Regular School Board Meeting
September 26, 2011
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:
Ms. Shannon Blatt, Esq., president, called the meeting to order. Board members present were Ms. Jeannie Cole, Ms. Barbara Hathcock, Dr. David Hunton, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, 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. Gordon Floyd gave the invocation.

Dr. Gooden presented the 2011 Annual Report to the Public.

The Board had no items to be removed from the consent agenda. The consent agenda includes the August 22, 2011 school board minutes, the August Financial Report and the Student Services Report.

Dr. Hunton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote for approval was 7/0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:
Dr. Benny Gooden yielded to Dr. Gordon Floyd to review the professional staff recommendations.

Resignation
Larry Coleman

Ms. Hathcock made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the resignation. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Recommendations for Employment
Casey C. Bazyk
Dana M. Booth
Magen R. Brown
Billie L. Henson
Danny L. Mays
Jessica Paige McCoy
Maegan L. Thompson

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the recommendations for employment. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Gooden noted that the school board election was held Tuesday, September 20, 2011. Ms. Shannon Blatt and Dr. Deanie Mehl both ran unopposed and retain their respective positions; Ms. Blatt, Zone II, and Dr. Mehl, At Large. The vote for continuation of the 36.5 mill school tax was 111 for the tax and 54 against the tax.

Mr. Wade asked Dr. Gooden to remind the audience that the rate of 36.5 mills has been in place since 1987. Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms.
Cole, to accept the returns as a matter of record and incorporate the results into the minutes. The vote for approval was 7/0. (A certified copy of the school board election results is attached).

Dr. Gooden welcomed representatives from several different volunteer organizations that support the Fort Smith School District. Members of the Children's Service League Board, Partners in Education Advisory Board, FSPS Foundation Board, City Council PTA Board and PTA Presidents were introduced. Dr. Gooden thanked them for their service and support for the Fort Smith Public Schools.

Dr. Gooden and Ms. Blatt recognized Mr. Stephen Smith, Dr. Deanie Mehl, Mr. Claude Legris and Ms. Rebecca Yarbrough, and thanked them for their service as they retire from the FSPS Foundation Board.

Dr. Gooden also recognized elementary and secondary FSPS music teachers for the contribution they have made to the success of all of our student musicians. He noted that our District won six of the eight “Best of Class” awards at the Arkansas Choral Festival. The City Choral Festival will be held at the Stubblefield Center on October 4, 2011 at 8:00 p.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Mr. Wade made a Committee recommendation to approve resolutions on remaining Qualified School Construction Bonds in the amount of $1,115,000 at a rate of 4.375%, and a resolution for Qualified Zone Academy Bonds in the amount of $3,885,000 at a rate of 4.30%. The ARRA financing provisions of those issues will result in 0% interest to the District. The vote for approval was 7/0.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT:

Ms. Blatt recognized Ms. Cole for the Curriculum section of the Committee of the Whole Report.

Ms. Cole made a Committee recommendation to approve the Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Report (ACSIP). The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Mehl made a Committee recommendation to approve the IDEA Assurances for Pre-K. The vote for approval was 7/0. Dr. Mehl made a Committee recommendation to approve IDEA assurances for K-12. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Mehl made a Committee recommendation to approve 2011-2012 ESEA (Elementary Secondary Education Assurances). The vote for approval was 7/0.

Ms. Cole made a Committee recommendation to approve a change order at Sunnymede Elementary School for $756.54. The vote for approval was 7/0.


Ms. Keaton-Martin requested Dr. Gooden read the list of names for ethics disclosure resolutions. After Dr. Gooden read the list, Ms. Keaton-Martin made a recommendation, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to approve 42 employee ethics disclosure resolutions. (Ms. Blatt left the meeting while the discussion and vote were taken). The vote for approval was 6/0.

In Ms. Blatt’s absence, Vice President Wade presided and asked Dr. Gooden to read the remaining disclosure aloud as required by Act 1599. Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hunton, to approve an ethics disclosure for board member Shannon Blatt. The vote for approval was 6/0. Ms. Blatt returned to the meeting.

Dr. Mehl made a recommendation, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to nominate the 2011-12 school board officers as follows:

- Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, President
- Dr. David Hunton, Vice President
- Ms. Jeannie Cole, Secretary
- Mr. Charles Warren, Treasurer

The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to designate Ms. Keaton-Martin as primary disbursing office and Vice President David Hunton as alternate disbursing office. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Board members thanked Ms. Blatt for her service as president of the Board.

Mr. Wade inquired about Dr. Gooden’s recent visit to Washington, D.C. Dr. Gooden noted that he testified before the House Education Committee of Congress regarding the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Act.
He also noted that U. S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan has released proposed waivers from the ESEA and stated that Mr. Tom Kimbrell said many Arkansas districts, including Fort Smith, have already met these standards.

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. Shannon Blatt, President

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Dr. David Hunton, Secretary