

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
February 14, 2017**

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, February 14, 2017, at the Hancock Leadership Center, 1920 Briar Ridge Tupelo, Mississippi.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Babb 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. Babb announced a quorum, and stated that the meeting was lawfully in session. Attorney Otis Tims was also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda for the regular February 14, 2017, Board meeting subject to the following changes:

- Addendum to Personnel Report under Section VIII. Superintendent's Report, Item B.
- Remove Policy #GABBA under Section VIII. Superintendent's Report, Item C., Number 2, First Reading of New Policies
- Remove Policy #DEEG under Section VIII. Superintendent's Report, Item C., Number 3, Revision of TPSD Policies

The President of the Board declared the motion passed.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

The Board reviewed minutes from the January 17, 2017, regular meeting held at noon. No corrections were noted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

RECOGNITIONS

The following recognitions were held at the noon meeting:

1. Lawhon Elementary Principal Mr. Ryan Curry read a proclamation from Governor Phil Bryant proclaiming February 12-18, 2017, as Mississippi School Board Recognition Week. Next, on behalf of all TPSD students, Milam Student Joy Morgan thanked Board members for their commitment and service to all the children entrusted to its care. Afterwards, a video presentation was shown of TPSD students expressing their appreciation to the Board. It was announced that in celebration of School Board Recognition Week TPSD students and staff have made monetary donations and collected school supplies for the Petal and Hattiesburg Public Schools recently affected by tornado damage.
2. Special Education Director Gena McAlpin recognized special education staff members Anna Miles, Kim Johnson, Stephanie Johnson and Sandy Haire to honor them for their service to the district.
3. Assistant Superintendent Secretaries Ms. Ginger Towery, Ms. Kelli Coburn and Ms. Melissa Hunter were acknowledged and praised for their work behind the scenes at the Central Administrative Office.

COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD

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

A. **United Way Update Report**

United Way Representatives Mr. Russ Wilson and Mr. Rob Rice addressed the Board expressing thanks to the Tupelo Public School District for their continued support of United Way. Mr. Rice explained that this year's campaign showed a 10% growth from last year and contributions have doubled since 2013. Mr. Rice stated that 99 cents of every \$1.00 collected stays local.

B. **Special Education Update Report**

Special Education Director Gena McAlpin presented an update report as outlined below:

1. Plan for 2016-2017 (analyze unit test scores and determine who is making growth and determine strategies that are causing students to grow)
2. Child Count (SPED students increased from 932 to 1002 students)
3. District File Review Team (implemented new process that expedites the process and allows for face-to-face meetings with schools)
4. MDE Monitoring Visit (class, monitoring document review, transition coordinator attends high school PLC's, MDE trainings, IEP Review Team and consultation with districts who have been through monitoring)
5. Other (trainings, record purging, and JDC Regulations and Procedures)
6. Structured Day, Behavior Classes, and McDougal Class Transition to ECEC and Thomas Street Elementary School
(TPSD Goals #1 and #2)

C. Assistant Principal Development Training Update Report

Assistant Principals Heather Cartwright and Mark Enis summarized training strategies for district assistant principals during the 2016-2017 school year as follows:

1. Engage assistant principals in training immediately (summer administrative retreats with principals and administrators)
2. Principals' Summer Institute (collaboration with all AP's at TPSD in addition to building relationships with administrators across the state, team building among AP's)
3. First Year Administrator Mentor (assigned a mentor who is a retired superintendent or principal)
4. Monthly AP Meetings at HLC led by Mrs. Corlis Curry....guest speaker Dr. Tom Burnham (former state superintendent....also former principal and superintendent)

(TPSD Goals #1 and #3)

D. First Semester GPA and MHSAA Scholar Athlete Team Information

Athletic Director Eddie Moore reported on first semester GPA and MHSAA Scholar Athlete Team Information. Dr. Moore stated that first semester average GPA was 3.49 for 582 student athletes. Attendance was 95.67% (TPSD Goal #1)

E. Ad Valorem Collections through January, 2017

Assistant Finance Director Rachel Mitchell reported that collections for Operations for December, 2016, received by the District in January, 2017, were 31.99% of the amount requested compared to 24.57% in the previous year. The collections for Debt Service for December, 2016, received by the District in January, 2017, were 31.64% of the amount requested compared to 23.66% in the previous year. (TPSD Goal #4, TPSD Policy DFA)

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 Assistant Finance Director Mrs. Rachel Mitchell (TPSD Goal #4)

