

January 11, 2020
Franklin, Tennessee

The Franklin Special School District Board of Education met on Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. for a **Board Retreat and Work Session** at the Teacher Center at Moore Elementary, 1061 Lewisburg Pike, Franklin.

Present:

Tim Stillings, Chair; Robert Blair, Vice Chair; Kevin Townsel, Secretary; Allena Bell, Treasurer, Alicia Barker, Robin Newman

Others present were: Dr. David Snowden, Dr. Catherine Stephens, Dr. David Esslinger, Carol Riordan, Susannah Gentry, Mark Anderson and media.

Please note that this Retreat was a non-voting meeting and topics were for Board discussion only.

Dr. Snowden and Mr. Stillings, Board Chair, gave a Welcome and Retreat Overview.

- **BOEconnect TSBA Training** – Mr. Ben Torres from TSBA was present to provide Board Member training on the meeting program. This was a follow-up to initial training provided through email and one-on-one as requested for Board members and in-person training provided to the Administrative Assistant. Discussed during this training were various options available to the Board and meeting manager, as well as time set aside for questions.
- **TSBA Legislative Representative** - Dr. Alicia Barker has agreed to represent FSSD as our legislative representative. Board vote was not needed for this representation.
- **Legislative Delegation Update** – Senator Jack Johnson and Representatives Sam Whitson, Brandon Ogles and Glen Casada were present to give updates on 2020 scheduling and education-related items in the upcoming legislative session. Discussion time was given for questions and comments from our Board and administration.

Our legislators noted areas of concentration for our governor are with criminal justice reform, funding for counselors with emphasis on mental and behavioral health, expanded technical/vocational training in education, and increasing teacher salaries (in review of BEP). Representative Whitson and Senator Johnson noted that Tennessee is in the best financial shape it has been in, with our economy up and less government regulations creating a large surplus; however, cautioned that being a sales tax-driven state is more volatile economically than a tax driven state.

Dr. Snowden noted to the legislators that he has presented to Leadership Franklin and the WC Association of Realtors our challenges as a district with an increasing number of students with mental health considerations and thanked the legislature for considering this issue of importance, and also requested that there is an additional allowance in the BEP for nurses at each school in Tennessee. Mrs. Bell requested of Senator Johnson that a “blue ribbon panel” similar to that of Mayor Moore’s administration investigate the use of therapy dogs.

Representative Ogles recognized TSBA’s Ben Torres for advocating for threat assessment legislation regarding student threats and mental health challenges, as well as recognizing the steps

that FSSD and WCS have made in school safety. The \$50 million initiative for SRO non-recurrent funding is nearly all allocated; Tennessee is leading the US at this time in funding, but moving forward SROs need to be specialized and fully trained for school settings, and not field officers. Dr. Snowden requested that funding be added to the BEP formula for SROs.

Other discussion with legislators included the perceived priority our legislation puts on testing and the assessment of voucher students. Senator Johnson noted that 7,500 out of 1.1 million students in TN are failing and the voucher pilot is targeting these failing students. Representative Whitson requested feedback from testing in 2019; Dr. Snowden reported that it was much better than the prior years, through pencil/paper and moving to online testing, noting that it is best to test throughout the year. FSSD is benchmarking our students already for their progress, whereas the TCAP only gives data from the Spring. RTI allows us to focus on student learning for those that are already behind and we hire non-funded positions; more legislative funding would have a large impact on districts.


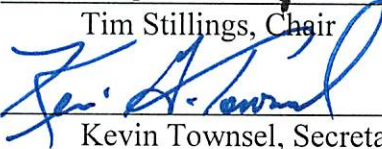
Dr. Barker discussed that teacher licensing reciprocity from other states is needed due to a continuing shortage of teachers. It was noted that the Commissioner is working hard on this problem and additional personnel are being trained in this area.

Our legislators requested that our Board continue to watch the legislative calendars to view the bills that will be coming up – published the week before the committees meet, and to communicate with them on issues of interest.

- **Construction Projects Update – Presentation by HFR and Nabholz** – From HFR Design, Jared Brown (Designer) and Beth Meadows (Executive Associate), and from Nabholz, Andrew Adlong (Executive Vice President of Operations), Brock Cline (Business Development Officer) and Adam Seiter (Project Executive) presented updates for the Board for the Poplar Grove gymnasium and the district Performing Arts Center. Also presented were ongoing plans for the Liberty Elementary renovation. Chip Sternenber and Alisha Erickson were on hand during this portion of the retreat. Powerpoint presentations are on file.
- **2020-2021 School Calendar** – Dr. Catherine Stephens gave a review of the steps that have been taken in the calendar process, of which resulted in a final draft versions for the 2020-21 year (on file). Time was allotted for discussion and questions by the Board; no changes were made to the draft calendars. The calendar options will be an agenda item for vote at the January 13, 2020 Board meeting.
- **Projected Bond Schedule Expenditures** – An update of district projects with a projected funding schedule was presented to the Board with yearly breakdown until FY 2023-24 (on file).
- **SPED Signing Bonuses and Teacher Recruitment** – This will be a topic for the FY 2020-21 budget process; however, discussion was introduced at this work session regarding a possible signing bonus for both new SPED teachers and the SPED teacher that recruits the new SPED teacher, if that teacher is hired. Our Human Resources Supervisor, Mrs. Leslie Duke, will be recruiting all teaching positions in Cincinnati and Birmingham this year; these areas are having a larger amount of graduates than ours is experiencing. Mr. Stillings suggested that there may need to be a separate pay scale to meet the needs of our district for SPED personnel.

- **Safety and Security Update** – The FSSD Safety Supervisor, Mrs. Celby Glass, gave an update for the Board on district security. Discussion on Williamson County Sherriff/Franklin Police Department drug searches using K9s in our schools focused on adding language to our policy/policies such as 6.303 as well as Student Handbooks - more research will be forthcoming on this topic.
- **Coding Curriculum** – Our Technology Coordinators and other members of the Teaching & Learning Department have visited Wilson County Schools as well as attending the National Technology Conference in researching coding curriculum. TechSmart is one of the programs available with curriculum beginning in 3rd grade. In Wilson County Schools, teachers are trained in a boot camp to get a certification in coding, and has been looked at as a model in this area. Dr. Stephens reported that there needs to be consistent uniform coding curriculum across the district moving ahead and planned meetings with 5-8 teachers have begun to move forward on this goal. In addition, Dr. Snowden and Dr. Stephens have met with WCS to understand their role for our students as they transition to high school.

The Retreat adjourned at 2:20 p.m. with *no action taken by the Board.*

		<u>2/10/20</u>
	Tim Stillings, Chair	Date
ATTEST:		<u>2/10/20</u>
	Kevin Townsel, Secretary	Date