

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
January 17, 2017**

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, January 17, 2017, 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 Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda for the regular January 17, 2017, Board meeting subject to the following change:

- Add Item B. Discussion of TPSD Policy FB -- Naming School Facilities to Section IX. Unfinished Business

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

December 13, 2016, 9:30am, Special Called Meeting, HLC

Mrs. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 13, 9:30am, special called meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Prather and approved unanimously. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

December 13, 2016, Noon, Regular Meeting, HLC

Mr. Prather made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 13 2016, noon, regular 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

1. Each individual school's 2017 Teacher of the Year was recognized:
2. Ms. Brittany Womack was named the Tupelo Public School District's 2017 Teacher of the Year. Ms. Womack is a 1st grade teacher at Joyner Elementary School.
3. TPSD Counselors were recognized for the vital role they play in serving the students of the district.
4. A-Rated Schools – This year MDE announced their 2015-2016 ratings and two of our lower elementary schools – Carver and Thomas Street received an A-rating.
Mrs. Cindy Pike and Thomas Street Leadership Team were recognized. Mrs. Christy Carroll and the Carver Leadership Team were also recognized for their A-rating

COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD

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

A. First Semester ADA (TPSD Goals #1 and #4)

Dr. Eddie Peasant summarized ADA (Average Daily Attendance) enrollment for the past three school years with a focus on Months 1-3. Dr. Peasant explained that Month 2 and 3 combined is the ADA used for state funding.

B. First Semester Discipline Summary Report (TPSD Goal #2)

Dr. Eddie Peasant reported on first semester referral numbers compared with the past 5 school years for the same period. The summary report is comprised of bus referrals and overnight required conferences along with minor and major infraction comparisons.

C. Curriculum Update (TPSD Goal #1)

Mrs. Anna Guntharp announced that TPSD had a successful professional development day on January 2, 2017, with Chris Jakicic meeting with administrators and teachers from across the district on professional learning communities. Other professional development opportunities included Eric Jensen's Brain Based Teaching, Interactive Science, Teaching with Poverty in Mind, Working with ELL students, and instructional technology. Teachers also had time for grade level and subject area planning. Mrs. Guntharp also reported that our December, 2017, common assessments showed that we are ahead of where we were in March, 2016, on the same assessment. Data is revealing very positive results for only being halfway through the curriculum maps.

D. Ad Valorem Report for Amount Received through December, 2016 (TPSD Goal #4)

Mrs. Rachel Murphree reported that the collections for Operations for November received by the District in December were 9.27% of the amount requested compared to 9.09% in the previous year. The collections for Debt Service for November received by the District in December were 8.37% of the amount requested compared to 8.18% 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. Wheeler 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: #CO1738 through #CO1740;
Charter Bus Service Contract BC #2016-2017-006
2. Contractual Agreements to be Ratified: #CO1736 and #CO1737
3. Donations (TPSD Policy DFAB Revenues for Non-Tax Sources)
#2016-2017-029 through #2016-2017-038
4. Request Permission to Submit Grants (TPSD Policy DEEG Grant Management)
TPSD Grant #1725
5. Request Permission to Accept TPSD Grants #1717, #1719, and #1722
6. Request Permission to Advertise Bids: BD1702 – Manage Print Contract for
Copying/printing
7. Permission to Add 9 Assets Back and Delete 236 Assets 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 Varsity Band – to attend Inaugural Parade in Washington, D.C.,
January 18-22, 2017
 - b) THS Varsity Cheer – to attend Inaugural Parade in Washington, D.C.,
January 18-22, 2017

C. Office of Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Kimberly Britton

Approval of Cooperative Purchasing Agreement for the Purchase of Managed Print
Services between Tupelo Public School District and Tishomingo County Schools.

