

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES  
ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
March 24, 2020  
1:30 p.m. via Video Conferencing**

The Board of Trustees of the Tupelo Public School District convened in a regular meeting of the Board held in Open Session via video conferencing using equipment located at the place where the Board normally meets, the Hancock Leadership Center, 1920 Briar Ridge, Tupelo, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2020.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Kenneth Wheeler.

**ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

The following Board members were present and participated through video conferencing: Mr. Joe Babb, Mrs. Sherry Davis, Mr. Paul Mize, Mr. Eddie Prather, and Mr. Kenneth Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler announced a quorum and stated that the meeting was lawfully in session.

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann., §25-41-5, as amended, participation at the Hancock Leadership Center, 1920 Briar Ridge, Tupelo, Mississippi, was made available to the general public, Assistant Technology Director T. J. Higgins and Security Director Terry Hatch were present at the Hancock Leadership Center. The video conferencing equipment used allowed all members of the Board and any members of the public attending to hear the deliberations of the Board.

Superintendent Rob Picou, Attorney Otis Tims, Deputy Superintendent Kimberly Britton, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Brock English also participated in the video conference along with Board Clerks Patrice Tate and Modesty Shumpert. The following administrative staff members also took part in the meeting by means of video conferencing: Rachel Murphree, James Turner, Charles Laney, Gregg Ellis, Pamela Traylor, Melissa Thomas, and Stewart McMillan.

Also, in compliance with Miss. Code Ann., §25-41-5, as amended, Mr. Higgins was responsible for the audio recording of the meeting which will be preserved for a period of three (3) years following the date of the meeting and shall be available to the public.

**OATH OF OFFICE – MS. SHERRY S. DAVIS**

Attorney Otis Tims of Mitchell, McNutt and Sams administered the Oath of Office for re-appointed Board Member Sherry Davis. A copy of the signed Oath of Office is marked **EXHIBIT 1** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Ms. Davis, the Board voted by roll call vote to approve the agenda for the regular March 24, 2020, Board meeting subject to the following changes:

- Delete Contract for Rental of School Facility #SFR2030 (TMS Gym, for AAU Basketball Tournament on April 15-17, 2020) from III. F. Consent Agenda, a.
- Delete X. A. (Employment of 2020-2021 Building Administrators)
- Add C. to X. Miscellaneous Business (Resolution in response to COVID-19 Crisis)

Voting for the motion: Babb, Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Voting against the motion: None. Mr. Wheeler declared the motion passed.

A copy of the Agenda is marked **EXHIBIT 2** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

### **ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ITEMS**

TPSD Policy BBAA Board of Trustees Organizational Meeting stipulates that the organizational meeting of the Board will be held at the first regular meeting of the Board of Trustees following the first Saturday of March of each calendar year.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

School Board Attorney Otis Tims announced that School Board Policy #BBAA Board Officers stipulates that “the officers of the Board shall be a president, vice-president and secretary and shall be elected at the first meeting of the board following the first Saturday of March of each calendar year.” Mr. Tims next announced that the floor was open for nominations for president of the Board of Trustees.

#### **Election of President**

Ms. Davis nominated Mr. Kenneth Wheeler for president of the School Board. Mr. Prather seconded the motion. By general consent, nominations for president were closed and the matter was brought to a roll call vote as follows:

Voting for the motion: Babb, Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Voting against the motion: None. Mr. Wheeler was elected president of the Board of Trustees.

#### **Election of Vice-President**

Next, Mr. Wheeler announced that the floor was open for nominations for vice-president of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Prather nominated Mr. Joe Babb to serve as vice-president of the School Board. Ms. Davis seconded the motion. By general consent, nominations for vice-president were closed and the matter was brought to a vote as follows:

Voting for the motion: Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Mr. Babb abstained from voting. Voting against the motion: None.

By a vote of 4-0, Mr. Joe Babb was elected vice-president of the Board of Trustees.

