

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOON MEETING MINUTES  
October 8, 2013**

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, October 8, 2013, at the Hancock Leadership Center, 1920 Briar Ridge, Tupelo, Mississippi.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Beth Stone who welcomed guests attending the meeting.

**ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

Board members present during roll call were: Mr. Joseph Babb, Mr. Rob Hudson, Mr. Eddie Prather, Mrs. Beth Stone, and Mr. Kenneth Wheeler. Mrs. Stone announced a quorum and stated that the meeting was lawfully in Session. Attorney Otis Tims was also present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda for October 8, 2013, as presented.

The President of the Board declared the motion passed.

**REVIEW OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes from the following meetings were presented for consideration for approval:

September 10, 2013	Regular Meeting, Noon, Hancock Leadership Center
September 10, 2013	Regular Meeting, 5:00 p.m., Thomas Street Elementary School
September 12, 2013	Called Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Hancock Leadership Center
September 13, 2013	Called Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Central Administrative Office

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No requests for public comments were received for this meeting of the Board.

**RESIGNATION OF BOARD MEMBER ELIZABETH STONE**

Mrs. Stone announced her resignation from the Board of Trustees of the Tupelo Public School District effective October 8, 2013. In Mrs. Stone's resignation letter she stated the following:

"My service as a member of the TPSD school board has been such a rewarding experience, and I am so proud of the progress we have made as a district. It has also been my top priority for the past three years. After much reflection over the summer, I decided that now was an acceptable time to step down as a Board member and make my family my top priority again. I leave with full confidence and faith that the leadership of the District is in good hands with my fellow Board members and Dr. Loden. I really feel we have a solid foundation on

which to build. Perhaps one day, I'll return to the classroom to teach where I feel I could make an even greater impact.”

Mr. Prather presented Mrs. Stone with a plaque commemorating her three years of service to the District as a Board of Trustee since October, 2010. Dr. Loden also presented Mrs. Stone with a token of appreciation on behalf of the staff.

## **RECOGNITIONS**

Mrs. Stone announced that several recognitions were scheduled for the 5:00 p.m. meeting of the Board at Carver Elementary School.

## **COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD**

**The following reports were presented to the Board of Trustees as information:**

- A. 2013-2014 Board Master Calendar presented by Mrs. Mary Ann Plasencia (TPSD Goals #1-#4)
- B. Athletic Program Update/All Sports ALL Wave presented by Mr. Andy Schoggin
- C. Federal Accountability Model (TPSD Goal #1)
- D. ACT Update presented by Dr. Matthew Dillon and Ms. Lea Johnson (TPSD Goal #1)
- E. Audit Update Report presented by Mrs. Linda Pannell (TPSD Goal #4)
- F. Demonstration of New TPSD Website (TPSD Goals #1-#4)

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- 1. Contractual Agreements:
  - Charter Bus Service Contract BD#2013-2014-001
  - Rental of School Facilities #SFR1405 through #SFR1408
- 2. Donations #2013-2014-006 through #2013-2014-009
- 3. Single Source Purchase #SS1401, College Board \$9,520.00
- 4. Permission to Accept TPSD Grant #1400, Toyota Education Enhancement Endowment Fund, \$203,450.00
- 5. Permission to Add 3 Assets and Delete 107 Items from the TPSD Asset List

### **B. Office of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Matthew Dillon**

- 1. Student Transfer Report presented by Mrs. Pamela Traylor
- 2. Rankin Elementary Reroof Project with Graham Roofing, Change Order Number Two (2), TPSD Goals #2 and #4
- 3. Carver Elementary Flooring Renovations with Continental Flooring Company, Certificate of Substantial Completion. TPSD Goals #2 and #4

This project was deemed substantially complete on August 26, 2013. A punch list was developed during the walk through and once all items on the punch list are completed a final walk through will be performed.

4. Tupelo Middle School Rubber Floor Gym Flooring Renovations with Covington Flooring Company, Inc. Certificate of Substantial Completion TPSD Goals #2 and #4  
The project was deemed substantially complete on August 22, 2013. A punch list was developed during the walk through and once all items on the punch list are completed a final walk through will be performed.

