Regular School Board Meeting  
August 24, 2015  
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:  
Dr. Deanie Mehl, President, called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Dr. David Hunton, Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq., Ms. Jeannie Cole, Ms. Susan McFerran, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin and Mr. Russell Owen. Dr. Benny Gooden, Superintendent, Dr. Gordon Floyd, Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Barry Owen, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional 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 Dr. Barry Owen gave the invocation.

The consent agenda included the July School Board minutes, July Financial Report and August Student Services Report. Ms. Jeannie Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Susan McFerran, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote for approval was 7/0.

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

Resignations  
Adair, Valarie  
Clark, Morgan  
Cox, Missy  
Hargis-Socarro, Angela  
Huckelbury, Lisa  
Pettigrew, Gary  
Massengale, Johanna  
Sounbandith, Britny

Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq., made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jeannie Cole, to approve the resignations. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Recommendations for Employment  
Coffey, Kari  
Cross, Caroline  
Darr, Kelley  
Dixon, Chadwick  
Galvan, Elias  
Lewis, Anna  
Passmore, Lisa  
Stark, Leah  
Siddons, Amanda  
Thaggard, Melissa
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.

Dr. Benny Gooden said the 2015 enrollment is very similar to that of last year; high school enrollment is slightly up, junior high school slightly down. Elementary and kindergarten enrollment is down slightly as well. He also noted that Pre K is up about 150 students because the District was awarded additional grant money to serve more Pre-K students.

**2015/2016 FSPS Budget and ADE Data Submission**
Mr. Russell Owen reported that the Committee had reviewed the 2015/2016 Budget in great detail on August 20. He noted that this budget was comparable to last year. Dr. Benny Gooden added that it was unremarkable, noting that the District was near the end of spending from bond proceeds or Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB). The District is winding down facility improvements in progress. Mr. Russell Owen, made a committee motion to approve the 2015/2016 Budget and submit it in electronic format to the Arkansas Department of Education. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (ACSIP)**
Dr. Benny Gooden reported that annual approval of the Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (ACSIP) is a requirement of the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), a prerequisite for federal and state funds, and due by October 1, 2015. Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin made a committee motion to authorize the Superintendent to submit the ACSIP Assurances to the Arkansas Department of Education as required. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**Authorization for Superintendent to Apply for Federal and State Funds**
Mr. Russell Owen made a committee motion to authorize the Superintendent to make the required annual application for any and all federal and state funds, and to serve as the authorized representative for these programs. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**IDEA Assurances**
Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin asked Dr. Gooden to review the required assurances and agreements relative to services for students with disabilities in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Dr. Gooden stated that Board approval of these annual documents for the regular K-12 program and preschool services are a condition for the District to receive these federal funds. Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin made a committee motion to approve the assurances and agreements for both the Pre-K and the K-12 IDEA programs. The vote for approval was 7/0.
Tilles Property Acquisition
Ms. Jeannie Cole made a committee recommendation to purchase the properties at 1415 N. I Street and 903 N. 15th Street. She noted that these properties are adjacent to Tilles Elementary School and the seller agreed to sell both for a total of $85,000. Dr. Deanie Mehl added that purchasing these properties will add needed space to one of the District’s smallest campuses. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Belle Point School Improvement Grant (SIG)
Dr. Deanie Mehl reported that on August 20, the committee discussed the school improvement grant received by Belle Point. Dr. Benny Gooden added that only three SIG grants were awarded in the state. He commended the FSPS staff for their good work in submitting the grant application. He also noted that in the near future ADE Commissioner Johnny Key will address the Board regarding the specifics of the grant. No action was required by the Board.

BOARD MEMBERS
FORUM:

There were no comments.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

Connie Fines
Ms. Connie Fines asked the Board to release her children to attend Lavaca schools under a board transfer since she missed the State School Choice deadline. Because FSPS was once under a civil-rights era desegregation order, the Board cannot release students under this provision. The School Choice option must be used.

Kyle Parker
Kyle Parker requested that the Board reconsider changing the name "Rebel." He made his point by listing several notable "rebels" who are not associated with the Confederacy or slavery. He also commended the Board for being “rebels” in its attempt to plan for the future expansion at Chaffee Crossing.

Joey McCutchen
Joey McCutchen called for the resignation of Dr. Benny Gooden and many of the school board members for what he characterized as their attempt to deceive the public.

Jim Rowland
Jim Rowland, in support of the Board’s action to remove symbols of the Confederacy from Southside High School, read a letter written by his wife, Norma Rowland. Mr. Rowland emphasized that he shares his wife's opinion as noted in the letter he read.

After citizens had spoken, Dr. Deanie Mehl stated that the rebel has been retired and will not be incorporated into the new mascot. She asked if any other Board members had further comment. No one had further comment.
ADJOURN: There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

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Deanie Mehl, President

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Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq., Secretary