

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES  
May 14, 2019**

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, May 14, 2019, at the Hancock Leadership Center, 1920 Briar Ridge, Tupelo, Mississippi.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Sherry Davis who welcomed guests attending the meeting.

**ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

Board members present during roll call were: Mr. Joe Babb, Ms. Sherry Davis, Mr. Eddie Prather, Mr. Paul Mize, and Mr. Kenneth Wheeler. Ms. Davis announced a quorum, and stated that the meeting was lawfully in session. Attorney Otis Tims was also present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Assistant Superintendent Andy Cantrell led the participants in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Babb moved to approve the agenda for the May 14, 2019, Regular Board meeting subject to the following changes:

- Addition of Request for Public Comments – Mr. Phil Daughdrill (Item VII., #B)
- Addition to Recognitions – THS Varsity Cheer (Item VII, C.)
- Correction to Donations Report -- #2018-2019-076 – should read Thomas Street instead of Pierce Street (Item VII. F. 1. C.)

The motion was seconded by Mr. Wheeler, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda for the regular May 14, 2019, Board meeting with the announced changes. The President of the Board declared the motion passed.

**APPROAL OF MINUTES**

**April 9, 2019, Noon, Regular Meeting, HLC**

On a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Prather, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2019, noon, regular meeting as submitted. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

**April 9, 2019, 5pm, Regular Meeting, HLC**

On a motion by Mr. Prather, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2019, 5pm, regular meeting as submitted. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

### **May 3, 2019, Noon, Special Called Meeting, HLC**

On a motion by Mr. Babb, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the May 3, 2019, noon, special called meeting as presented. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Phil Daughdrill, president of the THS Football Boosters, addressed the Board in support of a video board for Tupelo High School.

### **RECOGNITIONS**

No recognitions were held at this meeting, however, Dr. Picou introduced the new assistant principals who were employed at the May 3, 2019, special called meeting. The new assistant principals will begin in their new positions July 1, 2019.

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

Board Members and Tupelo Public School District staff members reviewed agenda topics and heard reports in a work session type format for the May 14, 2019 regular, meeting of the Board of Trustees.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – DR. ROB PICOU**

#### **A. Executive Summaries:**

The following Executive Summaries were included in the Board package for this meeting:

1. Turf Collections Update – Dr. Eddie Moore
2. District of Innovation – Mrs. Stewart McMillan
3. MAEP Funding – Mrs. Rachel Murphree
2. Ad Valorem Collections Received through April 30, 2019 – Mrs. Rachel Murphree

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

#### **B. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Rob Picou**

##### **1. Summer Work and Construction Update (Mr. Charles Laney)**

Mr. Charles Laney updated the Board regarding construction of the Tupelo High School Gymnasium. He reported that substantial completion is still projected for June 14, 2019. He also summarized the list of projects scheduled to be completed prior to school beginning in August.

## **2. Video Board Presentation (Dr. Eddie Moore)**

Athletic Director Dr. Eddie Moore presented a comprehensive report regarding installing a video board at Tupelo High School which included the following topics:

- Reasons for Video Board
- Mississippi Schools with Video Boards
- Price Range and Funding
- Revenue Opportunities
- Tupelo Golden Wave – Maintains Progressive Reputation

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

## **3. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Rob Picou**

Dr. Picou's report is included below:

### **Board Goal 1: Increase academic achievement across the district.**

- ACT 30: Comprehensive plan to address ACT scores. Plan will involve a strategic implementation starting at 5<sup>th</sup> grade to increase the number of students scoring a 30 or higher on the ACT assessment. A detailed presentation will be provided at our June meeting.
- CORE (Consortium of Reaching Excellence) Intensive reading training for all K-2 certified teachers. This is a five-day training spread out through course of year specifically targeting quality reading instruction for early readers.
- Working with 3-5 teachers to incorporate a novel instructional unit.
- Working on ELS implementation from CASE 21. This is a new assessment that will replace CASE 21. This is a more rigorous assessment that will help us target the MAEP.
- I-Ready implementation in grades 3-8. This is an online supplemental program for targeted interventions and enrichments.
- Lexia implementation at the K-2 level. This is an online targeted program for reading instruction interventions and enrichment.
- Project Lead the Way training is happening May 28.
- Marzano Effective Instructional Practices training for Administration team.

### **Board Goal 2: Provide a safe, secure and orderly environment in all schools.**

- Lock door corrective analysis is ongoing. There has been a significant decrease in number of unlocked doors.
- Additional 3 SROs have been hired and will be in training and placed after July 1. This gives us a total of 9 SRO officers. The city funds six officers. The district funds three officers.
- Beginning the safety audit recommendations. We are going out to bid on door swipe system at all doors and hope to complete project by the beginning of school. We are also in process of updating our security alarm and camera system.

- CHAMPS: Two people from each school are being trained to lead implementation in the 2019-2020 school year. Typically, the principal and the assistant principal are attending the training.
- In process of going out to bid for new parking lot and fencing at Church Street Elementary School.
- Implementing additional security upgrades at all schools.

