

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
March 13, 2020  
11:00 a.m.**

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 am on Friday, March 13, 2020, at the TPSD Central Office, 72 South Green Street, Tupelo, Mississippi.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order and all guests were welcomed.

**ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

Board members present during roll call were: Mr. Joe Babb, Mr. Eddie Prather, and Mr. Kenneth Wheeler. Mr. Paul Mize was present via telephone. A quorum was announced, and the meeting was lawfully in session. Attorney Otis Tims and Ms. Sherry Davis, Dr. Rob Picou, Mrs. Kimberly Britton, Dr. Brock English, Mr. Gregg Ellis, Mr. Charles Laney, and Mrs. Modesty Shumpert were also present, along with members of the local media.

**PUBLIC STATEMENT**

Dr. Picou shared the following statement with those in attendance:

*The administrative team has listened to the expert opinions from our medical community.*

*The district reaches this decision with reluctance because we are aware of the many difficult unintended consequences that result from closing school.*

*Based upon recommendations from members of the medical community, we believe in an abundance of caution it would be appropriate to close schools for one week. We will reevaluate the situation throughout next week. We are thankful for our partnerships with the Mayor's office, the City Council, and the North Mississippi Medical Center.*

*The One Single Heartbeat philosophy represents those moments when good people of honest intent come together to do whatever is necessary to achieve uncommon results. At this moment in time our uncommon result is to keep everyone in Tupelo safe.*

**Executive Session**

The suggestion was made that there was a need for consideration of entering Executive Session to discuss sensitive and confidential personnel matters. Mr. Wheeler made a motion that the Board enter temporary Executive Session. Mr. Babb seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously. The motion was declared passed.

The temporary Executive Session was called to order with the following people present: Mr. Joe Babb, Mr. Paul Mize via telephone, Mr. Eddie Prather, Mr. Kenneth Wheeler, Mr. Otis Tims, Dr. Rob Picou, Mrs. Kimberly Britton, Mr. Gregg Ellis, Mr. Charles Laney, Mrs. Modesty

Shumpert, and Ms. Sherry Davis. The Board first considered the reason for entering Executive Session. It was stated that there was a need to discuss sensitive personnel matters. Upon a motion by Mr. Wheeler, with a second by Mr. Prather, the Board voted unanimously to remain in Executive Session. The motion was declared passed. Mrs. Shumpert went out into the hallway to let everyone know that the Board would remain in Executive Session.

Dr. Picou led a discussion of personnel matters concerning compensation and pay for specific employees during school closures.

Mr. Prather made a motion to return to Open Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Babb and unanimously adopted.

### **Open Session**

As a result of the conversation held in Executive Session, Mr. Babb made a motion to grant non-exempt classified employees an additional 5 days of paid vacation leave. Mr. Prather seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously by all members present.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Babb then made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wheeler, and the Board voted unanimously to approve it. The meeting stood adjourned at 12:55 pm.

**APPROVED:**  
**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**ATTEST:**

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**Kenneth Wheeler, Vice President**

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**Joe Babb, Secretary**