1. Contractual Agreements
Acknowledge and Award Contracts #CO1743, #CO`744 and #CO1746; Charter Bus Contract BC #2016-2017-007; and Contract for Rental of School Facilities #SFR1716
2. Ratification of Contracts #CO1741, #CO1742 and #CO1743
3. Accepted Donations #2016-2017-039 through #2016-2017-043
4. Permission to Submit TPSD Grants #1713 through #1716
5. Permission to Accept TPSD Grant #1726
6. Permission to Advertise BD170 TPSD Activity Bus
7. Awarding of Advertised Bid/Proposals – RFP103 E-Rate Items/Equipment

B. Office of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Eddie Peasant

1. Student Transfer Report (TPSD Policy JBCD Transfers and Withdrawals of Students)
2. Overnight Field Trip Requests
 - TCTC – FCCLA to attend “Students Taking Action with Recognitions” STAR Event to compete on March 1-3, 2017, Jackson, MS
 - TCTC – FCCLA Culinary Arts to attend FCCLA Leadership conference and competition, March 1-3, 2017, Jackson, MS
3. 2016-2017 School Wellness Policies as required by MDE, Office of Healthy Schools (TPSD Policy JDE) (TPSD Goals #1 and #2)

C. Office of Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Anna Guntharp

Approval of Fiscal Year 2017 Title III LEP and Title II Immigrant Assurances

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

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

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

1. Docket of Claims and Athletic Ref Pay

- Docket of Claims for the period January 7 through February 3, 2017, Docket of Claims #42010 through #42745, Accounts Payable Checks #27615 through #28269 in the amount of \$1,541,572.56.
- Athletic Activity Ref Pay paid officials and fees in the amount of \$3,641.05 for January 1 through January 31, 2017.

The grand total for all funds is \$1,545,213.61.

2. Required Monthly Financial Reports – Month Ending 12/31/16

In accordance with MS Code 37-9-18 the following Financial Reports for the month ending December 31, 2016, 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

Licensed Personnel Recommendations

Mr. Jim Turner presented the Licensed Personnel Recommendations including an Addendum for consideration for approval.

C. Office of Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Kimberly Britton (TPSD Goals #1-#4)

1. Second Reading of New TPSD Policy IAAA Right to Opt-Out of State Testing

Dr. Leigh Mobley presented new TPSD Policy IAAA Right to Opt-Out of State Testing for a second reading.

2. First Reading of New TPSD Policies – EDDAA, GABE, and GBRA

Dr. Mobley presented the following proposed new TPSD policies for first reading by the Board:

EDDAA	Student Transportation
GABE	Title I Comparability
GBRA	Paperwork Reduction

3. Recommendation to Amend Existing TPSD Policies (GBAAAB, EBHA, GADG and GBBA)

Dr. Leigh Mobley recommended approval to amend the following existing TPSD Board Policies following a review and in consultation with appropriate directors, principals and staff:

GBAAAB	Classified Staff Fringe Benefits
EBHA	Use of School Property
GADG	Professional Leave
GBBA	Certifications and Duties

D. Office of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Eddie Peasant (TPSD Goal #2)

1. Student Discipline Case #30-2-2016-2017

Dr. Eddie Peasant recommended that the Board ratify the administrative decision to expel Student #30-2-2015-2016 from TPSD for one calendar year for violation of TPSD Policy JD – Procedures 6 – Alternative Schools 4-12.

2. Student Discipline Case #74-2016-2017

Dr. Eddie Peasant recommended that the Board ratify the administrative decision to expel Student #74-2016-2017 from TPSD for one calendar year for violation of TPSD Policy JD – Procedures 6 – Alternative Schools 4-12.

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

Information Items:

1. Buildings and Grounds Update Report – Mr. Andy Cantrell

Mr. Cantrell reported on the progress of the building/renovations projects currently underway throughout the district as follows:

- a. Projects are completed at Rankin, TMS Classroom Addition, Milam, ECEC Classroom Addition and Lawndale.
- b. Moving forward with shelters at Thomas and Joyner.
- c. ECEC Renovations – Award Bid at today’s meeting with notice to proceed once insurance documents are received.
- d. Opening bids for TMS, Lawhon, and Parkway during the month of March.

2. Credit to TPSD for TMS Classroom Addition – Mr. Andy Cantrell

Mr. Cantrell reported that Change Order Number One reflects a credit to the district in the amount of \$45,609.70 for the new classroom addition project at TMS. The original Contract Sum was \$1,429,000.00. The new Contract Sum including this change order is now \$1,383,390.30.

3. STEM Implementation – Mrs. Kimberly Britton

Mrs. Britton announced that TPSD will become Mississippi’s Premier STEM District. STEM is a term that refers to the academic disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Plans are to implement STEM across the curriculum in phases beginning with the elementary schools and culminating at THS. This transition will be a cultural shift requiring professional development, summer curriculum planning, and partnerships with stakeholders in our community.

