.

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Deanie Mehl, President

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Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Secretary