



MENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PUBLIC

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING BOARD ROOM

6:00 P.M. – September 17, 2019

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 2019-2020

Todd Aynes, President
Kyle Cannon, Vice-President
Clint Montgomery, Secretary
Robert Hines, Member
Edd Puckett, Member
Phillip Wilson, Member
Susan Rowell, 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 legal balance for the end of 2018-2019 was \$4,185,544.06. 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 2018 was \$160,058,504.00, which includes real, personal, and utility. Our millage rate is 35.9 mills. Our three quarter average for 2018-2019 was reported as 1708.18 students. Our current 2019-2020 enrollment stands at 1737 plus

40 preschoolers. Our Free and Reduced projected percentage rate is 67%. Our district ESEA status is Needs Improvement. We currently have 229 employees – 133 certified staff and 96 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; Master's + 30 \$40,050; Top \$54,050.

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 completed the process of systems replacements and refurbishment of the existing structure. New construction added 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 33 buses, maintenance vehicles, and vehicles used by staff. Two refurbished buses were purchased and delivered in August 2019. 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 138 pre-school aged students. We have three (3) afternoon bus routes to transport our students who participate in our 21st Century Grant after school program.