

BOARD POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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BOARD POLICY

The Board of Trustees of the Tupelo Public School District shall have the following power, authority and duties in addition to all others imposed or granted by law:

1. To organize and operate the schools of the district and to make such division between the high school grades and elementary grades as will serve the best interests of the school;
2. To introduce public school music, art, manual training and other special subjects into either the elementary or high school grades, as the Board shall deem proper;
3. To be the custodians of real and personal school property and to manage, control and care for same, both during the school term and during vacation;
4. To have responsibility for the erection, repairing and equipping of school facilities and making of necessary school improvements;
5. To suspend or expel a pupil or to change the placement of a pupil to the district's alternative school or home-bound program for misconduct in the school, or on school property as defined in 37-11-29, on the road to and from school, or at any school-related activity or event, or for conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders that pupil's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole, and to delegate such authority to the appropriate officials of the district;
6. To visit schools in the district, in their discretion, in a body for the purpose of determining what can be done for the improvement of the school in a general way;
7. To support, within reasonable limits, the superintendent, principal and teachers where necessary for the proper discipline of the school;
8. To exclude from the schools students with what appears to be infectious or contagious diseases; provided, however, such student may be allowed to return to school upon presenting a certificate from a public health officer, duly licensed physician or nurse practitioner that the student is free from such disease;
9. To require those vaccinations specified by the State Health Officer;
10. To see that all necessary utilities and services are provided in the schools at all times when same are needed;

11. To authorize the use of school buildings and grounds for the holding of public meeting and gatherings of the people under such regulations as may be prescribed by said Board;
12. To prescribe and enforce rules and regulations not inconsistent with law or with the regulations of the State Board of Education for their own government and for the government of the schools, and to transact their business at regular and special meeting called and held in the manner provided by law;
13. To maintain and operate all of the schools under their control for such length of time during the year as may be required;
14. To enforce in the schools the course of study and the use of textbooks prescribed by the proper authorities;
15. To make orders directed to the superintendent for issuance of pay certificates for lawful purposes on any available funds of the district and to have full control of the receipt, distribution, allotment and disbursement of all funds provided for the support and operation of the school whether such funds be derived from state appropriations, local ad valorem tax collections, or otherwise;
16. To select all school personnel in the manner provided by law, and to provide for such employee fringe benefit programs, including accident reimbursement plans, as may be deemed necessary and appropriate by the Board;
17. To provide athletic programs and other school activities and to regulate the establishment and operation of such programs and activities;
18. To join, in their discretion, any association of school boards and other public school related organizations, and to pay from local funds other than minimum foundation funds, any membership dues;
19. To expend local school activity funds, or other available school district funds, other than minimum program funds, for the purposes described in law;
20. To contract, on a shared savings, lease or lease-purchase basis, for energy efficiency services and/or equipment as provide by law, not to exceed ten years;
21. To maintain accounts and issue pay certificates on school food service bank accounts;
22. To lease a school building from an individual, partnership, nonprofit corporation or a private for profit corporation for use of such school district, and to expend funds therefor as may be available from any non-minimum program source;
23. To employ all noninstructional and noncertificated employees and fix the duties and compensation of such personnel deemed necessary pursuant to the recommendation of the superintendent;
24. To employ and fix the duties and compensation of such legal counsel as deemed necessary;

25. Subject to the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, to purchase, own and operate trucks, vans and other motor vehicles, which shall bear the proper identification required by law;
26. To expend funds for the payment of substitute teachers and to adopt reasonable regulations for the employment and compensation of such substitute teachers;
27. To acquire in its own name by purchase all real property which shall be necessary and desirable in connection with the construction, renovation or improvement of any public school building or structure. Whenever the purchase price for such real property is greater than fifty thousand dollars, the Board shall not purchase the property for an amount exceeding the fair market value of such property as determined by the average of at least two independent appraisals by certified general appraisers licensed by the State of Mississippi;
28. To charge reasonable fees related to the educational programs of the district;
29. Subject to the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, to purchase relocatable classrooms;
30. Enter into contracts or agreements with other school districts, political subdivisions or governmental entities to carry out one or more of the powers of the Board, or to allow more efficient utilization of limited resources for providing services to the public;
31. To provide for in-service training for employees of the district;
32. The Board, as part of their duties to prescribe the use of textbooks, may provide that parents and legal guardians shall be responsible for the textbooks and for the compensation to the district for any books not returned to the school;
33. To conduct fund-raising activities on behalf of the district the Board deems beneficial to the official or extracurricular programs of the district;
34. To allow individual lessons for music, art, and other curriculum related activities for academic credit or nonacademic credit during school hours and using school equipment and facilities, subject to uniform rules and regulations adopted by the Board;
35. To charge reasonable fees for participating in an extracurricular activity for academic or nonacademic credit for necessary and required equipment such as safety equipment, band instruments and uniforms;
36. To conduct or participate in any fund raising activity on behalf of or in connection with a tax-exempt charitable organization;
37. To exercise such powers as may be ~~reasonable~~ **reasonably** necessary to carry out the provisions of law; ~~and~~
38. To expend funds for the services of nonprofit arts organizations or other such nonprofit organizations who provide performances or other services for the students of the district;
- 39. To expend federal No Child Left Behind Act funds, or any other available funds that are expressly designated and authorized for that use, to pay training, educational expenses, salary incentives and salary supplements to**

