Regular School Board Meeting  
July 25, 2011  
5:30 p.m.

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

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

The Board had no items to be removed from the consent agenda. The consent agenda includes the June 27, 2011 school board minutes, and the June Financial Report. Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, 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
Britt Bauer
Jeanie DeWitt
Amanda Hart
Casey Landry
Doug Owensby
Todd Phipps
Linda Southern
Tonya Vick
John Vitale
Jason Shepherd

Retirement
Jerry Evans

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

Recommendations for Employment
Debbie S. Barclay
Vicky L. Bretz
Scott E. Dunn
Ann M. Guy
Michael A. Hughes
Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the recommendations for employment. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Dr. Gooden noted that the filing period for candidates for the Board of Education closed at noon on July 22. The incumbents Dr. Deanie Mehl and Ms. Shannon Blatt are both running unopposed. No increase is proposed for the school tax rate. To reduce costs the Board of Education should officially request that the Sebastian County Election Commission provide for absentee and early voting only at the Sebastian County Court House and not open any additional polling places on election day. Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to notify the Election Commission to provide for absentee and early voting only at the Sebastian County Court House and not open any additional polling places on election day, September 20, 2011. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to dispense with the formal reading of the Notice of Annual School Election. The vote for approval was 6/0. Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the Notice of Annual School Election to run three weeks consecutively at least 20 days before the election. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Dr. Gooden noted that classes resume on August 17. Previous contract obligations prevent classes from beginning on August 15.

He also noted that construction on tornado shelters at all four junior highs is slightly behind schedule.

An Open House has been scheduled for Carnall Elementary School and Northside High School on August 21 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

Dr. Gooden informed the Board that turf has been installed at the Indoor Activity Center at Northside High School. Stadium turf is scheduled to be completed at Southside High School in time for the first game and the turf at Northside High School will be complete soon thereafter.
Ms. Blatt recognized Mr. Wade for the Finance Committee Report.

Mr. Wade made a Committee recommendation to approve the following policies with:

Arkansas School Boards Association Insurance Trust:
Property - $485,768
EDP & Fine Arts - $749

Berkshire-Hathaway written by Brown-Hiller-Clark
Automobile - $188,217

Hoffman-Henry
Errors and Omissions - $17,743

Brown-Hiller-Clark
ROTC - $1,000

Lawrence Smith & Associates
Student Accident - $76,993

The vote for approval was 6/0.

Mr. Wade made a Committee recommendation to approve the following providers for special education services to students with disabilities:

Vista Health of Barling
Horizon - Western Arkansas Counseling and Guidance Center
Brownwood School, Inc.
Western Arkansas Counseling and Guidance Center—A licensed psychologist employed by WACG provides required supervision for FSPS staff members whose licensure requires supervision at the rate of $84 per hour as required.

Becky Hartsfield - Ms. Hartsfield is a licensed physical therapist and provides required services at the rate of $75 per hour with a maximum of ten hours per week.

Dr. Ron McInroe - Dr. McInroe is a Clinical Neuropsychologist and performs required evaluations for students whose disability calls for such diagnosis. Each evaluation is completed at the rate of $750.

Soliant Health - to provide licensed contract speech/language employees at the rate of $64 per hour for 37.5 hours per week to cover the caseload. These contracted employees are Kimberly Brennan and Tera Walters.

The vote for approval was 6/0.

Ms. Cole made a Committee recommendation to approve a Change Order at Sunnymede Elementary School in the amount of $22,837. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Dr. Mehl expressed her appreciation to serve on the Board of Education of such an excellent school district and looks forward to another three years.

Mr. Jay Pankey was present to address the Board regarding a requested athletic hardship transfer for a student.

The Board listened to Mr. Pankey and thanked him but took no action.

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

Ms. Shannon Blatt, Esq., President

Dr. David Hunton, Secretary