

SALEM SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT
December 15, 2014

The Board of Education of the Salem School District #30, state of Arkansas, met in regular session on Monday, December 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the boardroom on the high school campus. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Abney.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Smith, Yarnell, Abney, and Coffman

Absent: Koelling

The Chairman declared a quorum present and opened the meeting for business.

The minutes from the November 17, 2014 regular meeting were reviewed. Yarnell made the motion, second by Coffman to approve the minutes as written. The Chairman called for discussion.

YEAS: Unanimous

NAYS: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Superintendent Ken Rich informed board members that both the elementary and high school were recipients in the Arkansas School Recognition Award program. The elementary school was recognized as a top 10% performing school in student achievement and will receive \$37,999.84 award. The high school earned recognition as a top 20% school in student achievement and will receive award funds in the amount of \$16,625.14. A committee of parents and teachers met to decide on the use of the award funds for the schools and their recommendation has been sent to the state for approval. The superintendent congratulated the staff, student, and community on this recognition and announced a formal ceremony and celebration would be held after Christmas break.

Mr. Rich gave an update on the facilities partnership HVAC projects. He noted that most heat/air units were delivered to the high school earlier in the day. Ductwork and water pipes were being installed. Workers were running electricity hook-ups and water pipes above the ceiling tiles in the gymnasium. The scheduled date for completion for the high school project is May 1st. The elementary system is working well and district staff will be trained on system functioning use and maintenance.

The superintendent discussed the proposed band hall construction/renovation project in the state partnership program. After the architect's evaluation, it was advised that with the existing roof line at the back of the band hall it would be too cost prohibitive to add on more than 25 feet for new construction. The architect proposed to demolish the front office area and add practice rooms there and move the office area and other group practice rooms to the new construction added in the back. This would result in the state funding being lowered with renovation being involved along with the new construction. Mr. Rich advised he was awaiting a revised projection for state funding reimbursement on this project, and that the contract must be in place by the end of March. He hopes to have bids out by the end of January once the architect plans are completed for approval.

Next, student transfer requests were considered. The superintendent recommended to approve the transfer of three students from the IZARD County Consolidated district. Smith made the motion, second by Yarnell to approve the transfer as recommended. The Chairman called for discussion.

YEAS: Unanimous
NAYS: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Superintendent Rich gave the recommendation to approve the transfer of one student from Salem to the Viola district. Coffman made the motion, second by Smith to approve the transfer as recommended. The Chairman called for discussion.

YEAS: Unanimous
NAYS: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

The superintendent announced several student recognitions. Eleven students took the ACT test in October with the average composite score of 23.18. He congratulated the Salem School Spelling Bee winners: Sophie Rossitto was the winner, Elijah Lemmel finished second, and Nathan Lemon was third. All of these students will compete in the county spelling bee on January 13. He also congratulated the FFA Parliamentary Procedure team and advisor, Rob Long for finishing second in the Eastern district qualifier. They will compete in the state final scheduled to take place in June. Rich announced that eight Salem band students competed December 6 at the ASBOA Region V Junior All-Region band auditions held at Paragould junior high school. These students competed against approximately 600 students from schools ranging in size from 1A to 6A classifications. All Salem students earned spots in the first band. This performance marks the first time all students who participated also earned first band status.

The financial reports were reviewed and approved on a motion by Yarnell with a second from Smith. The Chairman called for discussion.

YEAS: Unanimous
NAYS: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

The board went into executive session at 7:20 p.m. to discuss personnel.

The board returned to open session at 8:00 p.m.

The superintendent read a letter of resignation (attached) from Racheal Foster, high school English teacher effective December 1, 2014 and gave the recommendation for acceptance. Smith made the motion, second by Yarnell to accept the resignation as recommended. The Chairman called for discussion.

YEAS: Unanimous
NAYS: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Superintendent Rich recommended to hire Bailey Payne to fill the vacated position of Racheal Foster for the remainder of the school year making the contract retroactive to December 2, 2014. Yarnell made the motion, second by Smith to hire Bailey Payne as recommended. The Chairman called for discussion.

YEAS: Unanimous
NAYS: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Mr. Rich read a letter of resignation from bus driver, Johnny Mefford effective December 22, 2014 and gave acceptance for the resignation. Coffman made the motion, second by Smith to accept the resignation of Johnny Mefford. The Chairman called for discussion.

YEAS: Unanimous
NAYS: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

To fill the open bus driver position for the remainder of the school year, the superintendent recommended to contract Wes James to begin on January 2, 2015. Smith made the motion, second by Yarnell to hire Wes James as bus driver as recommended. The Chairman called for discussion.

YEAS: Unanimous
NAYS: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

For the open cook position at the high school, Rich recommended to extend a contract to Samantha Hutchins beginning on January 2, 2015 for the remainder of the school year. Smith made the motion, second by Coffman to hire Samantha Hutchins as recommended. The Chairman called for discussion.

YEAS: Unanimous
NAYS: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Coffman made the motion to adjourn with a second from Smith. The Chairman called for discussion.

YEAS: Unanimous
NAYS: None

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Secretary