

The Fordyce School Board met in regular session on Monday, March 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at Fordyce Middle School. The meeting was called to order by Jessica Young at 5:00 p.m.

Word of prayer was given by Deborah Mathews.

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

### **Minutes**

Nick Cranford made a motion to approve the board minutes from the March 3, 2022 special meeting, February 10, 2022 special meeting, and the February 15, 2022 regular meeting. Susan Ridings seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Financial Statements**

The February financial statements were presented by Dr. Judy Hubbell for approval. Deborah Mathews made a motion to approve the financial statements. Nick Cranford seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

Dr. Hubbell informed the board there were four expulsion hearings scheduled on the agenda for the meeting.

Jessica Young called for Student A. Student A nor the parent/guardian were in the audience.

Mrs. Young called for Student B. The parent was present for the meeting. She asked if the parent wanted an open or closed meeting. The parent asked for an open meeting. Deborah Mathews excused herself from the hearing at 5:09 p.m. Dr. Hubbell made a recommendation to expel Student B for the remainder of the current school year or until the felony charges have been cleared.

High school principal, Chase McCollum, stated on December 8, 2021 law enforcement entered the classroom to speak to Student B. Student B had made a threat, earlier that day told a teacher f you in the commons. Student B currently is charged with the theft of 21 firearms. The handbook states that any student charged with a felony can be expelled when charged.

Jessica Young asked the parent of Student B if they had anything to say. The parent responded "no". Mrs. Young asked if the parent or student had a statement. Neither responded.

Chase McCollum told the parent to come by his office for information on educational services.

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Nick Cranford made a motion to enter into executive session at 5:14 p.m. Susan Riding seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Nick Cranford made a motion to adjourn executive session at 5:23 p.m. Silas Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Nick Cranford made a motion to accept Dr. Hubbell's recommendation to expel Student B for the remainder of the current semester or until felony charges were cleared. Susan Riding seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Deborah Mathews reentered the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

Jessica Young called for Student D and asked if anyone was representing them. The grandmother of Student D said that she was the representative. Mrs. Young explained to the grandmother that Dr. Hubbell would give a recommendation. She asked if any board members needed to recuse themselves from the meeting.

Mrs. Young asked if the grandmother wanted an open or closed meeting. She wanted a closed meeting.

Dr. Hubbell recommended Student D be expelled for the remainder of the school year or until the felony charges were cleared.

Chase McCollum stated that Student D had been charged with theft and commercial burglary.

The grandmother asked if he would receive special education services. Mr. McCollum told her that he would receive services from the special education department.

There were no questions for the grandmother. Mr. McCollum told her he would help get his education plan ready.

Nick Cranford made a motion to accept Dr. Hubbell's recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the semester or until the charges had been cleared. Deborah Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Nick Cranford made a motion at 5:34 p.m. to end the closed session for Student D. Silas Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Student A was not represented at the meeting.

Jessica Young stated that the meeting would continue as an open session.

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Dr. Hubbell recommended that Student A be expelled for the remainder of the semester or until the felony charge has been cleared.

Chase McCollum read the statement concerning the felony charge.

No board member chose to recuse themselves from the meeting.

Nick Cranford made a motion to accept Dr. Hubbell's recommendation to expel Student A for the remainder of the semester. Silas Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Jessica Young called for Student C. Both parents were present for the meeting. Mrs. Young asked the parents if they wanted an open or closed meeting. The parents asked for a closed meeting.

Susan Ridings made a motion to close the meeting at 5:41 p.m. Silas Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Mrs. Young asked if there were any board members that needed to recuse themselves. There was no response.

Dr. Hubbell recommended the student be expelled for the remainder of the current school year and the first semester of the 2022-2023 school year.

Mr. McCollum explained to the board the student made a fake message threatening the school on snap chat. Student C showed the message to his mother and she immediately contacted Mr. McCollum. Mr. McCollum contacted the Dallas County Sheriff's Office who contacted the FBI to start tracking the message that was sent to Student C.

Mrs. Young asked the parents if they had a statement. Student C's mother stated that the student had never been in trouble before. The board members didn't have any questions for the parents.

