

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHSIDE FIGHT SONG COMMITTEE
JULY 1, 2015
SOUTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM

- I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the Southside Fight Song Committee was called to order at 2:00 P.M. in the Southside Conference Room by Wayne Haver, Principal. Those committee members present were: Student Body President Catherine Owen, Senior Class President Paxton Clark, Junior Class President John Magness, former staff members Jean Ann Sadler and Larry Loux, current staff members Dana Goins and Randy Kern, alumni Tony Jones, Athletic Director Jim Rowland, Southside Athletic Coordinator and Head Coach Jeff Williams, Southside Band Director Sean Carrier, and Southside Principal Wayne Haver. Alumni Stephanie Adams Mahoney was out of the country. Dr. Benny Gooden, Superintendent of Fort Smith Schools was also present.
- II. INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMITTEE: Principal Wayne Haver welcomed the committee members and introduced the members of the Southside Fight Song Committee. He explained that alumni Stephanie Adams Mahoney was out of the country in London, England.
- III. REMARKS BY DR. GOODEN: Dr. Benny Gooden, Superintendent of Fort Smith Schools, welcomed the committee and gave the charge to the committee as directed by the Fort Smith School Board.
- IV. EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE: Principal Wayne Haver reiterated that the purpose of the committee was to select a new fight song for Southside High School, as voted on by the Fort Smith School Board's Committee of the Whole on June 23, 2015 to replace "Dixie".
- V. HISTORY OF THE PRESENT FIGHT SONG: Mr. Haver discussed the history of the present fight song, mascot, and school colors.
- VI. POSSIBLE CHOICES: Mr. Haver explained that he and Sean Carrier, Southside Band Director, had listened to over a hundred and fifty fight songs that were on the NCAA Fight Song site on the internet. He pulled up that site on a computer and using a LCD projector, projected the site on the screen. Several college fight songs, such as the fight songs of Northwestern University, North Colorado State University, University of Michigan, University of Richmond, University of Wisconsin, University of Virginia, Virginia Tech University, University of Georgia, Texas A&M, and renditions of The Wabash Cannonball by Kansas State University, University of Texas, Texas Tech University, and Texas A&M, etc., were listened to from the various conferences. Members of the committee members suggested such song as Arkansas Traveler and Ghost Rider's in the Sky.
- VII. DISCUSSION: Many fight songs were discussed by the committee and listened to a second or third time. Sean Carrier was questioned about the Southside Band's ability to play the various songs. He talked about the structure of various songs.
- VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS: Student Body President Catherine Owen made a motion to select the Texas A&M version of the "Wabash Cannonball ". The motion was seconded by Randy Kern. After discussion the vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
- IX. Adjourn: The committee adjourned at 3:40 P.M.

Respectively Submitted,

Dana Goins

Today... and ...



in the **Future**

Office of the Superintendent

3205 Jenny Lind · P.O. Box 1948
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72902-1948
479-785-2501
Fax: 479-785-1722

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Benny L. Gooden, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: July 28, 2015
SUBJECT: Southside High School Fight Song Selection

Following the anticipated decision to change the Southside High School fight song and mascot, I asked Principal Wayne Haver to select a committee for the purpose of selecting a fight song. While this was done in advance of the final action, in order to move forward in a timely manner relative to the selection of music, securing clearance for use, procuring appropriate arrangements and instrument parts—not to mention being ready for rehearsal when the band starts its summer practice next week—some advance action was essential.

Mr. Haver identified a committee which included current student leaders, current and former Southside faculty members, and Southside alumni. Specifically included were staff who work with music and activities at the school.

I met with the committee briefly to help frame the issue at hand. I outlined for them a few considerations relative to school fight songs from the several schools at which I have worked. I emphasized to the committee that although the decision to change was not final, that a timely selection was necessary. I also emphasized to them that regardless of the ultimate change, what a potential mascot might be, or any delay, selecting a great musical arrangement would be always useful to the Southside Band.

Attached are minutes of the meeting from July 1. As you can see, the committee spent a considerable amount of time reviewing various fight songs. Wayne Haver and Sean Carrier had spent a good deal of time preparing for this meeting to expedite the work of the committee.

After considering a number of options, the committee unanimously selected an arrangement of a tune, "Wabash Cannonball" as used by Texas A & M University. The original tune was called "Great Rock Island Line" and is credited to J. A. Roff in 1882 according to Tresona Music. This selection will be titled: "Southside Fight." A search of copyrighted music through the bureau used to secure clearance for arrangements revealed that the tune is now public domain. No copyright fees would be required.

Subsequent to the meeting, Sean Carrier procured an arranger to configure all instrument parts as appropriate for the Southside High School Band. David Gorham of Owassa, Oklahoma is a well-known and respected arranger. Mr. Gorham agreed to produce the necessary wind parts for a payment of \$500. Justin Ball, a Southside alumnus is a percussion specialist and wrote percussion parts for \$200. Contacts with Texas A & M University resulted in granting additional rights to use their arrangement without payment of any royalties. While the Texas A & M arrangement is excellent, it is somewhat longer than desirable. This process made a timely selection important in order to be ready for the beginning of band rehearsals.

I believe that the committee has discharged its initial responsibility effectively.

Enclosure

Today... and ...



in the **Future**

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3205 Jenny Lind • P.O. Box 1948
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72902-1948
479-785-2501
Fax: 479-785-1722

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Benny L. Gooden, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: June 25, 2015

SUBJECT: Committee of the Whole Minutes/Called School Board Minutes

Ms. Susan McFerran made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, to convene as a Committee of the Whole at 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23. The vote for approval was 5/0. Board members present were Ms. Jeannie Cole, Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq., Dr. Deanie Mehl, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, and Ms. Susan McFerran. Dr. David Hunton arrived at 6:20 p.m. Mr. Russell Owen was absent. Superintendent Benny L. Gooden was also present.

Giving great consideration to the continuing impact of perceived symbols of racism on the community, state and nation, the Fort Smith Public School Board committee members discussed changing the Southside High School mascot and discontinuing the "Dixie" fight song. Symbols associated with Southside High School have been a topic of discussion with the FSPS Board of Education since a resolution to study the use of these symbols passed in 1989.

Ms. Susan McFerran made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, to discontinue the use of "Dixie" as the Southside High School fight song immediately and to phase out the Rebel as the Southside mascot over the next year completing the process in 2016/2017. The motion passed with a 5/0 vote, with Dr. David Hunton expressing an affirmative vote upon his arrival. This recommendation will be placed on the Board of Education agenda for consideration on July 27, 2015.

The Committee of the Whole adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

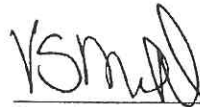
A called school board meeting for the purpose of evaluating the superintendent was convened at 6:35 p.m.

Board members met with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Benny L. Gooden to complete his annual evaluation.

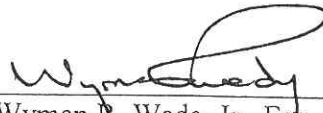
Directors went into closed session to discuss the Superintendent's performance at 7:45 p.m. Board members opened the session at 8:20 p.m. Ms. Jeannie Cole made a motion, seconded by

Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, to extend Dr. Gooden's contract by one year providing for the renewal of a three year agreement between the Board of Education and the Superintendent. The term of the 2015/2016 contract extends to June 30, 2018 and the current salary remains the same. The vote for approval was 6/0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.



Deanie Mehl, President



Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq., Secretary