

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2015**

The Board of Trustees of the Tupelo Public School District convened in a special called meeting of the Board held in Open Session at 2:30 pm on Tuesday, December 15, 2015, at the Central Administrative Office, 72 South Green Street, Tupelo, Mississippi.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Kenneth Wheeler 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. Rob Hudson, Mr. Eddie Prather, and Mr. Kenneth Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler announced a quorum and stated that the meeting was lawfully in Session.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Gearl Loden, Dr. Diana Ezell, Dr. Eddie Peasant, Mrs. Kimberly Britton, Mrs. Anna Guntharp, Mr. Jim Turner, Mrs. Modesty Shumpert, and Attorney Otis Tims.

Board President Kenneth Wheeler 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 approval of a personnel recommendation, discuss and hear specific student discipline matters and to consider an Executive Session.”

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mr. Babb, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda for the Special Called December 15, 2015, Board meeting. The President of the Board declared the motion passed.

A copy of the agenda and notice are marked EXHIBIT 1 in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

IV. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATION

Superintendent Gearl Loden recommended Mrs. Anna Guntharp to replace Dr. Diana Ezell as Assistant Superintendent effective July 1, 2016. Mrs. Guntharp is currently serving the District as Director of Federal Programs and Curriculum. Dr. Ezell is retiring June 30, 2016.

On a motion by Mr. Babb, seconded by Mrs. Davis, the Board voted unanimously to name Mrs. Guntharp as Assistant Superintendent effective July 1, 2016 as Dr. Ezell's replacement. The President of the Board declared the motion passed.

Additional information regarding the above personnel recommendation is marked EXHIBIT 2 in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

Dr. Diana Ezell, Mrs. Anna Guntharp and Mr. Jim Turner left the room at this point.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Wheeler suggested that the Board consider entering temporary Executive Session to consider whether to go into Executive Session to discuss specific student discipline matters. Mr. Hudson made a motion that the Board enter temporary Executive Session to discuss specific student discipline matters. The motion was seconded by Mr. Prather and adopted unanimously.

Mr. Wheeler declared the temporary Executive Session to order for the purpose of determining whether to enter Executive Session. Thereupon, Mr. Hudson made a motion that the Board enter Executive Session to discuss specific student discipline matters (Student Discipline Cases #56-2015-2016 and #48-2015-2016). The motion was seconded by Mr. Prather and adopted unanimously. Mr. Wheeler then left the room and announced to those waiting that the Board had voted to enter Executive Session to discuss specific student discipline matters.

Mr. Wheeler returned to the room and declared the Executive Session to order. Upon Mr. Wheeler's return, Dr. Eddie Peasant gave summary information on the first Student Discipline Case #56-2015-2016. Milam Elementary Principal Paul Moton entered the room and presented specific information regarding Case #56-2015-2016.

The mother of Student Case #56-2015-2016 had been waiting in the reception area, but left. Mrs. Britton was asked to call the parent, which she did, and the parent stated that she wasn't feeling well, but she did agree to return to address the Board. At this point, Mr. Paul Moton left the room.

While waiting on the parent to return, the Board discussed Student Discipline Case #48-2015-2016 which was continued from the December 15, 2015, Board meeting.

Next, the parent of Student #56-2015-2016 returned to the meeting, and addressed the Board. The Board had several questions for the parent, and then she left the room.

At this point, both student matters were studied at length; whereupon Mr. Hudson made a motion to leave Executive Session and return to Open Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Prather and adopted unanimously. Mr. Wheeler left the room to announce that the Board was returning to Open Session.

VI. ACTION BY THE BOARD IN OPEN SESSION

Student Discipline Case #56-2015-2016

Upon Mr. Wheeler's return, Mr. Babb made a motion to uphold the decision of the District Disciplinary Hearing Committee and Assistant Superintendent Eddie Peasant to expel the student for one calendar school year for violation of TPSD Policy JDDA, and that in accordance with TPSD Policy JDE, the student undergo an outside evaluation by a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist upon readmission to the Structured Day Program after

completing the one calendar year expulsion (from December 15, 2015, to December 14, 2016). The motion was seconded by Mr. Prather and adopted unanimously. Detailed information regarding Student Case #56-2015-2016 is marked EXHIBIT 3 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein. These materials are marked "Sealed and Confidential" to comply with legal requirements.

Student Discipline Case #48-2015-2016

Mr. Prather made a motion to uphold the decision of the District Disciplinary Hearing Committee and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Eddie Peasant to assign the student (case #48-2015-2016) to the Structured Day Program for 45 school days for inappropriate behavior. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson and adopted unanimously. Detailed information regarding Student Case #48-2015-2016 is marked EXHIBIT 4 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein. These materials are marked "Sealed and Confidential" to comply with legal requirements.

At this point, everyone left the room except Mr. Tims and the Board of Trustees.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

After returning to Executive Session, the Board took up a discussion of a personnel matter, namely revisions to the employment contract of Superintendent Gearl Loden. The Board reviewed and discussed a proposed draft amendment to the Superintendent's contract presented by Mr. Tims. After the discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted to return to Open Session. Mr. Wheeler left the room to announce that the Board had returned to Open Session.

VII. ACTION BY THE BOARD IN OPEN SESSION

Amendments to Superintendent Gearl Loden's Employment Contract

Mr. Wheeler declared the meeting in Open Session and announced that in Executive Session, the Board had discussed amendments to the Superintendent's employment contract. Mrs. Davis thereupon offered the following motion:

THAT the Board's attorney prepare an amendment to be effective January 1, 2016, to provide a monthly salary supplement of \$833.33 to offset a portion of the Superintendent's mandatory contributions to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) and to extend the term of the Superintendent's employment agreement through June 30, 2019, and

THAT the Board's attorney prepare a second amendment to become effective July 1, 2016, extending the contract for an additional year through June 2020, and extending the PERS salary supplement over the four years of the agreement in accordance with the implementation schedule developed by the Board, and

THAT upon their review of the proposed amendments and determination that they conform to the Board's intent, the President and Secretary of the Board be authorized to execute the amendments without further action by the Board.

Mr. Prather seconded the motion, and it was unanimously adopted by the Board.

Once the proposed amendments are executed the Superintendent's employment amendments will be marked EXHIBIT 5 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hudson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Babb, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was adopted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVED:
TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ATTEST:

Kenneth Wheeler, President

Eddie Prather, Secretary