Ms. Jeannie Cole, president, called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Dr. Deanie Mehl, Ms. Susan McFerran, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq., Dr. David Hunton and Mr. Russell Owen. 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, Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Communication and Community Partnerships Director and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent, were also present.

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

The consent agenda included the November School Board Minutes, November Financial Report and Student Services Report. Dr. David Hunton made a motion, seconded by Dr. Deanie Mehl, 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**

Christine Walters
Tammy Tucker

**Retirements**

Beverly White

Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rusty Owen, to approve the resignations and retirements. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**Recommendations for Employment**

Jennifer Mavity
Valerie Adair
Kenneth Fletcher
Trish Neal

Dr. Deanie Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, to approve the recommendations for employment. The vote for approval was 7/0.
Dr. Gooden reported on recent FSPS closings due to inclement weather and the difficulties in deciding when to close schools. He noted that at this time FSPS will make up one day extending the final day of classes to May 29, 2014. He noted that this could change as winter progresses.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT:**

**FSPS 2012/2013 Audit Report**

Mr. Rusty Owen, Finance chair, reported that Mr. Mark Lux, Przybysz & Associates, CPAs, P.C., and Mr. Charles Warren, FSPS Financial Director presented the 2013 FSPS Audit on December 9. Mr. Owen noted that the Fort Smith Public School District earned a rating of 3.45 based on an analysis program developed by the Illinois State Board of Education and an Unqualified Opinion which would be considered an “A” in a typical grading system. Mr. Lux reported on the NSLA fluctuation and the stability of the General Fund. Mr. Owen made a committee motion to accept the 2012/2013 Audit. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**Resolution Required by Act 1120 of 2013**

Ms. Susan McFerran, Personnel chair, yielded to Dr. Gooden to report on this resolution. Dr. Gooden reported that Arkansas General Assembly approved Act 1120 which requires an approved Board resolution listing employees who received a five percent or more increase in salary from the previous year of employment. The list is attached. Ms. McFerran made a committee motion to approve this resolution. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**FSPS 2014/2015 Calendar**

Mr. Wyman Wade, Jr., Public/Student Affairs chair, presented the 2014/2015 calendar. Mr. Wade highlighted the professional development days, parent/teacher conference dates and final school days. He noted that the dates for calendar events are negotiated with the FSPS Classroom Teachers Association (CTA) each year. Mr. Wade made a committee motion to accept the FSPS 2014/2015 calendar. The vote for approval was 6/1.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Mr. Rusty Owen reported that bids were received on December 10 for the issue of a sale of bonds previously approved. This resulted in a low bid from Ross, Sinclaire & Associates, Inc. at the rate of 3.876916. Mr. Owen made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin to approve the low bid from Ross, Sinclaire & Associates, Inc. for approval. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:**

There was no one present for citizen participation.

**BOARD MEMBERS FORUM:**

Ms. Susan McFerran noted that she participated in a parliamentary procedures workshop at the Arkansas School Boards Association’s (ASBA) Annual Conference. She requested copies of Jim Slaughter’s guide be provided for all board members.
Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin complimented the performance of the Southside High School Chorus on their annual Madrigal Dinner program held at Central Presbyterian. Dr. Mehl reported that she attended a workshop on the Bentonville millage campaign. Jeannie Cole attended a “student-focused board” workshop which emphasized the advantage of activities which involve the Board in school life/culture.

ADJOURN: There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

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Jeannie Cole, President

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Russell Owen, Secretary