School Board Meeting  
April 30, 2012  
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, president, called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Ms. Shannon Blatt, Esq., Ms. Jeannie Cole, Ms. Barbara Hathcock, Dr. David Hunton, Dr. Deanie Mehl and Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq. Also present were Dr. Benny Gooden, superintendent, Dr. Gordon Floyd, deputy superintendent and Ms. Carolyn Kincaid, executive secretary.

The pledge of allegiance was recited and Dr. Barry Owen gave the invocation.

The Board had no items to be removed from the consent agenda. The consent agenda includes the March school board minutes, the March financial report and the Student Services Report. Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to approve the consent agenda. The vote for approval was 7/0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Benny Gooden reviewed the professional recommendations.

Resignations
Lora Cloyde
Seane Fry
Steve Lancy
Charmaine Larwick
Justin Luttrell
Kimberly McCormick
Paige McCoy
Shannon Rhea
Zach Thomas

Retirements
Barbara Barry
Kay Breeden
Joan Davis
Chuck Ellery
Jean Ann Fleming
Suzan Franks
Pierre Guillet
Norman Hoffman
Peggy King
Peggy King
Sandra Kutait
Retirements (continued)
Marilyn Neely
Glenda Pratt
Lillian Silverstone
Brenda Smith
Elizabeth Vaughn
Gwen Mace Walker

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to approve the resignations and retirement. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Recommendations for Employment
Kenneth C. Burgett
Katie M. Mankins
Amy N. Slater

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mehl, to approve the recommendations for employment. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Leaves of Absence
Sara Hubbs
Brittany Stubblefield

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to approve the leaves of absence. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Gooden and Ms. Keaton Martin recognized the Southside Girls Choir, for winning Best in Class, Female Choirs, Overall Large Choirs and Mixed Chorus in Large Mix Choirs competition and the Southside Boys Choir, Best in Class, Male Choruses; Future Business Leaders of America winners Alex Barthol and Srecharan Gorukanti, Southside High School, first place, Network Design; Alan Pinter, Southside High School, first place, Networking Concepts; AR PTA Reflections Winners, Madison Bennett; Chaffin Junior High School, first place, Literature, Middle Division; Kameron Morton, Northside High School, first place, Literature, Senior Division; Molli Northcutt, Fairview Elementary School, first place, Visual Art, Primary Division; Aaliyah Newman, Morrison Elementary School, first place, Visual Art, Intermediate Division; Lena Pham, Southside High School, first place, Film, Senior Division, and Abby Dahlem, Chaffin Junior High School, first place, Dance, Middle Division; Southside Journalism winners, Jadyn Ketter and Kristen Tyler, Editors, The Southerner, All Arkansas Award; Paige Stewart and Graham Coffelt, Editors, Southworld received the All Arkansas Award; Kristen Tyler and Jadyn Ketter; The
Southerner, Yearbook Editors of the Year; Sarah McDaniel, first place, on-site competition, Yearbook, People Copy; Nicole Harper, first place, on-site competition, Yearbook, Academic Copy; Kristen Tyler, Best of Show, Newspaper Photo Essay; Graham Coffelt, Best of Show, Newspaper, News Story; Alexis Baes, Best of Show, Editorial Cartoon; Chasse Daniels, Southside High School, Best of Show, Yearbook People Layout.

Dr. Gooden reminded the Board that Adult Education graduation is Monday, May 7, 7:00 p.m., at Stubblefield Center, the Partners in Education Luncheon on May 31st, 11:30 a.m. at the Fort Smith Convention Center and graduation for Northside High School, Thursday, May 24 and Friday, May 25, Southside High School, both beginning at 7:30 pm.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT:


Ms. Blatt made a Committee recommendation to approve personnel recommendations for the 2012-2013 school year. The vote for approval was 7/0.


Ms. Cole made a Committee recommendation to approve the proposed salary recommendations for 2012-2013 school year. The base salary for certified staff is $35,500 or a 2.49 percent increase. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Ms. Keaton-Martin recognized Dr. Gooden to discuss Policy BBBH Method of Election. He noted that after the first reading in March, upon closer review, the section dealing with implementation of the sequence of terms for newly elected members is confusing.

Mr. Wade made a motion to waive the reading of policy BBBH Method of Election. Ms. Blatt noted that because of the proposed rewording, the policy should be read for first reading again. Ms. Cole stated that the intent of the policy was the same and therefore should be approved for second reading with the modifications. Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the policy on 2nd reading. The vote for approval was 4/3 with Dr. Hunton, Ms. Blatt and Dr. Mehl opposed.
Ms. Blatt questioned why changes the Board had discussed regarding the suspension policy were not on the agenda. She also stated that in-school suspensions, enforcement using the FSPD Canine Unit, and drug testing had not been resolved.

Dr. Mehl agreed and stated that the District’s enforcement was lax and that students need a clear message to know that they can get caught.

Dr. Gooden noted that he had met with the Fort Smith Police Department Canine Unit and utilization of the FSPD canine unit has been included in the revision of the student handbook. The District is also exploring drug testing options for the Board to review. These changes will be reviewed by the Student Handbook Committee and the Student Affairs Committee before they will be placed on the agenda.

Ms. Cole noted that she attended a workshop at the National School Board Association conference regarding a new pilot program being implemented in Arlington, VA entitled “Second Chance.” There was also discussion about Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings at schools and more education classes about the dangers of alcohol and drugs. Mr. Wade noted that there was a “drinking” culture in Fort Smith and communities around the nation.

Ms. Keaton-Martin requested that Dr. Gooden investigate the “Second Chance” program which involves a number of community agencies as well as schools.

Ms. Hathcock recognized Mr. Chad Hunter, the new education reporter at the Times Record assigned to cover the school district.

There was no one present for citizen participation.

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned to closed session to hear a student appeal.

Dr. Hunton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 pm. The vote for approval was 7/0.