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Fayetteville Board of Education

Minutes of the December 17, 2009 Regular Meeting

The meeting convened at 5:00PM in the Adams Leadership Center with President Susan Heil presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from Asbell Elementary School.

Roll Call

The roll was called and board members Jim Halsell, Steve Percival, Tim Hudson, Susan Heil, Tim Kring, Howard Hamilton and Becky Purcell were present.

Recognition

The Fayetteville High School student council received a Recognition of Outstanding Achievement Award for raising more than \$14,000 during the homeless vigil.

Twelve teachers were recognized for achieving National Board Teacher certification. The teachers are Sara Alderson, Tara Elzer, Maridith Gebhart, Cindy Gray, Erin Johnson, Amanda Krell, Michelle Moore, Jill Phillips, Magan Randall, Pam Skelton, Heather Williams and Matt Wilson.

The Fayetteville Target store received the Partner Award for their work in remodeling the Asbell Elementary School library.

Heather Brown, first grade teacher at Washington Elementary School, and Jessica Phelan, head volleyball coach and social studies teacher at FHS, received Above & Beyond Awards.

Board member Becky Purcell was recognized for achieving master board member status with the Arkansas School Boards Association.

Adams Simmons, the new food service director in the district, was introduced.

Consent Agenda

Tim Kring made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Howard Hamilton seconded the motion, which passed by a 7-0 vote.

Bond Refunding

The Board voted 7-0 to approve the resolution authorizing the issuance of refunding bonds to refund the district's Series 2003 bonds for economic savings. Lisa Morstad, chief financial officer, noted that the best bid was from Merrill Lynch & Co. with an interest rate of 4.048219%. The reduction in interest rates from the issuance of the refunding bonds will result in a net savings to the district of approximately \$1,810,588. Becky Purcell made the motion, which was seconded by Tim Kring.



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Race To The Top Participation

The Board voted 7-0 to participate in the Race To The Top initiative and authorize the school board president to sign the non-binding application. Linda Auman, chief academic officer, gave an overview of the program, noting that a minimum of 50% of the funds that the states receive must go to participating local education agencies. She also noted that the application is non-binding at this time. The awards will be announced in April 2010. Tim Kring made the motion, which was seconded by Steve Percival.

FHS Architect Contracts

The Board voted 7-0 to table action on the contract with Hight Jackson Associates for Fayetteville High School until additional information is provided on LEED equivalency costs. Steve Percival made the motion, which was seconded by Howard Hamilton.

Online Transportation Information System Update

District staff demonstrated how parents, building level personnel and transportation employees are able to access the online transportation information system, which allows them to locate bus stops and routes online.

Arkansas School Board Association Conference Report

Board president Susan Heil reported on the Arkansas School Board Annual Conference, focusing on the speech given by Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education. She also noted that board member Becky Purcell received the master board member status by attaining over 50 hours of board professional development.

Closed Session

The Board adjourned to closed session at 7:00PM to discuss student expulsion matters. The Board reconvened in open session at 7:20PM. The Board voted 7-0 to accept administration's recommendation to expel student A for the calendar year. Tim Kring made the motion, which was seconded by Steve Percival.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25PM.

Susan W. Heil, President

Tim Kring, Secretary