

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
September 10, 2019**

The Board of Trustees of the Tupelo Public School District convened in a regular meeting of the Board held in Open Session at 1:30pm on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at the Hancock Leadership Center, 1920 Briar Ridge, Tupelo, Mississippi.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Sherry Davis who welcomed guests attending the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Gregg Ellis led the participants in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Board members present during roll call were: Mr. Joe Babb, Ms. Sherry Davis, Mr. Eddie Prather, Mr. Paul Mize, and Mr. Kenneth Wheeler. Ms. Davis announced a quorum, and stated that the meeting was lawfully in session. Attorney Otis Tims was also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Prather moved to approve the agenda for the September 10, 2019, Regular Board meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wheeler, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda for the regular September 10, 2019, Board meeting. 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

August 13, 2019, Noon, Regular Meeting, HLC

On a motion by Mr. Mize, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2019, Regular Board meeting as presented. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Stephanie Stubbs had requested an appearance before the Board to discuss the upcoming Region One Marching Band Festival. Ms. Stubbs is chairperson of the Tupelo High School MHSAA Region One Marching Band Evaluations scheduled on Saturday, October 12, 2019. Ms. Stubbs invited Board members and staff to attend the MHSAA Region One Marching Band Evaluations, hosted by Tupelo High School. Chairperson Stubbs also stated that if anyone wishes to volunteer at the event, please contact a THS Band Booster.

RECOGNITIONS

No recognitions were scheduled at this meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

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

1. Docket of Claims and Athletic Activity Ref Pay

Board Member Paul Mize recommended approval of the Docket of Claims for the period August 3, 2019, through August 30, 2019, Docket of Claims #63630 through #64213, in the amount of \$1,777,141.58 and the Athletic Activity Ref Pay paid to officials and fees in the amount of \$4,395.50 for the period August 3, 2019, through August 30, 2019. The grand total for all funds is \$1,781,537.08.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Prather and approved unanimously. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

The Docket of Claims Report is marked **EXHIBIT 2** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

2. Required Monthly Financial Reports – Month Ending July 31, 2019

Following a review of each report and discussion, on a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Mize, 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
- Consolidated Fund Balance Sheet for all General and Special Revenue Funds
- Monthly Financial Statement

Board President Sherry Davis declared the motion passed.

The Financial Reports for Month Ending July 31, 2019, are marked **EXHIBIT 3** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

3. Approval to Amend FY20 Budget

Finance Director Rachel Murphree requested permission to amend the original FY20 budget of District Committed Funds. She explained that a formal commitment of \$300,000 for fine arts was approved and transferred prior to June 30, 2019. No expenditures were budgeted to use any of this commitment amount for FY20. The District was going to take a year to evaluate the needs and develop a plan, however, a need has arisen by the band program for 4 tubas.

Upon a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Prather, the Board voted unanimously to amend the original FY20 budget of District Committed Funds for \$20,000 to address the fine arts need for the 2019-2020 school year. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

B. Office of Director of Human Resources Mr. Jim Turner (TPSD Goals #3 and #4)

1. New Job Description – Part-Time Student Learning Interventionist

On a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Mize, the Board voted unanimously to approve a new job description titled Part-Time Student Learning Interventionist. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed. A copy of the new job description is marked **EXHIBIT 4** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

2. Licensed and Classified Personnel Recommendations

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

Review of All Policies in Section A (School District Organization); B (School Board Organization); G (Personnel); and I (Instructional Program)

Mrs. Britton stated in accordance with TPSD Board Policy BDE all Board Policies are reviewed on a regular basis in consultation with appropriate directors, principals and staff.

Consider and Take Possible Action to Approve the Proposed Revised Policies as listed below:

Proposed Revised Board Policies

- ABA – Authority
- ABB – Board Powers and Duties
- ABCB – Board Member Qualifications
- AD – School Attendance Areas
- BBE – School Board Attorney
- BC – Board Meetings
- GADG – Professional Leave
- IHEA – Class Ranking

Consider and Take Possible Action to Approve Proposed New School Board Policies as listed below:

Proposed New School Board Policies

- BCBCA – School Board Member Access to District Data
- GBS – Use of Force

ACTION TAKEN:

ABA – Authority

On a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Babb, the Board voted unanimously to approve revised Board Policy ABA – Authority as presented. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

ABB – Board Powers and Duties

On a motion by Mr. Mize, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve revised Board Policy ABB – Board Powers and Duties as presented. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

ABCB – Board Member Qualifications

On a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve revised Board Policy ABCB – Board Member Qualifications as submitted. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

AD – School Attendance Areas

On a motion by Mr. Babb, seconded by Mr. Mize, the Board voted unanimously to approve revised Board Policy AD – School Attendance Areas as presented. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

GADG – Professional Leave

Following discussion of revised **Board Policy GADG – Profession Leave**, it was the consensus of the Board to defer approval until the October Board meeting.

