

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
January 21, 2020**

The Board of Trustees of the Tupelo Public School District convened in a regular meeting of the Board held in Open Session at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at the Hancock Leadership Center, 1920 Briar Ridge, Tupelo, Mississippi.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Sherry Davis who welcomed guests attending the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Gregg Ellis led the participants in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Board members present during roll call were: Mr. Joe Babb, Ms. Sherry Davis, Mr. Paul Mize, Mr. Eddie Prather, and Mr. Kenneth Wheeler. Ms. Davis announced a quorum, and stated that the meeting was lawfully in session. Attorney Otis Tims was also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Prather moved to approve the agenda for the January 21, 2020, Regular Board meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wheeler, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the said agenda. The President of the Board declared the motion passed.

A copy of the agenda is marked **EXHIBIT 1** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

APPROAL OF MINUTES

December 10, 2019, Noon, Regular Meeting, HLC

On a motion by Mr. Babb, seconded by Mr. Mize, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2019, noon, Regular Board meeting as presented. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No requests for Public Comments were received for this meeting of the Board.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Office of Director of Finance Mrs. Rachel Murphree (TPSD Goal #4)

1. Docket of Claims and Athletic Activity Ref Pay

Board President Sherry Davis passed the gavel to Vice President Kenneth Wheeler and recommended approval of the Docket of Claims for the period December 1, 2019, through January 10, 2020, Docket of Claims #66929 through #67673, in the amount of \$2,033,691.97, and the Athletic Activity Ref Pay payments to officials of fees in the amount of \$11,553.95 for the period December 1, 2019, through January 10, 2020. The grand total for all funds is \$2,045,245.92.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Babb and approved unanimously. Mr. Wheeler declared the motion passed.

The Docket of Claims Report is marked **EXHIBIT 2** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

Mr. Wheeler passed the gavel back to President Sherry Davis.

2. Required Monthly Financial Reports – Month Ending November, 2019

Following a review of each report and discussion, on a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Babb, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following financial reports:

- Summary Report of Reconciled Bank Statements with Certification
- Statement of Revenue and Expenditures with Current Budget Status
- Cash Flow Report for District Maintenance Fund
- Monthly Financial Statement

Board President Sherry Davis declared the motion passed.

The Financial Reports for Month Ending November 30, 2019, are marked **EXHIBIT 3** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

3. Rejection of All Bids for BD2006 Interactive Displays

Concerning bids for interactive displays, Mrs. Rachel Murphree reported that Mrs. Julie Weaver represented TPSD and witnessed the reverse auction administered by Vaughn Blaylock of Southern Procurement. The results came from nine vendors: Howard Technology, JTF Business Systems, Sufian Munir Inc., CDW-G, GHA Technologies, Inc., Synergetics Alt, Copywrite of North MS Inc., Synergetics DCS, Inc., and Trinity 3 Technology.

Mrs. Murphree recommended that the district reject all bids because the district had experienced problems with carts arriving incomplete in their packaging from the factory, resulting in installation time having to be unacceptably extended. She

requested permission to re-advertise these bids specifying a different cart so that installation can proceed in a more-timely manner.

On a motion by Mr. Babb, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to reject all bids and to re-bid specifying a different cart. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

Additional information regarding BD2006 Interactive Displays is on file in the TPSD Finance Office.

B. Office of Director of Human Resources Mr. Jim Turner (TPSD Goals #3 and #4)

Licensed and Classified Personnel Recommendations

Upon a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mr. Mize, the Board voted unanimously to approve the licensed and classified personnel recommendations as presented. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

The Personnel Report is marked **EXHIBIT 4** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

C. Office of Director of Operations Mr. Charles Laney (TPSD Goals #2 and #4)

1. Consideration to Award Bid for Parking Lot and Fence at Church Street Elementary School to A & B Construction

Mr. Laney reported that the bid opening for the Church Street Parking Lot Addition occurred on November 21, 2019. JBHM Architects, P.A. has recommended that the bid be awarded to A & B Construction, LLC who had the lowest base bid amount of \$429,000. A & B Construction, LLC engaged in value engineering resulting in a cost reduction of \$5,200, which brought the base bid amount to \$423,800. Bid alternate 1 for chain link fencing brought the total contract sum to \$431,800.

On a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Prather, the matter was brought before the Board. There followed questions regarding the scope of the project. Mr. Will Lewis of JBHM Architects, P.A. and Mr. Charles Laney presented the schematic design of the proposed project. After a thorough question and answer period, Mr. Wheeler asked to withdraw his earlier motion. With the consent of Mr. Prather and all other members of the Board, Ms. Davis declared the motion withdrawn.

