Regular School Board Meeting  
February 24, 2014  
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: 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, Communication and Community Partnerships Director 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 January School Board minutes, January 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.

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

**Retirements**

Terrie Hamilton  
Alma Louise Reeves

Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr. made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin to approve the retirements. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**Recommendations for Employment**

Amy Boyd  
Benjamin Stovall  
LTC Earl Massey

Ms. Susan McFerran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rusty Owen, to approve the recommendations for employment. The vote for approval was 7/0.
Dr. Gooden and Ms. Cole recognized the following students:

Vien Le, a junior at Southside won the 7A State Wrestling Championship in the 106 weight class at the 2014 Arkansas State Wrestling Championship held February 14 and 15 in Little Rock.

2014 First Chair All State Musicians:
- Nick Blair, Southside - Tuba - Band
- Derek Bolin, Southside - Trumpet - Jazz Band
- Jesse Boyd, Southside - Contra Bass Clarinet - Band
- Jade Espina, Northside - Soprano II - Choir
- Dylan Lopez, Southside - Euphonium - Band

Dr. Gooden reported that the legislative session appears routine with regard to school funding. Dr. Gooden also reported that motions have been filed to intervene in the Deer/Mt. Judea case.

Dr. Gooden reported that the last day of school for students is Tuesday, June 3, 2014 if no additional closures occur due to inclement weather.

**PROPERTIES COMMITTEE**

**Adoption of Partnership Application Resolution**

Dr. Deanie Mehl reported that the Board of Education had adopted the 2015/2017 Master Facilities Plan in January. Dr. Deanie Mehl made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wyman R. Wade Jr., to waive the formal reading of the Partnership Application Resolution. The vote for approval was 7/0. Dr. Deanie Mehl made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wyman Wade Jr., to adopt the Partnership Application Resolution in September 2015, or other appropriate date for voter approval. Adopting this resolution authorizes the Superintendent to submit it to the Arkansas Division of Academic Facilities and Transportation. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT:**

**Darby Junior High School Construction Bids**

Dr. Deanie Mehl reported that when the Committee first reviewed bids and specifications, it was initially reported that the Turn Key Construction bid did not meet the bid requirements. Upon further evaluation, the Committee determined the Turn Key bid did meet the bid requirements. The Committee therefore made the motion to award the bid to the low bidder, Turn Key Construction, for approval to the Board of Education. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**THIRD HIGH SCHOOL**

**INDEPENDENT STUDY:**

Dr. Deanie Mehl reported that a group of citizens have requested, in a memo (attached) to Superintendent Benny Gooden, that an independent and comprehensive study be conducted by an outside agency to determine the need of a third high school. This group submitted a list of concerns and suggested alternatives to building a third high school. Dr. Mehl reported that the Board and Administration have been evaluating what to do about the increasing enrollment
for several years. Mr. Wyman R. Wade Jr. asked about a source to pay for the study, inquiring as to whether this group had offered any assistance in funding the additional review. Dr. Gooden stated that this group had not offered any financial resources. Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Dr. David Hunton to conduct a third party study, asking Dr. Gooden to research and report names of qualified consultants for the Board to consider. The vote for approval was 7/0.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

There were no requests for citizen participation.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM:

Ms. Jeannie Cole commented on attending the National School Boards Association Advocacy Institute Conference February 2 - 5 in Washington, D.C.

ADJOURN:

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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Jeannie Cole, President

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Russell Owen, Secretary