Regular School Board Meeting  
December 19, 2011  
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:  
Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were Ms. Jeannie Cole, Dr. David Hunton, Ms. Barbara Hathcock, Dr. Deanie Mehl and Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq. Ms. Shannon Blatt, Esq., was not present. Also present were Dr. Benny L. Gooden, superintendent, Dr. Gordon Floyd, deputy superintendent and Ms. Carolyn Kincaid, executive secretary.

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

The Board had no items to be removed from the consent agenda. The consent agenda includes the November 28, 2011 school board minutes, the November Financial Report and the Student Services Report. Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote for approval was 6/0.

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

Resignations  
Sarah Carrier  
Melissa McDaniel  
Jackie Sanders

Retirement  
George Stephens

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to approve the retirement and resignations. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Recommendation for Employment  
Marilyn D. Feather

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to approve the recommendation for employment. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Dr. Gooden introduced Mr. Robin Arnold, OG&E. Mr. Arnold presented the Fort Smith School District with a check in the amount of $93,218.51. These monies represent the savings received from energy efficient measures that have been taken at Southside High School. He noted the dollars have saved 1,672 barrels of oil, taken 155 cars off the road, saved 81,894 gallons of gas and 599 acres of pine trees.
Dr. Gooden and Ms. Keaton-Martin presented certificates to teachers who have recently completed the rigorous standards for National Board Certification: Ms. Laura Moseley, Ramsey Junior High School, Ms. Leigh Ann Hasley, Northside High School, Ms. Shanna Holycross, Beard Elementary School, Ms. Laurie Baldridge, Parker Center, and Sandra Rogers, Fairview Elementary School.

Dr. Gooden also recognized Ms. Keaton-Martin and Dr. Mehl for receiving the Pinnacle Award from the Arkansas School Boards Association for earning 200 professional development hours.

Dr. Gooden informed the Board that the Fort Smith School District will be participating in the Holiday Meals Program beginning December 21. Lunch will be served free to students from 11 to 18 at Tilles and Spradling Elementary Schools on weekdays through January 3, 2012.


Ms. Cole noted that the Finance Committee met as a Committee of the Whole, on December 12 to review the 2010-11 FSPS audit with Mr. Mark Lux, Przybysz & Associates.

Mr. Mark Lux was present and reviewed the results of the 2010-11 audit. He noted that the District had no Federal Audit findings and no Financial Statement findings. He stated that the Fort Smith Public Schools’ overall financial position is stable. Ms. Cole made a Committee recommendation to approve the 2010-11 Fort Smith Public Schools Audit. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Ms. Keaton-Martin recognized Dr. Mehl for the Curriculum Committee portion of the Committee Report.

Dr. Mehl noted that the Curriculum Committee met as a Committee of the Whole on December 12 with the Textbook Adoption Committee to review a new adoption for English Language Arts, Literature, Oral Communications/Speech and Journalism.

Dr. Mehl made a Committee recommendation to approve the textbooks. The vote for approval was 6/0. A list of the textbooks is attached.

Ms. Keaton-Martin recognized Dr. David Hunton for the Properties portion of the Committee Report.
Dr. Hunton noted that the Properties Committee met as a Committee of the Whole on December 12 to review change orders for Euper Lane Elementary and Chaffin Junior High School. At Euper Lane additional kitchen equipment is needed and relocation of a sewer line. The change order is $5,018.55. At Chaffin Junior High School, a new electrical feed had been omitted at a material cost of $49,225.

Dr. Hunton made a Committee recommendation to approve both these change orders, Euper Lane for $5,018 and at Chaffin Junior High School for $49,224. The vote for approval was 6/0. The money for the change orders are from Qualified School Construction Bonds through the ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act).

Board Members

Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve a report compiled by the Arkansas School Boards Association reporting professional development hours for the Fort Smith Board of Education to be included in the December minutes. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Citizen Participation

Mr. Bill Hobbs was on the agenda for citizen participation.

Mr. Hobbs noted that he was also speaking for Ms. Patricia Molthan. Both Mr. Hobbs and Ms. Molthan’s sons were suspended for ten days for being under the influence of alcohol at a football game. Mr. Hobbs noted that weeks later a student was suspended for being under the influence of alcohol at a football game, appealed to the Student Affairs Committee, and the full Board and the suspension was reduced to five days. He stated that this it was not fair to other students and that the punishment should remain consistent. The student whose appeal was reduced hired an attorney and his mother is a FSPS teacher. He felt this action has created a two-tier discipline system. He requested that he and his son be given the same opportunity, even though the timeline for appealing has passed.

The Board took no action.
Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mehl, to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, President

Ms. Jeannie Cole, Secretary