2. Pierce Street Reroofing Project – Agreement between TPSD and PryorMorrow PC to Design and Bid the Pierce Street Reroof Project

Mr. Babb made a motion to approve the Standard Form Agreement of Architect's Services between TPSD and PryorMorrow PC to design and bid the Pierce Street Reroofing Project and to authorize PryorMorrow PC to proceed with the bidding process and further to authorize Superintendent Rob Picou to sign the Applicable Standard Form of Agreement between Owner and Architect and other applicable documents. The motion was seconded by Mr. Prather, and approved unanimously. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

A copy of the aforementioned agreement is marked **EXHIBIT 5** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

D. Office of Deputy Superintendent Mrs. Kimberly Britton

Acknowledgement and Approval of Expenditures and Assurances for FY2020 School Improvement Plans, 1003(a) for Rankin Elementary, Tupelo High School and Tupelo Middle School

Mrs. Britton reported that Tupelo High School and Rankin Elementary have been labeled Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) due to the achievement gap between the Special Education Population and the Non-Special Education population. Tupelo Middle School has been labeled Targeted School Improvement (TSI) due to the achievement gap between the Special Education students and Non-Special Education students.

Mrs. Britton stated that MDE requires the acknowledgement and approval of expenditures and assurances for FY2020 School Improvement Plans, 1003(a) for Rankin, TMS and THS.

On a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to acknowledge and approve the outlined expenditures and assurances for FY2020 School Improvement Plans, 1003(a) for Rankin Elementary, TMS and THS as submitted. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

Copies of the above Improvement Plans for Rankin, TMS and THS are marked **EXHIBIT 6** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

E. CONSENT AGENDA

In accordance with Dr. Picou's recommendations, Mr. Wheeler moved to acknowledge, approve and ratify the Consent Agenda as listed below:

A. 1. Office of Finance Director Mrs. Rachel Murphree (TPSD Goal #4)

- a. Contractual Agreements (TPSD Policy DJAAB Contract Signing Authority)
Contracts to be Acknowledged and Awarded: #CO2323; Charter Bus Service Contracts BD# 2019-2020-002 and BC# 2019-2020-003; and Contracts for Rental of School Facilities #SFR2013 through #SFR2331
- b. Contracts to be Ratified: #CO2324 through #CO2331
- c. Donations #2019-2020-043 through #2019-2020-052
- d. Permission to Submit TPSD Grants #2064 and #2067
- e. Permission to Accept TPSD Grants #2047, #2057, #2058, #2064 and #2065
- f. Permission to Advertise Bids for BD2009 Lawhon Reroofing Project; BD2010 Camera (upgrade equipment); BD2011 Electronic Doorlocks; BD2012 Bell System TMS; BD2013 Interactive Displays (RE-BID)
- g. Permission to Dispose and/or Delete 16 Assets from the TPSD Asset Listing and Add Back 1 (One) Asset to the TPSD Asset Listing

2. Office of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Brock English (TPSD Goals #1, #3 & #4)

- a. Student Transfer Report (TPSD Policy JBCD Transfers and Withdrawals of Students)

b. Readmission of Students

- 1) Case #42-2-2018-2019
- 2) Case #48-2018-2019

c. Secondary Schools -- Overnight Field Trip Requests:

- 1) THS – Track, Birmingham, AL Indoor Track Meet 1/31/20 – 2/1/2020
- 2) THS – Boys Soccer, Gulfport, MS, Soccer Games 1/17-18/2020
- 3) THS – Boys Soccer, Jackson, MS Soccer Games 1/10-11/2020
- 4) THS – Cheerleading Orlando, FL, National High School Cheerleading Championship, 2/6-10/2020
- 5) THS – Madrigals, Hattiesburg, MS, Participate in MS All State Honor Choir, 3/26-28/2020
- 6) THS – Model UN, Starkville, MS, Model UN Conference 3/4-5/2020

The motion was seconded by Mr. Babb and was approved unanimously. The President of the Board declared the motion passed.

A copy of the Consent Agenda report is marked **EXHIBIT 8** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – DR. ROB PICOU

A. Executive Summaries:

The following Executive Summaries were included in the Board package for this meeting:

1. New TPSD App – Mr. Gregg Ellis and Mrs. Teresa Gregory
 2. Gifted Overview – Mrs. Teresa Gregory and Mrs. Amy Ferguson
 3. Monthly Committed Funds Overview/Water Samples for Lead Analysis – Mr. Charles Laney
 4. District of Innovation Update – Mrs. Stewart McMillan
 5. Targeted Support & Improvement (TSI) for TMS and Additional Targeted Support & Improvement for THS (ATSI) – Dr. Brock English
 6. First Semester Discipline Report – Dr. Brock English
 7. First Semester Student ADA Report
 8. Student Teachers Report – Mrs. Kimberly Britton
 9. 2019 School Board Attendance Annual Report – Ms. Patrice Tate
 10. Ad Valorem Collections Received through December, 2019 – Mrs. Rachel Murphree
- Copies of the above presentations are on file in the Superintendent’s Office.

B. Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Rob Picou

1. First Review of 2020-2021 School Calendar – Mrs. Kimberly Britton

Mrs. Britton stated that a committee was formed to help develop two options for the TPSD 2020-2021 School Calendar. Committee members included Amy Barnett (Chair), Brenda Meriweather, Dr. Melissa Thomas, Haley Stewart, Talina Knight, Amy Ferguson and Julie

Connolly. Once the two options were developed the two choices were forwarded to administrators in order to share with teachers across the district for the purpose of receiving feedback. However, Option 1 is the choice so far.

Mrs. Britton stated that after teacher and principal input is received in the upcoming weeks a preferred option will be presented for approval at the February 11, 2020, Board meeting.

2. Video Display Board Presentation (Dr. Eddie Moore and Mr. Gregg Ellis)

Dr. Eddie Moore and Mr. Gregg Ellis presented an update report regarding their ongoing research on the possibility of the District purchasing a scoreboard/video display board at Tupelo High School. Their report included the following topics:

- Purpose and Rationale for Video Display Board at THS
- Mississippi Schools with Video Display Boards
- Price Range (\$350,000-\$500,000)
- Funding Sources
 - Booster Clubs
 - District Funding
 - Sponsor/Advertising Opportunities to Recover Cost
- Opportunities for Classroom Integration (broadcasting, journalism, digital content, etc.)

3. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Rob Picou

Dr. Picou briefly reported on the following:

- a. 68% of THS Biology I students passed the State Assessment test
- b. Algebra I and English II scores are just being released
- c. Dr. English, Dr. Thomas and I have been attending PLC meeting at THS
- d. Mrs. Britton and Mrs. Ferguson are purchasing new reading and math textbooks
- e. Principals are busy reminding students and staff regarding expectations after the holidays
- f. Joyner and Parkway – Mrs. Gary and Mrs. Foster did an excellent job in helping their schools deal with the deaths of a student from each school
- g. Messaging – Please do not believe anything you read on Facebook (may not be official)
- h. Very successful teacher staff development on January 6

C. Upcoming Events:

- February 11, 11:30am, Carver (lunch with principal and tour school)
- February 11, 1:30pm, Regular Board Meeting
- February 17, 2pm-5pm, Early Bird, MSBA Annual Conference, Jackson, MS
- February 18-19, MSBA Annual Conference, Jackson, MS
- February 20, 10:00 am, Mississippi State Board of Education meeting re: District of Innovation, Jackson, MS
- March 9-13, Spring Break

- March 19, Mississippi State Board of Education (Announcement of Final Decision re: District of Innovation)
- March 24, 1:30pm, Regular Board Meeting (Annual Organizational Meeting, HLC)
- March 24, 5:00pm, Regular Board Meeting (Recognitions Only), TMC
- April 3-6, NSBA Annual Conference, Chicago, IL

D. Board Master Calendar Review and Future Agenda Topics – Board Members

1. Board Master Calendar Review

The Board reviewed the Board Master Calendar.

2. Future Agenda Topics

- a. Revisit Church Street Parking Lot and Fence (Mr. Charles Laney)
- b. JROTC (Dr. Brock English)
- c. CHAMPS Update Report (Ms. Paige Tidwell)
- d. Approval of 2020-2021 School Calendar (Mrs. Britton)
- e. Exemption and School Start/Dismissal Times at THS (Ms. Sherry Davis)
- f. EPA drinking water regulation for lead in drinking Water (Ms. Sherry Davis)
- g. Report regarding students scoring Advanced vs Proficient in District's Gifted Program (Mr. Eddie Prather)

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Executive Session

Ms. Davis suggested that there was a need for consideration of entering into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Babb made a motion that the Board enter temporary Executive Session. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

The temporary Executive Session was called to order with the following people present: Mr. Joe Babb, Ms. Sherry Davis, Mr. Paul Mize, Mr. Eddie Prather, Mr. Kenneth Wheeler, Mr. Otis Tims, and Dr. Rob Picou. The Board first considered the reason for entering Executive Session. Ms. Davis stated that there was a need to discuss a personnel matter. Upon a motion by Mr. Babb, with a second by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to remain in Executive Session. The President of the Board declared the motion passed and went out into the hallway to let everyone know that the Board would remain in Executive Session.

The Board discussed matters related to its annual evaluation of the Superintendent's job performance as well as a potential amendment to his employment contract.

At 4:21 p.m. Mrs. Davis had to leave the meeting to attend to other matters and passed the gavel to Mr. Wheeler who presided thereafter.

Board members informally agreed to circulate their written evaluation forms among themselves for compilation before the next Board meeting. No official action was taken and the discussion concluded.

Mr. Babb made a motion to come out of Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mize, and adopted unanimously by those members present.

Open Session

Mr. Wheeler stepped into the hall and announced that the Board had returned to Open Session and that no action had been taken in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mr. Prather made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Mize seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by those members present. Mr. Wheeler announced that the meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Sherry S. Davis, President

Joseph B. Babb, Secretary