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. Also present were Dr. Benny L. Gooden, superintendent, Dr. Gordon Floyd, deputy 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 includes the October 31, 2011 school board minutes, the November Financial Report and the Student Services Report. Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote for approval was 6/0.

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

Retirement
Becky Plaxco

Resignations
Joanna Schoolcraft
Nick Weisenfels
Magda White

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

Dr. David Hunton arrived.

Recommendation for Employment
Calvin L. Alley

Ms. Hathcock made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the recommendation for employment. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Gooden introduced Ms. Ginni McDonald, Northside High School principal. Ms. McDonald informed the Board about the JAG (Jobs for America’s Graduates) program.

Dr. Gooden and Ms. Keaton-Martin presented certificates to Northside High School JAG winners, Destinee McReynolds, Arkansas JAG Speech Contest and Huy Nguyen, Arkansas JAG Design Contest.
Dr. Gooden remarked that all FSPS schools were participating in various benevolent activities for the community.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT:

Ms. Keaton-Martin recognized Mr. Wade for the Student Affairs portion of the Committee Report.

Mr. Wade noted that the Student Affairs Committee met on November 14 to review the proposed 2012-2013 school calendar. Mr. Wade made a Committee recommendation to approve the 2012-2013 school calendar. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Ms. Keaton-Martin recognized Dr. David Hunton for the Properties portion of the Committee Report.

Dr. Hunton noted that the Properties Committee met as a Committee of the Whole on November 15 and reviewed a proposed list of surplus property to be disposed of. A list of the property is attached.

Dr. Hunton made a Committee recommendation to approve the list of surplus property to be disposed of by auction on a date determined by the auctioneer and Mr. Alan Love, Director of Buildings and Grounds. The vote for approval was 7/0.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:


Ms. Blatt yielded to Dr. Gooden to read the names proposed for ethics disclosure resolutions. Dr. Gooden noted that there was only one name, Tiffany Beshears with two potential conflicts. Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to dispense with the reading of the resolutions and to approve the resolutions. The vote for approval was 7/0. A copy of the resolutions is attached.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE REPORT:

Ms. Keaton-Martin recognized Dr. David Hunton for the Properties Committee Report.

Dr. Hunton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blatt, to approve the ratification of a mediation settlement in the amount of $100,000 from Developers Surety and Indemnity, the company issuing the performance bond, for the installation of defective turf at the Northside Indoor Activity Center. The vote for approval was 7/0.
Ms. Keaton-Martin recognized Mr. Wade for the Student Affairs Committee Report.

Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blatt, to approve the expulsion of a student from the Belle Point Center until the end of the school year for assault on staff, students and gross insubordination. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blatt, to move the student appeal to the end of the meeting. The vote for approval was 7/0.

There was no discussion.

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to move the December Board meeting to December 19 due to the Christmas holiday. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Ms. Keaton-Martin yielded to school attorney, Mr. Mitch Llewellyn, to review the procedure for the student appeal. Troy Cowne, a student at Southside High School, was suspended for ten days for being under the influence of alcohol at a football game. Troy was present with his parents, Mr. Neal Cowne and Ms. Suzanne Cowne. Mr. Eddie Christian, their attorney was also present.

Southside High School Principal, Mr. Wayne Haver, assistant principal Mr. Steve Arnold and school resource officer Joe Young were present and reviewed the information relative to the suspension.

Dr. Gooden also addressed the Board summarizing that Board policy XVIII, Section H, of the Student Handbook has been in place for over two decades and that the Board has an opportunity to review it each year.

Troy Cowne addressed the Board and expressed his regret about the incident and that he hopes to persuade the Board to review their decision which will affect his entire future.

There was a period of time for questions from Mr. Christian.

Mr. Brooks Witherspoon, cross country track coach at Southside High School, was present and spoke about Trey’s hard work on the track team and Ms. Cowne read a letter from Southside teacher, Courtney Dawson Beland, stating Troy’s academic performance was outstanding.
Mr. and Mrs. Cowne presented a power point reviewing Board policies from Fayetteville, Bentonville, Rogers and Springdale school districts, whose Board policies allow students to make up 50% or more of their work. Ms. Cowne also cited works by psychologists about teenage behavior and the impact of the 10-day suspension on Troy's grades.

Mr. Eddie Christian and Mr. Mitch Llewellyn gave a closing summary.

Dr. David Hunton made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mehl, to move into executive session at 6:55 p.m. The vote for approval was 7/0.

At 7:32 Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blatt, to go back into open session. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Mr. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mehl, to reduce the suspension to 5 days. The vote to reduce the suspension was 4/3, with Ms Cole, Ms. Keaton-Martin, and Mr. Wade opposed. Dr. Hunton and Dr. Mehl both noted that they felt the policy needed to be changed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The Board then agreed that the 2nd five days of the suspension will be deleted.

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Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, President

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Ms. Jeannie Cole, Secretary