#### **Election of Secretary**

Next, Mr. Wheeler announced that the floor was open for nominations for secretary of the Board of Trustees. Ms. Davis nominated Mr. Mize to serve as secretary. Mr. Prather seconded the

motion and by unanimous consent nominations for secretary were closed and the matter was brought to vote as follows:

Voting for the motion: Babb, Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Voting against the motion: None. Mr. Mize was elected secretary of the Board of Trustees.

### **Appointment of Legal Counsel**

On a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mr. Mize, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mitchell, McNutt & Sams as legal counsel for the TPSD Board of Trustees.

Voting for the motion: Babb, Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Voting against the motion: None. The president of the Board declared the motion passed.

### **Posting of Public Notices**

On a motion by Ms. Davis, seconded by Mr. Babb, the Board voted unanimously to assign the responsibility of posting notices of special meetings, recessed meetings, adjourned meetings, and rescheduled meetings as outlined in TPSD Policy BBAA to Ms. Modesty Shumpert or Ms. Patrice Tate. In the event that both Mrs. Shumpert and Ms. Tate are absent, the superintendent will designate an individual to post the required public notice.

Voting for the motion: Babb, Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Voting against the motion: None. The president of the Board declared the motion passed.

### **Appointment of Recording Secretaries for the TPSD Board of Trustees**

On a motion by Ms. Davis, seconded by Mr. Babb, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Patrice Tate and Ms. Modesty Shumpert as recording secretaries for the TPSD Board of Trustees.

Voting for the motion: Babb, Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Voting against the motion: None. The president of the Board declared the motion passed.

### **Authorization of Signatures for District Financial Accounts**

On a motion by Mr. Babb, seconded by Ms. Davis, the Board voted unanimously to authorize signatures for district financial accounts in accordance with TPSD Policy DJAA: Authorized Signatures which names Dr. Robert Picou and Mrs. Rachel Murphree as authorized signatures. Furthermore, TPSD Policy DJAA stipulates that in the event Mrs. Rachel Murphree is absent Assistant Finance Director Rachel Mitchell is also an authorized signatory for district financial accounts.

Voting for the motion: Babb, Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Voting against the motion: None. The president of the Board declared the motion passed.

### **Ratification of TPSD Policies**

In accordance with TPSD Policy BBAA Board of Trustees Organizational Meeting, Mr. Prather moved to reaffirm and ratify the TPSD Policies, Administrative Procedures, Regulations, and Exhibits previously adopted or authorized by the Board of Trustees.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Mize, and the Board voted unanimously to reaffirm and ratify the TPSD Policies, Administrative Procedures, Regulations, and Exhibits previously adopted or authorized by the Board of Trustees.

Voting for the motion: Babb, Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Voting against the motion: None. The president of the Board declared the motion passed.

### **Appointment of Board Audit Committee to Review TPSD 2019-2020 School Year Audit**

In accordance with TPSD Policy BBAA Board of Trustees Organizational Meeting, it is recommended that the Board appoint two members to serve on the Board Audit Committee to review the District's annual school year audit findings.

Ms. Davis made a motion to appoint Mr. Prather and Mr. Mize to serve on the Board Audit Review Committee for the purpose of reviewing the 2019-2020 School Year Audit.

Voting for the motion: Babb, Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Voting against the motion: None. The president of the Board declared the motion passed.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

### **February 11, 2020, 1:30pm, Regular Meeting, HLC**

Ms. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2020, 1:30pm, regular meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Prather and brought to a roll call vote as follows:

Voting for the motion: Babb, Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Voting against the motion: None. The president of the Board declared the motion passed.

### **March 6, 2020, Noon, Special Called Meeting, HLC**

Mr. Prather made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 6, 2020, noon, special called meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Davis and brought to a roll call vote as follows:

Voting for the motion: Babb, Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Voting against the motion: None. The president of the Board declared the motion passed.

