

783-5168

Today... and ...



in the Future

Office of the Superintendent

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PRELIMINARY DRAFT

DATE _____
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

D R A F T

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.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

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.

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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.

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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

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Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, to extend Dr. Gooden's contract for 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 extended to June 30, 2016 and the current salary remains the same. The vote for approval was 6/0.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

The meeting adjourned at ~~DATE~~ 7:15 p.m.
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Deanie Mehl, President

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