

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
March 17, 2015
5:00 p.m.**

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, March 17, 2015, at the Early Childhood Education Center, 1402 North Green Street, Tupelo, Mississippi.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Kenneth Wheeler 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. Rob Hudson announced a quorum and stated that the meeting was lawfully in session. Attorney Otis Tims 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.

RECOGNITION OF TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Mr. Lee Stratton recognized two members of the Transportation Department at the noon meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the following meeting were presented for consideration for approval:

February 17, 2015 Noon Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mr. Prather, the Board voted to approve the minutes from the February 17, 2015, noon regular meeting as submitted. The motion was approved unanimously and declared passed by the President of the Board.

February 17, 2015, 5 p.m. Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mr. Babb, the Board voted to approve the minutes from the February 17, 2015, 5 p.m. regular meeting as submitted. The motion was approved unanimously and declared passed by the President of the Board.

February 12, 2015, 1:35 p.m. Special Called Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mrs. Davis, the Board moved to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2015, special called meeting as submitted. The motion was approved unanimously and declared passed by the President of the Board.

WELCOME

Principal Anita Buchanan welcomed the Board of Trustees, parents, staff and visitors to the Early Childhood Education Center.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

RECOGNITIONS

The Board of Trustees recognized the following students and teachers:

- January Pre-K-2 Employees of the Month
- February Pre-K – 2 Employees of the Month
- March Employees of the Month
- THS DECA State Winners
- West Point Academy Appointments
- Prudential Spirit of Community Award Winner
- National Merit Semifinalist
- School Parents of the Year
- TPSD Parent of the Year

COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD

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

- A. Mr. Andy Cantrell, Mrs. Mary Ann Plasencia, and Mr. Charles Laney of JBHM gave an update on Long Range Planning.
- B. Mrs. Rachel Murphree gave an update on Ad Valorem Collections for amounts received in February 2015. (TPSD Goal #4)

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 approve and ratify the Consent Agenda as listed below:

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

1. Contractual Agreements
 - Acknowledge and Award Contracts #CO1544 through #CO1545; SFR1521
2. Accepted Donations #2014-2015-032 through #2014-2015-038
3. Permission to Accept TPSD Grant #1502
 - MDE: MCOPS SRO Program \$40,000.00
4. Permission to Advertise Bid
 - BD 1505 Dish Machine Rental
5. Deletion of Items from TPSD Asset Listing
 - Deletion of 16 Assets

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
 - Milam Chorus to Jackson, MS
 - THS Bridge Builders to Jackson, MS
 - THS Bridge Builders to Cheyenne, WY for AASHTO Bridge Building Competition
 - DECA to Orlando, FL for International Competition
 - TMS Bridge Builders to Jackson, MS for MDOT Bridge Competition
 - TMS Bridge Builders to Cheyenne, WY for AASHTO Bridge Building Competition
 - AP Science Club to Atlanta, GA for Application of AP Curriculum through experiences

C. Office of Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Kimberly Britton

1. District Summary of School-Wide Plans for Title I A Program 2014-2015

D. Office of Executive Director of Operations and Facilities Mr. Andy Cantrell

1. Change Order No. 1 for Tupelo High School Turf/Track
2. Certificate of Substantial Completion
3. Permission to Operate Summer Food Service Programs at 5 TPSD Sites

E. Office of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Diana Ezell

1. Request Road Work from Lee County Public Works
2. Letter of Understanding with Family Resource Center

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Davis 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. Rachel Murphree (TPSD Goal #4)

1. Docket of Claims

Mrs. Sherry Davis reviewed the Docket of Claims prior to the meeting and recommended approval of the following:

- Docket of Claims for the period February 7, 2015 through February 28, 2015, Docket of Claims #25855 through #26242, Accounts Payable Checks #16196 through #16492 in the amount of \$522,807.82
- The Tupelo High School Activity Check Register for the period February 2015, Checks #1627 through #1638 in the amount of \$6,142.52
- Athletic Activity check Register for the period February 2015, Checks #2323 through #2332 in the amount of \$652.50

