

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES 5:00 P.M. MEETING MINUTES
May 10, 2016**

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, May 10, 2016, at Lawhon Elementary School, 140 Lake Street, 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

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.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

April 20, 2016, 9:00am, Work Session, HLC

Mrs. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2016, 9:00am work session as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wheeler and approved unanimously. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

April 20, 2016, Noon, Regular Meeting, HLC

Mr. Hudson made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2016, noon regular meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Davis and approved unanimously. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

WELCOME

Principal Corlis Curry welcomed the Board of Trustees, parents, staff and visitors to Lawhon Elementary School.

RECOGNITIONS

The Board of Trustees recognized the following:

- Presented Plaque to Mrs. Dot Rieves, wife of the late Bill Rieves, and their daughter Cynthia Colburn and son Rob Rieves in honor and sincere appreciation of Mr. Rieves' 34 years of service and dedication to the Tupelo Public Schools.
- May Employees of the Month
- Distinguished Teaching Award K-12 from the National Council for Geographic Education (Laura Russell, Joyner)
- Thomas Street Student Wins 1st Place MS Reading Fair (Isaiah Barbour)
- Growing Healthy Waves (Tylar Sester)
- Lawhon Beta Club
- THS Madrigals/Vocal Jazz
- THS Broadcast Journalism Students
- THS Print Journalism Students
- MS Lions Band
- Riptide Indoor Percussion
- Tsunami Winter Guard
- TMS Varsity Band (8th Grade)
- THS Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band
- Milam Band
- THS Coaches
- Career and Technical Center
- THS Show Choir
- Milam Stock Market

COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD

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

A. **National School Boards Association Annual Conference Overview**

Mr. Wheeler, Mrs. Davis and Mr. Hudson presented a brief overview of the sessions they attended at the recent NSBA Annual Conference in Boston. (TPSD Goals #1-#4)

B. **2014-2015 Audit Exit Interview and Audit Report**

Mr. Babb reported that Mr. Prather, Mrs. Murphree, Dr. Loden, and he met with J. E. Vance and Company on April 27 for the exit interview for the 2014-2015 audit. Mr. Babb stated that the audit contained no findings and recommended approval of the 2014-2015 Audit Report. (TPSD Goal #4)

Mr. Wheeler made a motion to approve the 2014-2015 Audit Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Prather and approved unanimously. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

C. **Third Grade Gate Results Spring 2016**

Mrs. Lea Johnson provided a summary of the 2015-2016 School Year Third Grade Gate Results. (TPSD Goal #1)

D. Testing Update Report

Mrs. Kimberly Britton and Dr. Leigh Mobley reported that this is Mississippi's first year using QUESTAR for end of the year assessments. They stated that districts across the state, as well as MDE, have been inundated with technical difficulties, but our district has done well, in spite of these issues. (TPSD Goal #1)

E. Graduation Rate for Class of 2014 through 2016 Update Report

Mrs. Lea Johnson and Mr. Jason Harrison reported on the 2010 Cohort Graduation Rate and provided a historical review of previous years. (TPSD Goal #1)

F. Ad Valorem Collections through April, 2016

Finance Director Rachel Murphree reported that collections for Operations for March received by the District in April were 95.39% of the amount requested compared to 96.65% in the previous year. The collections for Debt Service for March received by the District in April were 94.99% of the amount requested compared to 96.05% in the previous year. (TPSD Goal #4)

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. Rachel Murphree (TPSD Goal #4)

1. Contractual Agreements
 - Acknowledge and Award Contracts #CO1652 through #CO1657 and #CO1660
 - Ratification of Contracts #CO1658 and #CO1659
 - Contracts for Rental of School Facilities #SFR1635 and #SFR1636
2. Accepted Donations #2015-2016-048 through #2015-2016-051
3. Permission to Accept Grant #1360 – MDE: Mississippi Department of Health (TMS), \$6,000
4. Deletion of 125 Assets from the TPSD Asset Listing and Add Back Six (6) Assets to the TPSD Asset Listing
5. Permission to Advertise for BD1700 Milk Bid and BD1701 Classroom/Office Supply Bid

B. Office of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Eddie Peasant

1. Student Transfer Report (TPSD Policy JBCD Transfers and Withdrawals of Students)
2. Summer Food Service Programs for 2016
Mrs. Lynne Rogers is requesting permission to operate the 2016 summer food service program at 7 sites.
3. 2016-2017 Student Meal Prices

Mrs. Lynne Rogers is requesting permission to increase student lunch prices .25 cents for the 2016-2017 school year.

C. Office of Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Kimberly Britton

Title I and Title II 2016-2017 Grant Assurances

Mrs. Anna Guntharp presented 2016-2017 Grant Assurances for approval and requested signatures of Board President Joe Babb and Superintendent Gearl Loden for consideration of approval of Application for Title I and Title II LEA Grant Assurances 2016-2017.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Davis and was approved unanimously . 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. Rachel Murphree (TPSD Goal #5)

1. Docket of Claims and Athletic Activity Ref Pay

As Mr. Eddie Prather had reviewed the Docket of Claims prior to the meeting, he recommended approval of the Docket of Claims and Athletic Activity Referee Pay as described below:

- Docket of Claims for the period April 9 through April 30, 2016, Docket of Claims #35532 through #36203, Accounts Payable Checks #23111 through #23558 in the amount of \$1,110,427.33.
- Athletic Activity Ref Pay paid officials and fees in the amount of \$3,129.19 for April, 2016.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Wheeler and approved unanimously. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

The Docket of Claims Report is marked EXHIBIT 3 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

