

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOON MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2014**

The Board of Trustees of the Tupelo Public School District convened in a regular meeting of the Board held in open session at noon on Tuesday, February 11, 2014, at the Tupelo Public School District Administrative Office, 72 South Green Street, Tupelo, Mississippi.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Rob Hudson who welcomed guests attending the meeting. Mr. Hudson stated that due to the inclement weather necessitating the closing of school the noon Board meeting was moved to the Administrative Office and the five o'clock meeting of the Board was canceled. Mr. Hudson also acknowledged that in accordance with TPSD Policy BC Board Meetings, notice of the change of location and canceled 5:00pm meeting was posted in a prominent place at the District Administrative Office.

Mr. Hudson also explained that the Board will be voting at this meeting, however, one scheduled report and all the recognitions, including the announcement of the 2014 Teacher of the Year, were postponed until the March 18, 2014, meeting of the Board of Trustees.

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Board members present during roll call were: Mr. Joseph Babb, Mrs. Sherry Davis, Mr. Rob Hudson, Mr. Eddie Prather and Mr. Kenneth Wheeler. Mr. Hudson announced a quorum and stated that the meeting was lawfully in session. Attorney Otis Tims was also present. Mr. Chris Kieffer, representing the *Northeast MS Daily Journal*, was also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda, amended as follows:

1. Add Addendum to Section VIII. Superintendent's Report, Item 3. Office of Director of Human Resources, #1. Personnel Changes (added retirement of Dr. Derwood Tutor, Director of Hancock Leadership Center, effective June 30, 2014)
2. Postpone Recognitions to March 18, 2014, meeting of the Board due to inclement weather
3. Postpone Assistant Principal Training Update Report to March 18, 2014, meeting of the Board due to inclement weather

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 21, 2014, Noon Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Mr. Babb, seconded by Mrs. Davis, to approve the minutes from the January 21, 2014, Noon Regular Meeting as presented. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the President of the Board declared the motion passed.

RECOGNITIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Recognitions

The scheduled recognitions were postponed until the next meeting of the Board.

B. Public Comments

No public comments were requested for this meeting of the Board.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

A. Ad Valorem Update Report (TPSD Goal #4, TPSD Policy Section D Fiscal Management)

Finance Director Linda Pannell updated the Board on ad valorem collections in January, 2014, and also provided a history of collections from 2004-2005 through the current collections to-date.

B. Assistant Principal Training Report (TPSD Goals #1 and #3, TPSD Policy GAD Professional Staff Development)

This report was rescheduled until the March 18, 2014, Board meeting.

C. New Teacher Induction Update (TPSD Goal #3, TPSD Policy GAD Professional Staff Development)

Assistant Superintendent Kimberly Britton presented information regarding the district's training program for new teachers. Mrs. Britton stated that the new teachers consist of 24.6% with advanced degrees; 73.7% have traditional certification; and 44.6% of this year's new teachers arrived fresh out of universities. All teachers new to the district were paired with mentors who have worked with them throughout the school year.

D. PSAT Annual Update (TPSD Goal #1, TPSD Policy Section I Instructional Program)

Tupelo High School Principal Jason Harris and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Matthew Dillon presented an annual update on PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test) results at Tupelo High School. The presentation included trend data from Tupelo High School, the state of Mississippi, and the national averages along with enrichment opportunities. Dr. Loden stated that commencing with the 2014-2015 school year the district will pay the test fees for THS juniors.

(Copies of the above reports are on file in the Superintendent's Office).

