

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOON MEETING MINUTES
March 5, 2013**

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, March 5, 2013, at the Hancock Leadership Center, 1920 Briar Ridge, Tupelo, Mississippi.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Eddie Prather who welcomed guests attending the meeting.

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Board members present during roll call were: Mr. Rob Hudson, Mr. Eddie Prather, Mrs. Beth Stone, and Mr. Kenneth Wheeler. Mr. Prather announced a quorum and stated that the meeting was lawfully in Session. Attorney Otis Tims was also present.

CONFIRMATION OR AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

On a motion by Mrs. Stone, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the agenda for March 5, 2013, as amended below:

- **ADD**
 1. Addendum to the Personnel Report under Section VIII. Superintendent's Report Item B. Number 1. Approval of Licensed Staff
 2. Appeal to the Board (Case #78) to be held in Executive Session under Section XI. Miscellaneous Business, Item B.
- **DELETE** Consideration for Approval of Camp Possibility under Section VIII. Superintendent's Report, #D. Office of Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Kimberly Britton (item will be postponed to a later meeting)

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.

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the President of the Board declared the motion passed and the agenda approved.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

School Board Attorney Otis Tims announced that School Board Policy #BDA stipulates that "the officers of the Board shall be a president, vice-president and secretary and shall be elected at the first meeting of the board following the first Saturday of March of each calendar year." Mr. Tims next announced that the floor was open for nominations for president of the Board of Trustees.

Election of President

Mr. Hudson nominated Mrs. Beth Stone for president of the School Board. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion. By general consent, nominations for president were closed and the matter was brought to a vote as follows:

Mrs. Beth Stone	voted: Abstained
Mr. Rob Hudson	voted: Aye
Mr. Eddie Prather	voted: Aye
Mr. Ken Wheeler	voted: Aye

By a vote of 3-0, Mrs. Beth Stone was elected president of the Board of Trustees.

Election of Vice-President

Next, Mr. Tims announced that the floor was open for nominations for vice-president of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Wheeler nominated Mr. Rob Hudson to serve as vice-president. Mr. Prather seconded the motion and by unanimous consent nominations for vice-president were closed and the matter was brought to vote as follows:

Mrs. Beth Stone	voted: Aye
Mr. Rob Hudson	voted: Abstained
Mr. Eddie Prather	voted: Aye
Mr. Ken Wheeler	voted: Aye

By a vote of 3-0, Mr. Rob Hudson was elected vice-president of the Board of Trustees.

Election of Secretary

Next, Mr. Tims announced that the floor was open for nominations for secretary of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Prather nominated Mr. Ken Wheeler to serve as secretary. Mr. Hudson seconded the motion and by unanimous consent nominations for vice-president were closed and the matter was brought to vote as follows:

Mrs. Beth Stone	voted: Aye
Mr. Rob Hudson	voted: Aye
Mr. Eddie Prather	voted: Aye
Mr. Ken Wheeler	voted: Abstained

By a vote of 3-0, Mr. Ken Wheeler was elected secretary of the Board of Trustees.

PASSING OF THE GAVEL

The gavel was passed from Mr. Prather to Mrs. Stone and the meeting proceeded.

Appointment of Legal Counsel

On a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mitchell, McNutt & Sams as legal counsel for the TPSD Board of Trustees.

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the president of the Board declared the motion passed.

Posting of Public Notices

On a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to assign the responsibility of posting notices of special meetings, recessed meetings, adjourned meetings, and rescheduled meetings as outlined in TPSD Policy BDA to Ms. Patrice Tate.

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the president of the Board declared the motion passed.

Appointment of Recording Secretary for the TPSD Board of Trustees

On a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Prather, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Patrice Tate as recording secretary for the TPSD Board of Trustees.

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the president of the Board declared the motion passed.

Authorization of Signatures for District Financial Accounts

On a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to authorize signatures for district financial accounts in accordance with TPSD Policy DGA: Authorized Signatures.

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the President of the Board declared the motion passed.

Ratification of TPSD Policies

In accordance with TPSD Policy BDA Board of Trustees Organizational Meeting, Mr. Prather moved to reaffirm and ratify the TPSD Policies, Administrative Procedures, Regulations, and Exhibits previously adopted by the Board of Trustees. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wheeler and the Board voted unanimously to reaffirm and ratify the TPSD Policies, Administrative Procedures, Regulations, and Exhibits previously adopted by the Board of Trustees. The president of the declared the motion passed.

