

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES 5:00 P.M. MEETING MINUTES  
March 5, 2013**

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, March 5, 2013, at Pierce Street Elementary School, 1008 Pierce Street, Tupelo, Mississippi.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Beth Stone who welcomed guests attending the meeting.

**ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

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

**CONFIRMATION OR AMENDMENT 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.

**REVIEW OF THE MINUTES**

February 12, 2013 – Noon Meeting

Motion was made by Mr. Prather, and seconded by Mr. Hudson, to approve the noon minutes of the regular meeting of February 12, 2013, with no corrections. Mrs. Stone announced that the motion passed unanimously.

February 12, 2013 – Five O'clock Meeting

Motion was made by Mr. Hudson, and seconded by Mr. Wheeler, to approve the five o'clock minutes of the regular meeting of February 12, 2013, with no corrections. Mrs. Stone announced that the motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**WELCOME**

Mr. Kenneth Goralczyk, Principal of Pierce Street Elementary School, welcomed the Board of Trustees, parents, staff and visitors to Pierce Street Elementary School.

## RECOGNITIONS

The following recognitions were presented:

- TPSD & City of Tupelo 2013 Governor's Award
- PREPS Value Added Award - TMS SATP2 Algebra I
- THS Cheerleaders - Won State Championship and placed 7<sup>th</sup> at Nationals
- District III DECA Advisor of the Year - THS teacher Brookes Mayes
- THS DECA Students Place at State Tournament
- THS Soundwave - 1<sup>st</sup> Place at Jackson Academy Show Choir Invitational
- TPSD Administrator of the Year - Milam Principal Travis Beard
- THS student Jacob Manley, THS student Zach Ellis, THS teacher Suzy McGrath, and CPR instructor Bev Crossen with the Weston Reed, and Beth Ekerd with Junior Auxiliary Foundation for handling an emergency on February 15<sup>th</sup>.
- THS Theatre Department - *Almost, Maine* wins 1<sup>st</sup> Place at Thespian Conference

## COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD

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

- A. "Talk About It" – Bullying Prevention Program at THS/TMS
- B. Bring Your Own Device
- C. Ad Valorem Collections Report

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

## CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

1. Contractual Agreements
  - a. Charter Bus Service Contract #BC2012-2013-006
  - b. Rental of School Facilities #SFR1327 and #SFR1328 and Revision of SFR1325
2. Donations #2012-2013-039 through #2012-2013-041
3. Permission to Submit TPSD Grants #1318 and #1319
4. Permission to Accept TPSD Grant #1320
5. Cash Flow Statements for Month Ending January 31, 2013

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

1. Student Transfer Report presented by Mrs. Pamela Traylor

2. Overnight Field Trip Requests (TPSD Goals #2 and #4)

- Tupelo Middle School Bridge Builders, March 4-5, 2013, Jackson, MS
- Tupelo Middle School Excel Technology Team, April 9-11, 2013, Washington, D.C.
- Tupelo High School, Bridge Builders, March 4-5, 2013, Jackson, MS
- Tupelo High School Mayor's Youth Council, March 1-2, 2013, Hattiesburg, MS

**C. Office of Superintendent Dr. Gearl Loden**

1. Dues for 2013-2014 National School Boards Association (April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014)
2. Approval of School Board Travel Expenses to Attend NSBA Annual Conference, April, 2013, San Diego, California

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**

Board Member Ken Wheeler recommended approval of the Docket of Claims for the period February 2, 2013 through February 25, 2013, Docket of Claims #8295 through #8858, Accounts Payable Checks #5028 through #5420 in the amount of \$1,271,043.77.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Prather and approved unanimously. Mrs. Stone 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 Report is marked EXHIBIT 3 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

**2. Financial Statement for the Month Ending January 31, 2013**

On a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mr. Hudson, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Financial Statement for month ending January 31, 2013, as presented. Mrs. Stone declared the motion passed.

A copy of the Financial Statement for month ending January 31, 2013, is marked EXHIBIT 4 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein

**3. 2011-2012 Audit Report**

On a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Hudson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Final Audit Report for year ended June 30, 2012, as presented. Mrs. Stone declared the motion passed.

A copy of the 2011-2012 Audit Report is marked EXHIBIT 5 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein

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

**Personnel Recommendations**

Mr. Hudson moved to approve the Licensed Staff recommendations as presented. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

The president of the Board declared the motion passed. The Personnel Report is marked EXHIBIT 6 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

**C. Office of Assistant Superintendent Matthew Dillon (TPSD Goal #2)**

**Student Case #43-02-2012-2013**

Mr. Prather moved to ratify the administrative decision to expel Student #43-02-2012-2013 from the Structure Day Program at the Fillmore Center for one calendar year (January 25, 2013 – January 24, 2014) for violation of TPSD Policy JK-E5. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. Mrs. Stone declared the motion passed.