CONSENT AGENDA

In accordance with Dr. Loden's recommendations, Mr. Wheeler moved to approve and ratify the Consent Agenda as listed below with one noted clarification regarding TPSD Grant #1418:

A. Office of Finance Director Mrs. Linda Pannell (TPSD Goal #4)

1. Contractual Agreements (TPSD Policy DJAAB Contract Signing Authority)
 - a. Contract #CO1404
 - b. Charter Bus Service Contracts BC# 2013-2014-008 and BC# 2013-2014-009
2. Donations #2013-2014-025 through #2013-2014-031 (TPSD Policy DFAB Revenues for Non-Tax Sources)
3. Request Permission to Submit TPSD Grants #1409 through #1419 (TPSD Policy DEEG Grant Management)

B. Office of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Matthew Dillon

1. Student Transfer Report (TPSD Policy JBCD Transfers and Withdrawals of Students)
2. Overnight Field Requests (TPSD Policy IFCB Field Trips and Exclusions)
 - a. THS Academic Competition Team, Nashville, TN, Academic Tournament
 - b. THS Debate Team, Hattiesburg, MS, National Qualifier
 - c. THS Debate Team, Jackson, MS, Debate Tournament
 - d. THS Debate Team, Jackson, MS, MHSAA State Championship
 - e. THS FCCLA, Jackson, MS, State Level Competition
 - f. THS AP Science Class, Atlanta, GA, Educational Exhibits
 - g. THS DECA Team, Jackson, MS, DECA
 - h. Pierce Street, PRIDE Chorus, Hattiesburg, MS, Auditioned Honor Choir

C. Office of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Diana Ezell

(TPSD Goal 1 and 4, TPSD Policy IDDF Special Education Programs)

1. Approval of IDEA Part B and Preschool Project Application Amendment
2. Tupelo High School Ability Works Training Program

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Davis and was approved unanimously. The President of the Board declared the motion passed. A copy of the Consent Agenda is marked EXHIBIT 2 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Office of Director of Finance Mrs. Linda Pannell (TPSD Goal #4, TPSD Policy Section D Fiscal Management)

1. Docket of Claims

Mr. Eddie Prather reviewed the Docket of Claims prior to the meeting and recommended approval as outlined below:

- Docket of Claims for the period January 11, 2014 through January 31, 2014, Docket of Claims # 16455 through #17000, Accounts Payable Checks # 10077 through #10393 in the amount of \$859,394.06
- Tupelo High School Activity Check Register for the period January 2014, Checks #1391 through #1406 in the amount of \$5,723.39
- Athletic Activity Check Register for the period January 2014, Checks #1752 through #1794 in the amount of \$4,514.28

The grand total for all funds is \$869,631.73.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Babb and approved unanimously. President Rob Hudson declared the motion passed.

This affirms that the claims and check registers are legal and proper, and they should be allowed and ratified as paid by the Superintendent or his designee pursuant to Section 37-9-14 (7) of the Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated.

The Docket of Claims Report is marked EXHIBIT 3 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

2. Monthly Financial Reports required by MS Code 37-9-18 (Month Ending 12-31-13)

Following a review of each report and discussion, on a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Prather, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following financial reports for month ending December 31, 2013:

- Bank Reconciliation Report
- Revenue and Expenditure Report with Budget Status
- TPSD Cash Flow Statement
- Combined Balance Sheet
- December 31, 2013 Financial

Mr. Hudson declared the motion passed. The Financial Reports for Month Ending December 31, 2013, are marked EXHIBIT 4 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

B. Office of Director of Human Resources Mr. Jim Turner (TPSD Goal #3)

Approval of Licensed Staff Recommendations

Mr. Turner presented Consideration of Licensed Staff with addendum for approval. Mr. Prather moved to approve the Consideration of Licensed Staff as presented. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. The President of the Board declared the motion passed.

The Personnel Report is marked EXHIBIT 5 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

C. Office of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Diana Ezell

1. First Reading of New TPSD Policy IGAA Student Religious Liberties

Dr. Diana Ezell presented new TPSD Policy IGAA Student Religious Liberties for first reading. No action was requested at this meeting of the Board.

