

MINUTES BOARD MEETING

October 8, 2018

REPORT TO THE PUBLIC

William Tietz, Assistant Superintendent

At 6:30 p.m. on October 8th, 2018, Mr. Milner convened the report to the public meeting. Board members present were, Mr. Reynolds, Ms. Boone, Mr. Hartsfield, Mr. Frazier, and Mr. Moore. Ms. Whittaker was absent. School administrative personnel present were Dr. Guess, Mr. Tietz, Ms. Merritt, Ms. Wilson, Ms. Dunn, Ms. Davis, and Mr. Hayden. Alicia Dorn from the press was in attendance.

REPORT TO THE PUBLIC.

Mr. Tietz stated that all reports to the public are being done at each school. Mr. Tietz gave the main points of Mission Statement, Board Training, Accreditation, Budget, Student Enrollment & Demographics, Staffing, and Academic Services. Ms. Boone asked if the Junior High AP was fixed and Mr. Tietz & Ms. Wilson stated they opened another Algebra II class.

Special Education-Ms. Boone asked how many students are transported to Little Rock. Mr. Tietz responded 10. Mr. Hartsfield asked if the bus stays all day and Mr. Tietz responded no. Mr. Moore asked how many students go to Jenkins and Ms. Dunn stated 8. Mr. Hartsfield asked if Jenkins students come to our school at all and Ms. Dunn stated no. Dr. Guess stated we have looked at options for getting someone to transport our students, but it wasn't cost effective.

McKinney-Vento-Mr. Tietz stated we have 88 homeless students. Ms. Boone asked where they stay at night. Mr. Tietz stated some can stay with an aunt. Dr. Guess stated they could be staying at a park, shelter, etc. He stated a lot of people have declared homeless and Ms. Keaton has been investigating to make sure they are truly homeless instead of using this to get in without going through school choice.

Student Achievement-Mr. Tietz stated the ACT scores are lower than state averages, but we are working on them and ACT prep classes have helped. ACT Aspire schools are lower than state, but working on using new science curriculum. Mr. Hartsfield commented the only thing we are close in is in English. Ms. Boone stated that math is really low and asked if teachers were teaching what is on the test. Dr. Guess stated we are looking at a Pre-K program. Mr. Tietz stated it is hard to catch up when kids are behind in Kindergarten.

Support Services/Transportation and Food Services-Paula Bailey stated we have \$21,000 in charges. Ms. Boone asked how do you contact parents and Ms. Bailey responded by phone, email, and letters. Ms. Boone asked if the students are getting money and not turning it in. Mr. Hartsfield and Mr. Frazier congratulated Mr. Tietz on a job well done.

REGULAR MEETING

At 7:10 p.m. on October 8, 2018, Mr. Milner convened the regular meeting of the district Board of Education. Board members present were, Mr. Reynolds, Ms. Boone, Mr. Hartsfield, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Frazier. Ms. Whittaker was absent. School administrative personnel present were Dr. Guess, Mr. Webb, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Branch, Dr. Johnson, Ms. Keaton, Mr. Tietz, Ms. Dunn, Ms. Shaw, Ms. Bailey, Ms. Davis, Ms. Wilson, Ms. Cage, and Ms. Merritt. Alicia Dorn from the press was in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes. The minutes of the last regular meeting were unanimously approved 6-0 on a motion by Mr. Reynolds and a second by Mr. Moore.

