

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOON MEETING MINUTES  
April 15, 2014**

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, April 15, 2014, at the Hancock Leadership Center, 1920 Briar Ridge, Tupelo, Mississippi.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Rob Hudson who welcomed guests attending the meeting.

**ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

Board members present during roll call were: Mrs. Sherry Davis, Mr. Rob Hudson, Mr. Eddie Prather and Mr. Kenneth Wheeler. Mr. Joe Babb was absent. Mr. Hudson 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 Mr. Prather, seconded by Mrs. Davis, the Board voted unanimously by all members present to approve the agenda for April 15, 2014, with the following changes:

1. Addendum to the Licensed Personnel Report, Section VIII. Superintendent's Report, Item C. Number 1.
2. Added Consideration of Approval of AEE Awarded Grants for School Year 2014-15 to Section X. New Business, Item C. in addition to presentation by AEE President Ryan Roper and Past President Brent Waldrop regarding the AEE Awards

The President of the Board declared the motion passed.

**REVIEW OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes from the following meeting was presented for consideration for approval:

March 18, 2014	Regular Meeting, Noon, Hancock Leadership Center
March 18, 2014	Regular Meeting, 5:00pm – Lawhon Elementary School

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**RECOGNITIONS**

Mr. Hudson announced that numerous recognitions were scheduled for the 5:00 p.m. meeting of the Board at Tupelo High School.

## **PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE VACANCIES**

Dr. Loden introduced his recommendations to fill TPSD administrative vacancies for the 2014-2015 school year as follows:

- Mr. Art Dobbs                      Principal, Pierce Street Elementary School
- Mrs. Amy Barnett                Principal, Rankin Elementary School
- Mrs. Niki Peel                     Coordinator of Instructional Technology
- Mr. L. V. McNeal                Assistant Principal, Milam Elementary School
- Ms. Tracey Taylor               Assistant Principal, Pierce Street Elementary School
- Ms. Melissa Thomas            Assistant Principal, Tupelo High School

## **COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD**

The following reports were presented to the Board of Trustees as information:

- A. National School Boards Association (NSBA) Annual Conference Trip Report presented by Mrs. Sherry Davis, Mr. Eddie Prather, Mr. Rob Hudson, Mr. Ken Wheeler and Dr. Gearl Loden (TPSD Policy BG)
- B. Grades 3-5 Chromebook Initiative presented by Mrs. Kimberly Britton and Mrs. Niki Peel (TPSD Goal #1)
- C. Ad Valorem Report for Amount Received in March, 2014 presented by Mrs. Linda Pannell (TPSD Goal #4)

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for consideration for approval.

- A. Office of Finance Director Mrs. Linda Pannell (TPSD Goal #4)**
  - 1. Contractual Agreements (TPSD Policy DJAAB Contract Signing Authority)
    - a. Contracts to be Acknowledged and Ratified: #CO1410 through #1413
    - b. Contracts to be Acknowledged and Awarded: #CO1409 and #CO1414
    - c. Contracts for Rental of School Facilities: #SFR1434 and #SFR1435
  - 2. Donations #2013-2014-035 through #2013-2014-050 (TPSD Policy DFAB Revenues for Non-Tax Sources)
  - 3. Request Permission to Submit TPSD Grants #1425 through #1427 (TPSD Policy DEEG Grant Management)
  - 4. Request Permission to Accept TPSD Grant #1424 (TPSD Policy DEEG Grant Management)
  - 5. Permission to Advertise BD1403 Security Cameras and BD1404 Maintenance/Custodian Uniforms (TPSD Policy DJED)
  - 6. Permission to remove Special Education Bus #30 (Asset #29353) from the District Asset List). This bus was involved in an accident on March 5, 2014 and has been

ruled as a total loss by our insurance company. The district has received a check from the insurance company for \$21,000 which will be used with other district funds for the purchase of a replacement. There were no students on the bus at the time of the accident; however, there were 2 employees on the bus at the time-the driver and monitor. Both employees were taken to medical care and neither employee suffered injuries.

