PRESENT:

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

The pledge of allegiance was recited and Ms. Keaton-Martin gave the invocation.

The Board had no items to be removed from the consent agenda. The consent agenda includes the July 23, 2012 school board minutes, and the July Financial Report. Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mehl, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Benny Gooden yielded to Dr. Gordon Floyd to review the professional staff recommendations.

Resignations
Wendi Curtis
Kathryn Johnson
Amanda Stockdale

Retirements
Kendra Abbey
Carolyn Douglas
Gerri Smith

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

Recommendations for Employment
Amber M. Billingsley
Lee D. Currie
Allyson D. DeMato
Lindsay J. Friend
Maryann F. Getz
Matthew E. Graham
Sarah J. Harper
Caroline J. Hill
Rosemary G. Johnson
Sheila D. Jones
Morgan L. Kremers
Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the recommendations for employment. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Gooden noted that as of Friday, August 24, student enrollment is 14,042 in kindergarten through grade 12, which are 154 more students than the fifth day last year. He also noted that we are up 256 students in kindergarten, 106 students in high school and 30 students in junior high. We have upsized 5 staff members and have had 9 building assignment changes. The District will be receiving funding for another 30 pre-K spots. There have been 16 students transferred from Barling to Euper Lane, Woods, and Ballman Elementary Schools.

He reminded the Board that the PTA School of Information is tomorrow night, August 28, at Fairview Elementary School and dinner begins at 5:00 pm.

An open house has been scheduled for Euper Lane, Sunnymede and Sutton Elementary Schools on Sunday, September 23, 2012, 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

The Board will host a reception on Monday, September 24, at 5:00 pm before the September board meeting to recognize PTA presidents, Partners in Education and Foundation board members.

Dr. Gooden informed the Board that in regard to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Waiver requirements relating to Adequate Yearly Progress, the U.S. Department of Education granted the flexibility request and required the identification of schools as “Needs Improvement” “Needs Improvement Focus” and “Needs Improvement Priority.” Also, to ensure that more schools will be accountable for closing the gap between top performing students and historically underperforming student subgroups, a Target Achievement Gap Group (TAGG) was
formed. TAGG subgroups are economically disadvantaged, English learners and students with disabilities. The list of Fort Smith schools for preliminary status was somewhat different than schools that had been labeled as in “Adequate Yearly Progress.”

There was also discussion about moving the October board meeting due to the ASBA Region IV meeting in Greenwood on Monday, October 22.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT:

Ms. Keaton-Martin Committee recognized Ms. Cole, Dr. Mehl, Ms. Hathcock and Dr. Hunton for the Committee of the Whole Report.

Ms. Cole made a Committee recommendation to authorize the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Benny Gooden be named as the legal representative for the purpose of applying for federal funds. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Mehl made a Committee recommendation to approve required special education assurances relative to services for students with disabilities, one for K-12 programs and one for pre-K students. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Ms. Hathcock requested that Dr. Gooden read the list of names for ethics disclosure resolutions. Dr. Gooden read the list of names, and Ms. Hathcock made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve 6 employee ethics disclosure resolutions. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Hunton made a Committee recommendation to approve the proposed 2012-2013 FSPS budget and to submit the budget in electronic format to the Arkansas Department of Education. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Hunton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to approve the newly required District Athletic Expenditures Report for 2012. The vote for approval was 7/0.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM:

Ms. Keaton-Martin congratulated Mr. Wade on being named “Outstanding Lawyer Citizen” by the Arkansas Bar Association.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

There was no one present for citizen participation.

ADJOURN:

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

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Yvonne Keaton-Martin, President

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Jeannie Cole, Secretary