PRESENT: Dr. Deanie Mehl, president, called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Dr. David Hunton, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Russell Owen and Ms. Jeannie Cole. Mr. Wyman R. Wade Jr., Esq., and Ms. Susan McFerran were absent. 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 Mr. Charles Warren gave the invocation.

REPORT TO THE PUBLIC: Dr. Gooden presented the 2015 Annual Report to the Public. (A copy of the annual report is on file in the Superintendent’s office.)

The consent agenda included the August School Board minutes, August Financial Report and September Student Services Report. Ms. Jeannie Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote for approval was 5/0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Gooden recognized and thanked the members of volunteer organizations for their service and support to the Fort Smith Public Schools. They include: Children’s Service League Board, Partners in Education Advisory Board, FSPS Foundation Board, City Council PTA Board, and PTA Presidents.

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

**Resignation**
Annmarie Bankston

Dr. David Hunton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jeannie Cole, to approve the resignation. The vote for approval was 5/0.

**Recommendation for Employment**
Elizabeth Shepherd

Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Russell Owen, to approve the recommendation for employment. The vote for approval was 5/0.
School Board Election Results
Dr. Benny Gooden reported that the school board election was held on September 15. Dr. Gooden noted that Mr. Wade Gilkey, was elected to a three-year term in Zone I, Position 6 winning the election against incumbent Mr. Russell Owen. Mr. Bill Hanesworth was elected to a three-year term to At Large, Position 4 winning the election against incumbent, Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq. Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Zone IV, Position 3 ran unopposed, and was reelected to a three-year term. Dr. Gooden noted that this was the second largest turnout of voters for a school board election. Dr. Gooden recommended that the Board incorporate these results into the minutes as a matter of record. Dr. David Hunton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jeannie Cole, to make the election results a matter of record. The vote for approval was 5/0. (A copy of the certified election results will be kept on file in the Superintendent’s office.)

Committee of the Whole Report:

Ethics Disclosures
Ms. Jeannie Cole made a motion seconded by Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin to waive the formal reading of the disclosure resolutions for employees with potential conflicts of annual involvement of $10,000 or less. The vote for approval was 5/0. Dr. Benny Gooden read the list of employees with potential conflict of annual involvement of $10,000 or less as required by Act 1599 of 2003. Ms. Jeannie Cole made a committee motion to approve the disclosure resolutions for these employees. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Ms. Jeannie Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, to waive the formal reading of the disclosure resolutions for employees with potential conflicts of annual involvement of $10,000 or more. The vote for approval was 5/0. Dr. Benny Gooden read the list of employees with potential conflict of annual income of $10,000 or more as required by Act 1599 of 2003. These resolutions will be submitted to the Commissioner of Education for review. Ms. Jeannie Cole made a committee motion to approve the disclosure resolutions for these employees and submit these to the ADE as required. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Secondary Textbooks Selections Committee
Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin made a committee recommendation to adopt the Secondary World Languages and Social Studies textbook committee members for appointment to select materials to be utilized beginning in 2016/2017. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Tilles Elementary Property Acquisition
Ms. Jeannie Cole made a committee recommendation to purchase the property at 900 North 14th Street for $7,005 which is below the $10,000 appraisal. This lot is adjacent to other lots near Tilles Elementary School. She noted that this purchase will provide additional space to the campus. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Adjournment of 2014/15 Board of Education sine die
Seating of 2015/16 Board of Education
Dr. Deanie Mehl presented the following proposed slate of officers for 2015/2016.

Dr. Deanie Mehl, President
Ms. Jeannie Cole, Vice President
Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Secretary
Mr. Charles Warren, Treasurer

Dr. Mehl addressed Board members asking if all were in agreement with the proposed Board officers. No changes to the slate of officers were proposed.

Dr. David Hunton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bill Hanesworth to accept the slate of officers. The vote for approval was 6/0.

**Designation of Board Disbursing Officers**

Dr. Deanie Mehl noted that it is customary to designate the President as primary board disbursing officer and the Vice President as alternate board disbursing officer for the District. Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jeannie Cole, to designate Dr. Deanie Mehl as primary disbursing officer and Ms. Jeannie Cole as alternate disbursing officer. The vote for approval was 6/0.

**Future School of Fort Smith Charter School**

Dr. Deanie Mehl stated that Ms. Trish Flanagan and others from the Future School had met with the FSPS Board of Education Committee of the Whole on September 14 regarding the application submitted to the Arkansas Department of Education. After discussion, Ms. Jeannie Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yvonne Keaton Martin, to take no position on the charter school application. The motion failed with a 2/4 vote. Mr. Wade Gilkey made a motion, seconded by Dr. David Hunton, to support the application made by the Future School of Fort Smith Charter School. The motion passed 5/1 with Cole casting the dissenting vote.

**BOARD MEMBERS FORUM:**

Mr. Wade Gilkey stated that he wanted to clarify the SHS Rebel name situation by suggesting a compromise. Mr. Wade Gilkey made a motion, seconded by Dr. David Hunton, to retain the name of Rebels and remove all symbols of the Confederacy. Dr. Mehl suggested that the Board hear the citizens who were signed up to speak for Citizens Participation before voting. Mr. Gilkey agreed to postpone the vote until after they had been given an opportunity to speak. Mr. Bill Hanesworth added that he was humbled by the school board election and happy to serve as a Board member.

**CITIZENS PARTICIPATION:**

After discussion among Board members, Mr. Wade Gilkey reintroduced his motion, seconded by Mr. Bill Hanesworth, to retain the name of Rebels and remove all symbols of the Confederacy. The motion failed with a 3/3 vote.

ADJOURN: There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

____________________________________
Deanie Mehl, President

_____________________________________
Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Secretary