

MINUTES BOARD MEETING

December 10, 2018

REGULAR MEETING

At 7:00 p.m. on December 10, 2018, Ms. Whitaker convened the regular meeting of the district Board of Education. Board members present were, Mr. Reynolds, Ms. Boone, Mr. Hartsfield, Mr. Milner, Mr. Moore and Mr. Frazier. School administrative personnel present were Dr. Guess, Mr. Webb, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Branch, Mr. Tietz, Ms. Merritt, Ms. Sanders, Ms. Dunn, Ms. Bailey, Dr. Johnson, Ms. Davis, Ms. Shaw, Ms. Wilson, and Ms. Howington. The press was not in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes. The minutes of the last regular meeting were unanimously approved 7-0 on a motion by Mr. Reynolds and a second by Mr. Milner.

Financial Statement. Dr. Guess presented the financial statement for the month of November, reporting \$2,151,552.19 in revenue and expenditures of \$1,589,500.65 the non-activity funds, leaving an ending balance of \$6,991,956.90. The board unanimously voted 7-0 to approve the district financial statement for the month of November as presented on a motion by Mr. Milner and a second by Mr. Reynolds. Dr. Guess stated one reason the revenue is higher is because of the tax revenue. The food service did not get it's reimbursement, but if it did it would have been pretty close to zeroing out.

NEW BUSINESS

Math Club. The WCJH Math Club presented the board with Christmas gifts. Ms. Wilson stated they appreciated letting the Junior High students attend a workshop in Hot Springs. The students passed out gifts to the board members and the board thanked the students. The students asked for continued support with the Math Club.

Jr. High Beta. Lillian Hemphill shared information about an award the WCJH Beta Club received. She stated WCJH is a school with distinction and they are the only school in Arkansas to win this award.

Student Hearing. Dr. Guess recommended the expulsion of two WCJH students, Jonathan Harris and Joseph Westmoreland, for one calendar school year for the following infractions: Fighting and Assault of multiple staff members.

Joseph Westmoreland's father was present for representation. He requested a closed hearing due to students being present in the meeting. The board dismissed into executive session at 7:12 and returned at 7:57. Ms. Whitaker stated it is not reflection on anyone, but the board takes the superintendent's recommendations.

The board voted 6-0 on a motion by Mr. Hartsfield and a second by Mr. Moore to expel Joseph Westmoreland for one calendar year. Mr. Reynolds voted nay.

There was no one present to represent Jonathan Harris.

The board voted 6-0 on a motion by Mr. Hartsfield and a second by Mr. Milner to expel Jonathan Harris for one calendar year. Mr. Reynolds voted nay.

PPC REPORT & CPPC

1. \$500 bonus. Frankie Hemphill stated the PPC would like the board to give a \$500 bonus. She stated they have not received a raise in 12 years, but a bonus would make it look like a raise and they would like it before Christmas.
2. Crosswalk. Frankie Hemphill stated the PPC would like a police officer. The drivers do not pay attention to the staff members. The PPC would like the resource officers to do this. We need one on Sulphur Springs and one on Hwy 79.
Dr. Guess stated he has called the police department every month and they have said they would help. He asked Ms. Whitaker if she wanted to go to the police chief together. He stated Mr. Hayden is working on getting the Hwy Department to get warning, flashing signs. Dr. Guess stated he didn't know why the resource officers were not doing the crosswalk duty. He stated he would take another step.
3. Twice a month. Frankie Hemphill stated the PPC would like the district to pay twice a month. They do not want the board to forget and want to have it set up by the 2019-2020 school year. They do not believe the finance office needs another person to do it.

Mr. Reynolds made a motion for everyone to get a \$500 bonus. There was a lack of a second.

Dr. Guess stated that his heart is in the right place, but he believes the state would look unfavorably on it and we need to finish the 2018-2019 school year in good standing. He stated the district is doing everything they can do be in a better financial situation.

Mr. Hartsfield stated no one wanted to give a bonus or raise more than him, but in the financial state we are in we can't. He stated the last administration put us in a bad financial position. He stated we can give a bonus, but then we could have people lose their jobs. He stated when we get in a better financial state; we will do more for the employees.

Lillian Hemphill stated we do not need to blame the last administration because Mr. Hazelwood did stuff too.

Mr. Hartsfield clarified that he said previous administrations, not specific names. He stated we added a lot of high paying jobs.

Frankie Hemphill stated that the previous administration did onetime costs.

Kevin Moore stated we hired a lot of paraprofessionals that cost a lot.

Mr. Reynolds stated the board voted for these things and we do not need to look at the past, but toward the future.

Ms. Boone stated that once you go to school board meetings you learn about how to make finances work so you won't get taken over by the state. She stated her motion for the school board members was to not go to out of state meetings; it was that the district wouldn't pay for it.

Lillian Hemphill stated she paid for her own Beta training.

Mr. Hartsfield stated the board is going to do what it needs to do to keep the board solvent. It is not that they do not care what the staff makes.

Ms. Whitaker stated she wanted to table the bonus.

Mr. Hartsfield stated that we are predicting to end in the negative, so it will not happen.

Mr. Milner stated he agreed with Mr. Whitaker that the board is not trying to be negative or unappreciative, but we have to do what needs to be done to be solvent. He stated there will always be other districts that can pay more than we can. We want to do what we can for the staff because we do care.

Mr. Reynolds made a motion to pay twice a month starting in the 2019-2020 school year.

Mr. Whitaker seconded the motion. Mr. Milner stated it would cost more money and we needed to have further discussions. Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Whitaker voted aye and 5 voted nay.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Boone was the delegate at the school board meeting. She mentioned some of the topics that were discussed at the meeting. The board is supposed to stay abreast of current events. Board members missing meetings and who do things against what the rest of the board believes can be dismissed. The board is supposed to oversee finances and talk to legislators about consequences of proposed legislation. The board is supposed to hire competent leaders, conduct business, and be mindful of oaths such as executive session business should not be discussed outside of session. The board should be a positive example. They may want to change the election.

PERSONNEL

Dr. Guess received a letter of resignation from Yalonda Keaton.

On a motion by Mr. Hartsfield and a second by Mr. Milner, the board voted 7-0 on Dr. Guess' recommendation.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Dr. Guess stated Jennifer Howington is working hard on technology and all carts will be restocked with chrome books. He stated she is making other good moves.

He stated that John Hayden said the Coleman roof should start in January and all mold inspections have been completed. He stated maintenance and disinfecting will be done over the Christmas break.

He stated Natasha Dunn is making some changes to Special Education and will have monitoring. They are making teaching changes to the Junior High and bringing all the Jenkins students back to the campus.

He stated the school is working on prom to make the students happy and still keep it on campus.

He stated minimum wage changes in January, but everyone is above the minimum. The SubTeach cost will probably go up.

He stated that cafeteria participation is up. They are using the federal commodity and doing a lot of improvements. The bottom line is there is better food and they are being more efficient.

ADJOURNMENT 8:34.

Respectfully submitted by, Dr. Jerry Guess and Norma Walker

Kevin Moore,
Board Secretary