Detailed information regarding Student Case #43-02-2012-2013 is marked EXHIBIT 7 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

**Student Case #50-02-2012-2013**

Mr. Hudson moved to ratify the administrative decision to expel Student #50-02-2012-2013 from the Structure Day Program at the Fillmore Center for one calendar year (January 25, 2013 – January 24, 2014) for violation of TPSD Policy JK-E5. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. Mrs. Stone declared the motion passed.

Detailed information regarding Student Case #50-02-2012-2013 is marked EXHIBIT 8 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

**D. Office of Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Diana Ezell (TPSD Goal #4)**

**1. Proposed Revision to TPSD Policies:**

**a. Adoption of New TPSD Policy #IEBA Dyslexia Policy**

On a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to adopt new TPSD Policy #IEBA (Dyslexia Policy). Mrs. Stone

declared the motion passed. A copy of Policy #IEBA is marked EXHIBIT 9 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

**b. Amendment to TPSD Policies**

On a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following policy changes as recommended to the Board by Assistant Superintendent Ezell and Administrative Counsel Kelly Stimpson.

1. CA-E Administrative Goals / Priority Objectives: Statement of Ethics is an exhibit, representing administrative procedures, to the Board's policy CA Administrative Goals / Priority Objectives. I recommend that we add an item to the end of the list that would say:

11. Adheres to the Mississippi Educator Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct.

Proposal also adds "Administrative Procedure" to the heading, for clarification.

2. CBI Superintendent Evaluation should be updated in light of HB 447 (2012). Recommended changes are highlighted and explained in marginal notes.

3. CBJA Dismissal of Superintendent is obsolete in light of SB 2176, which eliminates the right of a superintendent in Mississippi to have a hearing on his/her termination. Language in our current policy recommended to be deleted is marked on attached.

4. JHB Truancy would replace JHB-E (an exhibit, but no underlying policy), which has not been updated in more than 16 years. The language of our current policy should be deleted since it simply comprises a statement of what the State Board of Education is required to do, rather than a statement of our Board's policy relative to truancy. Please see attached proposed language, separated into a general statement of Board policy and administrative procedures.

5. BID Board Member Compensation - Proposed changes include (1) making the policy more specific to Tupelo rather than reciting verbatim the more generalized language of the state statute; (2) including the consequences for missed meetings, as proscribed by law; and (3) changing the designation from "BID-E" (an exhibit) to "BID," statement of Board policy.

6. BHA School District Logo and/or Motto This proposal adds "school name, mascot, logo" to the prohibitions; and adds new administrative procedures on how to seek permission to use the logo, motto, mascot, etc., including an appeal to the Board. [New code = ACB]

7. IKE/IHA Promotion, Retention and Acceleration of Students (Grading/Assessment Systems) Change will include five data points for promotion, and k-12 use modified ten-point grading scale. See attached [New code = IHA]

8. JICC Student Conduct on Buses Currently, the policy has no procedures. This proposal would remove what should be procedure/ regulation language from the Board policy and puts it under administrative procedures. [New code = JCDAD]

9. DKA Payroll Procedures Adds language regarding direct deposit, per SB2761.

10. GCQF Suspension and Dismissal of Licensed Staff Adds a sentence clarifying that the right to a hearing is not available to a superintendent.

Mrs. Stone declared the motion passed. Copies of the above policies are marked EXHIBIT 10 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

#### **E. Office of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gearl Loden (TPSD Goals #3 and #4)**

##### **Information Items:**

Dr. Loden summarized the following information items for those not present at the noon Board meeting:

1. Mississippi School Boards Association Annual Conference in Jackson, MS, held on February 25-27, 2013
2. Partnership with ICC regarding Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment Program
3. Whole Schools Initiative
4. Upcoming school visit to Santa Rosa, FL during spring holidays

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No Unfinished Business items were presented at this meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between City of Tupelo and TPSD for Safe Routes to Schools Grant Award, Phase 1**

On a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mr. Hudson, the Board voted unanimously to enter into an Interlocal Agreement for the purpose of constructing the Tupelo Safe Routes to School – Phase 1 which will include \$306,429 of sidewalk construction around Pierce Street Elementary and Tupelo Middle School. The President of the Board declared the motion passed.

A copy of the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement is marked EXHIBIT 11 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

## **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

### **A. Future Agenda Topics (April 9)**

At the noon meeting Dr. Loden discussed the following planned topics for the upcoming April 9 meeting of the Board:

1. Parent of the Year Recognition
2. Staffing Update by Mr. Jim Turner
3. Personnel Recommendations for School Year 2013-2014

### **B. Executive Session**

Board President Beth Stone announced that an Executive Session was held at the noon meeting of the Board to discuss personnel and student matters.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Prather, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The President of the Board declared the motion passed and the meeting in adjournment at 6:05 p.m.

APPROVED:  
TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Stone, President

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Kenneth Wheeler, Secretary