

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
December 5, 2017**

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, December 5, 2017, 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. Joe Babb, Mrs. Sherry Davis, Mr. Rob Hudson, Mr. Eddie Prather, and Mr. Kenneth Wheeler. Mr. Prather announced a quorum, and stated that the meeting was lawfully in session. Attorney Otis Tims was also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Davis moved to approve the agenda for the regular December 5, 2017, Board meeting subject to the following change:

- Addendum to the Personnel Report (under Section VIII., Item B. #2., Licensed Personnel Recommendations)

The motion was seconded by Mr. Wheeler, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda for the regular December 5, 2017, Board meeting with the announced change. 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.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

November 7, 2017, Noon Regular Meeting, HLC

Mr. Hudson made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 7, 2017, noon regular meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wheeler and approved unanimously. Mr. Prather declared the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

RECOGNITIONS

No recognitions were held at this meeting of the Board.

COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD

The following informational reports were presented to the Board of Trustees:

A. Transportation Fleet Update Report (TPSD Goals #2 and #4)

Mr. Larry Harmon presented a summary report of the district's fleet of buses. Mr. Harmon stated that the district currently has 74 total routes, and to sustain the number of buses currently in the fleet the district will need to purchase 6-7 new buses every year. Buses are serviced every two weeks.

B. Ad Valorem Report for Amount Received Through November, 2017 (TPSD Goal #4)

Mrs. Rachel Murphree reported that the collections for Operations for October received by the District in November were 8.11% of the amount requested compared to 8.45% in the previous year. The collections for Debt Service for October received by the District in November were 8.10% of the amount requested compared to 7.59% in the previous year.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

1. Contractual Agreements (TPSD Policy DJAAB Contract Signing Authority)
Contracts to be Acknowledged and Awarded: #CO1853
Rental of School Facilities: #SFR1816 through #SFR1818
Contracts to be Ratified: #CO1851 and #CO1852
2. Donations (TPSD Policy DFAB Revenues for Non-Tax Sources)
#2017-2018-0019 through #2017-2018-026
3. Grant Permission to Submit Grants (TPSD Policy DEEG Grant Management)
TPSD Grant #1812
4. Grant Permission to Accept Grants (TPSD Policy DEEG Grant Management)
TPSD Grant #1805
5. Grant Permission to Delete 81 Assets from the TPSD Asset Listing and Add Back 1 (one) Asset to the TPSD Asset Listing (TPSD Policy DM)

B. Office of Assistant Superintendent Mr. Andy Cantrell

Student Transfer Report (TPSD Policy JBCD Transfers and Withdrawals of Students)

Overnight Field Trip Requests:

- THS Band, March in Parade, Orlando, FL 4/24-28/18
- THS AP Science, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN, 3/27-28/18
- THS Choir, National Competition, Orlando, FL, 2/8-13/18

C. Resolution Regarding Amendment to Employment Agreement Contract

At its January 17, 2017 meeting, the Board had approved amending the Employment Agreement with the Superintendent by extending it for an additional year and authorized preparation of document to carry out that decision. The document titled “Sixth Amendment to Employment Agreement” was presented to the Board for approval as part of the Consent Agenda to be marked EXHIBIT 2 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson and was approved unanimously. President Eddie Prather declared the motion passed. A copy of the Amendment to Employment Agreement is marked EXHIBIT 2 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein, and a copy of the Consent Agenda report is marked **EXHIBIT 3** 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

Board Member Joe Babb recommended approval of the Docket of Claims for the period October 28 through November 30, 2017, Docket of Claims #48946 through #49636 in the amount of \$1,742,102.24, and the Athletic Activity Ref Pay paid to officials and feels in the amount of \$7,330.36 for the period November 1 through November 30, 2017. The grand total is \$1,749,432.60. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Davis and approved unanimously. Mr. Prather declared the motion passed.

This affirms that the claims are legal and proper and they are allowed and ratified as paid by the Superintendent or his designee pursuant to Section 37-9-14 (7) of the Mississippi Code of 1972.

