Regular School Board Meeting  
December 17, 2012  
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:  
Ms. Jeannie Cole, vice president, called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Dr. Deanie Mehl, Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq., Ms. Susan McFerran and Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin. Dr. David Hunton arrived at 5:35. Mr. Rusty Owen was absent. Dr. Benny Gooden, superintendent, Dr. Gordon Floyd, deputy superintendent, Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Communication and Community Partnerships director and Ms. Nadine Brooks, secretary to the superintendent, were also present.

The pledge of allegiance was recited and Dr. Randy Bridges gave the invocation.

The consent agenda included the November 26, 2012 school board minutes, the November Financial Report, and the Student Services Report. Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote for approval was 6/0.

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

Resignations  
Manesseh Moore  
Glenda Pratt  
Valerie Rhoades

Retirement  
Bertha Creel

Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mehl to approve the resignations and retirement. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Recommendation for Employment  
Caroline Montgomery

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the recommendation for employment. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Dr. Gooden and Dr. Hunton recognized 14 teachers who have recently earned their National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification. These teachers include: Amy Adams, Lacy Allen, Britney Ballin, Rebecca Bingham, Marquita Carty, Rachael Foster, Lisa Gray, Wendy Parker, Kim Rahi, Josh Ray, Denise Stewart, Lucia Turner, Janet Williamson, and Laura (Strassle) York.
Current national board certified teachers were also invited and recognized. Dr. Gooden stated that FSPS now has a total of 87 National Board Certified teachers.

Dr. Gooden reported that all school board members have met and/or exceeded the required training hours for 2012. The total training hours are attached.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:
Ms. Cole, finance committee chair, yielded to Dr. Gooden to address the recent sale of bonds. Dr. Gooden reported that the $4,120,000 issue is for second lien bonds. Noting the favorable rates, Dr. Gooden recommended that the low bid submitted by Ross, Sinclaire and Associates, LLC at 1.793096 be approved.
Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade to approve the bid submitted by Ross, Sinclaire and Associates, LLC. The vote for approval was 6/0.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:
Ms. Keaton-Martin, personnel committee chair, yielded to Dr. Gooden to discuss the three ethics disclosures detailing potential conflicts involving Fort Smith Public School employees. After review, Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade to approve the ethics disclosure resolutions for submission to ADE for review if necessary. A list of the disclosures is attached.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT:
Dr. Hunton recognized Mr. Mark Lux of Przybysz and Associates for a brief summary of the 2012 FSPS Audit. Mr. Lux noted that the District’s net assets increased by $2.2 million or 2.2% and total revenues decreased by $2.9 million or 2.1%, while total expenses decreased by $1.5 million or 1.1% for the year ended June 30, 2012. Mr. Lux reviewed the District’s Basic Financial Statements, i.e., Statement of Net Assets, Statement of Activities, Balance Sheets, Statement of Fiduciary Net/Assets and Liabilities, and the audit findings. Lux noted that the Fort Smith School District earned a rating of 3.8 based on an analysis program developed by the Illinois State Board of Education. The District also earned an Unqualified Opinion which would be considered an “A” in a typical grading system. This is the highest ranking of financial strength possible according to auditing standards. There were no Federal Audit findings and no Financial Statement findings for the District. Dr. Gooden noted that the audit report will be posted on the FSPS website. Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin to accept the 2012 FSPS audit. The vote for approval was 6/0.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM:
Board members discussed the recent school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut. The Board discussed concerns for FSPS safety and scheduled a study session to review the FSPS Crisis Plan among other topics.
There was no one present for citizen participation.

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

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David Hunton, President

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Deanie Mehl, Secretary