

The Fordyce School Board met in regular session on Monday, August 9, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at Fordyce Middle School. The meeting was called to order by Scott Smith at 5:02 p.m.

Word of prayer was given by Silas Warner.

Those answering roll call were Scott Smith, Silas Warner, Deborah Mathews, Nick Cranford, Jessica Young, and Dr. Hubbell.

Minutes

The minutes from the July 12, 2021 regular board meeting, July 22, 2021 and July 28, 2021 special board meetings were presented for approval. Jessica Young made a motion to accept the minutes that were presented. Silas Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Financial Statements

The July financial statements were presented for approval. Jessica Young made the motion to accept the financial reports as presented. Silas Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Rhonda Lawson reported that the federal budget has a carryover balance.

Old Business

None

New Business

Dr. Hubbell presented the Over and Beyond award for the month of July to Barbara Matkin. Barbara is a cafeteria employee and goes above and beyond to do her part in the cafeteria. She was presented a \$25 gift card.

Dr. Hubbell presented the policy additions and updates to the board. The board voted to add the Behavior and Restraint policy and to extend the 10-day Covid leave policy for the 2021 – 2022 school year. Nick Cranford made a motion to accept the policies that Dr. Hubbell presented. Jessica Young seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Chase McCollum presented updates for the FHS handbook. The first update to add to the concurrent credit policy. The district will pay for the first two courses. To hold students responsible, the parent/guardian will have to pay for the course if the student drops the course. The next update will change the late work policy from 24 hours to 48 hours after an assignment is due. The third update was athletics is not counted in GPA. Will give a ½ credit of PE for 9th grade athletics. The last update was the Policy for Re-Taking Courses will change to: Fordyce High School will allow students in grades 9-12 to retake courses in which they made an F. If this course is taken in summer school immediately following the year it was failed, the summer school grade will replace the F. A grade of C is the highest grade attainable in summer school for credit recovery. If the course is retaken during the next school year as part of the student's schedule, the F from the previous year remains and the student may earn any grade to the class. Credit recovery is intended to help students graduate, not become valedictorians or

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salutatorians. Jessica Young made a motion to approve the FHS handbook updates as read. Nick Cranford seconded the motion.

Dr. Hubbell asked the board to approve the ACT 1240 waiver resolution. It allows the district to hire someone with a college education as a teacher. Nick Cranford made a motion to approve the ACT 1240 waiver. Deborah Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell asked the board to change the payment date for the \$200 Covid incentive from September 30, 2021 to November 30, 2021. Jessica Young made a motion to change the date to November 30-, 2021. Silas Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell presented two bids for a commercial clothes dryer for the football program. She asked they accept the bid from Belco since that is where the other dryer was purchased in 1985. Jessica Young made a motion to purchase the new dryer from Belco. Nick Cranford seconded the motion.

Dr. Hubbell asked the board to accept a MOU with SAU Tech to offer concurrent credit courses at the high school. Jessica Young excused herself from voting since she is an employee of SAU Tech. Nick Cranford made a motion to accept the MOU with SAU Tech. Deborah Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Dr. Hubbell asked the board to purchase iPads for administrators and coaches. Nick Cranford made a motion to purchase 9 new iPads instead of buying refurbished ones. Jessica Young seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell asked to purchase air purifiers for all classrooms. This will be a temporary fix. Nick Cranford made a motion to purchase the air filters from White River Services. Silas Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell told the board the district is purchasing the accelerated reader, star math, and star reader with Title I funds.