**March 13, 2020, 11:00am, Special Called Meeting, TPSD Central Office**

Mr. Babb made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2020, 11:00am, special called meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Davis and brought to a roll call vote as follows:

Voting for the motion: Babb, Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Voting against the motion: None. The president of the Board declared the motion passed.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Office of Director of Finance Mrs. Rachel Murphree (TPSD Goal #4)**

**1. Docket of Claims and Athletic Activity Ref Pay**

Mr. Prather recommended approval of the Docket of Claims for the period February 1, 2020 through March 6, 2020, Docket of Claims #68186 through #69162 in the amount of \$2,784,459.17 and the Athletic Activity Ref Pay paid to officials and fees in the amount \$5,485.45 for the period February 1, 2020, through March 6, 2020. The grand total is \$2,789,944.62. The motion was seconded by Ms. Davis and approved unanimously.

Voting for the motion: Babb, Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Voting against the motion: None. The president of the Board declared the motion passed.

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

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

**2. Required Monthly Financial Reports – Month Ending January 31, 2020**

In accordance with MS Code §37-9-18 the following Financial Reports for the month ending January 31, 2020, were reviewed and discussed. On a motion by Mr. Mize, seconded by Mr. Babb, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following financial reports:

- Summary Report of Reconciled Bank Statements with Certification
- Statement of Revenue and Expenditures with Current Budget Status
- Cash Flow Report for District Maintenance Fund
- Monthly Financial Statement (not required)

Voting for the motion: Babb, Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Voting against the motion: None. The president of the Board declared the motion passed.

The Financial Reports for Month Ending January 31, 2020, 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 Goals #3 and #4)**

**Licensed and Classified Personnel Recommendations**

Upon a motion by Ms. Davis, seconded by Mr. Prather, the Board voted unanimously to approve the licensed and classified personnel recommendations as presented.

Voting for the motion: Babb, Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Voting against the motion: None. 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 Deputy Superintendent Mrs. Kimberly Britton**

**1. Revision of TPSD Board Policies DJAA and DJAAB**

After reviewing all policies in Section D (Fiscal Management) revisions to the following Board policies were recommended:

DJAA	Authorized Signatures
DJAAB	Relations with Education Research Agencies

On a motion by Ms. Davis, seconded by Mr. Mize, the Board voted unanimously to approve the recommended revisions to Board Policies DJAA and DJAAB as submitted.

Voting for the motion: Babb, Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Voting against the motion: None. The president of the Board declared the motion passed.

A copy of revised Board Policies DJAA and DJAAB is marked **Exhibit 6** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

**2. First Reading of Proposed Board Policy DJEA Purchasing Authority**

Mrs. Britton introduced for first reading proposed new Board Policy DJEA Purchasing Authority. No action was taken at this meeting of the Board.

**D. Office of Assistant Superintendent Mr. Brock English**

**1. Student Discipline Case #52-2019-2020**

On a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Ms. Davis, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the administrative decision to expel Student #52-2019-2020, from TPSD for one calendar year for violation of TPSD Board Policy JD Exhibit 2 – Student Discipline: Elementary Grades 3-5 (#9 and #11)

Voting for the motion: Babb, Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Voting against the motion: None. The president of the Board declared the motion passed.

Detailed information regarding Student Discipline Case #52-2018-2019 is marked **EXHIBIT 7** “Sealed and Confidential” and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

## **2. Student Discipline Case #53-2019-2020**

On a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Ms. Davis, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the administrative decision to expel Student #53-2019-2020, from TPSD for one calendar year for violation of TPSD Board Policy JD Exhibit 2 – Student Discipline: Elementary Grades 3-5 (#9 and #11)

Voting for the motion: Babb, Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Voting against the motion: None. The president of the Board declared the motion passed.

Detailed information regarding Student Discipline Case #53-2019-2020 is marked **EXHIBIT 8** “Sealed and Confidential” and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

## **E. Office of Director of Operations Mr. Charles Laney**

### **Consideration to Approve Change Order #1 related to Church Street Elementary School Parking Lot Project**

Following discussion, on a motion by Mr. Mize, seconded by Ms. Davis, the Board voted unanimously to approve Change Order #1 for the Church Street Elementary School Parking Lot Project. This change order adds \$12,000.00 to the contract sum to widen the entrance to the parking lot. The new Contract Sum including this Change Order is \$443,800.00.

Voting for the motion: Babb, Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Voting against the motion: None. The president of the Board declared the motion passed.

