

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 2011**

The Board of Trustees of the Tupelo Public School District convened in a special called meeting of the Board held in open session at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, November 14, 2011, at the Hancock Leadership Center, 1920 Briar Ridge, Tupelo, Mississippi

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Board President Amy Heyer.

II. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

The following School Board members were present during roll call:

Members Present: Mrs. Amy Heyer
Mr. Rob Hudson
Mr. Eddie Prather
Mrs. Beth Stone
Mr. Lee Tucker (participated via telephone*)

Staff Present:	Mr. David Meadows	Ms. Patrice Tate
	Mrs. Diana Ezell	Ms. Julie Connolly
	Dr. Fred Hill	Dr. Derwood Tutor
	Mrs. Kay Bishop	Mrs. Dale Warriner
	Mrs. Mary Ann Plasencia	Mrs. Glenda Scott
	Mrs. Marissa Martin	Mr. Jim Turner
	Mrs. Linda Pannell	

Board Attorney Otis Tims of Mitchell, McNutt and Sams was also present. Also in attendance were members of the press.

Board President Amy Heyer 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).

III. Public Comments

The following requests to address the Board regarding a personnel matter were received:

1. Mr. John Sanders
2. Dr. Roger Williams
3. Attorney David Butts

Dr. Williams and Mr. Sanders elected to defer to Mr. Butts for comments. Mr. Butts addressed the Board and requested that the Board hear the appeal rather than hiring a hiring officer.

Board President Amy Heyer stated that the Board of Trustees will take Mr. Butts' comments under advisement.

IV. Consider Whether to Appoint a Hearing Officer for a Personnel Matter

Mr. Prather stated, "MADAM PRESIDENT, following our extensive discussion and deliberations in Executive Session on Tuesday, November 8, I move that an independent hearing officer be hired to conduct the public hearing requested by Calvin Ellis on the decision of the Superintendent to terminate his employment."

"AND FURTHER, and that pursuant to the recommendation of our counsel Otis Tims, Mr. John Compton be engaged as such hearing officer,

"AND FURTHER that the hearing be commenced as soon before November 30, as is permitted by the schedules of the hearing officer and the terminated employee."

The motion was duly seconded by Mrs. Stone and brought to a roll call vote as follows:

Mrs. Amy Heyer	voted: <u>Aye</u>
Mr. Rob Hudson	voted: <u>Nay</u>
Mr. Eddie Prather	voted: <u>Aye</u>
Mrs. Beth Stone	voted: <u>Aye</u>
Mr. Lee Tucker	voted: <u>Aye</u>

Having received a majority of affirmative votes, the President of the Board declared the motion passed.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mrs. Stone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Prather, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed, and Mrs. Heyer declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

APPROVED:

TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ATTEST:

Arlissa Heyer, President

Elizabeth Stone, Secretary

*Footnote: Mr. Tucker participated from the time the meeting was called to order until adjournment. His participation was via speakerphone whereby he was able to hear all discussions and deliberations of those physically present at the meeting in their entirety; and, all who physically attended could hear him whenever he participated in such decisions and deliberations.