Dr. Hubbell presented a bid from Weaver's Heating and Air to replace the air conditioner in Room 101 in the FMS building. ESSER funds will be used to purchase the new unit. Nick Cranford made a motion to purchase the new unit from Weaver's Heating and Air. Silas Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell asked the board to approve the purchase of 4 hot water mobile stations for Grades 3-6. They will be purchased with Title I funds in the amount of \$7,987.06. Deborah Mathews made a motion to purchase the hot water mobile stations. Jessica Young seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

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Dr. Hubbell asked the board to accept a MOU with Arkansas River Educational Cooperative for the K-6 Virtual Academy consortium. The district is purchasing 15 seats at \$2,000 per student for K-6 students that want to participate in virtual learning. The students will be enrolled in Fordyce School District but their virtual learning will be provided by the K-6 Virtual Academy. This will take the work off of our teachers. This is only for students that choose virtual not students that are quarantined. Nick Cranford made a motion to accept the MOU with the K-6 Virtual Academy and purchase 15 seats. Deborah Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Principal's Report

Rhonda Lawson reported that the elementary school currently has 370 students enrolled and 26 Pre-K students enrolled. The elementary teachers were glad they weren't going to have to deal with virtual students along with their classroom students.

Chase McCollum reported that the high school currently has 394 students enrolled. He stated that is the healthiest enrollment for the high school since he has been employed by the district. He had around 300 students preregister and pick up chromebooks and schedules during registration.

He reported that Coach Delton Rodgers is the golf coach this year.

The tennis team will play in Hampton on Thursday. They are coached by Celeste Hall and assistant coach Seth Stephens.

Jr. High football will play in Gurdon on August 19th and Sr. High football will host Gurdon on August 20th.

The Rison game will be held on August 27th. There is plans to have a ceremony dedicating the road to the football field to Larry Lacewell.

Faculty and staff had breakfast in the cafeteria on Monday morning. Had a productive day with professional development and a nice lunch at the Assembly of God church.

Superintendent's Report

Tammie Works and Venita McMillan recently attended the ServSafe training in Little Rock and passed the test to become ServSafe certified.

There will be no lawn chairs in the end zone this year.

Masks are optional this year and that will keep legal problems out. Local control has been taken away from administration.

Pray a lot. Take it one day at a time.

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Dr. Hubbell reported that a large number of students and adults are being vaccinated.

A reporter from New York plans to come interview our employees since we have a large portion of our students, faculty, and staff vaccinated.

Dr. Hubbell has been hearing about lock downs. She never thought she would see schools shut down the way they have the past year. She is going to do the best she can to keep the district open this year.

Certified

None

Classified

Dr. Hubbell asked the board to move Rhonda Still from custodian to maintenance on the salary schedule. Nick Cranford made a motion to move Rhonda Still from a custodian to maintenance on the salary schedule. Silas Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell asked the board to accept the resignation of LaJune Jamerson as a cafeteria worker effective August 4, 2021. Jessica Young made a motion to accept Ms. Jamerson's resignation. Silas Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Board Comments

Deborah Mathews asked about the school closing and using AMI days. Dr. Hubbell replied that none of the superintendents like virtual days.

Deborah Mathews said she has an issue with the softball selling raffle tickets for guns. She asked about the raffle of shotguns and assault rifles. She has a problem with guns sales. Deborah said she doesn't approve of students selling raffles for guns. She was told it was assault rifles and hand guns listed on the raffle. She thinks the fact of Redbug Liquor being brought up isn't as bad as selling tickets for a gun raffle. She said nobody has to agree with her about the raffle. Scott said he doesn't have a problem with it. Deborah's concern is what are we going to do when someone wants to sale something illegal?

Deborah said she appreciates everyone's effort in doing everything for the district.

Silas Warner said he has been on the board for 41 years. He said we are facing things. He said adults need to do things that would not jeopardize the children. He mentioned that Mrs. Lawson was in tears at the last meeting when she said she couldn't go through another year like the last school year. He stated to do all things for the greater good of the children.

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Scott Smith announced that he was resigning from the board after this meeting. He feels like it is a conflict with his leadership.

Adjournment

Silas Warner made the motion to adjourn at 6:36. Nick Cranford seconded the motion. Motion carried 5–0.

Date

President

Secretary