Present: Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, president, called the meeting to order. Board members present were Ms. Shannon Blatt, Esq., Ms. Jeannie Cole, Ms. Barbara Hathcock, Dr. David Hunton, Dr. Deanie Mehl and Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq. Also present were Dr. Benny Gooden, superintendent, Dr. Gordon Floyd, deputy superintendent, and Ms. Carolyn Kincaid.

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

The Board had no items to be removed from the consent agenda. The consent agenda includes the September 26, 2011 school board minutes, the September Financial Report and the Student Services Report. Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blatt, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Superintendent's Report: There were no personnel recommendations.

Dr. Gooden and Ms. Keaton-Martin recognized Ms. Sheila Humphrey, Woods Elementary School, for winning a Bessie B. Moore Award, “Fun in the Fort” - A Tour Guide Map for Kids; Ms. Martha Gunter, AAEOP Educational Office Professional of the Year; and Mr. Wayne Haver, AAEOP Administrator of the Year.

Dr. Gooden reported that our October 3, 2011 enrollment was up by 37 students and that free and reduced lunch eligible students is at 70.05 percent which is an all time high. He noted that the FSPS staff has contributed an all time high of $79,326 to the United Way.

He informed the Board that on Tuesday, October 25 the Region II Marching Band assessment begins at Mayo-Thompson Stadium, Northside High School at 1:00 p.m., with the large high schools performing at 7:00 p.m.


Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to
approve the proposed individuals for the Elementary Reading Textbook Selection Committee. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the proposed individuals for the Elementary Language Arts Textbook Selection Committee. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the proposed individuals on the Elementary Spelling Textbook Selection Committee. The vote for approval was 7/0.


Dr. Hunton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blatt, to approve a change order at Carnall Elementary School reducing the contract by $6,738.50 and one at Northside High School reducing the contract by $6,065.00. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to nominate Ms. Keaton-Martin to represent the Fort Smith Board of Education at the Delegate Assembly at the Annual ASBA Conference, December 7-9, 2011. The vote for approval was 6/0.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM: Dr. Mehl asked Dr. Gooden about a letter the Board had received from a Fort Smith citizen regarding the extended hours required for students participating in athletic and activities competition.

Dr. Gooden stated that indeed it is inevitable and may be more frequent after the conference realignments by the Arkansas Activities Association beginning in 2012-2013.

Mr. Wade noted that he had completed four professional development courses online with the Arkansas School
Boards Association. Board members agreed that this is efficient in time and money, but agreed that connecting with other board members at meetings is very valuable.

He also has proposed obtaining approval from the Arkansas Department of Education for a video webcast on School Bullying and Cyberbullying.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

There was no one present for citizen participation.

ADJOURN:

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, President

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Ms. Jeannie Cole, Secretary