

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
JUNE 28-29, 2018**

The Board of Trustees of the Tupelo Public School District convened in a special called meeting of the Board held in open session at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 28, 2018, at the Pickwick Landing State Park Inn, Park Road, Pickwick Dam, Tennessee.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Eddie Prather called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

The following School Board members were present during roll call:

Members Present: Mr. Joe Babb
Ms. Sherry Davis
Mr. Rob Hudson
Mr. Eddie Prather
Mr. Kenneth Wheeler

Dr. Michael Waldrop, the executive director of the Mississippi School Boards Association was present, along with TPSD Board Attorney Otis Tims of Mitchell, McNutt and Sams. Incoming Superintendent Dr. Rob Picou and School Board Clerk Patrice Tate were also in attendance.

III. PURPOSE OF CALLED MEETING

Board President Eddie Prather announced a quorum and stated that the Special Called meeting was called pursuant to Mississippi Open Meeting Law (MS Code Sections 25-41-1 through 25-41-17) for the purpose of conducting the Annual Board Retreat.

IV. Understanding the School Board's Role

Dr. Michael Waldrop led a session with the Board specifically regarding understanding the school board's role. A few of the topics discussed during Dr. Waldrop's presentation are listed below:

- Boards and superintendents that do not understand their role and/or understand policy and how to use policy as a governance tool often end up with a fragmented focus that easily leads to dysfunctional board operation and possible board/superintendent relationship problems.
- The board does not solve problems. The board uses policy to establish criteria for how problems will be solved. Policies describe intent and desired outcomes and provide parameters or standards that must be met for the policy to be fulfilled.

- Process and strategy reports during board meetings will NOT answer the question “Are our goals being obtained?” Only end-results reports will prove that district goals are being met. It is critically important that board meeting structure allows the board and superintendent to focus on results of processes and not the processes themselves.
- Distinction between Governance vs. Management (In Mississippi, the authority to manage the day-to-day management of the school district is assigned to the superintendent. The duty of overseeing the management of the school district is assigned to the school board.
- To accomplish the vision of the school district, school boards – working with the superintendent – decide what needs to be done; the superintendent and his or her administrative team decide how to do it
- It is critical that the board/superintendent team understand oversight of management. Oversight of management is the process of making sure the manager is systematically managing and that the mission of the district is being achieved. Oversight of management is NOT second-guessing individual decisions the superintendent or principals make nor passing judgment on plans the school administration puts in place. Data (data indicators) will drive decision-making, and the superintendent’s act of monitoring the plans and procedures against appropriate data benchmarks will do the job of passing judgment on the effectiveness of the plan.

V. Communication from Dr. Rob Picou to School Board

Dr. Picou discussed the following topics with the board:

- Summary of feedback from meetings with principals, directors and teacher representatives from each school
- Plan to scrutinize and reduce number of consultants used during 2018-19 school year, thereby, reducing the cost by approximately \$300,000
- Proposed “draft” organizational chart
- District of Innovation
- Leadership Blueprint Training during July 18-20 Administrative Retreat

VI. Communication from School Board to Dr. Rob Picou

Board members discussed the following subjects with Dr. Picou:

- Discipline and discipline ladder
- Process of handling calls/complaints/concerns from parents, teachers, and community-at-large
- Budgeting process

VII. Recess

The Board retired at 5:15 p.m. for an evening break.

VIII. Reconvene

The meeting resumed at 8:45 a.m. on Friday, June 29, 2018. All board members were present. Dr. Rob Picou, Mr. Otis Tims, and Ms. Patrice Tate were also in attendance.

IX. Mr. Otis Tims – Legislative/Ethics Update

Mr. Tims noted that the 2018 Mississippi legislature had very little action concerning schools and described the changes that had been made. He also discussed a number of opinions related to school districts by the Attorney General in the past year as well as several recent court cases.

X. Mr. Ken Wheeler – Safety/Security Update and Discussion

Mr. Wheeler reported on the following areas of concern regarding safety/security:

- How do we meet and exceed “Goal #2 – Provide a safe, secure and orderly environment in all schools.”
- Develop an “All Hazard” approach to School Security
- Identify physical countermeasures for new and existing facility design

XI. Mr. Rob Hudson – Bond Referendum Overview and Discussion

An insightful review of the bond referendum projects was led by Mr. Hudson.

XII. Review of District Goals

Board members reexamined the District Goals and it was the consensus of the board to keep the same goals for the 2018-2019 school year. A conversation followed in regards to a focus on measurable results that connect to the four District Goals.

XIII. Adjournment

Mr. Wheeler made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Babb seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously, and the Board stood adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Eddie M. Prather, President

Rob Hudson, Secretary