

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
December 13, 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, December 13, 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, 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. Prather, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda for the regular December 13, 2016, Board meeting as presented.

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.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

November 8, 2016, 9:00am, Work Session, HLC

Mr. Wheeler made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2016, 9:00am, work session as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Davis and approved unanimously. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

November 8, 2016, Noon, Regular Meeting, HLC

Mrs. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2016, noon, regular meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Prather and approved unanimously. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

November 10, 2016, 3:00pm, Special Called Meeting, HLC

Mr. Hudson made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2016, 3:00pm, special called meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wheeler and approved unanimously. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Art Dobbs was named the 2017 Administrator of the Year for Tupelo Public Schools.

COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD

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

A. Graduation Rate Update (TPSD Goal #1)

Dr. Eddie Peasant summarized school years 2012 through 2016 regarding graduation rates for Tupelo High School. Dr. Peasant reported that one of the most significant drops has been seen with black students. There were 121 black students drop out in 2012 compared to only 57 black students in 2016. Tupelo High School's preliminary graduation rate of 86.7 is well above state and national percentages.

B. FY16 Audit Summary Report (TPSD Goal #4)

Mrs. Rachel Murphree stated that audit fieldwork and a draft audit summary report are scheduled for completion by December 15, 2016.

C. Ad Valorem Report for Amount Received Through November, 2016 (TPSD Goal #4)

Mrs. Rachel Murphree reported that the collections for Operations for October received by the District in November were 8.45% of the amount requested compared to 8.37% in the previous year. The collections for Debt Service for October received by the District in November were 7.59% of the amount requested compared to 7.48% in the previous year.

Copies of the above reports are on file in the Superintendent's Office.

CONSENT AGENDA

In accordance with Dr. Loden's recommendations, Mr. Prather moved to acknowledge, approve and ratify the Consent Agenda as listed below:

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

1. Contractual Agreements (TPSD Policy DJAAB Contract Signing Authority)
Contracts to be Acknowledged and Awarded: #CO1731, #CO1733, #CO1734, and #CO1735; Charter Bus Service Contracts BC #2016-2017-003, BC #2016-2017-004, and BC #2016-2017005; Contract for Rental of School Facilities: #SFR1715
2. Contractual Agreements to be Ratified: #CO1718 (revised) and #CO1732
3. Donations (TPSD Policy DFAB Revenues for Non-Tax Sources)
#2016-2017-018 through #2016-2017-028
4. Request Permission to Submit Grants (TPSD Policy DEEG Grant Management)
TPSD Grants #1723 (as corrected) and #1724

5. Request Permission to Accept TPSD Grants #1706, #1707, #1715, and #1724
6. Request Permission to Advertise: RFP1702 Pest Control and RFP1703 E-Rate
7. Permission to Delete 115Assets from the TPSD Asset Listing (TPSD Policy DM)

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:
 - a) THS Synergy– to attend Mississippi State Showchoir Contest in Poplarville, MS on 2/3-4/17.
 - b) THS Synergy – to attend the Oak Grove Invitational in Oak Grove, MS on 3/3-4/17.
 - c) THS Synergy – to attend the FAME Showchoir America in Orlando, FL on 3/30/17-4/3/17.
 - d) THS Synergy – to attend the National Showchoir FAME finals in Waukegan, IL on 4/20-22/17.
 - e) THS Cheer – to attend the State Cheer Competition in Jackson, MS on 12/16-17/16.
 - f) THS Thespians – to attend the State Thespian Conference in Ocean Springs, MS on 2/23-25/17.
 - g) THS Cheer – to attend the National Cheerleading Competition in Orlando, FL on 2/9-14/17.
 - h) THS Dramatic Criticism Class – to attend the MS Theatre Association 2017 Festival at USM on 1/13-15/17.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Wheeler and was approved unanimously. President Babb 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 #4)

1. Board Member Kenneth Wheeler recommended approval of the Docket of Claims for the period November 1 through December 2, 2016, Docket of Claims #40613 through #41402, Accounts Payable Checks #26638 through #27184 in the amount of \$2,154,881.50; and Athletic Activity Ref Pay paid officials and fees in the amount of \$5,419.64 for November 1 through November 30, 2016. The grand total for all funds is \$2,160,301.14.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson and approved unanimously. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed. This affirms that the claims are legal and proper and they should be allowed and ratified as paid by the Superintendent or his designee pursuant to Section 37-9-14 (7) of the Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated.

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

2. Required Monthly Financial Reports – Month Ending October 31, 2016

Following a review of each report and discussion, on a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, 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

Board President Joe Babb declared the motion passed. The Financial Reports for Month Ending October 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

Upon a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mrs. Davis, the Board voted unanimously to approve the licensed personnel recommendations as presented. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed. The 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. Eddie Peasant (TPSD Goal #2)

Student Discipline Case #41-2016-2017

On a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the administrative decision to expel Student #41-2016-2017, from TPSD for one calendar year for violation of violation of TPSD Policies JCDAC and JD – Procedures 6 – Alternative Schools 4-12. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

Detailed information regarding Student Discipline Case #41-2016-2017 is marked EXHIBIT 6 “Sealed and Confidential” and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

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

A. Information Items

1. First Draft of 2017-2018 School Calendar

Mrs. Anna Guntharp presented a first draft of the proposed 2017-2018 School Calendar for initial review.