D. Office of Superintendent Dr. Gearl Loden

Approval of School Board Meeting Attendance Annual Report for 2016

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Davis 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. Docket of Claims and Athletic Activity Ref Pay

As Mr. Babb reviewed the Docket of Claims prior to the meeting, he passed the gavel to Board Vice President Eddie Prather and recommended approval of the Docket of Claims for the period December 3, 2016, through January 6, 2017, Docket of Claims #41403 through #42009, Accounts Payable Checks #27185 through #27614 in the amount of \$2,755,839.45; and Athletic Activity Ref Pay paid officials and fees in the amount of \$2,994.56 for December 1 through December 31, 2016. The grand total for all funds is \$2,758,834.01.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Wheeler and approved unanimously. Mr. Prather 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.

Mr. Prather passed the gavel back to Mr. Babb.

2. Required Monthly Financial Reports – Month Ending November 30, 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 November 30, 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)

1. Approval of Revised Communications Assistant Job Description

Upon a motion by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mr. Prather, the Board voted unanimously to approve revisions to the Communications Assistant Job Description as presented. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed. A copy of the revised Communications Assistant Job Description is marked EXHIBIT 5 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

2. Licensed Personnel Recommendations

Upon a motion by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mr. Hudson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the licensed personnel recommendations as presented. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed. The Personnel Report is marked EXHIBIT 6 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

C. Office of Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Kimberly Britton

1. First Reading of New Policy IIAAA presented by Dr. Leigh Mobley

Dr. Leigh Mobley presented proposed new TPSD Policy IIAAA Opting-Out of State Testing for first reading by the Board:

No action by the Board was requested at this meeting date.

2. Required Review of TPSD Board Policies presented by Dr. Leigh Mobley

Dr. Leigh Mobley recommended approval to amend the following existing TPSD Board Policies following a review and in consultation with appropriate directors, principals and staff:

EBB	Safety Program
EBC	Security
EDA	Student Transportation
JQN	Education for Homeless Children and Youth

Upon a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mrs. Davis, the Board voted unanimously to approve revisions to the aforementioned policies as presented. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed. Copies of the above revised policies are marked EXHIBIT 7 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 #58-2016-2017

On a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mrs. Davis, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the administrative decision to expel Student #58-2016-2017, from TPSD for one calendar year for violation of TPSD Policies JCDAE (2) and JD-E4 (16). Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

Detailed information regarding Student Discipline Case #58-2016-2017 is marked EXHIBIT 8 "Sealed and Confidential" and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

2. Student Discipline Case #63-2016-2017

On a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the administrative decision to expel Student #63-2016-2017, from TPSD for one calendar year for violation of TPSD Policy JD (6). Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

Detailed information regarding Student Discipline Case #63-2016-2017 is marked EXHIBIT 9 “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. Construction Change Directive, ECEC Classroom Addition Project

Mr. Cantrell advised that Change Order #1 reflects a credit to the owner (TPSD) of \$53,976.31 for the six classroom addition at ECEC.

2. Upcoming TPSD Events

- January 26 – TMS Open House, 4-5:30pm
- February 2 – Rankin Open House – 9am-Noon
- February 13 – Milam Open House – 9am-Noon
- February 14 – Regular Board Meeting, Noon, HLC and 5:00pm, TMS

B. Miscellaneous

1. TPSD Job Fair – Mrs. Kimberly Britton (TPSD Goal #3)

Mrs. Britton shared information regarding the upcoming TPSD Job Fair scheduled for March 20, 2017, 4:00-6:00pm at the Hancock Leadership Center. Mr. Prather asked for a future report of how many teachers were employed as a result of past TPSD Job Fairs.

