

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES 5:00 P.M. MEETING MINUTES  
April 15, 2014**

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, April 15, 2014, at Tupelo High School, 4125 Cliff Gookin, Tupelo, Mississippi.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Rob Hudson who welcomed guests attending the meeting.

**ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

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

**APPROVAL OF 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.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

March 18, 2014, Noon Regular Meeting

Mr. Prather made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2014, noon regular meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Davis and approved unanimously by all members present. Mr. Hudson declared the motion passed.

March 18, 2014, 5:00pm Regular Meeting

Mr. Wheeler made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2014, 5:00pm regular meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Davis and approved unanimously by all members present. Mr. Hudson declared the motion passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No requests for public comments were received for this meeting of the Board.

**WELCOME**

Principal Jason Harris welcomed the Board of Trustees, parents, staff and visitors to Tupelo High School.

## **RECOGNITIONS**

The Board of Trustees recognized the following students and teachers:

- National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Scholar (Morgan Ricks)
- STAR Student and STAR Teacher (Grant Thornton and Coach Lucas Smith)
- Tupelo Reads Contest Winners
- THS DECA – Qualified for International Competition
- Robotics – State Champions
- TSA Engineering Design – State Champions
- State Soccer Coach of the Year – Ms. Hannah Kimbrough
- THS Thespian Troupe – Superior Ratings at the MS Thespian Conference
- THS Skills USA Competition
- NAFME All-National Honors Ensemble
- Bridge Building – State Champions
- Scholastic Art Contest Winners
- THS Synergy and Stage Crew
- Structure
- THS Coed Cheerleading – State Champions
- THS Band – All Superior Ratings
- THS Girls and Boys Bowling – State Champions
- THS – State Journalism Titles
- 2014 TPSD Parents of the Year
- Announcement of 2014 TPSD Parent of the Year – Mrs. Ragan Milner, Milam Elementary

## **COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD**

Superintendent Gearl Loden summarized the following reports for the benefit of those not present at the noon meeting:

- A. National School Boards Association (NSBA) Annual Conference Trip Report presented by Mrs. Sherry Davis, Mr. Eddie Prather, Mr. Rob Hudson, Mr. Ken Wheeler and Dr. Gearl Loden (TPSD Policy BG)
- B. Grades 3-5 Chromebook Initiative presented by Mrs. Kimberly Britton and Mrs. Niki Peel (TPSD Goal #1)
- C. Ad Valorem Report for Amount Received in March, 2014 presented by Mrs. Linda Pannell (TPSD Goal #4)

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

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

In accordance with Dr. Loden's recommendations, Mrs. Davis moved to approve and ratify the Consent Agenda as listed below:

**A. Office of Finance Director Mrs. Linda Pannell (TPSD Goal #4)**

1. Contractual Agreements (TPSD Policy DJAAB Contract Signing Authority)
  - a. Contracts to be Acknowledged and Ratified: #CO1410 through #1413
  - b. Contracts to be Acknowledged and Awarded: #CO1409 and #CO1414
  - c. Contracts for Rental of School Facilities: #SFR1434 and #SFR1435
2. Donations #2013-2014-035 through #2013-2014-050 (TPSD Policy DFAB Revenues for Non-Tax Sources)
3. Permission to Submit TPSD Grants #1425 through #1427 (TPSD Policy DEEG Grant Management)
4. Permission to Accept TPSD Grant #1424 (TPSD Policy DEEG Grant Management)
5. Permission to Advertise BD1403 Security Cameras and BD1404 Maintenance/Custodian Uniforms (TPSD Policy DJED)
6. Permission to remove Special Education Bus #30 (Asset #29353) from the District Asset List). This bus was involved in an accident on March 5, 2014 and has been ruled as a total loss by our insurance company. The district has received a check from the insurance company for \$21,000 which will be used with other district funds for the purchase of a replacement. There were no students on the bus at the time of the accident; however, there were 2 employees on the bus at the time-the driver and monitor. Both employees were taken to medical care and neither employee suffered injuries.

