FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CITIZENS’ COMMITTEE MEETS TONIGHT
Group to help FSPS develop future plan

At a Glance

- Citizens’ Committee to meet tonight on goals for Fort Smith Public Schools
- Following a series of meetings, the committee will make recommendations to the FSPS Board of Education regarding the district’s master plan, priorities and the possibility of a millage proposal.

Fort Smith, AR, February 1, 2018– The Citizens’ Committee will meet for the fourth time at 5:30 p.m. tonight at Southside High School, 4100 Gary St. Committee members will learn more about the Fort Smith Public Schools district and tour the facility, as well as discuss the future of the schools.

“The Citizens’ Committee has invested over 525 hours during three public meetings in learning about the needs of the district and the costs of addressing them. The group will continue to work toward development of a millage proposal for consideration by the Board. We’re grateful for their hard work. This is a very challenging task,” said Dr. Doug Brubaker, superintendent.

The goal of the Citizens’ Committee, which is made up of Fort Smith business and community leaders, is to assist the board in prioritizing the Vision 2023 Strategic Plan for the school district, and to figure out how to pay for the projects which top the list.

Approved by the Board of Education in December, the Vision 2023 Strategic Plan developed by more than 180 students, parents, community leaders, teachers and school administrators in a Strategic Visioning process, followed by two months of Strategic Action planning. It includes programming and project recommendations that emphasizes improved student outcomes resulting from attention to Career Planning, Technology, Wellness, Equity, Learning Environments/Facilities and Instruction.

Though the majority of the meetings so far have been information gathering, committee members know the harder task will be developing recommendations concerning the master plan that will guide the district for years to come.

“Right now we are spending time learning as much as we can about our school district and its needs and priorities as set out in the Vision 2023 strategic plan,” said Fort Smith Public Library Director and committee
member Jennifer Goodson. “Once the information gathering part of the process is finished, the committee members will work together to develop recommendations to the Board of Education on what the plan priorities should be, whether a millage increase request should go to the voters, and if so what the amount of the requested increase should be.”

The Citizens’ Committee will meet several times until mid-February. The meetings are open to the public. At the conclusion of the meetings the committee will present their recommendations to the Fort Smith Board of Education.

“It is too bad we just can’t snap our fingers and implement the Master Plan. I would say a lot of the people on the committee are getting their eyes open as to the status of the FSPS System, and what it takes to be so successful. So far, the progress is in the knowledge gained, which is a lot, and starting to juggle the dynamics of group thinking,” said Jim Echols, committee member.

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About Fort Smith Public Schools

From unmanned aerial systems programming to unforgettable kindergarten trips to the farm, Fort Smith Public Schools provides incredible opportunities and strong instruction for each of the almost 15,000 students in its 19 neighborhood elementary schools, four junior high schools, two senior high schools, one alternative learning center and one adult education center. With nationally recognized schools, students, educators and organizations, Fort Smith Public Schools are always the best choice. For information, visit www.fortsmithschools.org