Additional information regarding the Church Street Elementary School Parking Lot and Fence bid is marked **EXHIBIT 9** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

## **F. CONSENT AGENDA**

In accordance with Dr. Picou’s recommendations, Mr. Prather moved to acknowledge, approve and ratify the Consent Agenda as listed below with the exception of the Overnight Field Trip Request by THS Thespians to attend the International Thespian Conference on June 22-27, 2020, in Bloomington, IN.. Mr. Prather also asked that this request be brought back for consideration of approval in June should the danger of traveling subside.

### **1. Office of Finance Director Mrs. Rachel Murphree (TPSD Goal #4)**

- a. Contractual Agreements (TPSD Policy DJAAB Contract Signing Authority)  
Contracts to be Acknowledged and Awarded: #CO2338 through #CO2345 and Contract for Rental of School Facility #SFR2031

- b. Contracts to be Ratified: #CO2132; #CO2346; #CO2347; #CO2349 and #CO2350 and Charter Bus Service Contracts BC# 2019-2020-004
- c. Donations #2019-2020-075 through #2019-2020-096
- d. Permission to Submit TPSD Grants #2069 through #2082; and AEE Grants #2083 through #2151(70 grants totaling \$219,982.13)
- e. Permission to Accept TPSD Grants #2066; #2067; #2069; #2070 and #2071
- f. Permission to Advertise (Ratify) BD2009 Lawhon Roof C Building
- g. Awarding of Advertised Bids:
  - BD2009 Lawhon Roof Bldg C  
Recommendation: KCB Buildings \$49,807.72 (lowest and best vendor meeting all the specifications)
  - BD2013 Interactive Display Panels \$188,340 (based on 86 devices)  
Recommendation: CDW-G (best bid based on the standardized fleet of 350+ Newline interactive flat panels currently in use across the District, and will ensure the ease of training and any required maintenance)

## **2. Office of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Brock English (TPSD Goals #1, #3 & #4)**

- a. Student Transfer Report (TPSD Policy JBCD Transfers and Withdrawals of Students)

The motion to approve the Consent Agenda was seconded by Ms. Davis and was approved unanimously. Voting for the motion: Babb, Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Voting against the motion: None. The president of the Board declared the motion passed.

A copy of the Consent Agenda report is marked **EXHIBIT 10** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – DR. ROB PICOU**

### **A. Executive Summaries:**

The following Executive Summaries were included in the Board package for this meeting:

1. District of Innovation Update – Mrs. Stewart McMillan
2. Targeted Support & Improvement (TSI) for TMS and Additional Targeted Support & Improvement for THS and Rankin Elementary (ATSI) – Dr. Brock English
3. Ad Valorem Collections Received through February, 2020 – Mrs. Rachel Murphree

Copies of the above presentations are on file in the Superintendent's Office.

### **B. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Rob Picou**

#### **1. Update on School Cleanings**

Mr. Charles Laney reported on the process that Servpro is using to clean schools using new and current CDC standards.



## **2. Distance Learning Update**

Mrs. Kim Britton and Dr. Brock English provided information on PreK through Grade 12 in regards to distance learning.

## **3. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Rob Picou**

Dr. Picou updated the Board on the District's and State's response to COVID-19. Dr. Picou's report is included below:

*Greetings from the new normal. This is not how we anticipated having this board meeting, but life and board business cannot stop during a crisis. We have board members and staff participating from various locations via video conferencing. We also have a video conference set up at the Hancock Center for any community member who wishes to participate. I want to thank our technology department for figuring out the best way to conduct this meeting.*

*I have presented a copy of the 2020-2021 Organizational Chart. You will notice that I have not requested any additional positions in District Office. I am making an adjustment to the chart by moving the direct supervision of all athletic programs and fine arts programs under the high school and middle school principals. This is an adjustment that has been requested by both principals. It makes sense to me because all extracurricular activities occur on school campuses and involve students.*

