

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES  
May 15, 2018**

The Board of Trustees of the Tupelo Public School District convened in a regular meeting of the Board held in Open Session at noon on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, at the Hancock Leadership Center, 1920 Briar Ridge, Tupelo, Mississippi. This meeting had originally been scheduled for May 8, 2018, but when the need to reschedule arose, a Notice of the change from May 8 to May 15 was posted in the manner required by law. A copy of the Notice is marked EXHIBIT 1 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Eddie Prather who welcomed guests attending the meeting.

**ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Davis moved to approve the agenda for the May 15, 2018, regular meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wheeler, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda for the regular May 15, 2018, Board meeting as submitted. The President of the Board declared the motion passed.

**AMENDMENT TO MOTION TO APPROVE MAY 15 AGENDA**

Mr. Babb moved to amend the above motion by inserting the phrase "to include an addendum to the Personnel Report" (Section VIII. Superintendent's Report, Item B. #2). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Davis, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda for the regular May 15, 2018, Board meeting, as amended. The President of the Board declared the motion passed.

**REVIEW OF THE MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the following minutes: April 2, 2018 (Called Meeting); April 10, 2018 (Noon and 5:00pm Regular Meetings); and April 23, 2018 (Called Meeting). No corrections were noted.

## RECOGNITIONS

Music Education Teachers Taletha Newell and Lee Ann Grace Barnes represented district music education teachers. The National Organization of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation recently named the Tupelo Public School District as one of the best communities in the nation for music education. Designations are made to districts and schools that demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment and access to music education.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

As grandparent Rebecca Day had requested to make comments to the Board, Attorney Otis Tims reminded Ms. Day that she was limited to three minutes and could not offer public comment on personnel issues. In lieu of speaking to the Board, Ms. Day opted to give each Board member a copy of a letter describing her concerns. Mr. Prather advised Ms. Day that an administrator will be contacting her in the near future. Ms. Day then left the meeting.

## COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD

The following informational reports were presented to the Board of Trustees:

### A. National School Boards Association Annual Conference Overview

Mr. Wheeler, Mrs. Davis and Mr. Prather presented a brief overview of the sessions they attended at the recent NSBA Annual Conference in San Antonio. (TPSD Goals #1-#4)

### B. Ad Valorem Collections through April, 2018 (TPSD Goal #4, TPSD Policy DFA)

Finance Director Rachel Murphree reported that collections for Operations for March, 2018, received by the District in April, 2018, were 95.95% of the amount requested compared to 95.92% in the previous year. The collections for Debt Service for March, 2018, received by the District in April, 2018, were 96.33% of the amount requested compared to 96.12% in the previous year.

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

## CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for consideration for approval.

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

1. Contractual Agreements (TPSD Policy DJAAB Contract Signing Authority)
  - a. Contracts to be Acknowledged and Awarded: #CO1875 through #CO1882;  
Contracts for Rental of School Facilities #SFR1829, #SFR1830 and #SFR1831
  - b. Ratification of Contractual Agreements – #CO1873, #CO1874 and #CO1816
2. Donations #2017-2018-050 through #2017-2018-059
3. Request Permission to Submit Grants (TPSD Policy DEEG Grant Management)  
TPSD Grants #1818 through #1822

4. Request Permission to Accept Grants (TPSD Policy DEEG Grant Management)  
TPSD Grants #1819 through #1822
5. Permission to Advertise BD1806 School Cameras (replacement)
6. Permission to Advertise BD1807 Milk Bid
7. Permission to Advertise BD1805 Chromebooks
7. Permission to Sell 8 Old Buses by Lowest Bidder  
Permission to Dispose of 6 Old Buses (Sold for Scrap Metal)
9. Permission to Delete 58 Assets from the TPSD Asset Listing and Add Back  
Two (2) Assets (TPSD Policy DM)

**B. Office of Assistant Superintendent Mr. Andy Cantrell**

1. Student Transfer Report (TPSD Policy JBCD Transfers and Withdrawals of Students)
2. Overnight Field Trip Requests (TPSD Policy IFCB) (TPSD Goals #1 and #2)
  - TMS Cheer, UCA Cheer Camp, Starkville, MS , July 6-9, 2018

**C. Office of Director of Federal Programs Mrs. Corlis Curry (TPSD Goal #4)**

1. Approval of Memorandums of Understanding – Mississippi State University for  
Field Experience

No Board member requested the removal of any item from the Consent Agenda.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

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

- Docket of Claims for the period March 30 through May 4, 2018, Docket of Claims #52222 through #53231 in the amount of \$3,833,763.07;
- Athletic Activity Ref Pay paid officials and fees in the amount of \$4,303.88 for March 30 through May 4, 2018.

The grand total for all funds is \$3,838,066.95.

**2. Required Monthly Financial Reports – Month Ending 3/31/18**

In accordance with MS Code 37-9-18 the following Financial Reports for the month ending March 31, 2018, were reviewed:

- Summary Report of Reconciled Bank Statements with Certification
- Statement of Revenue and Expenditures with Current Budget Status
- Cash Flow Report for District Maintenance Fund
- Combined Balance Sheet for all General and Special Revenue Funds
- Monthly Financial Statements – not required  
(TPSD Goal #4, TPSD Policy Section D. Fiscal Management)

**B. Office of Director Human Resources Mr. Jim Turner**

**1. New Job Description – Lead Teacher**

Mr. Jim Turner presented a new job description titled Lead Teacher for consideration for approval.

