Ms. Jeannie Cole, President, called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Russell Owen, Dr. Deanie Mehl, Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq., Ms. Susan McFerran, and Dr. David Hunton. Dr. Benny Gooden, Superintendent, Dr. Gordon Floyd, Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Annette Henderson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Support Services, Dr. Barry Owen, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, Mr. Charles Warren, Director of Financial Services, Ms. Zena Featherston-Marshall, Director of Communication and Community Services and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent, was also present.

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

The consent agenda included the March School Board minutes, March Financial Report and Student Services Report. Dr. Deanie Mehl made a motion, seconded by Mr. Russell Owen, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote for approval was 7/0.

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

**Resignations - Effective at the close of the 2013/2014 School Year**

Barrett, Julie  
Boyd, Amy  
Fiser, Donald  
Fitts, Georgia  
Gary, Brittany  
Laffoon, Hayley  
Phillips, Terri  
Smith, Kelly  
Thames, Debra  
White, Richard  
White, Tera

**Retirements - Effective at the close of the 2013/2014 School Year**

Akins, Judith  
Austin, Larry  
Hartgraves, LaVonda  
Lewis, Anna  
Thomas, Deborah  
Vann, Robbie
Dr. David Hunton made a motion, seconded by Dr. Deanie Mehl to approve the resignations and retirements. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**Recommendations for Employment – 2014/2015**

- Been, Kristin
- Cole, Dana
- Crane, Mark
- Dooly, Dustin
- Hanna, Sandra
- Holwick, Angela
- Waack, Matthew
- Williams, Brittnie
- Womack, Corey

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

**Leave of Absence – 2014/2015**

- Smith, Mindy

Ms. Susan McFerran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rusty Owen to approve the leave of absence. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Gooden and Ms. Cole recognized the following students:

Shadow O’Hare, a senior at Southside, won First Place in Restaurant Food Service at the 2014 DECA State Career Development Conference in Springdale on March 10-11. Southside DECA was recognized for their Community Service campaign and attaining a Silver Level in the Arkansas DECA “Make It Count” campaign. Southside DECA students are coached by Adina Boatright.

Northside Senior DECA students, Cade Sisemore, Caleb Burrows, and Jacob Northrop won First Place in Sports Entertainment Marketing in the 2014 DECA State Career Development Conference – Virtual Business Challenge. These students are coached by Melinda Briscoe and Jenny Craig.

Southside Journalism students competed for a variety of awards at the 2014 Arkansas Scholastic Press Association Spring Convention. MacKenzie Blair, senior, won Best of ASPA Newspaper Advertising, Best of ASPA Yearbook Index Layout, Editor All Arkansas – Southerner, and Hall of Fame Yearbook. Kirby Bland, senior, won Broadcast Journalist of the Year. Lauren Humphrey, junior, won First Place in Photography On-Site. Andrea Johnson, junior, won JEA Journalist of the Year. Becca Risley and Drew Smith won Editors All Arkansas – Southworld. Becca Risley, senior, won 7A Newspaper Editor of the Year. Drew Smith, junior, won First Place in Sports Writing On-Site and Best of ASPA Sports Feature. Shawn Treat, sophomore,
won First Place in Advertising On-Site. Southside was also elected President School for the third consecutive year.

In the 2014 Arkansas Press Women Journalism Contest, Kirby Bland, senior, won First Place in Broadcast Sports and Broadcast News. Isabella Brewer won First Place in Cartooning. Becca Risley, senior won First Place in Column Writing. Drew Smith, junior, won First Place in Newspaper Sports Writing. Their advisor is Susan Colyer.

Alexandra Salamone, Chaffin freshman, was named Junior High Editor of the Year at the 2014 Arkansas Scholastic Press Association Spring Conference. Sandra Kaundart is her advisor.

As a part of the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith WATC program, FSPS high school students competed in the 2014 SkillsUSA State Championship in Hot Springs, AR. Elizabeth Crowley, Southside, was a Gold Medalist in Health Knowledge Bowl. Micah Galvan, Southside, won a Gold Medal in Health Knowledge Bowl. Crystal Porter, Northside, won a Gold Medal in Health Knowledge Bowl. Elaine Pigeon, Southside, won a Gold Medal in Early Childhood Education. Ignacio Quezada, Northside, won a Gold Medal in Electronics Technology. The Advisor is WATC Program Coordinator, Savanna Knight. All Gold medalists were given a $4,000 scholarship for college. Gold medalists will compete in the Nationals this summer in Kansas City.