Financial Statement. Dr. Guess presented the financial statement for the month of September, reporting \$1,417,815.19 in revenue and expenditures of \$1,150,821.99 the non-activity funds, leaving an ending balance of \$6,666,980.37. The board unanimously voted 6-0 to approve the district financial statement for the month of September as presented on a motion by Mr. Hartsfield and a second by Mr. Reynolds. Dr. Guess stated that it is an anomaly to have spent less than what we brought in. Ms. Walker stated we received federal reimbursement which inflated the revenue. Dr. Guess stated Ms. Walker is keeping a tight rein on the budget. He stated Mr. Tietz, Mr. Hayden, and Mr. Branch as looking at cuts and getting several estimates to get the best deal. He stated we are not hiring anyone new. He stated we need to continue the educational opportunities, but be prudent with what we have. Ms. Boone thanked Dr. Guess for keeping us solvent. Mr. Frazier dittoed.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation. Ms. Lillian Hemphill and the WCJH Beta Club presented a short presentation. Shekinah Meadows, Faith Lewis, and Dylan Mayo presented what they did at the Beta convention. Dylan Mayo was selected as a national leadership representative and he is the youngest selected in the nation. Each member averages over 400 hours of community service. Ms. Hemphill won outstanding Beta sponsor. The Junior High competed against the High School and qualified for nationals. Ms. Boone stated Ms. Hemphill goes beyond to lead them.

Resolution. Be it resolved that the Watson Chapel School Board, in accordance with Arkansas Code 6-13-635, has reviewed the required Cognos report which identifies those employees receiving a 5% of greater increase in salary from fiscal year 2017 to fiscal year 2018 and approves those increased in total based upon the reasons stated on the accompanying spreadsheet as required. On a motion by Mr. Hartsfield and a second by Mr. Reynolds, the board voted 6-0 on the resolution.

PPC REPORT & CPPC

Frankie Hemphill stated the new representatives' positions for the PPC. Frankie Hemphill-Chair, Lillian Hemphill-Vice Chair, Renaye Eastwood-Secretary, and Jahrea May-Assistant Secretary. Frankie Hemphill stated there are no concerns at this time and they want to discuss teacher retirement funding. Dr. Guess stressed the importance of finding a new director for ARTRS.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The ASBA Annual Conference will be December 5-7 at the Marriott & Statehouse Convention Center. Registration has not opened on this event. Please inform me if you are interested in attending so that room reservations can be made ASAP. Ms. Boone stated she will attend and stay, but will absorb all expenses. On a motion by Ms. Boone and a second by Mr. Hartsfield, the board voted 6-0 that the district will not pay for food or lodging for the convention.

Dr. Guess stated the national convention will open soon. Mr. Hartsfield made a motion to forego this year because of finances. Ms. Boone (second) agreed and stated we need to set a precedent. The board voted 6-0 to forego the ASBA Annual Conference.

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Mr. Reynolds asked Ms. Hemphill about the red flashing light. Ms. Hemphill stated the school needed one, but didn't know who would write the grant. Mr. Hartsfield stated we could do a fundraiser if we couldn't get a grant.

Watson Chapel School Board will need to select a board member to serve as an official delegate at the 2018 ASBA Delegate Assembly. Mr. Hartsfield motioned to make Ms. Boone the delegate. Mr. Moore seconded and board voted 6-0 to select Ms. Boone as delegate.

The Fall Arkansas Regional School Board meeting will be at Watson Chapel High School Cafeteria on October 29th. Dr. Guess has registered all of the board members to attend.

Mr. Milner stated Ms. Whittaker's daughter was in the ER and to lift them up in prayer.

PERSONNEL

I have received a letter of resignation from Kasie Horn and Catherine Powell.

Executive session started at 7:40 and ended at 8:06. On a motion by Ms. Boone and a second by Mr. Reynolds, the board voted 6-0 on Dr. Guess recommendations.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Dr. Guess stated he received concerns about the air quality at Coleman. Mr. Tietz and Mr. Hayden have run 1 test and will run another test to make sure we are providing quality air control. He stated the High School roof has been accepted and the district will move next to Coleman and then the Administration Building. Dr. Guess stated Ms. Merritt asked for locks and cameras at Edgewood. He stated Ms. Keaton will have focus groups for parents.

ADJOURNMENT 8:10.

Respectfully submitted by, Dr. Jerry Guess and Norma Walker

Kevin Moore,
Board Secretary