

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
MARCH 28, 2012**

The Board of Trustees of the Tupelo Public School District convened in a special called meeting of the Board held in Open Session at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 28, 2012, 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

The following School Board members were present during roll call:

Members Present: Mrs. Amy Heyer
Mr. Rob Hudson
Mr. Eddie Prather
Mrs. Beth Stone

Board President Eddie Prather announced a quorum and stated that the Special Called meeting was called pursuant to Mississippi Open Meeting Law (MS Code Sections 25-41-1 through 25-41-17) for the continued consideration of a personnel matter involving Mr. Calvin Ellis.

Tupelo Public School District Attorneys Otis Tims and Kelly Stimpson were also present. Also in attendance were members of the press and community members.

III. Executive Session

Mr. Prather stated that the Board's discussion will involve a sensitive and confidential personnel matter and suggested to the School Board the need for a temporary Executive Session to determine the need for a permanent Executive Session.

On a motion by Mrs. Heyer, seconded by Mrs. Stone, the Board voted unanimously to enter temporary Executive Session for the purpose of determining a need for permanent Executive Session. The room was cleared, leaving the following persons present: Mrs. Amy Heyer, Mr. Rob Hudson, Mr. Eddie Prather, Mrs. Beth Stone, Mr. Otis Tims, and Ms. Patrice Tate.

Mr. Prather called the temporary Executive Session to order and the Board first considered the reason for entering Executive Session. Upon a motion by Mrs. Heyer with a second by Mrs. Stone, the Board voted unanimously to remain in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter. The President of the Board declared the motion passed.

Mr. Prather announced to those outside the meeting that the Board had voted unanimously to go into Executive Session to discuss a sensitive and confidential personnel matter.

Mr. Prather called the Executive Session to order. Following a lengthy deliberation as to whether to uphold the Superintendent's decision to terminate the employment of Mr. Calvin Ellis as a proper employment decision based on valid educational reasons, the Board's findings and decision were proposed in a motion by Board Member Elizabeth Stone, seconded by Board Member Arlissa Heyer and brought to a vote as follows:

Eddie M. Prather	YEA
Elizabeth Stone	YEA
Robert L. Hudson II	NAY
Arlissa Heyer	YEA

Having received the majority of affirmative votes, the motion passed and the decision of the Board was adopted. The Decision of the Board in the personnel matter of Mr. Calvin Ellis is marked Exhibit 1 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

At this point, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Ellis, Attorney David Butts and TPSD Attorney Kelly Stimpson entered the Executive Session. Mr. Tims announced the action of the Board to those present.

Mrs. Heyer moved to come out of Executive Session. Mrs. Stone 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.

IV. Decision of the Board of Trustees re Mr. Calvin Ellis

Board President Eddie Prather reopened the meeting to tell all in attendance that the Board was back in Open Session.

Mr. Prather stated, "The Board of Trustees voted 3-1 to uphold the Superintendent's decision to terminate the employment of Mr. Calvin Ellis. The Board has prepared a document detailing our decision. This document will be made available to the media and the public. After this meeting I will have a statement for the media." (Exhibit 2)

V. Adjournment

Mr. Prather entertained a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Heyer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Stone, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was adopted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Eddie M. Prather, President

Rob Hudson, Secretary