

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
DECEMBER 7, 2017**

The Board of Trustees of the Tupelo Public School District convened in a special called meeting of the Board held in open session at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 7, 2017 at the Hancock Leadership Center, 1920 Briar Ridge, Tupelo, Mississippi.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Eddie Prather called the meeting to order.

**II. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

Board members present during roll call were: Mrs. Sherry Davis, Mr. Joe Babb, Mr. Eddie Prather, Mr. Rob Hudson and Mr. Kenneth Wheeler.

Also in attendance were Attorney Otis Tims, Dr. Mike Waldrop, and Ms. Patrice Tate.

Board President Eddie Prather announced: “Pursuant to the Mississippi Open Meetings Law, Sections 25-41-1 through 25-41-17 of the Mississippi Code, this meeting was called for the purpose of conducting a special called meeting to consider personnel matters.”

**III. Executive Session – Personnel Matter**

Mr. Wheeler moved that the Board enter Temporary Executive Session to consider whether to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Ms. Davis seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

The temporary Executive Session was called to order and the Board first considered the reason for entering Executive Session. Mr. Prather stated that there was a need to discuss a personnel matter arising as a result of Dr. Loden’s announcement of his plans to retire as Superintendent. Mr. Tims expressed a belief that planning for the search for a new superintendent might require discussion of Dr. Loden’s tenure and characteristics of his work directing the District, such that an Executive Session might be appropriate. Upon a motion by Mr. Wheeler, with a second by Mrs. Davis, 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.

Dr. Michael Waldrop, Executive Director of Mississippi School Board Association, participated in the discussion regarding the superintendent search and desirable characteristics for a new superintendent.

Following this discussion, Mr. Wheeler moved that the Board return to Open Session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Davis and adopted unanimously. Mr. Prather left the room to inform the public that the Board was returning to Open Session.

### **Open Session**

Mr. Prather then announced that the Board was again in Open Session. Mr. Babb then made a motion to approve the District's entering into a contract with MSBA to assist the District in the superintendent search and to authorize Mr. Prather to execute the contract.. Mr. Wheeler seconded Mr. Babb's motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board. A copy of the executed contract is marked **EXHIBIT 1** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Prather entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Hudson made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Davis, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was adopted unanimously by all members present, and the meeting stood adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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**Eddie M. Prather, President**

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**Rob Hudson, Secretary**