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. Deanie Mehl and Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq. Dr. David Hunton was not present. Also present were Dr. Benny Gooden, superintendent, Dr. Gordon Floyd, Deputy Superintendent and Ms. Carolyn Kincaid, executive secretary.

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

Mr. Charles Warren and Dr. Gooden requested that the financial report be removed from the agenda. Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to remove the financial report from the agenda for discussion. Dr. Gooden clarified the collections receipts in the budget column for July through December after the actual 40 percent pullback. After discussion, the vote to approve the February Financial Report was 6/0.

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blatt, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting and the students services report. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Dr. Benny Gooden reviewed the professional recommendations.

**Resignations**
- Kellie Black
- Melissa Braddy
- Margaret Hall

**Retirements**
- Sandra Aaron
- Carol Barber
- Judith Black
- William Brooks
- David Cagle
- John Combs
- Becky Cordell
- Mela Gillespie
- Joe Graham
- Stephen Harris
- Diane Isaacs
- Nancy Karrant
- Steven Kesner
- Elizabeth McBride
Retirements
Donna Perceful
Phillip Rickman
Peggy Ross
Charlotte Ryburn
Khamdeng Sengmanivong
Betty Smallwood
Dellana Summerhill
Nan Thompson
Danna Turpin
Rebekah Walton
Tad White
Riley Whitsett
Elizabeth Williams
Laurie Wood

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

Recommendation for Employment
Nichole A. Chism

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

Dr. Gooden reminded the Board of the Chamber Honor Banquet on Monday, April 2 and the Arkansas Scholars Luncheon on Wednesday, April 25.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT:


Ms. Cole made a Committee recommendation to approve a resolution to for the District to apply to the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) to refund the District’s outstanding September 1, 2007 Bonds for economic savings.

Ms. Keaton-Martin recognized Dr. Gooden to review the redistricting of Election Zones. He noted that after the 2010 decennial census it was necessary to review population changes within the District’s four zoned school board member positions. A copy of the changes is attached. Mr. Wade a committee recommendation to approve changes in the four zones to include policy BBBH, Method of Election. The vote for approval was 6/0.
Ms. Keaton-Martin recognized Mr. Wade for the Student Affairs Committee Report.

Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the expulsion of a student from Northside High School until the end of the school year for possession of a weapon. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to move the appeal of a ten-day suspension to the end of the meeting. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Ms. Hathcock thanked Mr. Ben Boulden for his service through the Times Record and congratulated him on his new book.

Ms. Cole noted that a student from Euper Lane Elementary had been recognized for her artwork and how fortunate Fort Smith Public Schools is to have such a talented art teachers.

Ms. Blatt inquired about another Board Session to discuss the District suspension policy. She felt that the March 5 Board Session was handled inappropriately. Mr. Wade disagreed. Dr. Mehl agreed.

There was no one present for citizen participation.

The meeting adjourned to closed session to hear a student appeal

Ms. Keaton-Martin recognized a junior student at Southside High School and his mother who were present to appeal a ten day suspension for verbal abuse of a teacher at school in violation of policies on abuse or assault of school staff as set forth in the Student Handbook.

Ms. Keaton-Martin recognized Mr. Steve Arnold who summarized the events of the incident. Ben’s also spoke of the event and talked about the events.

After a period of time for questions and discussion the Board adjourned to Executive Session at 6:45 p.m. The Board reconvened at 7:10 p.m. and Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole to uphold the ten day suspension. The vote was 3/3 with Ms. Blatt, Ms. Hathcock, and Dr. Mehl opposing. The suspension was upheld.
There was no further business and Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to adjourn the Board meeting at 7:15 p.m. The vote for approval was 6/0.

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Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, President

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Ms. Jeannie Cole, Secretary