

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES 5:00 P.M. MEETING MINUTES  
November 8, 2011**

The Board of Trustees of the Tupelo Public School District convened in a regular meeting of the Board held in open session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8, 2011, at Rankin Elementary School, 1908 Forrest Street, Tupelo, Mississippi.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Amy Heyer who welcomed guests attending the meeting.

**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  
Mr. Lee Tucker

Staff Present:	Mr. David Meadows	Ms. Patrice Tate
	Mrs. Diana Ezell	Mrs. Julie Hinds
	Dr. Fred Hill	Mrs. Dale Warriner
	Mrs. Kay Bishop	Ms. Patrice Tate
	Mrs. Marisa Martin	Mr. Jim Turner
	Mrs. Linda Pannell	Mrs. Mary Ann Plasencia
	Mrs. Pamela Traylor	Mr. Paul Moton
	Mr. Terry Hatch	Mr. Jason Harris
	Mr. Kenneth Roberts	

Mrs. Heyer announced a quorum and stated that the meeting was lawfully in session. School Board Attorney Otis Tims was also present. Members of the press were also present.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was approved at the noon meeting. A copy of the agenda is marked EXHIBIT 1 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

**REVIEW OF THE MINUTES**

Upon a motion by Mrs. Stone, seconded by Mr. Hudson, the Board voted unanimously by all members present to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2011, regular meetings as presented. The President of the Board declared the motion passed.

## **WELCOME, PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RECOGNITIONS**

### **A. Welcome**

Mr. Paul Moton, Principal of Joyner Elementary School, welcomed the Board of Trustees, parents, and staff to Joyner Elementary School.

### **B. Recognitions**

1. Tupelo High School Student Cullen McBride has been selected as a member of the U.S. Army All-American Marching Band.
2. TPSD Bus Drivers were recognized in observance of National School Bus Safety Month.
3. Tupelo High School Student Shivani Pacharne was named the sophomore representative for the Mississippi Hugh O'Brian Leadership Seminar.

## **COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD**

### **A. Superintendent Search Update**

At the noon meeting, Board Member Eddie Prather reported that information announcing the position of Superintendent of Schools of the Tupelo Public School District has been posted online at the Mississippi School Boards Association website in addition to the TPSD website. The deadline for applications is December 9, 2011.

Board President Amy Heyer announced that the following reports were given at the noon meeting:

1. SafeSplash Swimming Program
2. Reports on Visits to High Performing or Star Schools
3. Athletic Financial Report
4. Update Report on Common Assessments

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **A. Consent Agenda**

In accordance with Mr. Meadow's recommendations, Mr. Prather moved to approve and ratify the Consent Agenda as listed below:

1. Contractual Agreement #CO1234  
Contract for Rental of School Facilities #SFR1216 through #SFR1219  
Revision of Contract for Rental of School Facilities #SFR1209 approved 10-25-11
2. Donation #2011-2012-012
3. Permission to Apply for TPSD Grant #1205

4. Permission to Advertise for Sealed Bids #BD1201 – Bank Depository Bid
3. Permission to Amend the TPSD Capital Assets Listing as follows:
  - Delete Ten (10) Items
  - Add Two (2) Items

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Stone and was approved unanimously by all members present. The President of the Board declared the motion passed. A copy of the Consent Agenda report is marked EXHIBIT 2 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

## **B. Student Transfer Report**

Mr. Tucker moved to affirm the Student Transfer Report as presented:

- Approval of one (1) resident student transfer (in-district)
- Approval of two (2) resident student transfer (in-district for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year)
- Approval of admission of one (1) non-resident student (tuition)
- Denial of one (1) non-resident student (tuition)

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Stone and was approved unanimously by all members present. The President of the Board declared the motion passed. A detailed copy of the Student Transfer Report is marked EXHIBIT 3 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

## **C. Personnel Recommendations**

Interim Superintendent David Meadows recommended approval of the Licensed Staff recommendations. Mr. Tucker moved to approve the Licensed Staff recommendations as presented. Mr. Hudson seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by all members present. The President of the Board declared the motion passed. The Personnel Report is marked EXHIBIT 4 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

## **D. Docket of Claims**

Mrs. Heyer reviewed the Docket of Claims prior to the meeting. Mrs. Heyer passed the gavel to Vice President Eddie Prather and recommended approval of the Docket of Claims as outlined below:

- Docket of Claims for the period October 15 through October 28, 2011, Docket of Claims #96889 through #97440, Accounts Payable Checks #67978 through #68271 in the amount of \$4,123,733.89.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Stone and approved unanimously by all members present. Vice President Eddie Prather declared the motion passed.

