Ms. Jeannie Cole, president, called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Ms. Shannon Blatt, Ms. Barbara Hathcock, Dr. David Hunton, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Dr. Deanie Mehl, and Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr. Dr. Benny Gooden, Superintendent, and Ms. Carolyn Kincaid, executive secretary were also present. Dr. Gordon Floyd was out of town.

The pledge of allegiance was recited and Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin gave the invocation.

Ms. Hathcock made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2008 regular school board meeting. The vote for approval was 7/0.

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

**Resignations**
Trisha Boardman

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blatt, to approve the resignation. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**Recommendations for Employment**
Samantha J. Andrews
Kari J. Fenby
Jaime C. Gross
Ashley J. Hobbs
Mary Ann Johns
Misty J. McGatha
Kelly M. Shumate
Elaine A. Watson

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mehl, to approve the recommendations for employment. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Gooden informed the Board that an Open House is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, March 1, 2009 for Albert Pike Elementary. Howard Elementary School is near completion and expected to be included on the Open House.

He also noted that progress is being made on the Southside High School Press Box.
Dr. Gooden noted that he had spoken personally with members of Congress regarding the proposed Economic Stimulus Package. He expects that the State will receive a portion of the money and it will be redistributed to schools through Title I and IDEA funds. The concern is that money will be available to schools, but that other funds routinely distributed to schools could be withheld.

Dr. Gooden also stated that the Legislature was in session in Little Rock and he is concerned about bills introduced regarding immigration, which may put schools in a position which violates Federal laws.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Ms. Cole recognized Dr. Mehl for the Finance Committee Report.

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the Financial Report for December 15, 2008. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hunton, to approve Przybysz and Associates for the required audit of financial records and operations for the three fiscal years of 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011. The vote for approval was 7/0.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM:

Ms. Cole noted that she will be travelling to Washington D.C. to the National School Boards Association Federal Relations Conference at the end of the week.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

No one was present for citizen participation.

ADJOURN:

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Ms. Jeannie Cole, President

Ms. Shannon Blatt, Secretary