**2. Licensed Personnel Recommendations**

Mr. Jim Turner presented the Licensed Personnel Recommendations including an Addendum for consideration for approval. It was noted that Willie Harmon's name should be deleted from the Building Administrators report as his position as Transportation Director does not require a license.

**C. Office of Assistant Superintendent Mr. Andy Cantrell (TPSD Goal #2)**

**1. Student Discipline Case #80-2017-2018**

Mr. Andy Cantrell recommended that the Board ratify the administrative decision to expel Student #80-2017-2018 from TPSD for one calendar year for violation of TPSD Policies JCDAE (2) and JD-E5 #12 .

**2. Student Discipline Case #83-2017-2018**

Mr. Andy Cantrell recommended that the Board ratify the administrative decision to expel Student #83-2017-2018 from TPSD for one calendar year for violation of TPSD Policy JD.

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

**Summer 2018 Projects**

Mr. Charles Laney updated the Board on the following summer projects:

- Upgrade to fire alarm at Fillmore Center
- Replace roof at Lawhon, Building A
- Handicap ramp at Rankin
- New Fencing at Rankin and Pierce

Total price of projects: \$160,000

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

**Reminder of Upcoming Events:**

- May 18, Graduation, BancorpSouth Area
- End of the Year Convocation, May 24, THS Performing Arts Center
- Memorial Day Holiday, May 28
- June 12, 2018, Noon, Regular Board Meeting

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No “Unfinished Business” items were presented at this meeting of the Board.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Budget Amendment Request**

The Board reviewed and considered for approval a recommendation from Finance Director Rachel Murphree to amend the 2017-2018 Budget to purchase Chromebooks. Mrs. Murphree explained that these funds exist but are not budgeted in the appropriate accounts. The total purchase requirement for the Chromebook bid is \$1,155,225, and \$631,564.78 remains in the bond fund that can be used towards this purchase. Therefore, \$523,660.22 of district funds will be required to fund the remaining portion of this purchase. Mrs. Murphree’s recommendation is to amend from the following:

\$200,000 from technology accounts budgeted for increased costs associated with expanding bandwidth, cost not incurred;

Remainder: \$323,660.22 from accounts budgeted for renovations to Church Street that were not undertaken.

### **B. Memorandum of Understanding – Toyota Wellspring Education Fund Career Coach Grant**

Assistant Superintendent Kimberly Britton recommends approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between TPSD and Toyota Wellspring Education Fund to hire two career coaches administered by the CREATE Foundation. Mrs. Britton further explained that the Toyota Wellspring Education Fund is implementing the Career Coach initiative for school districts in the PUL alliance. Tupelo High School will have the two career coaches for tenth graders this fall.

### **C. Change of July 24, 2018 Regular Board Meeting and FY19 Budget Hearing to July 31**

It was recommended that the July 24, 2018, Regular, Noon Board meeting and 5:00pm FY19 Budget Hearing be changed to July 31, 2018, to allow Board members to attend the NSBA Southern Region Leadership Conference in Biloxi on July 24-24, hosted by the Mississippi School Boards Association.

It was also the consensus of the Board to call a Special Called Meeting on Tuesday, August 7, 2018, at 5:00pm, at the Hancock Leadership Center to approve the FY19 Budget.

## **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

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

#### **June 12, 2018, Noon Meeting**

- Potential Handbook Changes
- Year End Athletic Report
- Year End ADA Report
- Turf Collections Report

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

Mr. Prather mentioned that at the June 12 Board meeting he would like an update report by Mrs. Rachel Murphree and Mr. Charles Laney regarding the bond referendum projects. Mr. Prather also suggested that there be discussions at the June 28-29 Board Retreat concerning the 2018-2019 budget and concerning security planning.

## **C. Executive Session**

Mr. Prather suggested that there was a need for consideration of entering into Executive Session to discuss legal matters. Mr. Hudson made a motion that the Board enter temporary Executive Session. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously. Mr. Prather declared the motion passed. The room was then cleared.

The temporary Executive Session was called to order with the following people present: Mr. Joe Babb, Mrs. Sherry Davis, Mr. Rob Hudson, Mr. Eddie Prather, Mr. Kenneth Wheeler, and Mr. Otis Tims. The Board first considered the reason for entering Executive Session. Mr. Prather stated that there was a need to hear a legal update by Board Counsel Otis Tims. Upon a motion by Mr. Hudson, with a second by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to remain in Executive Session. The President of the Board declared the motion passed and went out into the hallway to let everyone know that the Board would remain in Executive Session.

There then followed a discussion of legal matters led by Mr. Otis Tims, upon which no action was taken. Mr. Hudson moved that the Board return to Open Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wheeler, and adopted unanimously. Mr. Prather then left the room and announced that the Board was again in Open Session.

## **Open Session**

Mr. Prather stated that the Board had discussed legal matters, but that no action had been 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 3:05 p.m.

APPROVED:  
TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ATTEST:

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Eddie Prather, President

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Rob Hudson, Secretary