**Board Goal 3: Attract and retain all stakeholders.**

- Expanded Middle College conversation with CDF and CREATE. Ready to begin implementing next steps.
- Met with Army representatives to begin implementation process for next school year of an ROTC program.
- Hiring an Integrated Arts coordinator to work with all schools on arts integration.
- Meeting with music teachers to discuss next steps to enhance current programs.

**Board Goal 4: Maintain sound financial stability.**

- Fund Balance: \$28,878,356.71
- State and Local Revenue: \$62,336,527.51  
46.33%
- Conducting resource map meetings with principals and department heads to go over individual budgets in an effort to identify needs and pockets of unspent funding.
- Two-week turnaround paying all vendors.
- Do not have to issue tax anticipation notes to make payroll while waiting for ad valorem.
- Maintain AA- bond rating which is as high as any school district in the state.

There are obviously many additional accomplishments that have occurred this month in various departments and schools. We spent a considerable amount of time hiring administrative staff. Principals are involved in hiring staff for schools.

**3. Upcoming Events:**

- May 17 7:00pm, THS Graduation, BancorpSouth Arena
- May 23 Last Day of School for Students
- May 28 8:00am, End of the Year Celebration, PAC at THS
- June 11 Noon, Regular Board Meeting, HLC
- June 27-28 Board Retreat
- July 30 Noon, Regular Board Meeting, HLC
- July 30 5:00pm, FY20 Budget Hearing, HLC
- August 13 Noon, Regular Board Meeting, HLC
- September 10 Noon, Regular Board Meeting, HLC  
5:00pm, Regular Board Meeting, Joyner Elementary

**D. Board Master Calendar Review and Future Agenda Topics – Board Members**

Mr. Prather requested a report on 2019 test administration. Ms. Davis requested a report regarding internships for vocational teachers.

## **RECESS**

It was the consensus of the Board to take a brief recess.

## **RECONVENE**

The Board reconvened following the short recess.

## **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

### **A. Executive Session**

Ms. Davis suggested that there was a need for consideration of entering into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter and to hear a student discipline appeal (Case #96-2018-2019). Mr. Babb made a motion that the Board enter temporary Executive Session. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously. Ms. Davis declared the motion passed. The room was then cleared.

The temporary Executive Session was called to order with the following people present: Mr. Joe Babb, Ms. Sherry Davis, Mr. Paul Mize, Mr. Eddie Prather, Mr. Kenneth Wheeler, Mr. Otis Tims, Dr. Rob Picou, Mrs. Kim Britton, Mr. Andy Cantrell, Dr. Brock English, Ms. Talina Knight, Mrs. Modesty Shumpert, Ms. Patrice Tate and Mr. Terry Hatch. The Board first considered the reason for entering Executive Session. Ms. Davis stated that there was a need to discuss a personnel matter and to hear a student discipline appeal (Case #96-2018-2019). Upon a motion by Mr. Babb, with a second by Mr. Wheeler, 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.

At this point, Assistant Superintendent Andy Cantrell and TMS Assistant Principal Talina Knight gave summary information regarding Discipline Case #96-2018-2019.

Ms. Knight left the meeting.

Next the mother of Case #96-2018-2019 entered the meeting and addressed the Board on behalf of her child. After answering questions by the Board members, the parent left the meeting.

Following completion of the discipline appeal hearing and the Board's ensuing deliberations, Ms. Davis announced that the Board would continue in executive session to discuss a personnel matter. All persons other than members of the Board and Mr. Tims then left the room. There followed a discussion of Dr. Picou's performance as Superintendent. After the discussion, Mr. Prather made a motion that the Board return to Open Session. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, and it was unanimously adopted.

### **Open Session**

Ms. Davis announced to those outside the meeting room that the Board had returned to Open Session.

Ms. Davis then announced that the Board had heard student discipline appeal No.96-2018-2019 during Executive Session.

### **Student Discipline Case #96-2018-2019**

Mr. Babb then made a motion that the Board, because of the extraordinary factual circumstances presented by this case, modify the Administration's decision that the student be expelled for one calendar year and, instead, assign the student to complete the current school year in the Structured Day program and then be assigned to begin the 2019-2020 school year at Tupelo Middle School. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Ms. Davis also announced that the Board had discussed a personnel matter during Executive Session.

### **Amendment to Superintendent Dr. Rob Picou's Contract (Add One Additional Year)**

Mr. Wheeler then made a motion that the Superintendent's employment contract be extended to add one additional year so that the term of the employment agreement would end on June 30, 2023 and that the Board's counsel prepare a contract amendment accordingly. Mr. Mize seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously by the Board.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mr. Babb made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Prather, and adopted unanimously. Ms. Davis announced that the motion had passed and declared the meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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**Sherry S. Davis, President**

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**Joseph B. Babb, Secretary**