IHEA – Class Ranking

On a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Mize, the Board voted unanimously to approve revised Board Policy IHEA – Class Ranking as submitted. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

BBE – School Board Attorney

Following discussion and debate, on a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to amend revised Board Policy BBE – School Board Attorney as summarized below:

In the first paragraph it states that the appointment will commence on the first day of March. It should read appointment will commence upon approval at the March Board meeting.

After discussion of the proposed amendment and upon expression by unanimous consent by Board members, Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

On a motion by Mr. Babb, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board then voted unanimously to approve the amended motion to approve Board Policy BBE—School Board Attorney. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

BC – Board Meetings

Following discussion, on a motion by Mr. Kenneth Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Babb, the Board voted unanimously to amend revised Board Policy BC – Board Meetings as outlined below:

Under #1, Item a. *delete on the second Tuesday of each month.*

After discussion of the proposed amendment and upon expression by unanimous consent by Board members, Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

On a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mr. Mize, the Board then voted unanimously to approve the amended motion to approve Board Policy BC—Board Meetings. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

BCBCA – School Board Member Access to District Data

Following discussion of proposed new **Board Policy BCBCA – School Board Member Access to District Data**, it was the consensus of the Board to defer approval until the October Board meeting.

BDD – Board Policy Dissemination

On a motion by Mr. Mize, seconded by Mr. Prather, the Board voted unanimously to approve new Board Policy BDD – Board Policy Dissemination as submitted. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

Copies of the above adopted Board Policies are marked **EXHIBIT 6** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

D. Office of Director of Operations Mr. Charles Laney (TPSD Goals #2 and #4)

1. Permission to Advertise for Bid – Tupelo High School Parking Lot

Mr. Laney reported that on July 30, 2019, the Board of Trustees approved a professional services contract with Sloan Landscape Architects, LLC for the Tupelo High School Parking Lot Improvements Project. The scope of services to be provided by the landscape architectural firm includes the development of bids to identify the Contractor to construct the project and establish the firm price to accomplish the work.

Mr. Laney requests authorization for Sloan Landscape Architecture to proceed with the development of bids for advertisement for the THS Parking Lot Improvements Project.

On a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Babb, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Sloan Landscape Architecture to proceed with the development of bids for

advertisement for the THS Parking Lot Improvements Project. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

2. Change Order Number 004 – THS Safe Room FEMA #1604-0527 Project

Mr. Laney recommended approval of Change Order Number 004 for the THS Safe Room FEMA #1604-0527 Project which credits \$347.46 to the Contract Sum for labor not used to install some of the sound panels due to layout. The new Contract Sum, including this credit is \$6,255,975.86.

On a motion by Mr. Mize, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve Change Order Number 004 for the THS Safe Room FEMA #1604-0527 Project as presented. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

A copy of the aforementioned Change Order 004 for THS Safe Room FEMA #1604-0527 Project is marked **EXHIBIT 7** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

E. CONSENT AGENDA

In accordance with Dr. Picou's recommendations, Mr. Wheeler moved to acknowledge, approve and ratify the Consent Agenda as listed below:

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

- a. Contractual Agreements to be Acknowledged and Awarded: #CO2267 through #CO2269, #CO2272 through #CO2284; and Contracts for Rental of School Facilities #SFR2003 through #SFR2010
- b. Contracts to be Ratified: #CO2256 through #CO2271
- c. Approval of Donations #2019-2020-007 through #2019-2020-014
- d. Permission to Submit TPSD Grants #2046 through #2051
- e. Permission to Accept TPSD Grants #2046 and #2048
- f. Awarding of Advertised Bids (RFP2001 THS Yearbook and BD2003 iPODS)
- g. Permission to Delete 588 Assets from the TPSD Asset Listing and Add Back One Asset to the TPSD Asset Listing

2. Office of Assistant Superintendent Mr. Andy Cantrell (TPSD Goals #1, #3 & #4)

- a. Student Transfer Report
- b. Overnight Field Trip Requests:
 - THS DECA, Fall Leadership Conference, Gulfport, MS, Oct. 26-28, 2019
 - THS XC, XC Meet, Atlanta, GA, Oct. 11-12, 2019

3. Office of Deputy Superintendent Mrs. Kim Britton (TPSD Goals #3 & #4)

Authorization for Joyner principal Kim Foster to participate in the Jim Ingram Community Leadership Institute, Class of 2021, at a cost of \$1,200.00 tuition payable to CDF/Jim Ingram Community Leadership Institute.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Mize and was approved unanimously. The President of the Board declared the motion passed. A copy of the Consent Agenda report is marked **EXHIBIT 8** 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. Annual Report on Nonresident Student Transfers– Mrs. Pamela Traylor
2. Dual Credit Options – Dr. Brock English
3. Targeted Support & Improvement (TSI) for TMS and Additional Targeted Support & Improvement for THS (ATSI) – Dr. Brock English
4. Summary of Consultant Costs – Mrs. Amy Ferguson
5. Summary of Attorney Costs – Mrs. Rachel Murphree
6. Ad Valorem Collections Received through August, 2019 – Mrs. Rachel Murphree

