

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
(BOARD RETREAT)
JUNE 23-24, 2016**

The Board of Trustees of the Tupelo Public School District convened in a special called meeting of the Board held in open session at noon Thursday, June 23, 2016, at Tombigbee State Park, 264 Cabin Drive, Tupelo, Mississippi

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Joe Babb called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Board members present during roll call were: Mr. Joe Babb, Mrs. Sherry Davis, Mr. Rob Hudson, and Mr. Eddie Prather. Board Member Kenneth Wheeler was absent.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Gearl Loden and the core administrative team. School Board Attorney Otis Tims was present. Other administrators participated as needed. Several members of the press were also present.

III. PURPOSE OF CALLED MEETING

Board President Joe Babb announced a quorum and stated that the Special Called meeting was called pursuant to Mississippi Open Meeting Law (MS Code Sections 25-41-1 through 25-41-17) to conduct the Annual Board Work Session Retreat. A copy of the agenda is marked EXHIBIT 1 and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

IV. Board Goals and Measurable Indicators of Success

The Board reviewed the District's 2015-2016 as follows:

1. Increase student achievement across the District.

Ms. Lea Johnson reported on the report card which aligns with the measurable indicators. Discussion was held regarding school ratings and the fact that the state's accountability model does not always accurately measure student and school performance.

2. Provide a safe, secure and orderly environment in all schools.

- Discipline Policies and Procedures were discussed. Discipline listening sessions were important step in implementing changes.
- Mr. Cantrell reported that the District now has 6 School Resource Officers along with Mr. Terry Hatch and Mr. John Jackson. Discussion was held regarding the

enhanced safety and security measures completed as a result of the bond referendum funds. The Board requested Mr. Cantrell present a Safety Security Audit Report in the fall following the postponed MDE audit.

3. Attract and retain all stakeholders

- Mr. Jim Turner presented a PowerPoint report which summarized staffing trends from 2012-2013 school year for both licensed and classified positions

4. Maintain sound financial stability.

- Dr. Loden reported that the District has \$3.7 million in contingency (bond projects) in addition to \$3.9 million for FEMA shelters.
- Discussion was also held regarding federal program funding and the possibility of charging tuition for two additional classes at ECEC.

V. CUSTOMER SERVICE PRESENTATION

Mrs. Corlis Curry presented a PowerPoint report on Customer Service which was presented to all administrators at the recent administrative retreat. This presentation will also be given to secretaries and clerical workers before the beginning of school.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board President Rob Hudson suggested to the School Board a temporary executive session to determine the need for a permanent executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

On a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mrs. Davis, the Board voted unanimously by all members present to enter temporary executive session for the purpose of determining a need for permanent executive session. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

The room was cleared and the temporary executive session was called to order by Mr. Babb with the following people present: Mr. Joe Babb, Mrs. Sherry Davis, Mr. Rob Hudson, Mr. Eddie Prather, Dr. Gearl Loden, Mrs. Kimberly Britton, Mrs. Modesty Shumpert, Ms. Patrice Tate and Mr. Otis Tims.

The executive session was called to order and the Board first considered the reason for entering executive session. Upon a motion by Mr. Hudson, with a second by Mrs. Davis, the Board voted unanimously by all members present to remain in executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. Mr. Babb declared the motion passed.

Mr. Babb reopened the meeting to tell all those in attendance the reason for going into executive session was to discuss personnel matters.

Thereafter, the Board took up for discussion personnel matters reported on by Dr. Gearl Loden and Mrs. Kimberly Britton. No action was taken during executive session.

Mr. Hudson moved to come out of executive session. Mrs. Davis seconded the motion, and upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the President of the Board declared the motion passed and the Board in open session.

Mr. Babb reopened the meeting to tell all in attendance that the Board was back in open session. Everyone waiting re-entered the meeting, and Mr. Babb stated that the Board was back in open session and no action was taken by the Board during executive session.

VI. Recess

On a motion by Mr. Babb and a second by Mr. Hudson, the Board recessed at 5:15 p.m.. The motion was approved unanimously by all members present, and the Board stood recessed.

VII. Reconvene

The meeting resumed at 8:40 a.m. on Friday, June 24, 2016 at the Hancock Leadership Center, 1920 Briar Ridge, Tupelo, Mississippi. Board members present during roll call were: Mr. Joe Babb, Mr. Rob Hudson, and Mr. Eddie Prather. Board Members Sherry Davis and Kenneth Wheeler were absent, however, Mrs. Davis joined the group during the tour of Milam Elementary School.

Dr. Gearl Loden, Mrs. Kimberly Britton, Dr. Diana Ezell, Dr. Eddie Peasant, Mr. Andy Cantrell, Mrs. Modesty Shumpert, and Ms. Patrice Tate were also present. School Board Attorney Otis Tims also attended. Daily Journal reporter Emma Crawford was also present when the meeting reconvened in open session.

VIII. Board Master Calendar

- Requested colored bar graphs and not just rows of numbers.
- The Board will review the 2016-2017 Board Master Calendar and provide suggestions and feedback to Mr. Babb.

IV. Reflections

- Mr. Babb – Customer Service presentation was very well prepared. Very important to re-emphasize. Stakeholders' goal is so hard to control and measure.
- Mr. Hudson – Also impressed with Customer Service presentation. Very important for every organization.
- Mr. Prather – Customer Service report by Mrs. Curry was excellent. Commended the Board/Superintendent/Administrative Team for working relationship.

X. Tour of Rankin, Tupelo Middle School, Milam and ECEC

Board Members Babb, Prather and Hudson, along with Dr. Loden, Mr. Cantrell, and Mr. Charles Laney, toured Rankin, TMS, Milam and ECEC to see firsthand the ongoing bond renovation projects at these sites. Mrs. Davis joined the group at Milam.

XI. Adjournment

The group returned from the tour, and Mrs. Davis made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Hudson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously by all members present, and the Board stood adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

APPROVED:

TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Joe Babb, President

ATTEST:

Mrs. Sherry Davis, Secretary