Regular School Board Meeting  
June 17, 2013  
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:  
Dr. David Hunton, president, called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq., Ms. Susan McFerran, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Ms. Jeannie Cole and Dr. Deanie Mehl. Mr. Rusty Owen was absent. Dr. Benny Gooden, Superintendent, Dr. Brenda Sellers, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources and Support Services, Dr. Barry Owen, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Communication and Community Partnerships Director and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent, were also present.

The pledge of allegiance was recited and Dr. Barry Owen gave the invocation.

The consent agenda included the May 20, June 3 & 4 school board minutes, and the May Financial Report. Ms. Jeannie Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote for approval was 6/0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:  
Dr. Benny Gooden reviewed the professional staff recommendations.

Recommendations for Resignations Effective at the Close of 2012-2013 School Year
Cari Hill
Rosemary Johnson
Charles Mackey
Krystle Merry
Abbi Peoples
Amy Rhodes

Recommendations for Retirements Effective at the Close of 2012-2013 School Year
Beverly Adams
Nancy Coleman
Barbara Evans
Carolyn Johnson
Ed Mullens
Bill Treat
Crystal Evans

Dr. Deanie Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jeannie Cole, to approve the recommendations for resignations and retirements. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Recommendations for Employment – 2013/2014
Sheila K. Barnes
Carrie M. Burress
Rachel E. Carter
Darin E. Choate
Ms. Jeannie Cole made a motion, seconded by Dr. Deanie Mehl, to approve the recommendations for employment. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Recommendation for Leave of Absence
Beverly Martens

Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Dr. Deanie Mehl, to approve the recommendation for the leave of absence. The vote for approval was 6/0.
Dr. Gooden and Dr. Hunton recognized Ms. Ann Borengasser as the 2013 National Association of Educational Office Professional of the Year.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Insurance Bids
Ms. Jeannie Cole made a motion, seconded by Dr. Deanie Mehl to renew the following insurance policies premiums:

1) property insurance with the Arkansas School Board Association self-insurance plan will be $543,665.52 with a $5,000 per occurrence, deductible for total coverage on buildings and contents valued at $392,237,737, includes EDP coverage of $774,668,

2) mobile equipment coverage will be $2,750.00 with Arkansas School Board Association self-insurance plan,

3) student accident insurance at $80,010 at the current rate adjusted for student population with Lawrence E. Smith & Associates,

4) ROTC bond will renew at $1,000, the current rate, with Brown-Hiller-Clark Insurance,

5) errors and omissions coverage renewal is $21,185, with First Arkansas Insurance. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Ms. Jeannie Cole made a motion, seconded by Dr. Deanie Mehl to accept the bid of $74,959 with a $100,000 liability with $1,000 collision deductible for vehicle coverage from Arkansas School Board Association. The vote for approval was 6/0.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT:
MAY 20, 2013

Policy Changes
Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole to waive the formal reading of the policies changes. The vote for approval was 6/0.

JEC Eligibility for Enrollment
This change reflects the provisions of the Public School Choice Act of 2013.

JED Guidelines for Excused and Unexcused Absences
These changes mirror the action of the Arkansas General Assembly.

JEA Compulsory School Attendance
This provision affects kindergarten entry and results from action by the Arkansas General Assembly.

JFC Student Conduct Not Permitted on School Premises or at any Activity Related to School. The two changes in this policy reflect our protection of the “minute of silence” mandated by the Arkansas General Assembly, and a clarification of the expulsion rule for weapons.

JGA Student Control—Corporal Punishment (Delete Policy)
This change affirms the fact that corporal punishment is not appropriate school discipline in the school district.
IKF  Graduation Requirements
This change clarifies the fact that the transition period for certain requirements has passed.

Mr. Wade made a motion from the committee to approve the first reading of the policy changes. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Student Handbook Changes

Change 1 – Page 1, I, A, paragraph 5 (ACT 1227) (JEC)
A. Eligibility for Enrollment
This change is due to action by the Arkansas General Assembly relative to School Choice.

Change 2 – Page 5, ATTENDANCE, A, 1, add f (ACT 1289) (JED)
A. Absences
This change is due to action by the Arkansas General Assembly.

Change 3 – Page 5, ATTENDANCE, B (ACT 1322) (JED)
B. Parent/Guardian Contact
This change is due to action by the Arkansas General Assembly.

Change 4 – Page 3, I, D, 2 (ACT 424)  (JEA)
D. Compulsory School Attendance
This change is due to action by the Arkansas General Assembly.

Change 5 – Page 30 STUDENT CONDUCT NOT PERMITTED ON SCHOOL PREMISES... add 12 (ACT 576) (JFC)
B. Disruption and Interference with School
This change is due to action by the Arkansas General Assembly.

Change 6 – Page 31, XVIII, G, 1. (JFC)
G. The Possession of any Firearm or Other Weapon Prohibited on School Property or at School Functions (ACA 5-73-122, 6-18-502 & 6-21-608)
This change is to clarify the applicable federal law regarding weapons.

Change 7 – Pages 36-37, XXI. (JGA) Delete reference to corporal punishment
This change follows discussion from the past reflecting the fact that corporal punishment is not utilized in schools despite its sanction in state law and local policy. Most states and more progressive school districts have withdrawn sanction of corporal punishment as a disciplinary measure.

Change 8 – Pages 14-15, B (IKFD).
Since these classes are now graduated, the transitional language should be removed from the handbook.

Change 9 – Parental Involvement, page 12 (ACT 1426)
The change expands language translation for the required parent message in the interest of broader communication

**Change 10 – Pages 17 and 18, VI, E (ACT 1081)**

E. State Mandated Testing and Student Academic Improvement Plans

The reference to high stakes test requirement as a condition of graduation in algebra is deleted since the test format is to change. This is in accordance with action by the Arkansas General Assembly.

Mr. Wade noted that the student handbook changes did not require a second reading for approval. Mr. Wade made a motion to approve the student handbook changes for publication for the upcoming school year. The vote for approval was 6/0.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT:**
June 11, 2013

Proposed Budget of Expenditures and Tax Levy 2014/2015

Ms. Cole made a motion to approve the proposed budget of expenditures and tax levy of 36.5 mills which represents the same rate currently collected. The superintendent was directed to publish in accordance with law. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Superintendent’s Contract

Ms. Cole made a committee motion to approve the superintendent’s employment contract with a 1% increase and extend it until July 1, 2016. Ms. Cole also noted that Dr. Gooden had generously donated the 1% increase to the Benny L. Gooden AASA Scholarship fund which is managed through the Fort Smith Public School Foundation. The vote for approval was 6/0.

**STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT:**
May 20, 2013

Recommendation for Expulsion – Report of Appeal

Mr. Wade reported that the Student Affairs committee had met on May 20 in closed session to hear an appeal from a Southside High School student recommended for expulsion for making a bomb threat. Mr. Wade noted that with the video surveillance, report from school resource officers and administrators, the committee was able to reach a decision to approve the recommended expulsion. Mr. Wade made a motion to uphold the expulsion. The vote for approval was 6/0.

**BOARD MEMBERS FORUM:**

Ms. Jeannie Cole commented that Dr. Brenda Sellers was attending her last school board meeting as an employee of the District and that she would be missed. Other Board members agreed.

**ADJOURN:**

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

David Hunton, President

Deanie Mehl, Secretary