2. Recommendation to Rescind TPSD Policy JDF Student Hearings

Dr. Ezell recommended that TPSD Policy JDF Student Hearings be rescinded and deleted from the Board policies. Dr. Ezell explained that Policy JCAA Due Process contains information on student hearings and the hearing process and Policy JDF repeats the information contained in JCAA. On a motion by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to rescind TPSD Policy JDF Student Hearings as recommended. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the President of the Board declared the motion passed.

Copies of the abovementioned policies are marked EXHIBIT 6 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

D. Office of Superintendent Dr. Gearl Loden

1. Approval of 2014-2015 TPSD School Calendar

Superintendent Gearl Loden and Assistant Superintendent Diana Ezell recommended approval of the 2014-2015 TPSD School Calendar. The proposed calendar begins on the third Monday of August and includes a traditional spring break.

On a motion by Mr. Babb, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed 2014-2015 TPSD School Calendar. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the President of the Board declared the motion passed.

A copy of the 2014-2015 TPSD School Calendar is marked EXHIBIT 7 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

2. Information Items

Dr. Loden presented the following information items to the Board:

Gearl Loden, Ph.D., Superintendent

1. City of Tupelo, State of the City Address – rescheduled to February 24, 2014, 4:00pm, BancorpSouth Conference Center
2. MSBA Annual Conference, February 24-26, 2014
3. NSBA Annual Conference, April 4-7, 2014
4. Discipline Review Board Committee, tentative meeting set for February 18, 2014

Gearl Loden, Ph.D., Superintendent/Mrs. Kimberly Britton

1. Pre-Registration/Open House Update
2. Long-Term Substitutes – would like to hire a few more

Miscellaneous

1. March 18th Board Meeting – Update on New Accountability Model, AP program, Incentives – Wellness Center
2. Discussed House Bill regarding elected School Board

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No “Unfinished Business” items were presented at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

No “New Business” items were presented at this meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

A. Future Agenda Topics – Superintendent Gearl Loden

Dr. Gearl Loden: Tentative Agenda Items for March 18, 2014, Board Meeting

- New Board Member Oath of Office
- School Board Annual Organizational Meeting
- “Bring Your Own Device” Update (Mrs. Britton)
- Parent of the Year Recognition

B. Future Agenda Topics – Board of Trustees

No future agenda topics were requested by the Board Members.

C. Executive Session

Board President Rob Hudson suggested to the School Board a temporary Executive Session to determine the need for a permanent Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

On a motion by Mr. Babb, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to enter temporary Executive Session for the purpose of determining a need for permanent Executive Session. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the President of the Board declared the motion passed.

The room was cleared, and the temporary Executive Session was called to order by Mr. Hudson with the following people present: Mr. Joe Babb, Mrs. Sherry Davis, Mr. Rob Hudson, Mr. Eddie Prather, Mr. Ken Wheeler, Dr. Gearl Loden, Ms. Patrice Tate, Dr. Diana Ezell, and Mr. Otis Tims.

The Executive Session was called to order, and the Board first considered the reason for entering Executive Session. Upon a motion by Mr. Babb, with a second by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to remain in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing several personnel matters. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the President of the Board declared the motion passed.

Mr. Hudson reopened the meeting to tell all those in attendance the reasons for going into Executive Session was to discuss several personnel matters.

Following the discussion of the first personnel matter, Dr. Diana Ezell left the room. Discussion continued regarding the second personnel matter. Following this discussion, Dr. Gearl Loden and Ms. Patrice Tate left the meeting. Discussion continued regarding the third personnel matter.

Following the discussion, Mr. Babb moved to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, and upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the President of the Board declared the motion passed and the Board in Open Session.

Mr. Hudson reopened the meeting to tell all in attendance that the Board was back in Open Session. No one was waiting to re-enter. Mr. Hudson stated that no action was taken in the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mrs. Davis, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The President of the Board declared the motion passed and the meeting in adjournment at 2:20 p.m.

APPROVED:
TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ATTEST:

Rob Hudson, President

Job Babb, Secretary