

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2013**

The Board of Trustees of the Tupelo Public School District convened in a called meeting of the Board held in open session at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 12, 2013, at the Hancock Leadership Center, 1920 Briar Ridge, Tupelo, Mississippi.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Beth Stone called the meeting to order.

**II. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

Board members present during roll call were: Mr. Joseph Babb, Mr. Rob Hudson, Mr. Eddie Prather, Mrs. Beth Stone and Mr. Kenneth Wheeler. Mrs. Stone announced that all members were present, therefore, the meeting is lawfully in session.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Gearl Loden, Dr. Matthew Dillon, Mrs. Kimberly Britton, Mrs. Pamela Traylor, and Ms. Patrice Tate. Attorney Otis Tims was present along with TPSD Administrative Counsel Kelly Stimpson.

Board President Beth Stone announced: ""Pursuant to the Mississippi Open Meetings Law, Sections 25-41-1 through 25-41-17 of the Mississippi Code, this meeting was called for the purpose of conducting a special called meeting to consider a student discipline matter.

**III. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Board President Beth Stone suggested to the School Board a temporary Executive Session to determine the need for a permanent Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a student matter.

On a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to enter temporary Executive Session for the purpose of determining a need for permanent Executive Session. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the President of the Board declared the motion passed.

The room was cleared and the temporary Executive Session was called to order by Mrs. Stone with the following people present: Mr. Joe Babb, Mr. Rob Hudson, Mr. Eddie Prather, Mrs. Beth Stone, Mr. Ken Wheeler, Dr. Gearl Loden, Dr. Matthew Dillon, Mrs. Kimberly Britton, Mrs. Pamela Traylor, Ms. Patrice Tate, Mr. Otis Tims and Mrs. Kelly Stimpson.

The Executive Session was called to order and the Board first considered the reason for entering Executive Session. Upon a motion by Mr. Prather, with a second by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to remain in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a student matter. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the President of the Board declared the motion passed.

Mrs. Stone reopened the meeting to tell all those in attendance the reason for going into Executive Session was to discuss a student matter.

The Board heard summary information regarding Student Appeal #17-2013-2014 from Assistant Superintendent. Kimberly Britton who stated that on September 6, 2013, the parents of Student #17-2013-2014, requested an appeal regarding the District Disciplinary Hearing Committee's (DDHC) recommendation, and that her decision was to uphold the DDHC's recommendation of 45 school days to the Structured Day Program. She stated that on September 11, 2013, the parents of Student #17-2013-2014 requested an appeal to the TPSD Board of Trustees of the decision to assign the student to the Structured Day Program 45 days.

Next, Administrative Counsel Kelly Stimpson addressed the Board and summarized the findings and facts related to Student Case #17-2013-2014. Mrs. Stimson also outlined the Board's powers and duties as it related to the appeal process.

At this time, Board President Beth Stone asked that the room be cleared except for the Board and Attorney Otis Tims. Thereafter, the Board deliberated at length on the matters presented at the appeal.

Finally, Mr. Prather moved to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion. The President of the Board declared the motion passed and the Board in Open Session.

Mrs. Stone reopened the meeting to tell all in attendance that the Board was back in Open Session. No one was waiting except for Ms. Tate and Dr. Loden and they re-entered the meeting and Mrs. Stone stated that the Board was back in Open Session.

#### **IV. ACTION BY THE BOARD – APPEAL OF STUDENT #17-2013-2014**

Mr. Hudson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, to vote on the recommendation to uphold Assistant Superintendent Kimberly Britton's recommendation that Student #17-2013-2014 be placed at the Structured Day Program for 45 school days for violation of TPSD Policy JD-E4 Student Discipline. The matter was brought to a vote as follows:

Joseph Babb	NAY
Eddie M. Prather	YEA
Elizabeth Stone	NAY
Robert L. Hudson II	NAY
Kenneth Wheeler	YEA

Having received a majority of Nay votes, the motion failed and the decision of Assistant Superintendent Kimberly Britton to ratify the District Disciplinary Hearing Committee's decision of 45 school days at the Structured Day Program was not upheld.

Detailed information regarding Student Discipline Case #17-2013-2014 is marked EXHIBIT 1 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

**V. Adjournment**

Mrs. Stone entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Prather made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was adopted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Elizabeth Stone, President

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Kenneth Wheeler, Secretary