

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES 5:00 P.M. MEETING MINUTES  
September 10, 2013**

The Board of Trustees of the Tupelo Public School District convened in a regular meeting of the Board held in open session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 10, 2013, at Thomas Street Elementary School, 520 South Thomas Street, Tupelo, Mississippi.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Beth Stone who welcomed guests attending the meeting.

**ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

Board members present during roll call were: Mr. Joe Babb, Mr. Rob Hudson, Mrs. Beth Stone, and Mr. Kenneth Wheeler. Mr. Eddie Prather was absent. Mrs. Stone announced a quorum and stated that the meeting was lawfully in session. Attorney Kelly Stimpson was also present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved at the noon meeting. 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**

August 13, 2013 Regular Meeting

Mr. Hudson made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2013, regular meeting as presented. Mr. Babb seconded the motion. Board Member Beth Stone abstained. , and all other members voted in favor. Mrs. Stone announced the motion passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**WELCOME**

Principal Chad Chism welcomed the Board of Trustees, parents, staff and visitors to Thomas Street Elementary School.

**RECOGNITIONS**

The Board of Trustees recognized the following community leaders, students and teachers as follows:

- Lawhon Elementary School – Physical Education Teacher Terry Leigh Clayton as one of only three Mississippi PE teachers selected to participate in the “Move to Learn” videos with Coach Larry Calhoun.
- Tupelo High School Senior Larkin Hudson was awarded a 2013 National Scholastic Award American Visions Medal at Carnegie Hall for a piece titled “Rasta Dreams.” Larkin was awarded his medal at Carnegie Hall in New York in May.
- Tupelo High School Sophomore Taylor Russell recently won the 2013 Junior Gold National Bowling Championship in Detroit, Michigan.
- TPSD Barton Interventionists: Patricia Edwards (Rankin); Crystal Grimes (Lawndale); and Charles Wallace (Lawhon).
- Area Churches were honored for partnering with the District to serve Tupelo Schools (Calvary Baptist Church and Red Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church)

## **COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD**

Superintendent Gearl Loden summarized the following reports for the benefit of those not present at the noon meeting:

- A. Project Health: NMMC Portal Scheduling System presented by Mr. David Barber and Ms. Connie Renfro of NMMC Clinic Administration and Ms. Mary Ann Plasencia (TPSD Goal #3)
- B. New TPSD Website presented by Mrs. Kay Bishop (TPSD Goal #4)
- C. Ad Valorem Report for School Year 2012-2013 presented by Mrs. Linda Pannell (TPSD Goal #5)
- D. Enrollment/ADA Update Report presented by Dr. Matthew Dillon (TPSD Goal #4)
- E. Dyslexia Update Report presented by the District’s Dyslexia Coordinator Ms. Cepia Buchanan (TPSD Goal #1)
- F. New Accountability Model presented by Ms. Lea Johnson (TPSD Goal #1)

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

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. Office of Finance Director Mrs. Linda Pannell (TPSD Goal #5)**
  - 1. Contractual Agreements for Rental of School Facilities #SFR1403 and #SFR1404
  - 2. Donations #2013-2014-003 through #2013-2014-005
  - 3. Single Source Purchase #SS1400
  - 4. Permission to Submit TPSD Grants #1401 and #1402
  - 5. Permission to Accept TPSD Grant #1403
  - 6. Permission to Delete 25 Items from the TPSD Asset List

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

1. Student Transfer Report presented by Mrs. Pamela Traylor
2. Readmission of Student #58-01-2012-2013 (TPSD Goals #1 and #2)
3. Overnight Field Trip Requests (TPSD Goals #2 and #4) presented by Mr. Jason Harris
  - THS Cross Country, Cross Country Meet, Fayetteville, AR, Oct. 4-5, 2013
  - THS Chorus, National Musical Festival, San Antonio, TX, April 3-6, 2013
4. Carver Elementary Window Replacement Change Order Number One (1) (TPSD Goal #5)
5. Carver Elementary Window Replacement Certificate of Substantial Completion (TPSD Goal #5)
6. TMS Rubber Floor Gym Renovations Change Order Number One (1) (TPSD Goal #5)
7. THS Reroofs of Buildings A, B, E, F, and I Change Order Number One (1) (TPSD Goal #5)
8. THS Reroofs of Buildings A, B, E, F, and I Certificate of Substantial Completion (TPSD Goal #5)
9. THS Cafeteria Additions and Renovations Certificate of Substantial Completion (TPSD Goal #5)

The motion was seconded by Mr. Babb and was approved unanimously by all members present. The President of the Board 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. Linda Pannell (TPSD Goal #5)**

#### **1. Docket of Claims**

Board Member Rob Hudson recommended approval of the Docket of Claims for the period August 3, 2013. through August 31, 2013, Docket of Claims #12873 through #13498, Accounts Payable Checks #7833 through #8246 in the amount of \$2,677,878.76; Tupelo High School Activity Check Register for the period August, 2013, Checks #1304 through #1321 in the amount of \$2,285.31; and the Athletic Check Register for August, 2013, Checks #1515 through #1553 in the amount of \$3,313.55. The grand total for all funds is \$2,677,878.76.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Wheeler and approved unanimously by all members present. Mrs. Stone declared the motion passed.

