

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
OCTOBER 30, 2018**

The Board of Trustees of the Tupelo Public School District convened in a work session of the Board held in open session at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 30, 2018, at Church Street, 445 Church Street, Tupelo, Mississippi.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Eddie Prather called the meeting to order.

**II. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

The following School Board members were present during roll call:

Members Present: Mr. Joe Babb  
Mrs. Sherry Davis  
Mr. Rob Hudson  
Mr. Eddie Prather  
Mr. Kenneth Wheeler

Mr. Prather declared a quorum, and stated that the meeting was lawfully in session.

Superintendent Rob Picou and Deputy Superintendent Kimberly Britton were in attendance along with Mrs. Modesty Shumpert and Ms. Patrice Tate. Board Attorney Otis Tims of Mitchell, McNutt was also present.

Mr. Prather stated that pursuant to the Mississippi Open Meetings Law, Sections 25-41-1 through 25-41-17 of the Mississippi Code, this meeting was called for the purpose of conducting a Work Session to review the below listed topics:

1. First 100 Days Summary (Dr. Rob Picou)
2. Board President (Mr. Eddie Prather)
  - a. Board Goals
  - b. Tuition
  - c. Board Meetings/Agenda/Communication and School Visit Protocol
  - d. Any other Board Member Concerns
3. District of Innovation Needs Discussion (Mrs. Stewart McMillan)
4. Innovative Possibilities (Dr. Rob Picou)

A copy of the Notice calling the meeting is marked EXHIBIT 1 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

Mr. Prather also announced that an Executive Session may be needed to discuss a sensitive and confidential personnel matter.

### **III. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Noting that the topic of the meeting involves a highly sensitive and confidential personnel matter, Mr. Prather suggested to the School Board the need for a temporary executive session to determine the need for a permanent executive session.

On a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to enter temporary executive session for the purpose of determining a need for permanent executive session.

The room was cleared, leaving the following persons present: Mr. Joe Babb, Mrs. Sherry Davis, Mr. Rob Hudson, Mr. Eddie Prather, Mr. Kenneth Wheeler, Dr. Rob Picou, and Mr. Otis Tims.

Mr. Prather called the temporary executive session to order and the Board first considered the reason for entering executive session. Upon a motion by Mr. Hudson, with a second by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to remain in executive session for the purpose of discussion involving a sensitive and confidential personnel matter. The President of the Board declared the motion passed.

Mr. Prather announced to those outside the meeting that the Board had voted unanimously to go into executive session.

Mr. Prather called the executive session to order. After due discussion of the personnel matter, Mr. Hudson 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.

### **IV. OPEN SESSION**

Mr. Prather announced that the Board had met in executive session to consider a highly sensitive and confidential personnel matter. Mr. Prather further stated that no action was taken by the Board in executive session regarding this matter.

### **V. First 100 Days – Dr. Robert Picou, Superintendent)**

Dr. Picou stated that his first 100 days have been focused on establishing relationships with the administrative team and with community leaders. He stated that during the next 50 days he intends to dig deeper into the organization by getting to know the classified and licensed staff better as well as learn about systems, protocols, and programs throughout the District.

### **VI. Board President – Mr. Eddie Prather**

Board Goals: Changing or “tweaking” the Board Goals was discussed. It was the consensus of the Board to get Dr. Davis Lee of the University of Southern Mississippi to lead a Board Work Session related to setting goals. Dr. Picou stated that his first 100 days have been focused on establishing relationships with the administrative team and with community leaders.

Proposed Tuition Changes: Discussion was held regarding revising current TPSD Policy JBCDA Intradistrict Transfer Procedures and Policy JBCB Nonresident Students. Two

options were presented by Mrs. Kimberly Britton. Board members favored Option 2 (setting tuition at \$600 per semester or \$1,000 per year).

Board Meetings/Agenda/Communication and School Visit Protocol:

Board members indicated that they like the new Board meeting agenda format. Eliminating night meetings was discussed but it was decided to keep the evening meetings. The possibility of having Board Liaisons (Board members assigned to particular schools) was considered and the group was in favor of Board Liaisons. Ms. Patrice Tate will work on this and confer with Dr. Picou before presenting to Board members.

**VII. District of Innovation Needs – Mrs. Stewart McMillan**

Mrs. McMillan assisted the group in identifying the district's greatest needs in preparation of District of Innovation application. The purpose of a District of Innovation or School of Innovation is to better prepare students for success in life and work.

**VIII. Innovative Possibilities – Dr. Robert Picou**

Dr. Picou discussed the following topics:

- Accountability Results
- TPSD Aspirations
- Academic Achievement Gap in Advanced Classes
- Middle College
- ANSEP (Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program)
- Designated Funds

Mr. Hudson left the meeting at approximately 3:15pm.

**IX. Adjournment**

Mr. Wheeler made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Babb seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously by all members present, and the Board stood adjourned at 3:45pm.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Mr. Eddie Prather, President

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Mr. Rob Hudson, Secretary