*The State of Mississippi's response to the COVID-19 virus has been evolving hourly. There is no way the Governor or MDE could have known how this would impact the educational environment. I think the Governor was right to close schools through April 17. That means schools will resume on Monday, April 20 unless the closure is extended. At the State School Board meeting, Dr. Wright recommended an immediate suspension of all accountability measures. Individual departments at MDE are providing guidance specific to departments, but everyone fully acknowledges responses at the local level will by necessity have to be dependent upon resources available in communities and in school districts. There are many, many details that must be worked through and resolved to transition to a distance learning platform. MDE has been a good resource, but everyone fully admits there are no easy and perfect answers. Dr. Wright has been encouraging and supportive.*

*U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced today students impacted by school closures due to the corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic can bypass standardized testing for the 2019-2020 school year. Upon request, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) will grant a waiver to any state that is unable to assess its students due to the ongoing national emergency, providing relief from federally mandated testing requirements for this school year.*

*The Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE) voted on March 19 to suspend all federal and state assessments for the 2019-20 school year and to submit a waiver request to ED for exemption of those federal requirements. They are also seeking flexibility on promotion and graduation requirements.*

*The MDE Office of Special Education (OSE) is serving as a resource for special education parents and educators. They fully understand the past week has been full of changes and there are many questions as we continue to work to ensure the best possible services are provided to all students. We are very concerned about our special education students. Their needs are often technical and highly specialized. Our response to the COVID-19 virus will by necessity be an individualized response. Our Special Education department and teachers are working diligently to review approximately 1200 IEPs. We are concerned about ALL 7000 students in TPSD, including our special education students.*

*As we work to support our students with online learning, consideration is being given to provide district laptops to students currently enrolled in dual enrollment/credit courses. Many community colleges are communicating with their local districts about the current semester and would like to ensure students will be able to complete their classes. We have sent out a survey to all parents to identify students who need technology support at home. We do not want to just hand out 4000 chrome books because it would be logistically challenging to do while keeping everyone safe. In addition, many students have devices and computers at home. Not all students may need a chrome book. We are actively trying to determine what students need at home during this crisis.*

*Many of our students were preparing to take College AP exams when the schools were closed. As we navigate the unprecedented changes, we are utilizing resources provided by the College AP program. There are online resources that are available to students. Traditional face-to-face exam administrations will not take place. AP College services is going to provide the assessments in an online format. Some students may want to take the exam sooner rather than later, while the content is still fresh. Other students may want more time to practice. For each AP subject, there will be 2 different testing dates. The full exam schedule details will be on the AP website available by April 3.*

*Additional dates and scheduled College Board communications:*

- *March 23 – an update will be sent to students.*
- *March 25 – students will have access to **free, live AP review lessons, delivered by AP teachers from across the country.** These optional, mobile-friendly classes are designed to be used alongside work that may be given by schools.*
- *April 3 – the full exam schedule including the specific free-response question types that will comprise each AP exam will be published.*
- *April 30 – AP Coordinators should indicate all students eligible for a fee reduction in AP Registration and Ordering (APRO) if they have not already done so.*

*Updates on TPSD response:*

- *Our food delivery program is going very well. I want to thank Ms. Lynn Rodgers and her team in Food Services for getting everything set up and ready in a short period of time. We are currently having additional conversations about ways to increase our services using school buses. We are distributing sack breakfasts and lunches at Rankin, Lawndale, Lawhon, Pierce Street, and ECEC.*