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

1. Student Transfer Report (TPSD Policy JBCD Transfers and Withdrawals of Students)
2. Overnight Field Trip Requests (TPSD Policy IFCB Field Trips and Excursions)
  - a. THS Engineering Class, Anaheim, CA, VEX Robotics Competition
  - b. TMS and THS Bridge Building Competition, Louisville, KY
  - c. THS Synergy, National Show Choir Competition, Chicago, IL
3. Tupelo High School Baseball Field Renovation Change Order Number Two (2)  
Request consideration of Change Order No. 2 with Century Construction Company. This change order is a deduct in the amount of \$128.00 which reconciles all allowances. The new contract sum is \$412,450.29.
4. Summer 2014 Food Service Programs (Policy #DEEG)  
Request permission to operate summer food service programs at the following sites:

Pierce	Breakfast and Lunch for ESY for SPED Summer Program
King/ECEC	Breakfast and Lunch
TMS	Breakfast and Lunch
Joyner	Lunch Only
Lawndale	Snack only for Opportunity Camp; Breakfast Only for Dare Camp
5. Local Plan Update for FY 2015 for Career-Technical Center.....Ms. Evet Topp

**C. Office of Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Kim Britton**

Request Approval of Title X McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Programs (TPSD Goal #1, Policy #JQN).....Mrs. Anna Guntharp

**D. Office of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Diana Ezell**

Request Approval of Special Education Extended School Year Application (TPSD Goal #1, Policy #DEEG).....Mrs. Mary Ruth Wright

**E. Office of Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Leigh Mobley**

Request Approval of 2014 Summer Curriculum Project (TPSD Goal #1, Policy #IC)

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

#### **1. Docket of Claims and Check Registers**

Board President Rob Hudson reviewed the Docket of Claims prior to the meeting and advised that at the 5:00 p.m. meeting of the Board he will recommend approval of the following:

- Docket of Claims for the period March 1, 2014 through April 4, 2014, Docket of Claims #17674 through #18615, Accounts Payable Checks #10833 through #11388 in the amount of \$1,776,732.74
- Tupelo High School Activity Check Register for the period March 2014, Checks #1428 through #1450 in the amount of \$15,862.42
- Athletic Activity Check Register for the period March 2014, Checks #1846 through #1902 in the amount of \$5,990

The grand total for all funds is \$1,798,585.95.

#### **2. Monthly Financial Reports required by MS Code 37-9-18 (Month Ending 2-28-14)**

In accordance with MS Code 37-9-18 the following Financial Reports for month ending February 28, 2014, were reviewed:

- Bank Reconciliation Report
- Revenue and Expenditure Report with Budget Status
- TPSD Cash Flow Statement
- Combined Balance Sheet
- February 28, 2014 Financial

(TPSD Goal #4, TPSD Policy Section D – Fiscal Management)

### **B. Office of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Diana Ezell (TPSD Policy BDE)**

#### **Report on Policy Review – Personnel Section**

Dr. Ezell explained that, in accordance with Board Policy BDE, April is the month that Section G (policies related to Personnel) of the Board Policies is reviewed. Following a comprehensive review of the 61 personnel policies 28 policies are recommended for revision. The majority of the revisions required splitting policy and administrative procedures. Dr. Ezell also recommended that Board Policy IHD Honor Roll be amended.

**C. Office of Director of Human Resources Mr. Jim Turner/Dr. Gearl Loden**

**1. Licensed Personnel Recommendations (includes Addendum) (TPSD Goal #3)**

Mr. Turner presented Licensed Staff recommendations with addendum for consideration for approval.

**2. Reemployment of TPSD Licensed Staff for 2014-2015 School Year; Reemployment of TPSD Licensed Staff Contingent Upon Receipt of Valid Endorsed License for 2014-2015 School Year; and Reemployment of TPSD Administrative Personnel for 2014-2015 School Year (TPSD Goal 3)**

Superintendent Gearl Loden presented the reemployment of TPSD Licensed Staff for the 2014-2015 school year; reemployment of TPSD Licensed Staff contingent upon receipt of valid endorsed license for the school year 2014-2015; and reemployment of TPSD Administrative Personnel for the 2014-2015 school year.

