Hot Springs School District #6
MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
January 18, 2022

The Hot Springs School District Board of Directors met on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 5:00 P.M. at the Roy Rowe Auditorium of the Jones Administrative Building, 400 Linwood Avenue, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Board members present: Dr. Cynthia Rogers, Mr. Dino Lenox, Mrs. Linda White, Mrs. Debbie Ugbade and Mrs. Ann Hill by phone.

Central Office Staff members present: Superintendent, Dr. Stephanie Nehus; Mrs. Becky Rosburg, Assistant Supt.; Dr. Taryn Echols, Assistant Supt; David White, Vashanti Williams, Bryce Walker, Natasha Lenox, Melissa Bratton, Adriane Barnes, Chief Carl Seymour, Laura West and Donnetta Frierson. **Principals:** Kiley Simms, William Brazle, Kristen Gordon, Dr. Sarah Oatsvall, Utana Newborn, and Kyria Wilson. **Asst. principals**: Tommy Wells, Meggan Moody, Kristal Brandon, Eric Lenox, Ben Iverson, Nikki Anderson

CALL TO ORDER:
The meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M. by Dr. Cynthia Rogers, president of the Board. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Debbie Ugbade.

Dr. Nehus presented two additional items for Board consideration. Dr. Rogers, then called for a motion to add agenda Items G. Juvenile Court Probation Contract and Item H. School Vehicle Bids to the agenda. Mrs. Ugbade made the motion and Mrs. White seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Becky Rosburg, assistant superintendent, introduced newly hired employees from the previous month and the Board welcomed them to the district.

In recognition of National School Board Member Appreciation month, a reception was held in honor of our Board Members. Dr. Nehus recognized each Board member with a certificate of Recognition and read a Resolution acknowledging their commitment and dedication to the students, faculty and staff of Hot Springs School District, and the community.

Mrs. Melissa Bratton, ESOL Facilitator gave a brief synopsis of the English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program. We have the largest ESL population in Garland County and 29th in the state of Arkansas and 594 Language minority students, 23 RAEL, 17 are 7-12 grade, and 18 different languages.

Dr. Rogers called for a motion to approve the minutes of December 14, 2021 and January 4, 2022 minutes of a Special Called meeting for student Expulsion Hearing. Mrs. White made the motion and Mr. Lenox seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. David White, District Chief Financial Officer, presented the Financial Report. After discussion, Mr. Lenox made the motion to approve the financial report. Mrs. Hill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Nehus presented the Renewal Proposal for the School Board Legal Liability and Employment Practices Liability General Liability Coverage – Out of Arkansas coverage. The coverage will continue to be tailored for Arkansas School Boards Association members. The policy term is for February 1, 2022 through February 1, 2023. The annual premium is $16,826. Mrs. Ugbade made the motion. Mrs. White seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Nehus recommended the approval to purchase a Driver's Education/Student Transport vehicle for the amount of $27,249 from Allen Tillery Chevrolet Buick GMC, Inc., Hot Springs, AR. Mrs. White made the motion and Mr. Lenox seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Nehus recommended the purchase of three (3) 2018 BlueBird/Vision school buses from Master's Transportation, Inc. in the amount of $230,700. Mrs. Ugbade made the motion. Mr. Lenox seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Nehus recommended a $2,000 stipend for the District Covid-19 Point of Contact Person and $1,000 stipend for each of the Building Point Contacts (6 school nurses) to be paid by the end of this month. Mr. Lenox made the motion. Mrs. White seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Nehus recommended the approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Hot Springs School District and the County, and the 18th Judicial District – East Circuit Court, Division 2, located at Ouachita Avenue Room, 120 Hot Springs, AR. The term of agreement will commence on January 1, 2022 and will continue for twelve (12) consecutive months ending on December 31, 2022. The District agrees to reimburse the County for the duties and obligations created in the amount of $6,066.31 to be paid in full on or before January 1, 2023. Mrs. White made the motion. Mr. Lenox seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Nehus presented two (2) Bids of consideration to purchase a vehicle to transport staff on Professional Development trips. Bids presented were Petrus of Stuttgart, AR and Allen Tillery of Hot Springs. Mrs. Ugbade made the motion to accept the bid from Allen Tillery to purchase a 2022 white Chevrolet Traverse 1LS, FWD in the amount of $34,524. Mrs. White seconded. The motion passed unanimously

INFORMATIONAL

Dr. Nehus presented updates on ACHI, COVID-19 infections for school districts in the state of Arkansas and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds and student vaccinations percentage rates for each of our schools.

Executive Session

At 5:33 p.m., the phone call with Mrs. Hill was discontinued and the Board moved to executive session to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation and the Ratification of Personnel.

The meeting reconvened at 5:55 p.m. to open session. Mrs. Ugbade made the motion to amend superintendent, Dr. Stephanie Nehus, contract by one-year and to give her a ten percent (10%) raise retroactive from July 1, 2021. The amended contract and the annual salary to Dr. Nehus shall be the sum of $187,000 effective July 1, 2021, is to be paid in twelve month installments per year. Mrs. White seconded. The motion passed 4-0 vote. Mrs. Ann Hill was absent at the time of vote.

RATIFICATION OF PERSONNEL

Dr. Rogers called for a motion to approve the ratification of personnel as presented. Mrs. Ugbade made the motion. Mr. Lenox seconded. The motion passed 4-0 vote. Mrs. Hill was absent at the time of vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business coming from the Board, Mrs. Ugbade made the motion to adjourn and Mr. Lenox seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Date Approved: **2/15/2022**

Dr. Cynthia Rogers, Board President

Lonell "Dino" Lenox, Board Secretary