

## Board of Education

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### Minutes

#### The Board of Education

A Called School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, July 12, 2021, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg B., 3205 Jenny Lind, P.O. Box 1948, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

Ms. McFerran, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were: Ms. Talicia Richardson, Mr. Dalton Person, Ms. Dee Blackwell, Mr. Matt Blaylock and Mr. Troy Eckelhoff. Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin was not in attendance. District administration present included: Dr. Terry Morawski, Superintendent; Mr. Martin Mahan, Deputy Superintendent; Ms. Sherri Penix, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support; Dr. Tiffany Bone, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction,; Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Darian Layes, Executive Director of Student Services; Mr. Vance Gregory, Executive Director of Technology; Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Executive Director of Communication and Community Partnerships; and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Office Manager to the Superintendent.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Morawski reported that the next school board meetings are scheduled for August 9, Board training on August 19 and regular board meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Dr. Morawski attended new superintendent training on July 8 and 9 through Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA).

Dr. Morawski reported that discussions continue for the District's Ready for Learning Plan.

Dr. Morawski recognized the following new staff promotions:

Dr. Chris Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Dr. Davis replaced Ms. Sherri Penix, who retires at the end of July.

Dr. Tony Jones, Director of Secondary Education, replaced Dr Ginni McDonald, who was promoted to Executive Director of Curriculum and Professional Development.

Ms. Jennifer Steele, Assistant Director of Athletics and Activities.

Ms. Nicole Shaffer, Principal at Cook Elementary, replaced Ms. Marna Maltuc.

Ms. Amy Griggs was promoted to Principal at Fairview Elementary and Ms. Laura Gladden was promoted to Principal at Ballman Elementary School. Both were out of town and will be recognized at a future meeting.

Dr. Morawski noted that the Discipline Data Report for 2020-2021 was included in the Superintendent's Report. Mr. Layes was available for questions. Ms. Richardson noted that incidences reported were decreased by approximately 50%. Mr. Layes attributed the decrease to elementary students being in smaller groups, blended learning and virtual school.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda included June 28 Minutes, July Professional Staff Recommendations, and the July Student Services Report.

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eckelhoff, to approve the consent agenda items as presented. The vote passed 6/0.

#### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE SALE OF FORT SMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS' EBS SPECTRUM LICENSE**

Mr. Gregory presented this item at the June Board meeting. No action was taken at that time to allow new board members to review further the sale of the license.

Mr. Person noted that Mr. Eckelhoff had some questions about the sale at the last meeting and asked what his thoughts were after having time to review the item further. Mr. Eckelhoff stated that in reviewing the item further, the profit of leasing for 30 years was not favorable over going forward with the sale of the license.

Ms. Blackwell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the sale of Fort Smith Public Schools' EBS license to T-Mobile. The vote passed 6/0.

#### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MATH INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ADOPTION FOR 2021-2027**

Dr. Bone introduced Ms. Lori Griffin, Director of Elementary Education and Ms. Deborah Ellison, K-5 Core Mathematics Coordinator to present this item. Ms. Griffin reported that Ms. Ellison and 33 committee members collaborated to review material.

The Committee consisted of educators from each elementary school, members of the curriculum team, administrators, parents, students, college professors, and community members. The committee was established to examine math instructional resources and to review data collected from pilot programs in our district and other districts in Arkansas.

The K-5 Core Math Program Selection Committee by 95% recommended the purchase and use of Eureka Math for the six-year adoption period of July 1 2021 through June 30, 2027, based on the strengths of the program:

Ms. Ellison reported that the committee's recommendation is to approve Eureka Math as the core math instructional resource to be used in K-5 classrooms during the six-year adoption period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2027.

Mr. Person made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to authorize the adoption of Eureka Math as the recommended instructional resources for K-5 core math. The vote passed 6/0.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS 2021-2022**

Dr. Bone and Dr. Ginni McDonald and Ms. Caroline Neel presented the School Improvement Plans. Ms. Neel stated that each school implements a school level plan updating and monitoring of school improvement plan throughout the year.

The Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requires that all schools submit to the District by May 1 of the current school year (2020-21) a school improvement plan for the upcoming school year (2021-22). Each campus submitted a plan by May 1, 2021 for review by the district leadership team. The school improvement plans must be posted to each school's website by August 1, 2021.

Recommendations for changes to the plan are provided to each campus. Campus teams review and apply appropriate recommendations. The Spring 2021 ACT Aspire data is not expected to be available to campuses until after August 1, 2021. Campuses will make revisions to the board approved plans when additional data has been released from the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

After discussion, the administration's recommendation was to approve the 2021-2022 School Improvement Plans for each FSPS campus.

Ms. Blackwell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blaylock, to approve School Improvement Plans. The vote passed 6/0.

**CONSIDER ADOPTING STUDENT RELATED POLICY CHANGE FOR FIRST READING -SECTION 4.7**

Mr. Layes and Dr. Samantha Hall presented policy 4.7 for first reading. Mr. Layes reported that the administration desired to update the current policy to the most recent recommendation provided by Arkansas School Board Association (ASBA). This policy is related to virtual school attendance.

Mr. Layes presented the proposed ASBA Model Policy that the administration believed necessary and appropriate. He noted that District attorney, Mr. Marshal Ney, has reviewed these recommendations. These changes were submitted in both redline and clean copy for board review.

The administration recommended the board approve on first reading changes to Board Policy, Section 4.7 – Student Absences, as presented to be effective upon final board approval.

Ms. Blackwell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve on first reading the Board Policies, Section 4.7 – Student Absences, as presented to be effective on final board approval. The vote passed 6/0.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF STUDENT HANDBOOK CHANGES FOR 2021-2022**

Mr. Layes reported that he met on May 12 with a committee that consisted of teachers, parents and students.

Earlier this spring, the Board approved on second reading new student policies based on the Arkansas School Board Association model policies. The District Handbook Committee then met on May 12 and developed the six recommendations for handbook changes to ensure that the 2021-2022 handbook aligns with the new student policies. The changes recommended by the handbook

committee were presented here in redlined documents showing edits and changes from the previous year's handbook.

Mr. Layes noted that due to several changes made to education law in Arkansas during the most recent legislative session, additional work will need to be completed on the handbook over the next several months. In order to adapt to these changes, additional recommendations for policy updates and corresponding changes to the handbook will be prepared for the consideration of the Board. ASBA model policies designed to address these changes have recently become available. The handbook is now distributed electronically; future updates to it can also be posted for students and families as they are completed and approved. Paper copies will also continue to be available at campuses for distribution to families who request them.

The administration recommended the handbook changes be approved for inclusion in the 2021-22 District Handbook.

Mr. Person made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the 2021-2022 changes with the addition of 9<sup>th</sup> graders added to Policy 4 . The vote passed 6/0.

**PRESENTATION - VISION 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE**

Mr. Shaffer provided an update on the Peak Innovation Center that included the timeline, funding, original millage cost, original Peak estimate, current Peak budget, Peak GMP breakdown, and underslab moisture observation.

**BOARD MEMBERS FORUM**

There were no comments.

**ADJOURN**

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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Susan McFerran, President

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Dee Blackwell, Secretary