2. FY16 Exit Audit Conference (TPSD Goal #4)

Mr. Babb and Mr. Hudson reported that the FY16 Exit Audit Conference with auditors Watkins, Ward and Stafford was held on January 6, 2017, and no findings were noted on the FY16 audit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Approval of 2017-2018 TPSD School Calendar

On a motion by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously by all members present to approve the 2017-2018 TPSD School Calendar as presented. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

A copy of the 2017-2018 TPSD School Calendar is marked EXHIBIT 10 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

2. Discussion re TPSD Policy FB – Naming School Facilities

Following discussion of TPSD Policy FB Naming School Facilities, it was the consensus of the Board that Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Hudson serve on a two-member committee to continue to review appropriate ways to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the work of the District as well as to study TPSD Policy FB.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Issuance of a Note of the Tupelo Public School District (\$1,100,000.00)

On a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mrs. Davis, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the above titled Resolution which authorizes and directs the issuance of a note of the TPSD in the maximum principal amount of one million one hundred thousand and no/100 dollars (\$1,100,000.00) to raise money to pay for the costs of acquiring, improving, constructing, renovating, repairing, heating, cooling and equipping school buildings and related facilities, acquiring land therefor, performing site work, purchasing school buses and transportation equipment and to pay the costs of such borrowing. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

A copy of the above Resolution is marked EXHIBIT 11 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

2. Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds (\$8,800,000.00)

On a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the above titled Resolution which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds of the TPSD in the principal amount of eight million eight hundred thousand and no/100 dollars (\$8,800,000.00), to borrow money for the purpose of paying the costs of borrowing, of acquiring, purchasing, improving, erecting, purchasing land therefor, and providing necessary water, light, heating, air conditioning and sewerage facilities for school buildings and related facilities at an approximate cost of \$8,800,000.00; prescribing the form and incidents of said bonds; and making provisions for maintaining the tax-exempt status of the bonds. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

A copy of the above Resolution is marked EXHIBIT 12 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

A. Future Agenda Topics – Superintendent Gearl Loden

February 14, 2017 Board Meeting

- 1st Semester GPA and MHSAA Scholar Athlete Team Information
- School Board Recognition

B. Future Agenda Topics – Board Members

- Continued discussion of TPSD Policy FB Naming School Facilities
- EdBuild Funding
- Legislative Timeline

C. Executive Session

Mr. Babb suggested that there was a need for consideration of entering into executive session to discuss safety planning, litigation, and the Superintendent's annual evaluation. Mrs. Davis made a motion that the Board enter temporary Executive Session. Mr. Prather 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, Mrs. Anna Guntharp, Dr. Eddie Peasant, Mr. Andy Cantrell, Mr. Terry Hatch and Mrs. Modesty Shumpert. The Board first considered the reason for entering Executive Session. Mr. Babb stated that there was a need to discuss safety planning, litigation, and personnel matters. Upon a motion by Mrs. Davis, with a second by Mr. Prather, the Board voted unanimously to remain in Executive Session. 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 safety planning discussion. Then, Mr. Cantrell and Mr. Hatch left the meeting.

There followed an update by Mr. Tims of legal matters concerning the District.

After the report by Mr. Tims about litigation related to the District, Dr. Peasant, Mrs. Britton, Mrs. Guntharp and Mrs. Shumpert, exited the meeting, leaving Dr. Loden, Mr. Tims and members of the Board in attendance. There followed a brief discussion of Board actions in connection with the Board's annual Superintendent evaluation. Upon conclusion of the discussion, Ms. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Prather, to return to open session. The motion was adopted unanimously and Mr. Babb left the room to announce that the Board was returning to open session.

Open Session

Mr. Babb returned and declared that the Board was in open session. Mr. Babb reported that the Board had discussed extending the Superintendent's Employment Contract by an additional year. Mr. Hudson then made a motion that Dr. Loden's employment contract be extended by an additional year to end on June 30, 2021 and with compensation for the final year of the contract to be the same as during the immediately preceding year. Ms. Davis seconded the motion and it was unanimously adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mrs. Davis made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Mr. Babb announced the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

January 17, 2017
Noon, Hancock Leadership Center

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

APPROVED:

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Joe Babb, President

ATTEST:

Sherry Davis, Secretary