2. TVA Energy Savings

Mr. Cantrell reported on TVA Energy Savings from current bond projects:

Rankin: \$8,849.07
Lawndale -- \$10,437.64
Milam -- \$27,907.54
Total: \$47,194.25 rebates/incentives

3. Construction Change Directive, ECEC Classroom Addition Project

Mr. Cantrell advised that a Construction Change Directive in the amount of \$3,454.00 was added to the ECEC Classroom Addition Project (Contractor – Burton Builders, Inc. with Architect Pryor/Morrow, PC) to furnish and install 12 smoke detectors in classrooms along with associated conduit. This addition will be funded by built-in allowance of \$5,000 from the \$2,040,000 contract awarded to Burton Builders. This change will not affect the \$30,000.00 built-in contingency allowance.

2. Upcoming TPSD Events

- December 16, District Holiday Luncheon, 11:30am, HLC
- December 19 – January 1, School Holidays
- January 2 – Staff Returns
- January 3 – Students Return
- January 17 – Regular Board Meeting, Noon, HLC

B. Miscellaneous

1. College and Career Life Class at THS – Dr. Eddie Peasant (TPSD Goal #1)

Dr. Eddie Peasant presented information regarding the first phase of a proposed plan for tenth-grade students to take an online career and life skills class that would earn them half a course credit. Dr. Peasant said students will have to work around some tutoring times, but plan for all tenth graders to work on the course during their teacher advisory periods. The course could also be worked on outside of school. The goal of the course will be to further prepare students for their post-graduate lives.

2. NICHE Rating – Mrs. Kimberly Britton (TPSD Goal #1)

Mrs. Britton reported that TPSD was ranked 7th in the state of Mississippi by Niche. Niche is a website that helps you discover the schools and neighborhoods that are right for you. The website rigorously analyzes dozens of public data sets and mills of reviews to produce comprehensive rankings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no Unfinished Business topics for this meeting of the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration to Adopt Resolution Directing the Transfer of Surplus Funds in Various Note Debt Service Funds of the TPSD

On a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the resolution directing the transfer of surplus funds that are not needed to pay current debt service on outstanding limited-tax notes to another debt service fund for limited-tax notes. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

A. Future Agenda Topics – Superintendent Gearl Loden

January 17, 2017 Board Meeting

- **1st Semester ADA Comparison**
- **1st Semester Discipline Report**
- **Wellness Policies**
- **2nd Draft of 2017-2018 School Calendar**
- **2017 Teacher of the Year**
- **Athletic Update**

B. Future Agenda Topics – Board Members

There were no Future Agenda Topics requested by the Board at this meeting.

C. Executive Session

Mr. Babb suggested that there was a need for consideration of entering into executive session to discuss security planning and personnel matters. Mr. Wheeler made a motion that the Board enter temporary Executive Session. Mr. Hudson seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed. The room was then cleared.

The temporary Executive Session was called to order with the following people present: Mrs. Sherry Davis, Mr. Rob Hudson, Mr. Eddie Prather, Mr. Kenneth Wheeler, Dr. Gearl Loden, Mr. Otis Tims, Mrs. Kim Britton, Mr. Andy Cantrell, Dr. Eddie Peasant, Mrs. Modesty Shumpert, and Ms. Patrice Tate. Also in attendance were representatives from Broadus and Associates, Pickering Firm and Associates, and Mr. Charles Laney of JBHM. The Board first considered the reason for entering Executive Session. Mr. Babb stated that there was a need to discuss security planning and personnel matters. Upon a motion by Mr. Wheeler, with a second by Mr. Hudson, the Board voted unanimously to remain in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing security and personnel matters. The President of the Board declared the motion passed and went out into the hallway to let everyone know that the Board would remain in Executive Session.

Mr. Babb called the Executive Session to order and there followed a discussion of the security matter.

Following this discussion, everyone left the room except for Board members and Mr. Tims, and the Board continued in Executive Session. There followed discussion of a personnel matter related to the Board's annual statutory evaluation of the Superintendent. No action was taken by the board, and at the end of the discussion, Mr. Wheeler made a motion for the Board to return to Open Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson and adopted unanimously.

Upon returning to Open Session, Mr. Babb announced that in Executive Session, the Board had discussed matters involving security planning and the Board's annual statutory evaluation of the Superintendent, but that no action had been taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Wheeler made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Hudson and adopted unanimously. Mr. Babb declared the meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Joe Babb, President

Sherry Davis, Secretary