Regular School Board Meeting  
February 27, 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, and Ms. Carolyn Kincaid, executive secretary.

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 included the January school board minutes, the January 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.

Resignation  
Pam Sackschewsky

Retirement  
Liz Norvell

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

Recommendation for Employment  
Sherry L. Lindenau

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to approve the recommendation for employment. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Leaves of Absence  
Summer Harrison  
Kimberly Heath  
Tommye Thompson

Ms. Hathcock made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mehl, to approve the leaves of absence. The vote for approval was 7/0.
Dr. Gooden and Ms. Keaton-Martin presented certificates to Southside High School All-State first chair winners, Nick Chavis, trumpet-Jazz Band, Nazar Drani, baritone sax-Band, Jacob Gatlin, bass clarinet-Band; Grant Harper, bass I-Choir, Taylor Huntington, clarinet-Band; Stephen Thorn, trumpet-Band, Zack Parks, tenor II-Choir; and Jacob Webb, tuba-Band.

Dr. Hunton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to approve a resolution in support of the Fort Smith Unit of the 188th Air National Guard.

**CURRICULUM/FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:** Ms. Keaton-Martin recognized Dr. Deanie Mehl for the Curriculum/Finance Report.

Dr. Mehl made a Curriculum Committee recommendation to approve Cox Communications for a 5-year contract to provide Wide Area Network (WAN) Services. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Mehl made a Committee recommendation to approve the Elementary Textbook Selection for reading, language arts, and spelling, *Arkansas Journeys* by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Co. The vote for approval was 7/0.


Ms. Cole made a Committee recommendation to approve the 2012-2015 Technology Plan. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Ms. Keaton-Martin recognized Mr. Wade for the Student Affairs Committee Report.

Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to move the Student Affairs Committee to the end of the meeting to hear two student appeals. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**OTHER:** Ms. Hathcock noted that due to a school board conference schedule and Memorial day, the April Board Meeting be moved to Monday April 30 and the May Board Meeting to May 21. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**BOARD MEMBERS FORUM:** Ms. Cole noted that she and Dr. Gooden attended the Federal Relations Network Conference in Washington, D.C. and met with Arkansas members of Congress regarding the changes needed in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
Mr. Wade asked Dr. Gooden about the Desegregation Case in Little Rock which affects Fort Smith Public Schools. Dr. Gooden noted that the State of Arkansas was trying to cease payment to Little Rock and Pulaski County.

Dr. Hunton inquired about a possible millage increase as the District needs additional space at schools and has been successful in recent months on raising funds for specific projects. Dr. Gooden noted that North Little Rock School District has recently obtained a 7.4 millage increase and had a very bold plan which proved successful. Dr. Hunton and Dr. Gooden agreed that we should begin preparing a millage increase plan for our District.

Dr. Mehl thanked the junior high music instructors for the outstanding job they perform with our students. Dr. Gooden reiterated that the District’s high level of performance begins in elementary schools and goes all the way to the top.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

There was no one present for citizen participation.

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. to hear two student appeals.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Board moved into closed session at the parents request and combined the two related student appeals.

Ms. Keaton-Martin recognized both students who were suspended for ten days for consuming alcohol at a school game. Their parents were also present.

Both families expressed their agreement with the ten day suspension, but wanted their son to be able to make up a portion of his work.

Also Mr. Troy Jackson, an attorney and friend of one of the student's, stated that he felt the handbook was ambiguous and that the punishment did not fit the crime.

After a period of time for questions and answers, the Board adjourned to executive session to deliberate. At 7:20 the Board voted to go back into an open meeting. Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hunton, to reduce both suspensions to five days. The vote to approve the five day reduction was 4/3 with Mr. Wade, Ms. Cole and Ms. Keaton-Martin opposed. Dr. Gooden asked for clarification and Dr. Mehl stated they wanted the last five days expunged.
There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, President

Ms. Jeannie Cole, Secretary