



## MENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PUBLIC

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING BOARD ROOM

6:00 P.M. – September 18, 2018

Benny Weston, Superintendent of Mena Public Schools, welcomed guests and board members to the public meeting.

The purpose of this annual report is to provide you with information about our district. This report is an effort to convey pertinent information about each school within the district. We take great pride in the Mena School District; we have wonderful students, staff, and board members.

District Goals: The mission of Mena Public Schools is to work collaboratively with students, teachers, administration, and community to ensure that the district provides a quality education and success for our students.

The District Vision/Mission statement is to Engage Community, Inspire Students, and Prepare Graduates.

### Board of Education Members 2018-2019

Edd Puckett, President  
Brian Kesterson, Vice-President  
Todd Aynes, Secretary  
Phillip Wilson, Member  
Robert Hines, Member  
Kyle Cannon, Member  
Clint Montgomery, Member

All Board members received their required six (6) hours of professional development last year. Our school board is fully trained and extremely supportive of the work we do. We are very thankful for them and their hard work on behalf of the students in our schools.

### Fiscal Standing

The current budget is as follows:

Beginning Balance	\$ 4,550,198.17
Operation/Debt Service Rev	\$14,459,280.00
Salary Fund Expenditure	\$ 6,545,369.95
Operating Expenditure	\$ 7,535,186.44
Debt Service Expenditure	\$ 1,079,301.26
Legal Balance – projected	\$ 3,905,573.02

The legal balance for the end of 2017-2018 was \$4,550,198.17. This amount represents the district, state, and local obligation to carry over a percentage of the district's budget for emergencies and to cover shortfalls in case of serious economic times and/or a decrease in student population.

Mr. Weston gave a detailed description of the district. Mena School District encompasses 434.16 square miles. The valuation assessment for 2017 was \$155,406,168 which includes real, personal, and utility. Our millage rate is 35.9 mills. Our three quarter average for 2017-2018 was reported as 1711 students. Our current 2018-2019 enrollment stands at 1752 plus 40 preschoolers. Our Free and Reduced projected percentage rate is 69%. Our district ESEA status is needs improvement. We currently have 240 employees – 138 certified staff and 102 classified staff. The beginning teacher salary for a BSE is \$35,100; BSE + 15 is \$36,300; top \$48,900; Master's \$37,650; Master's + 15 \$38,850; Top \$52,850.

### Facilities and Transportation

Four facilities house Pre-K-2; 3-5; 6-8; and 9-12. Our Polk County Virtual Academy offers an online learning opportunity for K-12 students. At Louise Durham, we are completing the process of systems replacements and refurbishment of the existing structure. New construction consists of the addition of new bathrooms, front office, conference area, nurse's office, 14 new classrooms, and a larger cafeteria seating area.

Various maintenance projects were completed in the district. Maintenance projects are reported to the state facilities department through a web based system called School Dude.

Each facility within the district received various improvements during the past year in addition to normal maintenance.

The transportation department has a fleet of 30 buses, maintenance vehicles, and vehicles used by staff. Two refurbished buses were purchased and delivered in July 2018. The district covers 434.16 square miles. Twenty routes run daily totaling 1,560 miles a week, plus trips for clubs, athletics, and educational enrichment. We transport 143 pre-school aged students. We have three (3) afternoon bus routes to transport our students who participate in our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant after school program.