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

The Docket of Claims is marked EXHIBIT 5 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

Mr. Prather passed the gavel back to Mrs. Heyer

#### **E. September 30, 2011 Financial Statement**

Finance Director Linda Pannell submitted the Statement of Income and Expenditures through month ending September 30, 2011, for consideration of approval. Mrs. Pannell stated that a listing by fund is available for the Board's information.

On a motion by Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Prather, the Board voted unanimously to approve the September 30, 2011, Financial Statement as submitted. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the President of the Board declared the motion passed.

The September 30, 2011, Financial Statement is marked EXHIBIT 6 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

#### **F. Student Discipline Report (Student #14-2)**

On a motion by Mrs. Stone, seconded by Mr. Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the administrative decision to expel Student #14-2 from the Structured Day Program and receive Homebound Services as determined by an Individual Education Program (IEP) meeting held on October 28, 2011. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the President of the Board declared the motion passed.

Detailed information regarding Student Discipline Report (Student #14-2) is marked EXHIBIT 7 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **A. Awarding of Bids to Sell Buses and Vehicles**

On a motion by Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Prather, the Board voted unanimously to award the following bids as outlined below:

**DESCRIPTION OF BUSES FOR SALE:**

**BUS 5 1993 GENESIS BUS VIN # 4DRGSDBPXP057915** Barcode # 0405  
MILEAGE 210,415 Condition: Engine uses excessive oil, transmission slips in reverse,  
Floor is rusted through.

**\$1,128 Hugh Shaffer (highest bidder)**

**BUS 8 1991 INTERNATIONAL BUS VIN # 4HVBAZRM1MH290508** Barcode # 0408  
MILEAGE 165,402 Condition: Engine locked up, front axle bent, radiator removed, instrument  
cluster removed, WRECKER NEEDED

**\$946 Hugh Shaffer (highest bidder)**

**BUS 22 1993 GENESIS BUS VIN # 4DRGSDDP2PA055668** Barcode # 0422  
MILEAGE 229,539 Condition: Engine low power, low oil pressure, floor is rusted through.

**\$1,158 Hugh Shaffer (highest bidder)**

**BUS 26 1994 INTERNATIONAL BUS VIN # 1HVBAZRPXRH592432** Barcode # 0426  
MILEAGE 155,432 Condition: Engine block cracked, broken front spring, brake booster not  
working, radiator removed, gauges removed, hood removed, WRECKER NEEDED

**\$951 Hugh Shaffer (highest bidder)**

**BUS 58 1991 INTERNATIONAL BUS VIN # 1HVBAZRM8MH383882** Barcode # 0458  
MILEAGE 185,300 Condition: Engine has water in the oil, transmission won't pull, holes in the floor,  
wheel removed, radiator removed, WRECKER NEEDED

**\$938 Hugh Shaffer (highest bidder)**

**BUS 62 1995 GENESIS BUS VIN # 4DRGSACP0SA063728** Barcode # 0462  
MILEAGE 112,700 Condition: Engine knock, floor rusted through, wheelchair lift does not work,  
cracked frame, many replacement parts are now obsolete.