The Docket of Claims Report is marked **EXHIBIT 4** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

2. Required Monthly Financial Reports – Month Ending October 31, 2017

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

- Report of Reconciled Bank Statements with Certification
- Statement of Revenue and Expenditure Report with Current Budget Status
- Cash Flow Report for District Maintenance Fund
- Consolidated Fund Balance Sheet for all General and Special Revenue Funds
- Monthly Financial Statement

Board President Eddie Prather declared the motion passed. The Financial Reports for Month Ending October 31, 2017, are marked **EXHIBIT 5** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

B. Office of Director of Human Resources Mr. Jim Turner (TPSD Goals #3 and #4)

1. Approval of Revised Job Description – Certified Permanent Substitute

Upon a motion by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed revisions to existing Job Description – Certified Permanent Substitute as presented. Mr. Prather declared the motion passed. The Personnel Report is marked **EXHIBIT 6** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

2. Licensed Personnel Recommendations

Upon a motion by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mr. Babb, the Board voted unanimously to approve the licensed personnel recommendations (includes Addendum) as presented. Mr. Prather declared the motion passed. The Personnel Report is marked **EXHIBIT 7** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

C. Office of Assistant Superintendent Mr. Andy Cantrell (TPSD Goal #2)

Student Discipline Case #30-2017-2018

On a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mrs. Davis, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the administrative decision to expel Student #30-2017-2018, from TPSD for one calendar year for violation of TPSD Policy JCDAE (2).

Detailed information regarding Student Discipline Case #30-2017-2018 is marked **EXHIBIT 8** “Sealed and Confidential” and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

D. Office of Executive Director of Operations Mr. Charles Laney (TPSD Goals #2 and #4)

Construction Change Directive Number Two (2) for Lawhon Renovations Project

On a motion by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve Construction Change Directive (2) for the Lawhon Renovations Project. Mr. Prather declared the motion passed.

A copy of the abovementioned Construction Change Directive Number Two (2) for Lawhon Renovations Project is marked **EXHIBIT 9** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

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

1. Information Items:

Upcoming TPSD Events

- December 15 – 11:30am, HLC, District Holiday Luncheon
- December 15 – Last Day for Students
- January 2, 2018 – Teachers Report
- January 3 – Students Report
- January 15 – District Holiday – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 16 – Noon, HLC, Regular Board Meeting

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no Unfinished Business items at this meeting of the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

First Draft of 2018-2019 School Calendar

Dr. Gearl Loden presented a first draft of the proposed 2018-2019 School Calendar for initial review. No action was taken at this meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

A. Future Agenda Topics – Superintendent Gearl Loden

- **Administrator of the Year**
- **Teacher of the Year**
- **1st Semester ADA Reports**
- **1st Semester Discipline Reports**
- **2nd Draft of 2018-2019 School Calendar**

B. Future Agenda Topics – Board Members

No future agenda topics were requested by the Board.

Announcement of Retirement of Dr. Gearl Loden

At this point in the meeting, Superintendent Gearl Loden announced his intent to retire from his position at the end of the current school year.

C. Executive Session – Personnel Matter

Mr. Wheeler made a motion, seconded by Ms. Davis, to go into temporary Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was adopted unanimously, and Mr. Prather declared the motion passed.

The room was cleared except for members of the Board, Mr. Tims, and Dr. Loden. The temporary Executive Session was called to order and the Board first considered the reason for entering Executive Session. Mr. Prather stated that there was a need to discuss a personnel matter arising as a result of Dr. Loden's announcement of his plans to retire as Superintendent. Upon a motion by Mr. Wheeler, with a second by Mrs. Davis, the Board voted unanimously to remain in Executive Session. The President of the Board declared the motion passed and went out into the hallway to let everyone know that the Board would remain in Executive Session.

