PRESENT:

Dr. Deanie Mehl, president, called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Dr. David Hunton, Ms. Jeannie Cole, Ms. Susan McFerran, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Russell Owen, and Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq. Dr. Benny Gooden, Superintendent, Dr. Gordon Floyd, Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Annette Henderson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Support Services, Mr. Charles Warren, Director of Financial Services, Mr. Darian Layes, Director of Student Services, Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Director of Communication and Community Partnerships, and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent, were also present.

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

The consent agenda included the December School Board minutes, December Financial Report and Student Services Report. Ms. Jeannie Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Susan McFerran, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote for approval was 7/0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

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

Recommendations for Employment

Tarrah Hall
Nan Hargett
Sherrie Meyers
James Minor
Amelia Montgomery
Matthew Utz

Dr. David Hunton 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 Dr. Deanie Mehl recognized seven teachers newly certified by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS): Aimee Brinkley, Amanda Chavez, Annette Collins-Hearne, Nicole Franklin, Ashley Hobbs, Donna Jamell and Natasha Shoate. This brings the district total to 108.

Dr. Gooden reported that all school board members met or exceeded the required training hours for the calendar year ending 2014. The total training hours are attached.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT:

Audit Proposals

Mr. Russell Owen presented a committee recommendation to approve the proposal submitted by Przybysz and Associates, CPAs, for $27,000 for each year ending 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017. Mr. Owen noted that three firms
submitted proposals. FSPS staff noted that they are pleased with audits performed by Przybysz and Associates, CPAs, in the past several years. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**Concurrent Credit Courses**

Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin yielded to Dr. Benny Gooden to present the proposed concurrent credit plan. Dr. Gooden reported that staff from Fort Smith Public Schools (FSPS) and the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith (UAFS) met several times to design a plan for concurrent credit at both Northside and Southside High Schools. The following courses will be offered during the 2015-2016 school year.

- ENGL 1203 Composition I
- ENGL 1213 Composition II
- HUMN 2563 Humanities through the Arts
- PSYC 1163 General Psychology
- SOCI 2753 Introduction to Sociology
- SPCH 1203 Introduction to Speech Communication
- MATH 1403 College Algebra

Dr. Gooden reported that FSPS will pay approximately $2,200 per class to cover the cost of the instructor. UAFS will waive tuition and fees for individual students enrolled in the concurrent credit courses. Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin made a committee motion to approve the concurrent credit program and to authorize FSPS to develop a memorandum of understanding between UAFS and FSPS for Fall 2015. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**MARCH BOARD MEETING DATE:**

Dr. Deanie Mehl reported that FSPS administration suggested moving the March Board of Education meeting due to a conflict with the National School Boards Association Annual Conference and FSPS spring break. Dr. Mehl recommended moving the meeting date to March 30. Ms. Susan McFerran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Russell Owen to move the March meeting date to March 30. The vote for approval was 7/0.

**BOARD MEMBERS FORUM:**

Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq. noted that January 28 is the anniversary of the Space Shuttle Challenger crash which killed teacher Christa McAuliffe. Mr. Wade noted Ms. McAuliffe’s quote, “I touch the future. I teach.”

Ms. Jeannie Cole stated that she enjoyed the Northside High School drama production of “The Lion Witch and Wardrobe.”

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:**

There was no one present for citizen participation.
ADJOURN: There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

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Deanie Mehl, President

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Wyman R. Wade, Jr. Esq., Secretary