ARKADELPHIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2021

The Arkadelphia Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, in the Board Room of the District Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Motl at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established with six members present.

Members Present: Dr. Casey Motl, President; Dr. Kenneth G. Harris, Jr., Vice President, Ms. Paulette Blacknall, Ms. Gina White, Dr. Jeff Root, and Mr. Clark Tennyson.

Member Absent: Mr. Blake Bell

BADGER PRIDE

Dr. Neathery asked Dr. Turner to announce the Badger Pride Awards for April. They were as follows:

a) **8th Grade Girls Basketball** - Xe'Nai Harper, Taylor Aultman, Zuri Jones, Tyriauna Tate, Raygan Harris, De'Anna Buckley, Ke'onna Guinn, Karrington Norful, Makayla Stewart, Micalah Arnold, Millie Babb, Destiny Malagon, Ja'nya McKillion, Z'Layiah Jackson, K'arieia Gentry, Mya Green

b) **Governor's School** - Mohammad Faiq (Mathematics Program) and Colin Phillips (Cybersecurity Specialty Program)

c) **FBLA Spring Conference Winners & FBLA State Leadership Experience Qualifiers** - Maegan Cooper, Blaise Batson, Asia Joseph, Hannah Moss, GraceAnn Covington, Bret-Allison McDill, Nayan Ghodela, Kevin Ghodela, Kerigan Overturf

d) **Educator Rising Moment Competition/National Qualifier** - Lauren Jones

e) **Cone Grant Recipients** -Jenny Coon, Charlotte DeWitt, Nicole Freeman, Paula Keeling, Steve Patterson, Vanessa Rodgers, LTC Michael Shepherd, Beverly Slavens

f) **Katie McGlone** - Speech-Language Pathologist

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

Superintendent Dr. Karla Neathery stated that there was no one tonight.

CONSENT AGENDA

a) The Minutes from the March 16, 2021 Regular Board Meeting, the April 6, 2021 Agenda Setting Meeting, and the April 6, 2021 Construction Manager Interviews were approved as submitted by unanimous consent of the Board.

b) The March 2021 Financials, presented by Tammy Barger, were approved as presented by unanimous consent of the Board.

c) **Reconsideration of ESSER II HVAC Funds** – Dr. Neathery stated that she had been in contact with Tim Cain, Facilities Director with the Arkansas Dept. of Education, and was advised to wait

for further guidance before using ESSER funds for replacement of the HVAC system at Arkadelphia High School.

ACTION ITEMS

a) **Reorganization of the Board** – Dr. Motl presented a letter of resignation from Board Member Paulette Blacknall. Ms. Blacknall stated that she made the decision to step down early so that Ms. Ida Tramble, who is running unopposed for the Zone 3 position, could be part of the decision-making process relative to upcoming construction projects. As such, the following actions were taken:

1. Dr. Harris made a motion that Ms. Blacknall's resignation be accepted, effective at the end of the Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Root, and passed by unanimous consent of the Board.

2. Dr. Root made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blacknall, to appoint Ida Tramble to fill the vacancy on the Board. The motion passed by unanimous consent of the Board.

3. Dr. Root made a motion to amend the agenda for the purpose of selecting an interim Board Secretary. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous consent of the Board. The agenda was then amended to add an item (f) to select an interim Board Secretary.

b) **Approval to Purchase Smart Boards for Perritt Primary School** –Following discussion, and upon the recommendation of District Administration, a motion was made by Ms. Blacknall to approve the purchase of 19 new Smart Boards for core teachers at Perritt Primary School from Piraino Consulting, a TIPS/TAPS vendor, using Title 1 funds in the amount of $55,810.73. The motion was seconded by Ms. White and passed by unanimous consent of the Board.

c) **Approval of Updated Ready for Learning Plan** – Upon the recommendation of District Administration, a motion was made by Ms. White to accept the updated Ready for Learning Plan as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tennyson and, following some discussion, passed by unanimous consent of the Board.

d) **Item (d) moved to (c) on the Consent Agenda prior to the Board Meeting.**

e) **Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Arch Ford Cooperative for Alternative Learning Environment (ALE)** – Following discussion, and upon the recommendation of District Administration, Ms. Blacknall motioned to accept the MOU with Arch Ford Cooperative to administer the District's ALE program as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. White and passed by unanimous consent of the Board.

f) **Selection of Interim Board Secretary** – Dr. Harris made a motion to appoint Ms. Gina White as the interim Board Secretary to complete Ms. Karrie Goodman's term. The motion was seconded by Dr. Root, and passed by unanimous consent of the Board.

PERSONNEL

The Board retired into executive session at 7:05 p.m. to consider personnel. The Board returned to Open Session at 7:56 p.m., and the following actions were taken: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the following personnel actions:

Certified Staff Resignation:

Stockton Mallett	Teacher/Coach/AHS	Effective Date	End of School Year
Jillian Williams	Special Ed. Teacher/AHS	Effective Date	End of School Year

Employment of Certified Staff:

James Lively	SR JROTC Instructor/AHS	Effective Date	TBD
Tod Rupe	Army Instructor/AHS	Effective Date	TBD

Certified Staff Intent to Retire:

Vanilla Hannah	Counselor/Goza	Effective Date	End of School Year

Classified Staff Intent to Retire:

Phyllis DeLoach	Special Ed. Para/AHS	Effective Date	June 1, 2021

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Each Department submitted a report of the previous month's activities.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – DR. NEATHERY

a) Dr. Neathery recognized continued great works by staff throughout the District.

b) Dr. Neathery reported that we currently have 290 students attending school virtually (16%), that we currently have no COVID-19 cases in the Arkadelphia School District, and that we have no students or staff in quarantine. She stated that she hopes the District will return fully to onsite learning in the fall, but that there are two virtual options available.

c) AHS Graduation is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on May 15, 2021 at Badger Stadium.

d) The last day of school will be May 28, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Gina White

MS. GINA WHITE, SECRETARY