**B. Office of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Matthew Dillon**

1. Student Transfer Report (TPSD Policy JBCD Transfers and Withdrawals of Students)
2. Overnight Field Trip Requests (TPSD Policy IFCB Field Trips and Excursions)
  - a. THS Engineering Class, Anaheim, CA, VEX Robotics Competition
  - b. TMS and THS Bridge Building Competition, Louisville, KY
  - c. THS Synergy, National Show Choir Competition, Chicago, IL
3. Tupelo High School Baseball Field Renovation Change Order Number Two (2) Request consideration of Change Order No. 2 with Century Construction Company. This change order is a deduct in the amount of \$128.00 which reconciles all allowances. The new contract sum is \$412,450.29.
4. Summer 2014 Food Service Programs (Policy #DEEG)

Request permission to operate summer food service programs at the following sites:

Pierce	Breakfast and Lunch for ESY for SPED Summer Program
King/ECEC	Breakfast and Lunch
TMS	Breakfast and Lunch
Joyner	Lunch Only
Lawndale	Snack only for Opportunity Camp; Breakfast Only for Dare Camp

5. Local Plan Update for FY 2015 for Career-Technical Center.....Ms. Evet Topp

**C. Office of Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Kim Britton**

Request Approval of Title X McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Programs (TPSD Goal #1, Policy #JQN).....Mrs. Anna Guntharp

**D. Office of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Diana Ezell**

Request Approval of Special Education Extended School Year Application (TPSD Goal #1, Policy #DEEG).....Mrs. Mary Ruth Wright

**E. Office of Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Leigh Mobley**

Request Approval of 2014 Summer Curriculum Project (TPSD Goal #1, Policy #IC)

The motion was seconded by Mr. Wheeler 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.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. Office of Director of Finance Mrs. Linda Pannell (TPSD Goal #5)**

**1. Docket of Claims**

As Mr. Hudson reviewed the Docket of Claims prior to the meeting, he passed the gavel to Board Vice President Ken Wheeler and recommended approval as outlined below:

- Docket of Claims for the period March 1, 2014 through April 4, 2014, Docket of Claims #17674 through #18615, Accounts Payable Checks #10833 through #11388 in the amount of \$1,776,732.74
- Tupelo High School Activity Check Register for the period March 2014, Checks #1428 through #1450 in the amount of \$15,862.42
- Athletic Activity Check Register for the period March 2014, Checks #1846 through #1902 in the amount of \$5,990

The grand total for all funds is \$1,798,585.95.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Davis and approved unanimously by all members present. Mr. Wheeler declared the motion passed.

This affirms that the claims 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 Report is marked EXHIBIT 3 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

Vice President Ken Wheeler passed the gavel back to Board President Rob Hudson.

## **2. Required Monthly Financial Reports – Month Ending February 28, 2014**

Following a review of each report and discussion, on a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mrs. Davis, the Board voted unanimously by all members present to approve the following financial reports:

- Bank Reconciliation Report
- Revenue and Expenditure Report with Budget Status
- TPSD Cash Flow Statement
- Combined Balance Sheet
- February 28, 2014 Financial

Mr. Hudson declared the motion passed. The Financial Reports for Month Ending February 28, 2014, are marked EXHIBIT 4 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

## **B. Office of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Diana Ezell (TPSD Policy BDE)**

### **Recommended Amendment to TPSD Policy Section G (Personnel Section) and TPSD Policy IHD Honor Roll**

At the noon meeting, Dr. Ezell explained that in accordance with Board Policy BDE April is the month that Section G (policies related to Personnel) of the Board Policies is reviewed. Dr. Ezell stated that following a comprehensive review of the 61 policies contained in this section 28 policies are recommended for revision with the majority of the revisions requiring splitting policy and administrative procedures. Additionally, Policy IHD Honor Roll is recommended for amendment.

Mr. Wheeler moved to approve amend the 28 policies as proposed by Dr. Diana Ezell in addition to Policy IHD Honor Roll. Mrs. Davis seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by all members present. Mr. Hudson declared the motion passed.

A detailed report of the aforementioned policy changes is marked EXHIBIT 5 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

**C. Office of Director of Human Resources Mr. Jim Turner (TPSD Goal #3)  
Office of Superintendent Gearl Loden**

**1. Licensed Personnel Recommendations (includes Addendum) (TPSD Goal #3)**

Mr. Turner presented Licensed Staff recommendations with addendum for consideration for approval. Mr. Wheeler moved to approve the Licensed Personnel Recommendations as presented. Mrs. Davis seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by all members present. Mr. Hudson declared the motion passed.