Appointment of Board Audit Committee to Review TPSD 2011-2012 Audit

In accordance with TPSD Policy BDA Board of Trustees Organizational Meeting, Mr. Hudson moved to appoint Mrs. Beth Stone and himself to serve on the Board Audit Review Committee for the purpose of reviewing the 2011-2012 School Year Audit. The motion was seconded by

Mrs. Stone and the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointments of the Board Audit Committee. The president of the Board declared the motion passed.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the February 12, 2013, noon and five o'clock regular meetings were presented for consideration for approval. No corrections were noted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

RECOGNITIONS

Mrs. Stone announced that several recognitions were scheduled for the 5:00 p.m. meeting of the Board.

COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD

The following reports were presented to the Board of Trustees as information:

- A. "Talk About It" – Bullying Prevention Program at THS/TMS presented by Mrs. Diana Ezell (TPSD Goal #2)
- B. Bring Your Own Device presented by Mrs. Kimberly Britton (TPSD Goals #1 and #4)
- C. Ad Valorem Collections Report presented by Mrs. Linda Pannell (TPSD Goal #5)

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

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Office of Finance Director Mrs. Linda Pannell (TPSD Goal #5)

- 1. Contractual Agreements
 - a. Charter Bus Service Contract #BC2012-2013-006
 - b. Rental of School Facilities #SFR1327 and #SFR1328 and Revision of SFR1325
- 2. Donations #2012-2013-039 through #2012-2013-041
- 3. Permission to Submit TPSD Grants #1318 and #1319
- 4. Permission to Accept TPSD Grant #1320
- 5. Cash Flow Statements for Month Ending January 31, 2013

B. Office of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Matthew Dillon

- 1. Student Transfer Report presented by Mrs. Pamela Traylor
- 2. Overnight Field Trip Requests (TPSD Goals #2 and #4)

- Tupelo Middle School Bridge Builders, March 4-5, 2013, Jackson, MS
- Tupelo Middle School Excel Technology Team, April 9-11, 2013, Washington, D.C.
- Tupelo High School, Bridge Builders, March 4-5, 2013, Jackson, MS
- Tupelo High School Mayor's Youth Council, March 1-2, 2013, Hattiesburg, MS

C. Office of Superintendent Dr. Gearl Loden

1. Dues for 2013-2014 National School Boards Association (April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014)
2. Approval of School Board Travel Expenses to Attend NSBA Annual Conference, April, 2013, San Diego, California

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Office of Director of Finance Mrs. Linda Pannell (TPSD Goal #5)

1. Docket of Claims

Board Member Ken Wheeler reviewed the Docket of Claims and Check Registers prior to the meeting and advised that at the 5:00 p.m. meeting of the Board he will recommend approval of the Docket of Claims for the period February 2, 2013 through February 25, 2013, Docket of Claims #8295 through #8858, Accounts Payable Checks #5028 through #5420 in the amount of \$1,271,043.77.

2. Financial Statement for the Month Ending January 31, 2013

Finance Director Linda Pannell presented the Financial Statement for the month ending January 31, 2013 for consideration for approval.

3. 2011-2012 Audit Report

Finance Director Linda Pannell recommended approval of the State Approved Final Audit Report for year ended June 30, 2012. Mrs. Pannell stated that Mrs. Stone and Mr. Hudson had represented the Board during the audit exit meeting with Auditor Joe Cash of M. M. Winkler & Association on Friday, March 1, 2013.

B. Office of Director of Human Resources Mr. Jim Turner

Personnel Recommendations

Mr. Turner presented Licensed Staff recommendations for consideration for approval.

**C. Office of Assistant Superintendent Matthew Dillon (TPSD Goal #2)
Student Case #43-02-2012-2013 and Student Case #50-02-2012-2013**

Mrs. Pamela Traylor and Dr. Matthew Dillon presented information regarding Student Discipline Case #43-02-2012-2013 and #50-02-2012-2013.

D. Office of Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Diana Ezell (TPSD Goal #4)

1. Proposed Revision to TPSD Policies:

a. Second Reading of Proposed New TPSD Policy #IEBA Dyslexia Policy

Mrs. Ezell presented new TPSD Policy #IEBA (Dyslexia Policy) to the Board for a second reading, and recommended adoption at this meeting of the Board.

b. Amendment to TPSD Policies

Mrs. Ezell reported that she and Administrative Counsel Kelly Stimpson are proposing the following policy revisions to comply with current state and federal law and part of a larger transition to the Mississippi School Boards Association Codification System.

1. CA-E Administrative Goals / Priority Objectives: Statement of Ethics is an exhibit, representing administrative procedures, to the Board's policy CA Administrative Goals / Priority Objectives. I recommend that we add an item to the end of the list that would say:
 11. Adheres to the Mississippi Educator Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct.Proposal also adds "Administrative Procedure" to the heading, for clarification.
2. CBI Superintendent Evaluation should be updated in light of HB 447 (2012). Recommended changes are highlighted and explained in marginal notes.
3. CBJA Dismissal of Superintendent is obsolete in light of SB 2176, which eliminates the right of a superintendent in Mississippi to have a hearing on his/her termination. Language in our current policy recommended to be deleted is marked on attached.
4. JHB Truancy would replace JHB-E (an exhibit, but no underlying policy), which has not been updated in more than 16 years. The language of our current policy should be deleted since it simply comprises a statement of what the State Board of Education is required to do, rather than a statement of our Board's policy relative to truancy. Please see attached proposed language, separated into a general statement of Board policy and administrative procedures.

