

Today... and ...



in the **Future**

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Office of the Superintendent

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TO: Board of Education

FROM: Benny L. Gooden, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: June 16, 2015

SUBJECT: Committee of the Whole Minutes

Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq. made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, to convene as a Committee of the Whole at 5:40 p.m. on Monday, June 15. 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 Dr. David Hunton. Mr. Russell Owen and Ms. Susan McFerran were absent. Administrators present were Dr. Benny L. Gooden, Superintendent, Dr. Annette Henderson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Dr. Barry Owen, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Director of Communication and Community Partnerships, Mr. Charles Warren, Director of Financial Services. Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent, was also present.

**Attorney Agreement – 2015/2016**

Dr. Benny Gooden presented a proposal from Mitch Llewellyn to provide legal service from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Mr. Llewellyn's proposal of \$200 per hour is the current rate. Ms. Jeannie Cole made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq., to recommend this attorney agreement to the Board of Education on June 22, 2015. The vote for approval was 5/0.

**Community Use of School Facilities Policy**

Dr. Deanie Mehl presented the revised Community Use of School Facilities - Policy KF and Guidelines Governing the use of School Facilities - Policy KFD which the Board discussed on May 18. Dr. Mehl again expressed her concerns regarding students' participation at partisan events. After discussion, Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq. made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin to present the revised policies to the Board of Education for approval on June 22, 2015. The vote for approval was 4/1.

**Special Education Contracts – 2015/2016**

Dr. Benny Gooden presented annual Special Education contracts from:

Valley Behavioral Health Systems  
Horizon - Western Arkansas Counseling and Guidance Center  
Brownwood School, Inc.  
Western Arkansas Counseling and Guidance Center (a licensed psychologist employed by WACG)  
Becky Hartsfield (a licensed physical therapist)  
Dr. Ron McInroe (a clinical neuropsychologist)

Dr. Gooden noted that these contracts are required to provide appropriate services to students with

disabilities. Dr. Gooden stated that the contracts were virtually identical to that of last year. Dr. David Hunton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jeannie Cole, to recommend these documents to the Board of Education on June 22, 2015 for approval. The motion passed 5/0.

#### **Child Nutrition Issues – 2015/2016**

Dr. Benny Gooden presented dairy and bread bids received June 10. He noted that several suppliers had submitted bids. Harris Baking Company and Hiland Dairy were the low bidders and current suppliers. Dr. Gooden's recommendation is to accept these bids. Ms. Jeannie Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, to recommend these contracts to the Board of Education on June 22, 2015. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Dr. Gooden noted that the District increased paid lunch prices in 2014/2015 and he was not recommending an increase for 2015/2016 school year.

#### **Facility Projects to Address Space Needs**

The committee discussed the need for tornado shelters at Northside and Southside High Schools, space needs for an events complex/performing arts center and multipurpose arena, additions and renovations to Southside High School, Kimmons Junior High School, Ramsey Junior High School, Cook Elementary School, and Trusty Elementary School. After discussion, Dr. David Hunton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jeannie Cole to adopt this proposal for future project planning as funding is available through FEMA, partnership funds and potential millage increases. This will be presented to the Board of Education on June 22, 2015. The vote of approval was 5/0.

#### **Proposed Budget of Expenditures and Tax Levy - 2016/2017**

Dr. Benny Gooden presented the proposed budget of expenditures based upon projections for the 2016/2017 fiscal year. He noted that the tax levy approved in September of 2015 will be used to calculate taxes due in 2016. Dr. Gooden also noted that the proposed 36.5 mills rate has been in effect since 1987. Dr. Gooden stated that the Proposed Budget of Expenditure and Tax Levy for 2016/2017 should be approved for publication 60 days prior to the school election as required by law. Dr. Gooden and the Board discussed at some length the necessity of a future millage increase to accomplish the proposed facility projects. However, they decided to postpone an immediate request until 2016 or later. Ms. Jeannie Cole made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr. Esq., to present this recommendation to the Board of Education on June 22, 2015. The vote for approval was 5/0.

#### **Appeal of Partnership Denial**

Dr. Gooden reported that with the new school campus on hold, it is appropriate to dismiss current litigation and proceed with the funding application during the next cycle. He noted that the legal process could be long and other school districts have decided to forego further appeals on the past funding cycles. He noted that Mr. Mitch Llewellyn is at the point of filing and will do as directed. Dr. David Hunton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq., to forego further appeals and present that decision to the Board of Education on June 22, 2015. The vote for approval was 5/0.

The Committee of the Whole adjourned at 7:05 p.m.