**\$1,121 Hugh Shaffer (highest bidder)**

**Bus Total \$1,242**

**CO1 VAN 1997 DODGE CARAVAN VIN #2B4FP2535VR392696** Barcode # 0510  
MILEAGE 174,261 Condition: Engine timing belt broken, a/c compressor locked up WRECKER  
NEEDED

**\$549.00 Jerry Duffie (highest bidder)**

**Van Total \$549.00**

**CO2 CAR 1997 FORD TAURUS VIN #1FALP52U6VA315818** Barcode # 0478  
MILEAGE 144,504 Condition: Engine front cover leaking, water pump leaking, won't start, front axle  
makes noise, WRECKER NEEDED

**\$565.75 Homan McFarling (highest bidder)**

**CO3 CAR 1997 FORD TAURUS VIN #1FALP52U8VA315819** Barcode # 0479  
MILEAGE 122,926 Condition: Engine light on, transmission will not shift out, brake light on, heater  
core leaking, won't start, WRECKER NEEDED

**\$575.50 Homan McFarling (highest bidder)**

**Car Total \$1,141.25**

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the President of the Board declared the motion passed. Note: By awarding this bid, the Tupelo Public School District Board of Trustees gives permission for these assets to be removed from the TPSD Capital Assets Listing.

Detailed information regarding the awarding of bids to sell buses and vehicles is marked EXHIBIT 8 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

**B. Awarding of Advertised Request for Proposals (FRP1200 Tupelo High School Yearbook Proposals)**

Mrs. Linda Pannell recommended awarding the following Advertised Request for Proposals for RFP1200 Tupelo High School 2011-2012 Year book Proposals:

Recommendation: Addy Photography, Ltd., Oxford, Mississippi  
(winning score of 85.5 points)

On a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mrs. Stone, the Board voted unanimously to award RFP1200 Tupelo High School 2011-2012 Yearbook Proposals to Addy Photography, Ltd., Oxford, Mississippi (winning score of 85.5 points). Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the President of the Board declared the motion passed.

Detailed information regarding RFP1200 THS 2011-2012 Yearbook Proposals is marked EXHIBIT 9 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consideration for Approval of TPSD Grant #1206, Mississippi Department of Education Grant for Specified Services for the K-3 Universal Screener**

Ms. Lea Johnson presented for review and consideration for approval TPSD Grant #1206 for Specified Services for the K-3 Universal Screener not to exceed \$7,569.25 (\$3.25 per student with 2329 students in TPSD).

On a motion by Mrs. Stone, seconded by Mr. Prather, the Board voted unanimously to approve TPSD Grant #1206 for Specified Services for the K-3 Universal Screener not to exceed \$7,569.25 Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the President of the Board declared the motion passed.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**A. Future Agenda Topics**

1. At an earlier meeting, Board Member Lee Tucker had requested an update on the added support being provided for extra-curricular activities.

2. Mr. Meadows reported that a Long-Range Capital Projects report will be given at the December meeting, and in the near future an update report on TPSD Teacher Advisory Council will be scheduled.

**B. Executive Session – Personnel Matters**

An Executive Session was held at the noon meeting to discuss personnel matters. No action was taken.

**C. Consider Whether to Appoint a Hearing Officer for a Personnel Matter**

Mr. Prather moved that an independent hearing officer be hired to conduct the public hearing requested by Calvin Ellis on the decision of the Superintendent to terminate his employment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tucker.

Mr. Hudson made the following comments:

"I have a difficult time voting for this action and being able to explain it."

"This in no way changes my confidence in Mr. Meadows. I feel he is the strongest leader we have had in the district in a very long time."

"I feel the way I feel because I'm concerned about the impact what we do as a board will have on our kids in the school district."

"I don't want to be a party to continue to divide the community."

"I don't know if our board has the skill set to handle the hearing, but at the cost of continuing to divide the community, I draw the line on the impact it will have on our kids."

"We could have someone professional and skilled to provide an impartial hearing."

"I want to do what is best for the kids, instead of it having to be an either/ or, either a hearing officer or the board. Perhaps a hybrid would work."

**ADJOURNMENT**

At this point, several members of the audience disrupted the meeting by loudly voicing their opinions in opposition to appointing a hearing officer for the Ellis hearing, and for safety reasons the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:35 p.m.

APPROVED:  
TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arlissa C. Heyer, President

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Elizabeth Stone, Secretary