Mr. McCollum told the parents the student would receive educational services and he would meet with them after the meeting to discuss the options.

Susan Ridings made a motion at 5:46 to go into executive session. Nick Cranford seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Nick Cranford made a motion at 5:54 to adjourn the executive session. Susan Ridings seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Deborah Mathews made a motion to accept Dr. Hubbell's recommendation to expel Student C for the remainder of the current school year and the first semester of the 2022-2023 school year. Susan Riding seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

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Dr. Hubbell asked the board to sever the agreement with Today's Power for the solar energy panels. Today's Power had the district sign a contract over a year ago but haven't contacted the district since the agreement was signed. Scenic Hill Power contacted Dr. Hubbell a few weeks asking for the district to partner with them for the solar panels. The city and county are using Scenic Hill Power. They will send a representative to a meeting at a later date to present their presentation to the board. Nick Cranford made a motion to sever the agreement with Today's Power. Silas Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell recommended the board hire Bobby McGhee as an "at-risk mentor" for the district. If hired he would be paid with ESSER funds. Mrs. Lawson and Mr. McCollum gave the board an overview of the program and goals. The job will only be guaranteed for 3 years since using ESSER funds. Mr. McGhee has a background in probation. Dr. Hubbell asked the board to hire Mr. McGhee starting July 1, 2022 on a 12-month contract using the teacher's salary schedule and giving him his credit years, he has worked in probation and as a paraprofessional for the district. Nick Cranford made a motion to hire Bobby McGhee as an at-risk mentor as Dr. Hubbell recommended. Silas Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell made a recommendation to the board to purchase new intruder locksets for classrooms and other doors on the district campus. The new designs are designed to keep people from being locked in a room. It has a "C" key that will lock the door from the inside. Administration will have a key to unlock the lock from the outside. Dr. Hubbell told the board the price will include installation and will be paid out of ESA funds. Silas Warner made a motion to purchase the intruder locksets. Nick Cranford seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell explained to the board that it is time to renew teacher contracts. She told the board that all teacher contracts automatically renew May 1, 2022. Susan Ridings made a motion to renew all teacher contracts May 1, 2022. Silas Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **Board Comments**

The board discussed changing the board meeting days to Thursday's at 5:30.

Discussed using the Arkansas School Board Association superintendent evaluation form. Susan Ridings said the superintendent could also access the form. Jessica Young asked Ms. Ridings if she could get copies so all of the board members could look over it.

Deborah Mathews commended the board for the data they put together for the discipline report. She wanted to make sure it was shared with all of the district staff.

Jessica Young thanked everyone. She said it had been a rough couple of months. She also thanked Mr. Kenneth Askew for his technology contribution, thanked security for their hard work during the board meeting earlier in the month. She also thanked Dr. Hubbell for taking the brunt of the entire issue.

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Dr. Hubbell thanked Nick Cranford for having circle prayer before the meeting that was held on March 3, 2022.

Jessica Young stated she thinks cultural training for the staff would be helpful. Some people take offense to things someone else may say. Parental involvement would help the district.

**Certified**

Dr. Hubbell asked the board to accept the resignation of Anita Bonacci, FACS teacher effective February 22, 2022. Silas Warner made a motion to accept Mrs. Bonacci's resignation. Deborah Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell asked the board to accept the resignation of Rebecca Weston. Nick Cranford made a motion to accept Mrs. Weston's resignation. Silas Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**Classified**

Dr. Hubbell asked the board to accept the resignation of Whitney Broughton at the end of this school year. Deborah Mathews made a motion to accept Ms. Broughton's resignation. Susan Ridings seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell asked the board to hire Darren Brazil as a paraprofessional for Fordyce High School for the 2022-2023 school year. Also, to be the senior boy's assistant basketball coach. Nick Cranford made a motion to hire Darren Brazil. Deborah Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell also wants to fast track Shamika Brazil to get a degree in FACS for that position.

**Adjournment**

Deborah Mathews made the motion to adjourn at 7:01 p.m. Silas Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

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Date

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President

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Secretary