In Executive Session, the Board discussed Dr. Loden's planned retirement as well as a proposed amendment modifying his employment contract and taking other actions, including approving a payment in release of rights and claims, to effectuate his retirement, and whether the retirement would require any personnel reassignments. The Board also discussed the institution of a search for a new superintendent. Following this discussion, Mr. Wheeler moved that the Board return to Open Session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Davis and adopted unanimously. Mr. Prather left the room to inform the public that the Board was returning to Open Session.

Open Session

Mr. Prather then announced that the Board was again in Open Session, and said that the Board had discussed Dr. Loden's announced retirement and personnel matters related thereto. Mr. Babb then made a motion that following the discussion in Executive Session of Dr. Loden's announced retirement, the Board approve the Agreement to Modify Employment Agreement and Mutual Release in substantially the form reviewed by Mr. Tims with the Board and that Eddie Prather be authorized to execute the completed Agreement on behalf of the Board. Mr. Wheeler seconded Mr. Babb's motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board. A copy of the completed and signed Agreement is marked **EXHIBIT 10** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

Mr. Tims then stated that parents and students appealing two discipline decisions had arrived for the meeting and that the Board would need to consider again going into Executive Session to hear these appeals.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Student Discipline Case #31-2017-2018 and #34-2017-2018

Mr. Wheeler moved that the Board enter Temporary Executive Session to consider whether to enter Executive Session to hear the two student discipline appeals. Ms. Davis seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. The room was cleared except for members of the Board, Mr. Tims, Ms. Tate, Ms. Shumpert and Mr. Cantrell. After discussion of the need for an executive session for appeals, Mr. Wheeler made a motion to enter Executive Session for the appeals. Ms. Davis seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Mr. Prather left the room to announce that the Board had voted to enter Executive Session to hear appeals of student discipline cases #31-2017-2018 and #34-2017-2018.

Upon entering Executive Session, the Board heard Assistant Superintendent Andy Cantrell gave summary information on Student Case #31-2017-2018. Then, Mr. Art Dobbs and Mr. Ryan Curry entered the room, answered questions from the Board, and then left the room.

At this point, Student #31-2017-2018 and his mother entered the room. After addressing the Board, and answering questions, the student and parent left the room. The Board then discussed case #31-2017-2018, but took no action at this time.

Next, Dr. Loden entered the room.

Mr. Cantrell gave summary information on Student Case #34-2017-2018. Mr. Brock English, Ms. Talina Knight, Ms. LeAnn Dunklee and an interpreter entered the room, answered questions from the Board, and then left the room. At this point, Student #34-2017-2018 and his parents entered the room. After addressing the Board, and answering questions, the student and parents left the room. The Board then discussed case #34-2017-2018, but took no action at this time.

After discussion among the Board, Mr. Wheeler made a motion to leave Executive Session and return to Open Session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Davis and adopted unanimously.

Mr. Prather then left the room and announced that the Board was again in Open Session.

Open Session

When Open Session resumed, Mr. Prather announced that in Executive Session the Board had heard two student discipline appeals.

Student #31-2017-2018

Whereupon, Mrs. Davis made a motion that the Board affirm the Administration's decision to expel Student #31-2017-2018 for one calendar year and that the student be required to undergo a complete psychiatric evaluation prior to returning to school. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, and it was unanimously adopted. Mr. Prather declared the motion passed.

Detailed information regarding Student Discipline Case #31-2017-2018 is marked **EXHIBIT 11** "Sealed and Confidential" and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

Student #34-2017-2018

Whereupon, Mr. Babb made a motion that the Board affirm the Administration’s decision to expel Student #34-2017-2018 for one calendar year and to require that the student undergo a complete psychiatric evaluation prior to returning to school. Mr. Hudson seconded the motion and it was unanimously adopted. Mr. Prather declared the motion passed.

Detailed information regarding Student Discipline Case #34-2017-2018 is marked **EXHIBIT 12** “Sealed and Confidential” and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mr. Hudson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Wheeler and adopted unanimously. Mr. Prather announced that the motion had passed and declared the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Eddie M. Prather, President

Rob Hudson, Secretary