This affirms that the claims and check registers 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, THS Activity Check Register and Athletic Activity Check Register Report is marked EXHIBIT 3 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

## **2. Financial Statement for the Month Ending July 31, 2013**

On a motion by Mr. Babb, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously by all members present to accept the Financial Statement for month ending July 31, 2013, as presented. Mrs. Stone declared the motion passed.

A copy of the Financial Statement for month ending July 31, 2013, is marked EXHIBIT 4 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein

## **B. Office of Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Diana Ezell (TPSD Goal #1)**

### **1. Proposed Revisions to TPSD Policy JBD Attendance Policy**

On a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Babb, the Board voted unanimously by all members present to amend TPSD Policy JBD Attendance Policy as submitted.

Mrs. Stone declared the motion passed. A copy of Policy #JBD Attendance Policy is marked EXHIBIT 5 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

### **2. First Reading of New TPSD Policies**

Mrs. Ezell introduced the following new policies for a first reading:

- a. TPSD Policy #ICHI Literacy Act
- b. TPSD Policy #IEB Speech Language Screening

## **C. Office of Director of Human Resources Mr. Jim Turner (TPSD Goal #3)**

### **Personnel Recommendations**

Mr. Hudson moved to approve the Licensed Staff recommendations as presented. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by all members present.

Mrs. Stone declared the motion passed. The Personnel Report is marked EXHIBIT 6 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

**D. Office of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gearl Loden (TPSD Goals #3 and #4)**

**Information Items:**

Dr. Loden provided information regarding the following items:

1. September 13 – Release of Accountability Labels
2. September 14 – TPSD Staff Appreciation Picnic (11:00am to 2:00pm), Fairpark
3. Proclamation by Mayor regarding “Blue and Gold” Fridays
4. Athletic Director Andy Schoggin will present an Athletic Update Report at next meeting.
5. District is working closely with Administrative Counsel Kelly Stimpson on discipline policies.
6. Dr. Loden announced that a Board Work Session is planned for 9:30am on November 19, 2013, at the Hancock Leadership Center to discuss buildings and grounds in conjunction with a Learning Foundation Board meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Awarding of Advertised Proposals #RFP1400 and RFP1401; and Recommendation to Reject All Bids for BD1402 ECEC Classroom Building (TPSD Goal #5)**

**1. #RFP 1400 School Day Pictures**

On a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Babb, the Board voted unanimously by all members present to award Advertised Proposal #RFP 1400 School Day Pictures to Lisa Browning Photography as this vendor was the lowest and best bidder. Mrs. Stone declared the motion passed.

**2. #RFP1401 THS Yearbook**

On a motion by Mr. Babb, seconded by Mr. Hudson, the Board voted unanimously by all members present to award Advertised Proposal #RFP 1401 THS Yearbook to Balfour Publishing Company as this company met all specifications for all items listed on the proposal and was the only proposal submitted. Mrs. Stone declared the motion passed.

**3. #BD1402 ECEC Classroom Bids**

On a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to reject all bids on Bid #BD1402 ECEC Classroom Bids. The project will be re-evaluated at a later date as all seven bids received were over-budget.

Detailed information regarding the above advertised proposals and bid is marked EXHIBIT 7 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

## **B. Approval of 2013-2014 Goals and Indicators**

Mr. Wheeler moved to adopt the 2013-2014 District Goals and Indicators as presented. Mr. Hudson seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by all members present.

Mrs. Stone declared the motion passed. A copy of the adopted 2013-2014 Goals and Indicators is marked EXHIBIT 8 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Investment Counsel and Management Agreement (TPSD Goal #5)**

At the noon briefing session Finance Director Linda Pannell recommended approval of an agreement with Smith Shellnut Wilson, an SEC Registered Investment Advisor firm located in Madison, Mississippi as our District's investment advisor. Mr. Alan Leach, a company representative, was present at the noon meeting and gave an overview of the services his company can provide for the District.

On a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Hudson, the Board voted unanimously by all members present to approve the proposed agreement with Smith Shellnut Wilson, LLC, as the District's investment advisor.

A copy of the agreement with Smith Shellnut Wilson, LLC, is marked EXHIBIT 9 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

## **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

### **A. Future Agenda Topics**

At the noon meeting Dr. Loden discussed the following planned topics for upcoming meetings of the Board:

1. Technology Plan will be presented for consideration for approval.
2. 2014 Board Meeting Schedule will be presented for consideration for approval.
3. TPSD Test Security Plan will be presented for consideration for approval.
4. Mr. Hudson requested an update on the AP Program in particular the number of students taking the test for a benchmark.

### **B. Executive Session**

Board President Beth Stone announced that an Executive Session was held at the noon meeting of the Board to discuss personnel and litigation matters.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Babb, 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 5:35 p.m.

APPROVED:  
TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ATTEST:

---

Elizabeth Stone, President

---

Kenneth Wheeler, Secretary