

The Fordyce School Board met in regular session on Monday July 12, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at Fordyce Middle School. The meeting was called to order by Scott Smith at 5:05 p.m.

Word of prayer was given by Nick Cranford.

Those answering roll call were Scott Smith, Nick Cranford, Jessica Young, Deborah Mathews (via phone), and Dr. Hubbell. Silas Warner arrived at 5:10 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes from the June 15, 2021 board meeting were presented for approval. Nick Cranford made a motion to accept the minutes that were presented. Deborah Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Financial Statements

The June financial statements were presented. Jessica Young made the motion to accept the financial reports as presented. Nick Cranford seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Old Business

The board discussed their options for electing board officers for the 2021 -2022 school year. Nick Cranford made the motion to leave the officers the same as the 2020-2021 school year. Deborah Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

All board members will have to run in the board election next year in May.

New Business

Dr. Hubbell presented the Over and Beyond award for the month of June to Rachel Graves, counselor at Fordyce High School. Dr. Hubbell told the board that Mrs. Graves does a fantastic job as high school counselor. She was presented a \$25 gift card.

Ms. Tammie Works presented bids for milk and bread for the cafeteria. Hiland Dairy turned in the lowest bid for milk. Nick Cranford made a motion to accept the milk bid from Hiland Dairy. Jessica Young seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Ben E. Keith turned in the lowest bid for bread. Jessica Young made the motion to accept the bid from Ben E. Keith for bread. Nick Cranford seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Elvis Smith turned in a fuel bid from Sewell Oil. Sewell Oil was the only distributor that sent a bid to the district for fuel. Nick Cranford made a motion to accept the fuel bid from Sewell Oil. Jessica Young seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell presented the board with a list of paper bids through Southeast Educational Cooperative. She suggested the district order the paper from Printing Paper, Inc. since their price was good through the entire school year. Deborah Mathews made the motion to purchase the paper from Printing Paper, Inc. Jessica Young seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Page 2 Monday, July 12, 2021

Dr. Hubbell presented a Resolution for Additional Pay Plan to the board for approval of a \$200 one-time incentive to employees that take the Covid vaccine by September 21, 2021. If an employee has the Covid vaccine they won't have to quarantine because of contact tracing. Jessica Young made a motion to adopt the resolution as stated. Silas Warner seconded the motion.

Fordyce School District
Resolution for Additional Pay Plan
2021-2022

WHEREAS, the Fordyce School District experienced 3 on-site closures during the 2020-2021 school year due to COVID-19, and 135 staff members were absent from on-site work due to the need to quarantine. The attendance of teachers and staff is necessary for the safe and effective continued operation of schools. On May 20, 2021, Governor Hutchinson announced the availability of a \$200 payment for state employees that opted-in to providing documentation of at least one COVID-19 vaccination.

Cycle 2 data for the 2020-2021 school year indicated that 81 students, or 11% of students, in the Fordyce School District received virtual instruction. By the Cycle 7 data submission, 67 students, or 9% of students, remained in virtual instruction. It is imperative that students return to on-site instruction. Parents need to feel confident that their children are returning to a safe school environment. Vaccination will limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus creating a safer environment for students to return to school.

WHEREFORE, the Fordyce School District shall make a one-time payment of \$200, subject to all applicable deductions, to each full-time and part-time contracted employee that volunteers to provide proof of receiving a COVID-19 vaccination.

This payment will be available to all Fordyce School District contracted employees that voluntarily opt-in to receive the additional pay as part of the plan for safely reopening the Fordyce School District for the 2021-2022 school year. Contracted employees are required to have received at least one vaccine shot by September 1, 2021, to be eligible to receive this additional compensation. Eligible employees will be awarded a one-time additional compensation payment of \$200, subject to all applicable taxes and deductions. Eligible employees must provide proof of vaccination by submitting a copy of the employee's vaccination card or presenting the vaccination card to Central Office personnel for viewing. All information obtained as part of this process will be used only for purposes of verifying eligibility and additional compensation processing and are not subject to release for any other purpose. Documentation will be accepted in the superintendent's office until close of business on September 1, 2021. Payments will be processed and provided to eligible staff by September 30, 2021.

Nick Cranford and Scott Smith voted Nay. Motion carried 3-5. Nick Cranford explained his feeling on the incentive pay for taking the shot. He thinks the hazard bonus should suffice for all employees. Jessica Young said she thinks if you took the shot you should get the \$200 incentive. Rhonda Lawson explained that ESSER funds is to be used for a safe return to school. Scott Smith is concerned people will feel pressured to take the shot so they will receive the \$200 incentive pay. He stated he isn't for paying employees to get the shot but he is for what the majority of the board wants to do. Elvis Smith told the board his feelings about the shot. His daughter and granddaughter currently have Covid and neither have had the shot. Chase McCollum gave his perspective on the Covid shot.

