

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY SCHOOL
SYSTEM REGULAR BOARD
MEETING
JANUARY 4, 2021**

Present:

Jeff Whitmore, Chairman
Tom Holland, Vice-Chairman
Mark Clark
Jennifer Murdock
Pamela Bryson
Bridgett Hopkins
Danny Bryant
Bill Hopkins, Superintendent

Also Attending:

Eric Jones
Christine Tuten
Steve Giffin
Cindy Young
Tricia Jean

Absent: Claudia Styles

Adam McCormick

Chairman Whitmore called the meeting to order. Mr. Clark made a motion to approve the agenda; second by Mrs. Murdock. All board members voted aye.

Chairman Whitmore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Hopkins recognized Dr. Janine Wilson, retiring director of schools, and unveiled a bronze plaque that will hang in the central office in honor of Dr. Wilson's years of service to education and the children of the Fayetteville City School System.

Mrs. Murdock made a motion to approve minutes from the December 7, 2020 board meeting; second by Vice Chairman Holland. All board members voted aye.

Vice Chairman Holland made a motion to approve December disbursements; second by Mrs. Murdock. All board members voted aye.

Principals' Reports -

Dr. Claudia Styles – was absent.

Mrs. Jean – shared a copy of an article and photo that appeared in *The Elk Valley Times* about the FMS Beta Club qualifying for nationals after participating in the Tennessee Virtual Leadership Summit, earning an opportunity to attend the national competition at Disney World in the summer of 2021. She also provided enrollment numbers as follows: total, 438; fifth grade, 99 students and 25 of those virtual; sixth grade, 104 students with 29 of those virtual; seventh grade, 108 students with 23 virtual; and eighth grade, 127 students with 36 virtual. She also thanked Mr. Perrin for working with Coach Keys on implementing the TSSAA regulations regarding COVID during basketball season.

Mr. McCormick – in his absence due to attending the ball game, Eric Jones presented the FHS report. He welcomed Mrs. Bryson and Mrs. Hopkins to the board and congratulated Mr. Holland on his re-election to the board. Mr. Jones reported that the Beta Club has finished its food drive for the year, delivering 24 boxes of food for families. He thanked The Rock church for their contributions, as well as Mr. Cain and Mrs. Killebrew. Art students, along with Mrs. Bianucci, made and delivered about 150 Christmas cards to local nursing home residents to spread holiday cheer. Basketball continues to roll, and teams are moving into district play. FHS is following TSSAA regulations, and the guidelines are posted on the school's social media. Springs events will be considered on a case-by-case basis with the goal to have as much normalcy as possible while maintaining safety. Mr. McCormick also commended his staff for their hard work.

Supervisors' Reports -

Mr. Jones – reported he is looking at buses on a regular basis. With COVID, it is a tricky situation. So far, the department has had answers for all challenges that have arisen. He's also working on quotes for awnings and will pass those along to Mr. Hopkins as soon as possible. He stated he will be available to answer questions when the Facilities Committee presents its report later in the meeting.

Mrs. Dotson – reported today was the first day of Professional Development. The focus is to keep staff safe and comfortable while maintaining quality of content. Supervisors also focused a lot on online content and using small group instruction. The system is using a lot of our own personnel, capitalizing on the strengths of our staff and also building their capacity. Mrs. Dotson said we're fortunate to have quality people on staff. The system has to fill out a special course request with the state for PLTW program as the state is no longer going to recognize the PLTW program as a course.

Mr. Giffin – welcomed the new board members and provided a summary of his duties at the central office. He supervises attendance and testing and assists other staff members with digital formats, giving a brief summary on those responsibilities.

Mrs. Tuten - reported that the school system offers a number of options for our system's special populations, including in-person occupational, physical and speech-language therapy. District planning opened today on InformTN, and supervisors will work on the plan which is due March 1. She said we also were able to apply for a reimbursement grant through Equitable Services for ESSER funds and were approved for the full amount, \$35,700. She continues to work on the "Grow Your Own" program through Tennessee State University.

Ms. Young - reported she is excited about Professional Development tomorrow and that the board was able to hear a presentation from one of the presenters, Jennifer Fleming of Inspiring Minds, during a work session held prior to the board meeting. With our CARES Act money, we've been able to provide internet access to about 60 students by working with the IT Department, she reported. Teachers are still sending packets home for Pre-K children, and teachers are working with the parents via phone multiple times per week. Pre-K registration is set for Feb. 1 to begin enrolling for next year.

Reports -

Facilities and Transportation – Mr. Clark presented a Facility Committee report focusing on safety concerns, maintenance issues and facility improvements/upgrades at each of the schools. Mr. Hopkins said he and Mr. Jones have been working together to develop a typical maintenance category list, such as awnings, parking lots, sidewalks and room renovations that will be added to the yearly budget and

addressed when we can. They've also visited with architects in regard to the FEMA grant/gymnasium construction project and are looking at dividing the project into three phases.

Finance – No report from the Finance Committee.

Insurance and Policy – The committee will meet next Tuesday at 4:30 p.m., according to Mrs. Bryson, a member of the committee.

Superintendent's Report -

Mr. Hopkins announced that a breakfast will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 27, at 7:15 a.m., at FMS to honor the school board members in recognition of School Board Appreciation Week.

Lisa Williams, CFO, is on staff now. Starting next month, Mrs. Williams will be giving a monthly report during the board meetings.

We have not heard anything official about when Fayetteville City Schools' personnel will receive the COVID vaccination.

FCS will not have Remote Wednesdays during January, but we will revisit that option during the month of February based on the number of virtual learners.

He commended Dr. Wilson for her assistance and support during the transition of directors of schools.


Chairman's Report -

Chairman Whitmore asked board members to consider adopting a resolution declaring January 28 as Food Service Appreciation Day. Mr. Clark moved to adopt the resolution; second by Mrs. Murdock.

Next month's board meeting will be held as usual on the first Monday of the month, which falls on Feb. 1.

The meeting was adjourned.



Jeff Whitmore, Chairman

Thomas Holland, Jr., Vice Chairman

Minutes submitted by Sandy Williams