- employees of the District; except that incentives shall not be considered part of the local supplement nor shall incentives be considered part of the local supplement paid to an individual teacher. Mississippi Adequate Education Program funds or any other state funds may not be used for salary incentives or salary supplements as provided in this paragraph;
40. To use any available funds, not appropriated or designated for any other purpose, for reimbursement to the state-licensed employees from both in state and out of state, who enter into a contract for employment in the District, for the expense of moving when the employment necessitates the relocation of the licensed employee to a different geographical area than that in which the licensed employee resides before entering into the contract. The reimbursement shall not exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the documented actual expenses incurred in the course of relocating. No licensed employee may be reimbursed for moving expenses under this section on more than one (1) occasion by the District. Any individual receiving relocation assistance through the Critical Teacher Shortage Act shall not be eligible to receive additional relocation funds as authorized in this paragraph;
 41. To use any available funds, not appropriated or designated for any other purpose, to reimburse persons who interview for employment as a licensed employee with the District for the mileage and other actual expenses incurred in the course of travel to and from the interview;
 42. To conduct independent reviews of the management and efficiency of schools and school districts. Such management and efficiency reviews shall provide state and local officials and the public with the following: (i) An assessment of a school district's governance and organizational structure; (ii) An assessment of the school district's financial and personnel management; (iii) An assessment of revenue levels and sources; (iv) An assessment of facilities utilization, planning and maintenance; (v) An assessment of food services, transportation and safety/security systems; (vi) An assessment of instructional and administrative technology; (vii) A review of the instructional management and the efficiency and effectiveness of existing instructional programs; and (viii) Recommended methods for increasing efficiency and effectiveness in providing educational services to the public;
 43. To implement a financial literacy program for students in Grades 10 and 11. After review of different nationally recognized programs, the Board may certify a program that is most appropriate for the Districts' needs;
 44. To collaborate with the State Board of Education, Community Action Agencies or the Department of Human Services to develop and implement a voluntary program to provide services for a prekindergarten program that addresses the cognitive, social, and emotional needs of four-year-old and three-year-old children. The Board may utilize any source of available revenue to fund the voluntary program;
 45. With respect to any lawful, written obligation of the District, including, but not limited to, leases, bonds, notes, or other agreement, to agree in writing with the obligee that the State Tax Commission or any state agency, department or

- commission created under state law may: (i) Withhold all or any part of any monies which the Board is entitled to receive from time to time under any law and which is in the possession of the State Tax Commission, or any state agency, department or commission created under state law; and (ii) Pay the same over to any financial institution, trustee or other obligee, as directed in writing by the school board, to satisfy all or part of such obligation of the District;
46. With respect to any matter or transaction that is competitively bid by the District, to accept from any bidder as a good faith deposit or bid bond or bid surety, the same type of good faith deposit or bid bond or bid surety that may be accepted by the state or any other political subdivision on similar competitively bid matters or transactions. The Board may authorize the investment of any District funds in the same kind and manner of investments, including pooled investments, as any other political subdivision, including community hospitals;
 47. To utilize the alternate method for the conveyance or exchange of unused school buildings and/or land, reserving a partial or other undivided interest in the property;
 48. To delegate, privatize or otherwise enter into a contract with private entities for the operation of any and all functions of nonacademic school process, procedures and operations including, but not limited to, cafeteria workers, janitorial services, transportation, professional development, achievement and instructional consulting services materials and products, purchasing cooperatives, insurance, business manager services, auditing and accounting services, school safety/risk prevention, data processing and student records, and other staff services. The District, working through the regional education service agency, may enter into buying consortia with other member districts for the purposes of more efficient use of state resources;
 49. To partner with entities, organizations and corporations for the purpose of benefiting the District;
 50. To borrow funds from the Rural Economic Development Authority for the maintenance of school buildings; and
 51. To fund and operate voluntary early childhood education programs and to use any source of revenue for such early childhood education programs. Such programs shall not conflict with the Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2007.

EXHIBITS

None

REFERENCES

MCA §§ 37-7-301

FORMS

None

RESCINDS

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