

ARKADELPHIA BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES: FEBRUARY 19, 2019

The Arkadelphia Board of Education met in regular session Tuesday, February 19, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Administration Building, located at 235 North Eleventh Street.

Members Present: Dr. Casey Motl, President; Dr. Kenneth G. Harris, Jr.; Vice President; Ms. Karrie Goodman, Secretary; Ms. Paulette Blacknall, Ms. Gina White, Mr. Blake Bell and Dr. Jeff Root. The President called the meeting to order and established a quorum with seven (7) members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of January 15, 2019, and special called agenda setting meeting of February 5, 2019 were approved.

INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT/ REPORT OF EXCELLENCE

Dr. Whitten turned the floor over to Dr. Turner. Dr. Turner introduced Ms. Nikki Thomas, principal of Goza Middle School. Ms. Thomas updated the Board on the 1 to 1 technology implemented at Goza with the 8th graders. Dr. Turner introduced Ms. Judith Davis, lead ALE teacher. Ms. Davis recognized student, Jalen Hunter, who was awarded the Diamond Award by the state department for outstanding performance.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board and Superintendent reviewed the District's financial statements for January.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Dr. Whitten reported that progress continues with the new middle school, work is scheduled to be completed in May with the building being turned over to the district in June. An upcoming tour is scheduled for February 26th at 10:00 a.m. for the Administrative Team, any Board Members who were not able to attend the earlier scheduled tour is welcome.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER UPDATE

Dr. Whitten reported that a committee of parents, staff and local business leaders was formed by the Arkadelphia Public School District and is in the process working to transition the APSD Early Childhood Center (ECC) to a non-profit organization beginning in the summer of 2019. He said they were pleased to be focusing on a continuation of services, while alleviating the District's financial commitment that comes with the operation of this type of business. They believe in and fully support early childhood education; however, it is not financially feasible to continue under the current structure. Community support will be critical as they move forward with the process. The committee is in the process of forming the non-profit organization board and will work with the district in the transition process. The administration recommends the Board vote to cease affiliation and operations of the APSD Early Childhood Center on June 30, 2019. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a motion was made by Dr. Harris and seconded by Mr. Bell and carried 6-0 (Dr. Root recused himself before the vote) to cease affiliation and operations of the APSD Early Childhood Center on June 30, 2019.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

(Dr. Root returned to the meeting) Chris Babb, Communications Director, updated the Board on the exciting things he is working on and how he is reaching out to the community and beyond to tell our story.

CONSIDER ARKANSAS SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION SYSTEM

Dr. Whitten reviewed the steps in the Superintendent Evaluation Cycle and recommends adoption of the Arkansas Superintendent Evaluation System. Dr. Harris made the motion seconded by Ms. White to table the question of adoption to the next regular meeting of the Board of Education. The motion carried 7-0.

CONSIDER PROPOSED BUDGET OF EXPENDITURE OF FY20

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent a motion was made by Dr. Harris, seconded by Ms. Blacknall, and carried 7-0 to approve the resolution adopting the proposed budget expenditure of FY20.

APPROVE 2017/18 AUDIT

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent a motion was made by Dr. Harris, seconded by Ms. White and carried 7-0 to approve the 2017-18 audit by Cobb and Suskie, Ltd.

CONSIDER 2019-2020 CALENDAR RECOMMENDATION

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent a motion was made by Ms. Blacknall, seconded by Ms. White, and carried 7-0 to approve the attached calendar for the 2019-20 school year.

MISCELLANEOUS

Dr. Whitten stated that the Admin Team will be doing their book study on *The High Reliability School*. This starts next week.

PERSONNEL

The Board retired into executive session at 7:46 p.m. to consider personnel. In open session following executive session, the following actions were taken: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a motion was made by Dr. Harris, seconded by Dr. Root, and carried 7-0 to approve the following personnel action:

Intent to Retire

Nancy Mortensen	Gifted/Talented Coordinator/APSD	June 30, 2019
Debbie Rook	Classroom Teacher/Central	End of School Year
Karen Phillips	Classroom Teacher/Goza	End of School Year

The Board retired into executive session at 8:19 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation. Upon returning, no action was taken.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

MS. KARRIE GOODMAN, SECRETARY