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

B. Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Rob Picou

1. Overview of NASSP National Principals

Principals Art Dobbs and Mark Enis stated that more than 3,000 principals gathered in Boston this past July for three days of learning, inspiration and camaraderie. They stated that this conference’s major takeaways were embracing an innovator’s mindset, addressing hyper-change, and creating a culture of caring within a school.

2. Dyslexia Update – Mrs. Amy Ferguson and Ms. Amy Rhyne

Mrs. Amy Ferguson and Ms. Amy Rhyne updated the Board on the dyslexia therapy services provided in Tupelo Public Schools. Their presentation included the following topics:

- What is Dyslexia?
- The Screening Process
- Two-fold Approach
- Components of Therapy

3. District of Innovation Application Update – Mrs. Stewart McMillan

Mrs. McMillan provided a comprehensive update on the District of Innovation Application process.

4. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Rob Picou

Dr. Picou's report is included below:

Board Goals:

1. Increase academic achievement across the District.
2. Provide a safe, secure and orderly environment in all schools
3. Attract and retain all stakeholders
4. Maintain sound financial stability
5. Ensure all grades are career/college ready

Board Goal 1: Increase academic achievement across the district.

- *Official MAAP Results were released in September. There will be a full report at our meeting in October. Internal calculations suggest we have done very well. We do not want to publicly release results until the embargo is lifted.*
- *First Benchmark at High School on September 6 in Alg I, Bio I, English II, and U.S. History.*
- *ELA, Math, and Science Benchmarks in elementary.*
- *ACT 30: Comprehensive plan to address ACT scores. Plan will involve a strategic implementation starting at 5th grade to increase our ACT scores overall and the number of students scoring a 30 or higher on the ACT assessment. We have meetings with principals. We have also had meetings with representative from ACT. There are some very good resources that are offered by ACT. A detailed presentation will be provided at our next meeting by Dr. Thomas.*
- *All of our new early elementary teachers are receiving training in phonics instruction.*
- *All principals have been trained by Paul Shelly in the new ELS benchmark assessment. We are all very excited about the data and reports that will be provided by this new assessment.*
- *Teachers and principals have been receiving training in the I-Ready toolbox.*
- *The new interactive boards have been getting installed. Teachers are very excited about the potential of these new interactive boards.*

Board Goal 2: Provide a safe, secure and orderly environment in all schools.

- *We want to thank our SRO team and our SSO team for a job well done during the time period when we received the threats on the middle school and the high school.*
- *We are reviewing our response to that event and making adjustments.*
- *All safety protocols and active shooter trainings have been directed by Mr. Cantrell.*
- *Blood Born Pathogen trainings are being conducted by school nurses.*

Board Goal 3: Attract and retain all stakeholders.

- *Connecting with and supporting new teachers.*
- *Innovative program design. We are connecting with community members during the district of innovation application process.*

Board Goal 4: Maintain sound financial stability.

- *We are starting conversations with department heads and principals about budgeting for 2020/2021 school year. We hope to refine our process for next year. Starting early will give us a better idea of needs as we plan for the budget.*
- *We are reviewing our committed funding accounts and planning for our projects.*

Today, we have presented you with information on the interactive boards, the district of innovation process, the dual credit process, targeted support and improvements (TSI), summaries of legal and instructional consultant costs, an overview from two of our principals who attended NASSP, a dyslexia update, and an update on the district of innovation application process. There are obviously many more exciting things going on in the district as we start the new school year. We are open to any final questions board members may have regarding the start of school.

5. Upcoming Events:

- September 16 11:30am, Teacher of Distinction, First Baptist Church
- October 8 11:30am, Board and Superintendent Tour Rankin Elementary
1:30pm, Regular Board Meeting, HLC
5:00pm, Regular Board Meeting (Recognitions Only), HLC

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

Board members requested the following reports:

Mr. Prather

- When appropriate, would like a presentation of the correlation of consultant use and test data results
- Would like for Dr. English and Ms. Meriweather to report on technology plans (specifically how much will it cost to phase out our old technology resources and replace with new technology.
- Suggested that the Board eat lunch with Middle College students in April

Ms. Davis

- Requested an update on the implementation of Project Lead the Way.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

An Executive Session was not held during this meeting of the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Mize moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Davis declared the motion approved, and the meeting stood adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

APPROVED:

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Sherry S. Davis, President

ATTEST:

Joseph B. Babb, Secretary