5. BID Board Member Compensation - Proposed changes include (1) making the policy more specific to Tupelo rather than reciting verbatim the more generalized language of the state statute; (2) including the consequences for missed meetings, as proscribed by law; and (3) changing the designation from "BID-E" (an exhibit) to "BID," statement of Board policy.

6. BHA School District Logo and/or Motto This proposal adds "school name, mascot, logo" to the prohibitions; and adds new administrative procedures on how to seek permission to use the logo, motto, mascot, etc., including an appeal to the Board. [New code = ACB]

7. IKE/IHA Promotion, Retention and Acceleration of Students (Grading/Assessment Systems) Change will include five data points for promotion, and k-12 use modified ten-point grading scale. See attached [New code = IHA]

8. JICC Student Conduct on Buses Currently, the policy has no procedures. This proposal would remove what should be procedure/ regulation language from the Board policy and puts it under administrative procedures. [New code = JCDAD]

9. DKA Payroll Procedures Adds language regarding direct deposit, per SB2761.

10. GCOF Suspension and Dismissal of Licensed Staff Adds a sentence clarifying that the right to a hearing is not available to a superintendent.

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

Information Items

Information was provided regarding the following items:

1. Mississippi School Boards Association Annual Conference in Jackson, Mississippi, held on February 25-27, 2013.
2. Partnership with ICC regarding Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment Program
3. Whole Schools Initiative
4. Upcoming school visit to Santa Rosa, FL during spring holidays

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No Unfinished Business items were presented at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between City of Tupelo and TPSD for Safe Routes to Schools Grant Award, Phase 1

Mrs. Mary Ann Plasencia reported that the City of Tupelo and the TPSD desire to enter into an Interlocal Agreement for the purpose of constructing the Tupelo Safe Routes to School – Phase 1 which will include \$306,429 of sidewalk construction around Pierce Street Elementary and Tupelo Middle School. The City of Tupelo will act as the lead agent on this project. Construction will begin in May 2013, and will be completed by July, 2013.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

A. Future Agenda Topics (April 9)

1. Parent of the Year Recognition
2. Staffing Update by Mr. Jim Turner
3. Personnel Recommendations for School Year 2013-2014

B. Executive Session

Board President Beth Stone suggested to the School Board a temporary executive session to determine the need for a permanent executive session for the purpose of discussing student and personnel matters.

On a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to enter temporary executive session for the purpose of determining a need for permanent executive session. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the President of the Board declared the motion passed.

The room was cleared and the temporary executive session was called to order by Mrs. Stone with the following people present: Mr. Rob Hudson, Mr. Eddie Prather, Mrs. Beth Stone, Mr. Ken Wheeler, Dr. Gearl Loden, Mr. Otis Tims, Ms. Patrice Tate, Mrs. Kimberly Britton, Dr. Matt Dillon, Dr. Kristy Luse, Mr. Kenneth McGaha, Mr. Terry Hatch and Mrs. Pamela Traylor.

The executive session was called to order and the Board first considered the reason for entering executive session. Upon a motion by Mr. Prather, with a second by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to remain in executive session for the purpose of discussing student and personnel matters. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the President of the Board declared the motion passed.

Mrs. Stone reopened the meeting to tell all those in attendance the reason for going into executive session was to discuss student and personnel matters.

The Board heard background information regarding Student Appeal #78 from Dr. Luse and Mr. McGaha. Then, Dr. Luse and Mr. McGaha left the meeting. Student #78 and his/her parents entered the meeting and the father of Student #78 addressed to the Board. Next, Student #78 and his/her parents left the meeting.

Thereafter, the Board deliberated on the matters presented at the appeal. Next, the Board entertained discussion concerning personnel matters. No action was taken by the Board in regards to these matters.

Following the discussion, Mr. Prather moved to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, and upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the President of the Board declared the motion passed and the Board in Open Session.

Mrs. Stone reopened the meeting to tell all in attendance that the Board was back in Open Session. Everyone waiting re-entered the meeting, and Mrs. Stone stated that the Board was back in Open Session.

On a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously by all members present to approve the action of the District Disciplinary Committee in regards to Student #78. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the president of the Board declared the motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Prather, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The President of the Board declared the motion passed and the meeting in adjournment at 2:35 p.m.

APPROVED:
TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Stone, President

Kenneth Wheeler, Secretary