Reminder of Upcoming Events:

- February 20 – School Holiday (President’s Day)
- Spring Open Houses: ECEC & K-2 – March 7, 4-6:00pm; 3rd-5th including Lawhon 2nd Grade – March 2, 4-6:00pm; Milam – March 21, 4-6:00pm
- March 21, 9:00am Work Session, HLC, Noon, Regular Meeting, HLC

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Resolution Directing the Sale and Award of General Obligation Bonds in the Principal Amount of Eight Million Eight Hundred Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$8,800,000.00) and Taking Other Actions Regarding the Aforesaid Bonds

Mr. Tims advised that the District opened three (3) bids for the \$8.8 Million General Obligation bonds being issued by the District and that the bid with the lowest interest cost by a significant margin was submitted by BNA Bank, but that BNA Bank’s bid contained a technical nonconformity. Mr. Tims advised that under such circumstances, the District could reject all bids and subsequently sell the bonds to BNA Bank by private sale so long as the sale price was at an interest cost equal to or less than BNA Bank’s original bid, and so long as BNA Bank corrected the technical nonconformity. Mr. Tims advised that as BNA Bank had agreed to correct the nonconformity and to purchase the bonds at a private sale at a price that resulted in the same interest cost to the District as in BNA Bank’s original bid, it is would be in the District’s best interest to reject all bids and to sell the Bonds to BNA Bank by private sale, as provided for in the Resolution presented to the Board and bearing the title:

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SALE AND AWARD OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF EIGHT MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$8,800,000.00), OF THE TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT AND TAKING OTHER ACTIONS REGARDING HE AFORESAID BONDS.

B. Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Issuance of a Limited Tax Note in the Principal Amount of \$1,100,000.00

Mr. Tims recommended adoption of a resolution with the following title, a complete copy of which was presented to and discussed with the Board:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE ISSUANCE OF A NOTE OF THE TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$1,100,000.00).

c. Discussion of TPSD Policy FB – Naming School Facilities

It was reported that the committee formed to look into TPSD Policy FB – Naming School Facilities is scheduled to meet on Thursday, February 16. Further information on any proposed revisions or findings should be available for discussion at the March 21 Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Awarding of Early Childhood Education Center Renovations 2017 Bid

Mr. William Dexter of PryorMorrow PC Architects and Mr. Andy Cantrell recommended that McCarty King Construction Company be awarded the ECEC Renovations Project. McCarty King Construction Company submitted the lowest/best bid which fulfills the needs of the District for base bid plus alternate numbers 1 through number 4 and alternate numbers 6 through number 9 for a total amount of \$2,024,527.00.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

A. Future Agenda Topics – Superintendent Gearl Loden

March 21, 2017, Regular Board Meeting

- Oath of Office for Re-Appointed Board Member
- Organizational Meeting
- Audit Update
- Approval of Opportunity Camp
- Employment of 2017-2018 School Administrative Personnel
- Amendment of IDEA-FY16 Project Application
- Bond Projects Update
- Approval of Title I-Part D
- Safety Audit Report

B. Future Agenda Topics – Board Members

No specific agenda topics were requested by Board Members at this meeting of the Board.

C. Executive Session

Board President Joe Babb suggested to the School Board a temporary Executive Session to determine the need for a permanent Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters involving personnel issues..

On a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mrs. Davis, the Board voted unanimously to enter temporary Executive Session for the purpose of determining a need for permanent Executive Session. The President of the Board declared the motion passed.

The room was cleared and the temporary Executive Session was called to order by Mr. Babb with the following people present: Mr. Joe Babb, Mrs. Sherry Davis, Mr. Rob Hudson, Mr. Eddie Prather, Mr. Kenneth Wheeler, Dr. Gearl Loden, Mr. Otis Tims, Mrs. Modesty Shumpert, Ms. Patrice Tate, Mrs. Kimberly Britton, and Dr. Eddie Peasant.

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

Mr. Babb went out into the hallway to let everyone know that the Board would remain in Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

There followed discussion of the first portion of personnel matters.

Then, THS Principal Jason Harris entered the room, and discussion followed regarding other personnel matters.

Following discussion, Mr. Wheeler made a motion that the Board return to Open Session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Davis and adopted unanimously by the Board. Mr. Babb then left the room and announced that the Board had returned to Open Session.

Upon his return Mr. Babb stated that the Board had discussed two separate personnel matters, but had taken no action.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Prather, 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 3:30 p.m.

APPROVED:
TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ATTEST:

February 14, 2017
Noon, Hancock Leadership Center

Tupelo Public School District
Board of Trustees – Meeting Minutes
PENDING APPROVAL

Joe Babb, President

Sherry Davis, Secretary