The Licensed Personnel Report is marked EXHIBIT 6 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

**2. Reemployment of TPSD Licensed Staff for 2014-2015 School Year;  
Reemployment of TPSD Licensed Staff Contingent Upon Receipt of Valid  
Endorsed License for 2014-2015 School Year; and Reemployment of  
TPSD Administrative Personnel for 2014-2015 School Year (TPSD Goal 3)**

Superintendent Gearl Loden presented the reemployment of TPSD Licensed Staff for the 2014-2015 school year; reemployment of TPSD Licensed Staff contingent upon receipt of valid endorsed license for the school year 2014-2015; and reemployment of TPSD Administrative Personnel for the 2014-2015 school year. Mr. Prather moved to approve the aforementioned described personnel for SY 2014-15 as presented. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by all members present. Mr. Hudson declared the motion passed.

A detailed report listing the Reemployment of TPSD Licensed Staff for SY 2014-15 is marked EXHIBIT 7 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

**3. 2014-2015 Salary Schedules – Teacher, Teacher Assistant and Teacher  
Assistant – Special Education (TPSD Goal 3)**

Superintendent Gearl Loden recommended approval of 2014-2015 Salary Schedules for Teachers, Teacher Assistants and Teacher Assistants – Special Education contingent upon the Governor signing the 2014 Teacher Pay Law. Mrs. Davis moved to approve the 2014-15 Salary Schedules for Teachers, Teacher Assistants and Teacher Assistants – Special Education as presented contingent upon the Governor's signature. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by all members present. Mr. Hudson declared the motion passed.

The aforementioned 2014-2015 Salary Schedules are marked EXHIBIT 8 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

**D. Office of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gearl Loden (TPSD Goals #3)**

**Information Items**

Information was provided regarding the following items:

1. AEE Annual Luncheon, 11:15am, April 24, Joyner Elementary
2. Rotary Scholars Luncheon, 11:30am, April 28, The Summit
3. THS Graduation, May 16, BancorpSouth Arena
4. THS Centennial, April 26, 11:00am, THS
5. Potential Changes in Accountability Model
6. MDE Budget Updates

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Awarding of Advertised Turf/Track Bid**

Mr. Prather moved to award the Turf/Track Bid to the lowest and best bidder which was Hellas Construction Inc., Austin, Texas, and to instruct the Business Office to add a separate item to the monthly financial statements presented to the Board to reflect the total amount of private gifts received for the turf/track replacement project and the percentage of pledged funds still outstanding. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by all members present. Mr. Hudson declared the motion passed. Detailed information regarding the Turf/Track Bid is marked EXHIBIT 9 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Amendment to Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB)**

Mr. Wheeler moved to submit a request to amend the 2010 Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB) to the Mississippi Department of Education as recommended. Mrs. Davis seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by all members present. Mr. Hudson declared the motion passed.

**B. McDougal Center Memorandum of Understanding**

Mr. Prather made the motion to approve the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between McDougal Center, Tupelo Public School District, and Lee County Schools as presented. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by all members present.

Mr. Hudson declared the motion passed. A copy of the McDougal Center Memorandum of Understanding is marked EXHIBIT 10 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

**C. AEE Awarded Grants for 2014**

On a motion by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously by all members present to approve the sixteen (16) AEE grants awarded for school year 2014-2015 in the amount of \$67,807.01. Mr. Hudson declared the motion passed.

A summary of the Awarded AEE Grants for SY 2014-2015 is marked EXHIBIT 11 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**A. Future Agenda Topics – Superintendent Gearl Loden**

**May 13, 2014 Board Meeting**

1. Approval of 2014-2015 School Handbooks
2. Recruiting Update
3. Community Advisory Update

**June 10, 2014 Board Meeting**

1. Annual Grant Report
2. Marketing and Communication Report
3. ECEC Update Report

**B. Future Agenda Topics – Board Members**

No items were requested by Board Members.

**C. Executive Session**

Board President Rob Hudson announced that an Executive Session was held at the noon meeting of the Board to discuss a personnel matter, however, no action was taken.



## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The President of the Board declared the motion passed and the meeting in adjournment at 6:25 p.m.

APPROVED:  
TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ATTEST:

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Robert L. Hudson, II, President

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Joseph Babb, Secretary