**3. 2014-2015 Salary Schedules – Teacher, Teacher Assistant and Teacher Assistant – Special Education (TPSD Goal 3)**

Superintendent Gearl Loden explained that the State Teacher Salary Schedule has been received by the District. The State Schedule is used to develop the Tupelo Teacher Salary Schedule by adding the established supplement to each step. The Assistant Schedule is also used to establish the Tupelo Assistant Schedule by adding the District approved supplement to the appropriate step. The Assistant Special Education Schedule is a new schedule this year which includes the regular District's supplement plus the additional supplement these assistants have always received due to the type of work that is required of their position.

Dr. Loden also explained that the salary schedules are recommended for approval contingent upon the Governor signing the 2014 Teacher Pay Law.

**D. Office of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gearl Loden (TPSD Goals #3)**

**Information Items**

Information was provided regarding the following items:

1. AEE Annual Luncheon, 11:15am, April 24, Joyner Elementary
2. Rotary Scholars Luncheon, 11:30am, April 28, The Summit
3. THS Graduation, May 16, BancorpSouth Arena
4. THS Centennial, April 26, 11:00am, THS
5. Potential Changes in Accountability Model
6. MDE Budget Updates

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Awarding of Advertised Turf/Track Bid**

Dr. Matthew Dillon summarized the Turf/Track Bid and recommended that the bid be awarded to lowest and best bidder which was Hellas Construction, Inc., Austin, Texas, in the amount of \$1,299,000.00. The Board requested that a separate item be added to the monthly financial statements presented to the Board to reflect the total amount of private gifts received for the turf/track replacement project and the percentage of pledged funds still outstanding.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Amendment to Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB)**

Dr. Matt Dillon recommended approval to submit a request to amend the 2010 Qualified School Construction Bond to the Mississippi Department of Education. The amendment would allow a portion of the QSCB funds to be used for the purchase/installation of the new turf field at Tupelo High School. The request for an amendment would be submitted after Board approval and is typically addressed by MDE promptly.

### **B. McDougal Center Memorandum of Understanding**

Dr. Diana Ezell presented a proposed Memorandum of Understanding between McDougal Center, Tupelo Public School District, and Lee County Schools for review and consideration

### **C. AEE Awarded Grants for 2014-2015 School Year**

AEE President Ryan Roper and Past President Brent Waldrop recommended approval of sixteen (16) grants in the amount of \$67,807.01 for school year 2014-2015. (This report was moved forward to accommodate the schedule of Mr. Roper and Mr. Waldrop).

## **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

### **A. Future Agenda Topics – Superintendent Gearl Loden**

#### **May 13, 2014 Board Meeting**

1. Approval of 2014-2015 School Handbooks
2. Recruiting Update
3. Community Advisory Update

#### **June 10, 2014 Board Meeting**

1. Annual Grant Report
2. Marketing and Communication Report
3. ECEC Update Report

## **B. Future Agenda Topics – Board Members**

No items were requested by Board Members.

## **C. Executive Session**

Board President Rob Hudson suggested to the School Board a temporary executive session to determine the need for a permanent executive session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

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. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously by all members present, the President of the Board declared the motion passed.

The room was cleared and the temporary executive session was called to order by Mr. Hudson with the following people present: Mrs. Sherry Davis, Mr. Rob Hudson, Mr. Eddie Prather, Mr. Kenneth Wheeler, Dr. Gearl Loden, Ms. Patrice Tate and Mr. Otis Tims.

The 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 by all members present to remain in executive session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously by all members present, the President of the Board declared the motion passed.

Mr. Hudson reopened the meeting to tell all those in attendance the reason for going into executive session was to discuss a personnel matter.

Dr. Gearl Loden and Ms. Patrice Tate left the meeting.

After discussion of a personnel matter, Mr. Wheeler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Davis, to go back into Open Session, and the motion passed unanimously by all members present. Mr. Hudson announced that the Board was now in Open Session. He announced that no action had been taken during the Executive Session.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mrs. Davis, the Board voted unanimously by all members present to adjourn the meeting. The President of the Board declared the motion passed and the meeting in adjournment at 2:34 p.m.

April 15, 2014  
Noon, Hancock Leadership Center

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert L. Hudson, II, President

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Joseph Babb, Secretary