- *Our maintenance team been cleaning every school. We have contracted with ServePro to blast every school with disinfectant. We want our students to return to the safest possible learning environment. Charles and Kirk are making sure their team is paying attention to our maintenance needs during the closure.*
- *Our security team is in the process of maintaining a presence at all schools*
- *The business department is working to take care of budgeting and payroll needs throughout the school closure. Mrs. Murphree and her team go into the office a few times a week and then conduct the rest of school district business from home when they can.*
- *Mr. Turner and his team are figuring out ways to recruit and process personnel issues throughout the closure, which includes preparing for contracts.*
- *As you probably imagine, Mrs. Meriweather and her team are figuring out ways to facilitate everything with technology. They have the job of not only making sure everyone has the technology to what they need to do during the closure but also knows how to use the technology. Mrs. McRae is also assisting in this challenging job.*
- *Gregg Ellis and the communication team with Ryan Coon and Teresa Gregory have been doing an amazing job making sure we get information out to the community as it becomes available. For example, he was able to get the announcement out about the District of Innovation designation. That was a welcomed cause for celebration in the community. I want to thank everyone who was involved in the process, but I especially want to thank Stewart McMillan. We truly would not have been able to get it done without her determination and hard work.*
- *Mrs. Britton and Dr. English are leading the way with the instructional team and our amazing principals to develop and deliver distance learning opportunities beginning on March 30. We are truly blessed to have such a talented group of administrators. Our principals are going to deliver a great distance delivery experience for our students. We do not want to rush the process. There is a sense of urgency, but we want to proceed with clarity and caution to make sure we have equal access for all students.*

*There are many, many people who are figuring out ways to continue serving as an educational resource to our community. I have only mentioned a few of the departments. I can honestly say that everyone, all hands-on deck, is doing whatever has to be done to take care of the students of TPSD.*

*Folks, the new normal is not going to look like the old normal. I want you to imagine what it would be like if Toyota had to completely redesign its operation to stop making cars and start making rocket ships in five days, and they had to complete the entire transition via Google Meet. There will be some classes and services that are not perfect, that do not translate well in an online format. This is not a time to lay blame at anyone's feet about who knew what when and whether or not we could have had more time to prepare. This is a time to get the job done. We all saw the COVID-19 virus coming, but we had no idea what it would mean for the K-12 environment. Things are moving very quickly and change by the hour. These are uncharted waters. Every decision is complex and deep. Think Jacques Cousteau. All employees in the Tupelo Public School District are grateful for the challenge.*

## **D. Board Master Calendar Review and Future Agenda Topics – Board Members**

### **1. Board Master Calendar Review**

The Board reviewed the Board Master Calendar.

### **2. Future Agenda Topics**

- a. Update on Distance Learning from Dr. English and Mrs. Britton (Mr. Babb)
- b. Discussion regarding THS and Tupelo Career-Technical Center Graduation (Mr. Prather)
- c. Update on security issues such as prevention of vandalism. Is there a need for additional funding to increase security during this time period? (Mr. Wheeler)

Dr. Picou stated that Food Service Director Lynne Rogers will give an update report at the April 21 Board meeting.

## **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

### **A. Executive Session**

No Executive Session was held at this meeting of the Board.

### **B. Resolution**

Board Attorney Otis Tims presented a Resolution for consideration in response to the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis and the District's crucial role in response to the management of the situation.

Following discussion, on a motion by Mr. Babb, seconded by Mr. Prather, the Board voted unanimously to approve the below Resolution. Voting for the motion: Babb, Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Voting against the motion: None. The president of the Board declared the Resolution adopted.

WHEREAS, the public health emergency and the rapidly evolving governmental responses to it require the Tupelo Public School District to act swiftly to comply with changes in circumstances and in law; and

THEREFORE, the Board of Trustees of the Tupelo Public School District hereby FINDS, DETERMINES and ORDERS:

- (1) That the Superintendent and his designees are authorized and directed to take such actions as they may find necessary or useful to operate the District in accord with the provisions of HB1647, the directives of

Executive Order 1458 of the Governor of the State of Mississippi, guidance of the Mississippi Department of Education and recommendations of the Mississippi Department of Health, as well as other applicable law;

and

- (2) That this action is in the best interest of the Tupelo Public School District and in furtherance of its educational mission.

THIS, the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The president of the Board announced that all decisions taken in the meeting were approved unanimously by the five Board members present at the meeting, and all Board members were present throughout the meeting.

There being no other business to transact, Mr. Babb made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mize, and the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. Voting for the motion: Babb, Davis, Mize, Prather and Wheeler. Voting against the motion: None.

Mr. Wheeler then announced that the meeting stood adjourned at 4:45 pm.

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

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kenneth R. Wheeler, President**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Paul E. Mize, III, Secretary**