PRESENT:

President Deanie Mehl called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Russell Owen, Ms. Jeannie Cole, Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq., and Ms. Susan McFerran. Dr. David Hunton was absent. 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, Mr. Darian Layes, Director of Student Services and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent, was also present.

The pledge of allegiance was recited and Mr. Charles Warren gave the invocation.

The consent agenda included the March School Board minutes, March Financial Report and Student Services Report. Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Susan McFerran, 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
Duplantis, Maegan
Feather, Marilyn
Graham, Corrie
Hood Jr., Leroy
Hood, Marcia
Lum, Sarah
Plattner, Nancy
Risley, Tracy
Sherry, Leah
Stuckwisch, Edyth

Retirements
Burns, Linda
Carter, Shannon
Chamlee, Vickie
Crotty, Teena
Dalke, Barbara
Floyd, Mary
Haines, Susan
Harris, Sandra
Hixson, Connie
Mr. Russell Owen made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, to approve the resignations and retirements. The vote for approval was 6/0.

**Recommendations for Employment**
Bradford, Miranda
Dollar, Hannah
Durham, Judith
Malinka, Bethany
Marion, Robert
Merry, Krystle
Nowak, Britni
Ocker, Linden
Trouillon, Tammy
White, Cynthia

Ms. Jeannie Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Susan McFerran, to approve the recommendations for employment. The vote for approval was 6/0.

**Leaves of Absence**
Smith, Mindy
Williams, Rashunda

Ms. Jeannie Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, to approve the leaves of absence. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Dr. Gooden and Dr. Mehl recognized the following students and staff:

**2015 Arkansas PTA Reflections Contest First-Place Winners:**
Caitlyn Ashley (Ramsey – 8th) – Choreography – Middle School Division
Jatyra Campbell (Tilles – 6th) – Visual Arts – Special Artist Division
Crey Hargrave (Fairview – 6th) – Photography – Middle School Division
Layla Haynor (Ramsey – 8th) – Literature – Middle School Division
Aryn Martinez (Bonneville – 5th) – Visual Arts – Intermediate Division
Kenneth (Chaffin – 9th) – Music Comp – High School Division
Will Robinson & Wyatt Robinson (Chaffin – 9th) – Film – High School Division

Northside High School PTSA (Jill Ladd – PTA President) – Parent Education Award

Trusty Elementary School PTA (Elizabeth Gately – PTA President) – Safety Award

Mike Falleur, NHS Athletics Coordinator and Head Football Coach, (Northside High PTSA) – Heroic Effort

David Israel, Howard Elementary Volunteer, Mentor, and Partner received the Arkansas Children’s Champion award.

Bill Black, Darby Teacher received the James H. Atkinson Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Arkansas History by the Arkansas Historical Association.

Southside - 2015 Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership Conference
First-Place Winners:
Sandy Nguyen, Brian Hilton and Peter Nguyen – 3-D Animation
Cara Shipley, Bret Pinter and Dusty Mikula – Business Financial Plan
Aaron Sayaphath – Business Law
Nick Favre, Justin Eckes and Ethan Rathbun – Hospitality Management
Cameron Smith, Luke Greenfield and Joshua Parada – Network Design
Drew Smith, Maddy Willis, Valerie Murray and Will Smith – Parliamentary Procedure
Raquel Iraheta, Alisson Torres and Geovanni Rivera – STEM: Green Building Initiative
Monica Thammavongsa and Megan Tucker – National Community Service Award: Community, Service, and Achievement Levels
Kelley Todd - Sponsor

Southside Student Winners at the 2015 Arkansas Scholastic Press Association Spring Convention:
Isabella Brewer: Best of Show: Editorial Cartoon
Jacob Defay: Best of Show: Yearbook Sports Copy and Club Copy
Lauren Humphrey: All-Arkansas Editor – Southerner Best of Show – Sports Photo
Andrea Johnson: JEA Journalist of the Year Best of Show: Column Writing and Yearbook Student Life Copy
First Place – Photo Story On-Site
Drew Smith: Best of Show: Newspaper Front Page Design
Andrea Johnson and Drew Smith: All-Arkansas Editors – Southworld
Drew Smith and Andrea Johnson: Best of Show: Newspaper Service to School and Community
Southside Student Winners in the 2015 Arkansas Press Women Competition:
Hannah Coffman: First Place – Feature Writing
Andrea Johnson: First Place – Review Writing and Editorial Writing
Drew Smith: Newspaper Design and Sports Column
Susan Colyer – Teacher/Sponsor
Andrea Johnson won the National Sweepstakes Award for Feature Photography in the 2015 Quill and Scroll Gold Key Contest. She was the only one in the nation awarded.
Susan Colyer – Teacher/Sponsor

The 2013 Southside Yearbook was selected as a Showcase book for Cover and Layout Design in the 2015 Herff Jones National Showcase Yearbook Edition. Susan Colyer is the Journalism Teacher.

Dr. Gooden reported on upcoming events, noting that 55 retirees and 32 twenty year employees will be honored the next evening, Tuesday, April 28 at the District’s annual Retirement and Awards Banquet.

Dr. Gooden reported on the recent A – F Grading Report released by the state department. He reported that both Northside and Southside high schools received a letter grade of “C”, Euper Lane Elementary and Beard Elementary received “A”s and the remaining schools received B’s, C’s and D’s. Dr. Gooden noted that ACT scores and AP courses were not included in this report.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE REPORT:

2015/2016 Personnel Contract Recommendations
Ms. Susan McFerran made a committee recommendation that personnel contracts presented by Dr. Annette Henderson be approved for 2015/2016. The vote for approval was 6/0.

2015/2016 Personnel Policy Changes for First Reading
Ms. Susan McFerran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq., to waive the formal reading of policy changes. Dr. Deanie Mehl noted that the vote for approval was 6/0. Ms. McFerran yielded to Dr. Benny Gooden to review the following policy changes for first reading:

Policy GBEC-Court Records of Students; This change provides somewhat more specificity as to who will be notified in the event students charged with violent acts are enrolled in school.
Ms. McFerran made a committee recommendation to approve Policy GBEC as presented. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Policy GBED-Violent Behavior; This change reinforces the District’s commitment to assist employees who are assaulted by students or adults.

Ms. McFerran made a committee recommendation to approve Policy GBED as presented. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Dr. Deanie Mehl noted that the policies will be presented to the Board in May for second and final reading.

2015/2016 Salary Schedules
Mr. Russell Owen reported that salary negotiations with the Fort Smith Classroom Teachers Association (FSCTA) are complete. Dr. Benny Gooden reported that local assessments were the lowest in two decades projecting a local revenue growth of .11%. Dr. Gooden noted that state legislators increased foundation funding by less than 1%. He noted that FSCTA agreed to no increase in base salary of $37,500 for the 2015/2016 fiscal years emphasizing that salaries were not “frozen” even though the base was not changed. Mr. Russell Owen made a committee recommendation to approve the salary recommendations presented. The vote for approval was 6/0.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:
Mr. John Paul Dean addressed the Board stating his concerns about both high schools receiving the letter grade of “C”. He stated concern that high schools in Northwest Arkansas had grades higher than Fort Smith Public Schools. He also questioned the need for a third high school. Dr. Deanie Mehl shared points which demonstrate that it is difficult to make simple comparisons when the populations are so different citing higher poverty and fewer resources, and told Mr. Dean that the third high school has been tabled at this time because of the independent study by Preston Smith, Business Information Services.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM:
Ms. McFerran and Dr. Mehl praised the Kimmons staff responsible for the Kimmons 50th Anniversary Celebration.

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

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Deanie Mehl, President

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Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Secretary