2. Monthly Financial Reports Required by MS Code § 37-9-18 (Month Ending 3-31-16)

Following a review of each report and discussion, on a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mrs. Davis, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following financial reports:

- Report of Reconciled Bank Statements with Certification
- Statement of Revenue and Expenditure Report with Current Budget Status
- Cash Flow Report for District Maintenance Fund
- Consolidated Fund Balance Sheet for all General and Special Revenue Funds
- Monthly Financial Statement

Mr. Babb declared the motion passed. The Financial Reports for Month Ending

March 31, 2016, are marked EXHIBIT 4 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

B. Office of Director of Human Resources Mr. Jim Turner (TPSD Goals #3 and #4)

Licensed Personnel Recommendations

Mr. Wheeler moved to approve the Licensed Personnel Recommendations (plus addendum) as presented. Mrs. Davis seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

The Licensed Personnel Report is marked EXHIBIT 5 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

C. Office of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Diana Ezell (TPSD Goals #1-#4)

2016-2017 School Handbooks, District Guidebooks, and Athletic Handbook Changes

On a motion by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed 2016-2017 School Handbooks, District Guidebooks and Athletic Handbook Changes as presented. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

Copies of the 2016-2017 School Handbooks, District Guidebooks, and Athletic Handbook are marked EXHIBIT 6 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

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

1. Student Discipline Case #140-2015-2016

On a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Hudson, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the administrative decision to expel Student #140-2015-2016, from TPSD for one calendar year for violation of TPSD Policy JD-E3. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

Detailed information regarding Student Discipline Case #140-2015-2016 is marked EXHIBIT 7 "Sealed and Confidential" and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

2. Student Discipline Case #98-2-2015-2016

On a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mrs. Davis, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the administrative decision to expel Student #98-2-2015-2016, from TPSD for one calendar year for violation of TPSD Policies JD-E3. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

Detailed information regarding Student Discipline Case #98-2-2015-2016 is marked EXHIBIT 8 "Sealed and Confidential" and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

E. Office of Executive Director of Operations Mr. Andy Cantrell (TPSD Goals #2 and #4)

1. Church Street School Renovations Project

Mrs. Davis moved to approve Service Order for Agreement between Owner and Architect (JBHM) for the Church Street Renovation Project, and authorized Superintendent Gearl Loden to execute all documents related to this project. The estimated cost for Phase I renovations is \$154,560.00 (includes parking lot). Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

A copy of the Service Order for Agreement between Owner and Architect for the Church Street Renovation Project is marked EXHIBIT 9 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

2. Lawndale Elementary School Renovations Re-Bid

Mr. Charles Laney, JBHM Architects, P.A. and Mr. Andy Cantrell reported that the Lawndale Elementary School Renovations project was re-bid and the bid opening occurred on April 21, 2016. Only one bid was received on the project (Conditioned Air), and the bid was less than the original bids received on this project. Mr. Wheeler moved to award Conditioned Air the bid for the Lawndale Elementary School Renovations project for a total contract sum of \$355,500.00, and authorized Superintendent Gearl Loden to execute all documents related to this project. Mrs. Davis seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

Detailed information regarding the Lawndale Elementary School Renovations Re-Bid is marked EXHIBIT 10 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

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

Information Items:

a. Summer Packets – Mrs. Kimberly Britton

Mrs. Britton reported that summer packets were created for grades K-6 in reading and math. Curriculum Department and techies worked together to make sure these packets are rigorous and fun. Media Centers at each school will be open Thursday's from Noon-6:00pm, June 9-11.

b. Splash in K – Mrs. Anna Guntharp

Mrs. Guntharp provided dates and information regarding the Splash in Kindergarten program.

c. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) – Mrs. Anna Guntharp

Mrs. Guntharp explained key points of what will be different under ESSA which is a new education law signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015.

d. Upcoming Events – Dr. Gearl Loden

- May 20, THS Graduation, 7:00pm, BancorpSouth Arena
- May 23, End of the Year Program, PAC, THS, 8am
- June 6-10, TPSD Administrative Retreat
- June 13, Regular Board Meeting, Noon, HLC
- June 23-24, School Board Retreat
- July 18-22, TPSD Back to School Retreat

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No Unfinished Business topics were listed on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution to Amend Employment Contract to Attend Millsaps College Principals' Institute, June 12-17, 2016

Superintendent Gearl Loden recommended adoption of a Resolution to amend Mrs. Candi Robertson's employment contract. Mrs. Robertson was approved for employment as an assistant principal for the 2016-2017 school year commencing on July 1, 2016. All TPSD assistant principals are scheduled to attend the Mississippi College Principals' Institute on June 12-17. Adoption of this Resolution would allow Mrs. Robertson to attend the institute.

Mrs. Davis moved to adopt a Resolution to amend Mrs. Candi Robertson's employment contract to allow Mrs. Robertson to attend the Mississippi College Principals' Institute on June 12-17, 2016. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

A copy of the Resolution to Amend Mrs. Candi Robertson's Employment Contract is marked EXHIBIT 11 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

A. Future Agenda Topics – Superintendent Gearl Loden

- Marketing/Communication Update
- End of the Year Athletic Report
- Year End Discipline Report
- Annual Grants Update
- Year End ADA Report
- Staff Recruitment Report
- Teacher Leadership Academy
- Legislative Bill Summary

B. Future Agenda Topics – Board Members

No future agenda topics were requested by Board members.

C. Executive Session

Mr. Babb stated that an Executive Session was held at the noon meeting to hear a student discipline appeal and to discuss litigation matters.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Davis seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed and the meeting in adjournment at 5:57 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Joe Babb, President

Sherry Davis, Secretary