Charles Warren, FSPS Director of Financial Services, was selected to receive the Community Leader Award in Business/Industry by the Leadership Fort Smith Alumni Association.

Dr. Gooden reported on upcoming events, noting that 60 retirees and 43 twenty year employees will be honored the next evening, Tuesday, April 29 at the District’s annual Retirement and Awards Banquet.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT:**

**April 14, 2014**

**2014/2015 Personnel Contract Recommendations**

Ms. Susan McFerran made a committee recommendation that personnel contracts presented by Dr. Annette Henderson be approved for 2014/2015. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**2014/2015 Policy Changes for First Reading**

Ms. Susan McFerran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rusty Owen to waive the formal reading of policy changes. The vote for approval was 7/0. Ms. McFerran yielded to Dr. Gordon Floyd to review the following policy changes for certified and non-certified staff: **CERTIFIED:** GCBDBB – Family Illness; This change amends a reference to a previously eliminated sick leave section. GCBDBE – Personal Business. This change clarifies when an employee has earned the leave. **CLASSIFIED:** GDBDC – Family Illness, (Office Personnel); This change amends a reference to a previously eliminated sick leave section. GDBDF – Personal Business;
This change clarifies when an employee has earned the leave. GDBA Salary Schedule (Office Personnel), GDBAA (Buildings and Grounds)/Child Nutrition), GDBAB Salary Schedule (Paraprofessional); This policy will give credit on the salary schedule for out-of-district experience. This policy revision is not retroactive and will apply only to new employees. After review, Ms. McFerran made a committee recommendation for approval of first reading. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Resolution for Site Designation for Events Complex
Dr. Deanie Mehl made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wyman R. Wade Jr. to waive the formal reading of the resolution which proposes leasing approximately 32 acres from the Fort Smith Regional Airport for future development as an events complex. The vote for approval was 7/0. Dr. Mehl reported that after visiting sites and meeting several times, the best option is to lease this property through a 50-year agreement with the Fort Smith Regional Airport Commission. Dr. Mehl made a committee recommendation to direct the Superintendent to submit the proposal with a letter of intent to the Fort Smith Regional Airport Commission for action. The vote for approval was 7/0.

2014/2015 Salary Schedules
Mr. Rusty Owen reported that the Committee had reviewed salary negotiations with the Fort Smith Classroom Teachers Association which yielded an agreement to fund 2014/2015 base salaries to be increased from $36,500 to $37,500 with an average increase of 2.3% to 5.57% for employees. Schedules reflecting similar percentage base increases were also included. Mr. Owen made a committee recommendation to approve the salary recommendations presented. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Properties Purchase
Dr. Deanie Mehl reported that property at 316 North 21st, adjacent to a parking lot owned by the District at Northside High School can be purchased for $15,000. Dr. Mehl reported that with many District schools landlocked. This is a good purchase for the District. Purchasing this property will provide access to 21st street. Dr. Mehl made a committee motion to purchase the property. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Independent Consultant Assessment of Enrollment Projections and Facilities
Dr. Deanie Mehl noted that the Board has been devising a long range plan to address enrollment growth in the District. Dr. Mehl noted that at the request of a group of concerned citizens, the Board directed the Superintendent to seek independent consultants to assess enrollment projections. Proposals were received from Business Information Services and Jack Schreder & Associates. The committee discussed both proposals in detail, noting that both consultants were qualified to perform this independent study. Dr. Deanie Mehl made a committee motion to accept the lower priced proposal of $21,125 from Business Information Services. The vote for approval was 7/0.
OTHER:  

**May Board Meeting Date**

Dr. David Hunton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rusty Owen to move the May Board meeting date to May 19 because of the Memorial Day holiday. The vote for approval was 7/0.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

There were no requests for citizen participation.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM:

There were no Board comments.

ADJOURN:

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

______________________________________________  
Jeannie Cole, President

______________________________________________  
Russell Owen, Secretary