The grand total for all funds is \$529,602.86.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson and approved unanimously by all members present. Mr. Wheeler 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 January 31, 2015

Following a review of each report and discussion, on a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mrs. Davis, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following financial reports:

- Bank Reconciliation Report
- Revenue and Expenditure Report with Budget Status
- TPSD Cash Flow Statement
- Combined Balance Sheet
- January 31, 2015 Financial Statements

Mr. Wheeler declared the motion passed. The Financial Reports for Month Ending January 31, 2015, are marked **EXHIBIT 4** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein

B. Office of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Eddie Peasant (TPSD Goal #2)

Student Discipline Report Case #03-2014-2015

Mr. Hudson moved to uphold the administrative decision to expel Student #03-2014-2015 from TPSD for one calendar year for violation of TPSD Policy JD-E3 #9, #18, and #33. Homebound services will be provided through the Special Education Department. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Davis and passed unanimously. Mr. Wheeler declared the motion passed.

D. Office of Director Human Resources Mr. Jim Turner

1. Licensed Personnel Recommendations

Mr. Babb moved to approve the Licensed Staff recommendations as presented. Mrs. Davis seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Wheeler 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. Diana Ezell (TPSD Policy E)

1. Second Reading of TPSD Policy

Dr. Ezell presented the following policy for a second reading:

DJEJA Bill Payment Authorization

On a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mr. Hudson, the Board voted unanimously to approve TPSD Board Policy DJEJA as presented. Mr. Wheeler declared the motion passed. Policy DJEJA is marked **EXHIBIT 7** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

2. Consideration of Approval for Opportunity Camp, Summer 2015

Mrs. Davis moved to approve the 2015 Summer Opportunity Camp as proposed by Dr. Diana Ezell. Mr. Babb seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Wheeler declared the motion passed. Detailed information regarding the 2014 Summer Opportunity Camp is marked **EXHIBIT 8** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

3. Revisions to 2014-2015 TPSD School Calendar

Dr. Loden and Dr. Ezell presented revisions to the 2014-2015 School Calendar for approval.

On a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mrs. Davis, the Board voted to pass the revisions to the 2014-2015 TPSD School Calendar as presented. Mr. Wheeler declared the motion passed. A copy of the 2014-2015 Calendar is marked **EXHIBIT 9** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

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

1. Employment of 2015-2016 School Administrative Personnel

Dr. Loden presented the 2015-2016 School Administrative Personnel recommendations for consideration of approval.

Dr. Gearl Loden recommended the reemployment of TPSD School Administrative Personnel for the 2015-2016 school year. Dr. Loden stated that salaries for administrators are not recommended at this time pending additional state budget information

On a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mrs. Davis, the Board voted unanimously to approve the reemployment of 2015-2016 School Administrative Personnel as recommended. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the President of the Board declared the motion passed.

2. Information Items:

- **Curriculum Update**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No Unfinished Business was discussed at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution of Intent

Board Attorney Otis Tims reported that the noon meeting the Board had approved a resolution with the following title:

“RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF BORROWING MONEY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COSTS OF PURCHASING, ERECTING, REPAIRING, EQUIPPING, REMODELING AND ENLARGING SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND RELATE FACILITES, PURCHASING LAND THEREFOR, PURCHASING TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES AND PROVIDING NECESSARY WATER, LIGHT, HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING AND SEWERAGE FACILITIES FOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS AT AN APPROXIMATE COST OF \$44,000,000, FOR DECLARING THE INTENTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT TO BORROW A MAXIMUM OF \$44,000,000 AND TO ISSUE BONDS OF THE TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT AS EVIDENCE OF SUCH INDEBTEDNESS”

B. Resolution Calling for Election to Approve the 2015 General Obligation Bond Issue

Board Attorney Otis Tims further reported that at the noon Board meeting the Board had approved a resolution with the title:

“RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CALLING AND HOLDING A SPECIAL ELECTION WITHIN AND FOR THE TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT WHETHER THE DISTRICT SHOULD ISSUE ITS BONDS, AND PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS”

C. Resolution to Hire Young Law Group as Bond Counsel, Mitchell McNutt & Sams as Issuer’s Counsel and MuniGroup as Financial Advisors

Board Attorney Otis Tims further reported that at the noon meeting the Board had discussed a resolution with the title:

“RESOLUTION STATING THE INTENTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT, TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI TO ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND OTHER POTENTIAL FINANCINGS AND TO RETAIN LEGAL COUNSEL AND A MUNICIPAL ADVISOR TO ASSIST WITH THE PROPOSED FINANCING”

Mrs. Davis moved to approve the resolution as presented, and Mr. Prather seconded the motion. After further discussion, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution. The Board President declared the motion passed. A copy of which resolution is set out in full as **EXHIBIT 9** to these minutes and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting and incorporated fully herein.

D. Intermediate Resolution Finding no Petition for Election on \$325,000 notes

Board Attorney Otis Tims then recommended consideration of approval a resolution with the title:

“RESOLUTION OF TH BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT FINDING THAT ITS RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON FEBRUARY 17, 2015, DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF ISSUING NOTES IN THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$325,000.00) TO PAY THE COSTS DESCRIBED THEREIN WAS DULY PUBLISHED AS REQUIRED BY LAW AND THAT NO PETITION REQUESTING AN ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF INCURRING SAID INDEBTEDNESS WAS FILED; APPROVING THE BORROWING OF SAID MONEY; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SAID NOTES; AND STATING ITS INTENTION TO TAKE FURTHER ACTION REGARDING THE NOTES AT A LATER DATE.

A copy of which resolution is set out in full as **EXHIBIT 10** to these minutes and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting and incorporated fully herein. Mr. Tims also reported on the proposals received by the District to purchase the Note. On a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Babb, and after further discussion, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as presented. Mr. Wheeler declared the motion passed.

E. Note and Sale Resolution

Board Attorney Otis Tims recommended for consideration of approval a resolution with the following title:

“A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE ISSUANCE OF A NOTE OF THE TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF THREE HUNDRED SIX THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$306,000.00) TO RAISE MONEY TO PAY FOR THE COSTS OF ACQUIRING, IMPROVING, CONSTRUCTING, RENOVATING, REPAIRING HEATING, COOLING AND EQUIPPING SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND RELATED FACILITIES, PURCHASING LAND THEREFOR, PERFORMING SITE WORK, PURCHASING SCHOOL BUSES AND TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT AND TO PAY THE COSTS OF SUCH BORROWING”

On a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mrs. Davis, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Note and Sale Resolution as presented. Mr. Wheeler declared the motion passed. A copy of which resolution is set out in full as **EXHIBIT 11** to these minutes and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting and incorporated fully herein. Mr. Tims also reported on the proposals received by the District to purchase the Note. On a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mrs. Davis, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as presented. Mr. Wheeler declared the motion passed.

F. Safe and Sound Launch

Dr. Loden reported that Mrs. Kay Bishop along with Mrs. Mary Ann Plasencia presented information regarding the Safe + Sound bond issue citizens' committee at the noon meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

A. Future Agenda Topics – Superintendent Gearl Loden

- Curriculum Update
- Spring Orientation Update
- Legal Update
- Approval of Licensed Employees
- Recognize Special Education Department

B. Future Agenda Topics – Board Members

1. Reconsider Dates of Board Retreat
2. Graduation Coaches

C. Executive Session

Board President Kenneth Wheeler announced that an Executive Session was held at the noon meeting of the Board to discuss student and personnel matters and that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

March 17, 2015
Noon, Hancock Leadership Center

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

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mr. Babb, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The President of the Board declared the motion passed and the meeting in adjournment at 5:58 p.m.

APPROVED:
TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ATTEST:

Kenneth Wheeler, President

Eddie Prather, Secretary