The Summer COVID-19 Plan was presented to the board for approval. Jessica Young made the motion to accept the Summer COVID-19 Plan. Nick Cranford seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Page 3 Monday, July 12, 2021

Tammie Works, Child Nutrition Director, presented a quote from Health-e-Pro software to be used for the cafeteria. It is for students and parents. Provides nutritional analysis. Nick Cranford made the motion to purchase the software from Health-e-Pro. Jessica Young seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell asked the board approval to purchase a Sports Cool Powered Team Drinker from BSN Sports for the football team. Nick Cranford made a motion to purchase the Team Drinker. Jessica Young seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell told the board that Mayor John MacNichol had asked the school to pay for ½ the cost of paving the street to Redbug Field. He told her the districts part would be around \$11,000. Nick Cranford made a motion that the district pay for ½ of the paving of the street to Redbug Field. Jessica Young seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

FBT Bank & Mortgage asked Dr. Hubbell about redoing the arena floor so they can put down their new logo. The districts part will be \$8,500. The district can pay it out in three annual installments. Jessica Young made a motion to have the arena floor redone. Nick Cranford seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell told the board Mr. Norman Hill has recommended the district transfer \$310,000 to the building fund. Deborah Mathews made a motion to follow Mr. Hill's recommendation of transferring \$310,000 to the building fund. Jessica Young seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell recommended the district purchase a maintenance agreement with Harold Hall Roofing in the amount of \$4,500 per year. The company will wash and clean the roof and gutters twice a year. Silas Warner made a motion to purchase the maintenance agreement. Nick Cranford seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell asked the board for approval to purchase social studies books in the amount of \$65,060.41 for Fordyce High School. Nick Cranford made a motion to purchase the social studies books. Silas Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell presented a requisition to the board for the FES library to get \$71,000 in upgrades using ARP ESSER III funds. Jessica Young made a motion to purchase the upgrades for the FES library. Nick Cranford seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Principal's Report

Rhonda Lawson reported that the elementary school is completely staffed for the 2021-2022 school year. She said there are between 50 and 75 students attending summer school at the elementary school.

Page 4 Monday, July 12, 2021

Chase McCollum reported that the high school had 3 weeks of credit recovery and 2 weeks of remediation. There were around 59 to 60 students attending the first 2 weeks. The remediation students were taken on a field trip. Coach Musgrove also gave a leaf demonstration. He said he had a great group of teachers that worked summer school. Mr. McCollum said he is trying to get more parents involved with the high school. He reported that CCSO training started at 5:30 today and band camp started at 7:00 this morning. Mr. Broughton is a tremendous guy and is keeping the bar high for band. He is making students be accountable. Football started back today after the two week "dead week" required by Arkansas Activities Association. Professional Development Naviance Training was held June 24th.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Hubbell gave an update on the AAA investigation. She said the district hasn't heard from them. AAA went to Bearden to interview. They asked Dr. Hubbell to do her own investigation. The district has incurred a \$3,800 legal bill from the investigation. She said she spent all but 3 days of her vacation working on the investigation.

The district is fully accredited for the school year.

The district won't have a certified facilities director until we are required to have one by the state.

East Harding will start repairs on walkway coverings soon.

The 2 new buses have arrived. They both have ac and underneath storage.

Dr. Hubbell reported to the board there is now a Redbug Liquor in town. She is disappointed that someone has done this with the Redbug name. Bronson Bailey is the owner of the store. Chase McCollum recommended that someone have a conversation with Mr. Bailey about using the Redbug name.

ARP ESSER III funds have been released.

ACT 1240 waivers will need public input. Dr. Hubbell asked to schedule a meeting prior to the regular August board meeting. The meeting will start at 4:45 p.m.

Certified

PLC (Professional Learning Committee) team Leaders: Departments, grade level curriculum will meet on Wednesday afternoons. They are asking for a \$500/ year stipend for 3 years to be paid with ESSER funds. Ms. Hines explained what the team leaders will be responsible for doing and how it literacy plays into math. There are 5 team leads that will get the \$500/year for high school. The board asked Mrs. Lawson to assign 7 leads for elementary. Nick Cranford made the motion to approve the \$500/ year for three years stipend for the leads at elementary and high school. Jessica Young seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell recommended the board hire Seth Stephens for STEM, Esports, and the Rocket team. Nick Cranford made the motion to hire Seth Stephens. Silas Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Page 5 Monday, July 12, 2021

Dr. Hubbell recommended the board hire Gary Gamble on a 1240 waiver for the ALE facilitator. Mr. Gamble currently works for Arkansas Department of Corrections.

Classified

Dr. Hubbell asked the board to accept the resignation of Vilesia Hall as ALE facilitator. Jessica Young made the motion to accept Mrs. Hall’s resignation. Nick Cranford seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell recommended the board hire Samantha Evans as FHS Counselor’s secretary. Jessica Young made the motion to hire Ms. Evans. Deborah seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell recommended the board hire Gary Gamble on a 1240 waiver for the ALE facilitator. Mr. Gamble currently works for Arkansas Department of Corrections. This will be a classified position at a teacher’s salary. Mr. Gamble will begin working on completing his degree. Jessica Young made the motion to hire Mr. Gamble on the 1240 waiver. Nick Cranford seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Board Comments

Jessica Young complimented everyone for working this summer. She thanked the administrators for hanging in there during the pandemic. She said she wanted to thank everyone for coming back this year and making sure students aren’t being left behind.

Deborah Mathews thanked everyone for the jobs they are doing.

Scott Smith said we have good people in place at our district.

Nick Cranford thanked everyone for welcoming him to the board.

Adjournment

Jessica Young made the motion to adjourn at 6:32. Nick Cranford seconded the motion. Motion carried 5–0.

Date

President

Secretary