Regular School Board Meeting  
November 23, 2015  
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. Barry Owen, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, Dr. Annette Henderson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Support 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, were also present.

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

The consent agenda included the October School Board minutes, October Financial Report and November Student Services Report. Dr. David Hunton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jeannie Cole to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote for approval was 7/0.

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

Leave of Absence  
Ketchum, Candice

Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Susan McFerran to approve the leave of absence. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Gooden and Dr. Mehl recognized Barling Elementary School Teacher Kim Rahi as the 2015 Newcomer Category winner of the 20th Annual Bessie B. Moore Arkansas Awards Program for Excellence in Teaching Economics given by Economics Arkansas. Dr. Gary Udouj, Director of the Adult Education Center was recognized as the Arkansas Adult Education Outstanding Administrator.

Dr. Gooden introduced Dr. Udouj to discuss opportunities available at the Fort Smith Adult Education Center (FSAEC). Dr. Udouj reported that the Center is funded with three federal and two state grants with 2,100 students served throughout the area. GED exams are provided free of charge and daycare services are provided at a minimal cost for parents at the FSAEC.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT:  
FSPS 2016/2017 Calendar

Ms. Jeannie Cole yielded to Dr. Gordon Floyd to highlight the 2016/2017 calendar as negotiated with the Fort Smith Certified Teachers Association (FSCTA). Ms. Cole made a committee motion to approve the calendar as presented. The vote for approval was 7/0.
December Board Meeting Date
Ms. Jeannie Cole made a committee motion that the December Board meeting be held on Monday, December 21 due to the Christmas holiday. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Social Media Posting of Meetings
Mr. Bill Hanesworth made a committee motion that Board and Committee meetings be posted on social media through Facebook and Twitter as well as the FSPS website. The vote for approval was 7/0.

2016 Master Facilities Plan Millage Date
Ms. Jeannie Cole made a committee motion to recommend a millage increase in September, 2016. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Property Purchase – 300 Belle Avenue
Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin made a committee motion to purchase property at 300 Belle Avenue for $29,000. This property will provide additional parking for the east side of the Northside High School campus. The vote for approval was 7/0.

MASTER FACILITIES PLAN

2016 Master Facilities Plan Resolution
Dr. Deanie Mehl read aloud the 2016 Master Facilities Plan Resolution for adoption. This resolution authorizes the superintendent to submit the plan and other required documents to the Arkansas Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation. Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Susan McFerran to adopt this resolution and authorize it for submission to the Arkansas Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Deanie Mehl presented the estimated costs for partnership and non-partnership projects.

Partnership Application Resolution
Dr. Deanie Mehl read aloud the Partnership Application Resolution. She noted that an exact millage rate will be determined after the Arkansas Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation determines how much it will contribute through partnership funds. Dr. Mehl stated that Board members discussed dividing this proposed increase into two separate millage issues. She added that the events complex could be one millage issue and the renovations to existing buildings and tornado shelters a second millage. Mr. Bill Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade Gilkey to authorize the superintendent to submit the resolution to the Arkansas Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation. The vote for approval was 7/0.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM
Ms. McFerran invited Board members to Fairview Elementary at 9:00 on Wednesday, December 16 to make gingerbread houses.
Dr. Mehl spoke about the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and how the District has been inundated with FOIA requests since August. She clarified that she was not speaking against FOIA but in this case, the law has been abused creating more than 100 hours of labor from employees and the latest FOIA will require additional employees and the number of copies will exceed 150,000.

Ms. McFerran and Dr. Mehl spoke about the AAIMS Assembly at Northside High School.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION: Sean Carrier spoke about moving past the Southside High School mascot issue and commended the administration and board.

ADJOURN: There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

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Deanie Mehl, President

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Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Secretary