

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES 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 noon on Tuesday, May 10 2016, 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, and Mr. Kenneth Wheeler. Mr. Babb announced a quorum, and stated that the meeting was lawfully in session. Attorney Otis Tims was also present. Mr. Eddie Prather entered the meeting later (during Executive Session).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda for the regular May 10, 2016, Board meeting subject to the following change:

Addendum to the Personnel Report which is listed as Item B. 1. under Section VIII. Superintendent's Report

The President of the Board declared the motion passed. 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

The Board reviewed minutes from the April 20, 2016, 9:00am work session and 5:00pm regular meeting. No corrections were noted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

RECOGNITION

Mr. Andy Cantrell recognized Mr. Billy Mills for his outstanding service to the District in his role as Central Supply/Warehouse Manager.

COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD

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

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)

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, 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 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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

1. Docket of Claims

- 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 grand total for all funds is \$1,113,556.52.

2. Required Monthly Financial Reports – Month Ending 3/31/16

In accordance with MS Code 37-9-18 the following Financial Reports for the month ending March 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 (plus addendum) for consideration for approval.

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

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

Dr. Diana Ezell and Dr. Leigh Mobley presented for a second reading the proposed 2016-2017 School Handbooks, District Guidebooks and Athletic Handbook Changes for consideration of approval.

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

1. Student Discipline Report Case #140-2015-2016

Consideration of ratification of administrative decision to expel Student #149-2015-2016 from TPSD for one calendar year for violation of TPSD Policy JD-E3.

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

Consideration of ratification of administrative decision to expel Student #98-2-2015-2016 from TPSD for one calendar year for violation of TPSD Policy JD-E3.

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

1. Church Street School Renovations Project

Mr. Charles Laney, JBHM Architects, P.A. and Mr. Andy Cantrell recommended approval of Service Order for Agreement between Owner and Architect (JBHM) for Church Street Renovation Project, and authorize 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).

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. Laney and Mr. Cantrell recommended that Conditioned Air be awarded the bid for the Lawndale Elementary School Renovations project for a total contract sum of \$355,500.00, and authorize Superintendent Gearl Loden to execute all documents related to this project.

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.

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

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 several matters.

On a motion by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously by all members present 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. Kenneth Wheeler, Dr. Gearl Loden, Mr. Otis Tims, Mrs. Modesty Shumpert, Mrs. Kimberly Britton, Dr. Diana Ezell and Dr. Eddie Peasant.

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

Mr. Babb went out into the hallway to let everyone know that the Board will remain in Executive Session to hear a student discipline appeal and discuss potential litigation matters.

Student Discipline Case #153-2015-2016

First, Dr. Eddie Peasant gave summary information on the Student Discipline Case #153-2015-2016.

At this point, student #153-2015-2016 entered the room along with his mother. After addressing the Board, the student and his mother left the room.

The Board then discussed case #153-2015-2016, but took no action.

Next, the Board heard a report from Mr. Otis Tims regarding litigation matters.

Board Member Eddie Prather entered the meeting toward the end of the Executive Session.

After discussion among the Board, Mrs. Davis made a motion to leave Executive Session and return to Open Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wheeler and adopted unanimously.

D. Open Session

Whereupon, Mr. Babb left the room to announce that the Board was returning to Open Session. Everyone waiting re-entered the meeting, and Mr. Babb stated that no action was taken by the Board during Executive Session.

Student Discipline Case #153-2015-2016

Mr. Wheeler made a motion to uphold the District Disciplinary Hearing Committee's recommendation to expel student #153-2015-2016 from the TPSD for one calendar school year for violation of TPSD Policy JCDAE(2). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Davis and adopted unanimously. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed. Detailed information regarding Student Case #153-2015-2016 is marked Exhibit 1 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein. These materials are marked "Sealed and Confidential" to comply with legal requirements.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Davis, 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 3:35 p.m.

APPROVED:
TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ATTEST:

Joe Babb, President

Sherry Davis, Secretary