**C. Office of Assistant Superintendent Kimberly Britton (TPSD Goal #1)**

Title III Assurances and Title III English Language Acquisition Program Application presented by Mrs. Anna Guntharp

Request that the Board review and consider approval of Title III Assurances and approval of submission of Title III English Language Acquisition Program Application

**D. Office of Assistant Superintendent Diana Ezell (TPSD Goal #1)**

IDEA Part B and Preschool 2013-2014 Project Application presented by Mrs. Mary Ruth Wright

Request that the Board review and consider approval of the IDEA Part B and Preschool 2013-2014 Project Application funding. Fiscal Year 2014 funds are approved for obligation July 1, 2013, through September 30, 2015. Included for information and review are the following Project Application documents:

Statement of Assurances  
FY2014 Project Application Cover Page

**E. Office of Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Leigh Mobley (TPSD Goal #1)**

Mississippi Statewide Testing Program – TPSD Test Security Plan 2013-2014 presented by Ms. Lea Johnson, District Testing Coordinator

Request that the Board review and consider approval of the Assurances of the District's Test Security Plan for 2013-2014 School Year.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. Office of Director of Finance Mrs. Linda Pannell (TPSD Goal #5)**

**1. Docket of Claims**

Board Member Eddie Prather reviewed the Docket of Claims prior to the meeting and advised that at the 5:00 p.m. meeting of the Board he will recommend approval of the

Docket of Claims for the period September 1 through September 27, 2013, Docket of Claims #13499 through #14172, Accounts Payable Checks #8247 through #8699 in the amount of \$5,055,563.12.

**2. Financial Statement for the Month Ending August 31, 2013**

Finance Director Linda Pannell presented the Financial Statement for the month ending August 31, 2013 for consideration for approval.

**B. Office of Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Diana Ezell (TPSD Goal #1)**

**1. Second Reading of New TPSD Policies ICHI Literacy Act and IEB Speech Language Screening**

Mrs. Ezell introduced the following new policies for a second reading:

- a. ICHI Literacy Act
- b. IEB Speech Language Screening

**2. Proposed Revisions to Existing TPSD Policies GCRH Classified Staff Vacation and Holidays and GBRK Licensed Staff Vacation and Holidays**

Mrs. Ezell recommended that the following existing TPSD Policies be amended:

- a. GCRH Classified staff Vacation and Holidays
- b. GBRK Licensed Staff Vacation and Holidays

**C. Office of Director of Human Resources Mr. Jim Turner**

**Personnel Recommendations (TPSD Goal #3)**

Mr. Turner presented Licensed Staff recommendations for consideration for approval.

**D. Office of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gearl Loden (TPSD Goals #3 and #4)**

**Information Items**

Information was provided regarding the following items:

1. MSBA Fall Conference (November 11-12, 2013), Jackson, MS
2. NSBA Annual Conference (April 4-7, 2014), New Orleans, LA
3. Race to the Top Grant
4. Potential Pre-K Grant
5. Electronic Background Checks
6. November 19<sup>th</sup> Work Session (9:30am – 11:30am, HLC) TPSD Learning Foundation Board Meeting will be held during this time as well.
7. Miscellaneous

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No Unfinished Business items were presented at this meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Proposed 2014 Board Calendar**

Superintendent Gearl Loden presented a proposed 2014 Board Calendar for first review. The calendar includes regular meetings and tentative dates for work sessions and Board retreat.

## **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

### **A. Future Agenda Topics**

1. Technology Plan (Kimberly Britton)
2. Library/E-Books Update (Mary Ann Plasencia)
3. NMMC Portal Update (Mary Ann Plasencia)

### **B. Executive Session**

Board President Beth Stone suggested to the School Board a temporary executive session to determine the need for a permanent executive session for the purpose of discussing student and litigation matters.

On a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously by all members present 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 Mrs. Stone with the following people present: Mr. Joe Babb, Mr. Rob Hudson, Mr. Eddie Prather, Mrs. Beth Stone, Mr. Kenneth Wheeler, Dr. Gearl Loden, Mr. Otis Tims, Dr. Matthew Dillon, and Ms. Patrice Tate.

The executive session was called to order and the Board first considered the reason for entering executive session. Upon a motion by Mr. Hudson, with a second by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to remain in executive session for the purpose of discussing student and litigation matters. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously by all members present, the President of the Board declared the motion passed.

Mrs. Stone reopened the meeting to tell all those in attendance the reason for going into executive session was to discuss student and litigation matters.

At this point of the meeting, pending litigation matters were presented by Board Counsel Otis Tims.

Next, Assistant Principals Tim Carter and Tyrone Catledge entered the meeting and discussion followed regarding student matters. After this discussion the assistant principals left the meeting.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

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

Mrs. Stone reopened the meeting to tell all in attendance that the Board was back in Open Session. Everyone waiting re-entered the meeting, and Mrs. Stone stated that the Board was back in Open Session and no action was taken by the Board during Executive Session.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Babb, the Board voted unanimously by all members present to adjourn the meeting. The President of the Board declared the motion passed and the meeting in adjournment at 3:15 p.m.

APPROVED:  
TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Stone, President

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Kenneth Wheeler, Secretary