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 October School Board Minutes, October 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**

Lt. Colonel Stephen White
Cara Morland
Robert Carter

**Retirements**

Linda Cox
Leslie Drummond
Dianne Jeffery
Phyllis McClure

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

**Recommendations for Employment**

Teresa Whatley
Cynthia Dean

Mr. Wyman R. Wade Jr. made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, to approve the recommendations for employment. The vote for approval was 7/0.
Dr. Benny Gooden and Ms. Jeannie Cole recognized the following staff and students:


Ms. Shearen Corbin-Racy was recognized for receiving the Martha Stone Educational Office Professional of the Year award by the Arkansas Association of Educational Office Professionals.

The Southside High School Confederettes Volleyball Team was recognized for winning the 2013 7A State Championship title on November 2. Team members include: Aliyah Jackson, Sarita Stegall, Caylee Phillips, Catherine Owen, Chloe McKim, Claire Wilson, Gabby Hernandez, Andee Tiffee, Lexi Robertson, Helen Sayre, Briéann Waller, Marika Stiles, Drew Jones, Nikki Parker, Tina Nguyen, Makayla McCarthy, Sarah Moore, Briana Northington, Alyssa Wallace, Jensen Hunt, Jamie Tipton, Lavonae Vann, Torrie Smith, Bri Phillips, Mia Robbins, Madison Shrum, Mackenzie King, and team managers Katie Cohen, Rachel Lindsey, Konnor Bramlett. Head Coach Steve Haaser and Assistant Coach Natalie Throneberry were recognized as well. Coach Haaser was recognized for a record including 22 conference championships and eight state championships.

Dr. Gooden stated that the Pulaski County Desegregation case was nearing settlement after 25 years. Dr. Gooden reported on the school improvement status of Fort Smith Public Schools. He noted that seven schools are listed as “Achieving”, two are “Priority” schools” and 17 are “Needs Improvement”. He stated that only 137 of 1,055 statewide met “Achieving” status. He also reported that the Office of Education Policy at the University of Arkansas Fayetteville has conducted a study of “Most Improved Elementary and Middle Schools” from 2006 to 2013 which has Trusty Elementary at #2, Morrison Elementary at #8, Sunnymede Elementary at #15 and Howard Elementary at #17. In mathematics, four out of the five “Most Improved” were Fort Smith Public Schools. Dr. Mehl asked which seven schools were listed as the “Achieving” schools. Dr. Gooden stated that Euper Lane, Fairview, Morrison, Orr, Sunnymede, Tilles and Darby were the schools in “Achieving” status.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT:

Dr. Deanie Mehl reported that after a lengthy process of interviewing architectural firms and visiting project sites, a decision has been made to work with local architects. Dr. Mehl reported that although all were capable, in the end all Board members felt that this project is for the city of Fort Smith and all wanted to, if possible, support local firms. Both local firms have affiliate design firms and consultants with expertise appropriate to the various projects. Dr. Mehl made a committee recommendation to select Tim Risley and Associates to design the performing arts center and convocation complex. The vote for approval was 7/0.
Dr. Mehl made a separate committee motion to select MAHG/WD&D to design the high school. The vote for approval was 7/0.

OTHER:  
December Board Meeting Date
Ms. Cole reported that the December Board meeting should be held on December 16 due to the Christmas holiday. Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Susan McFerran to move the Board meeting to December 16. The vote for approval was 7/0.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: 
There was no one present for citizen participation.

BOARD MEMBERS
Ms. Susan McFerran stated that she enjoyed the annual Northside High School Choir follies.

FORUM:

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

__________________________________________
Jeannie Cole, President

__________________________________________
Russell Owen, Secretary