

**TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES 5:00 P.M. MEETING MINUTES  
May 15, 2018**

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, May 15, 2018, Milam Elementary School, 720 West Jackson Street, 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**

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.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

April 2, 2018, 9:30am, Special Called Meeting

Mrs. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 2, 2018, 9:30am, Special Called Meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Babb and approved unanimously. Mr. Prather declared the motion passed.

April 10, 2018, Noon, Regular Meeting

Mr. Hudson made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2018, noon, regular Board meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wheeler and approved unanimously. Mr. Prather declared the motion passed.

April 10, 2018, 5:00pm, Regular Meeting

Mrs. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2018, 5:00pm, regular meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Babb and approved unanimously. Mr. Prather declared the motion passed.

April 23, 2018, 4:00pm, Special Called Meeting

Mr. Wheeler made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 23, 2018, 4:00pm, Special Called meeting as recommended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Babb and approved unanimously. Mr. Prather declared the motion passed.

## **WELCOME**

Principal Paul Moton welcomed the Board of Trustees, parents, staff and visitors to Milam Elementary School.

## **RECOGNITIONS**

The Board of Trustees recognized the following individuals or groups:

1. Gum Tree Writing Contest Winners
2. Northeast MS Community College Math and Science Competition Winners
3. Military Appointments – South Sanders (Air Force Academy); Jordan Manley (West Point Military Academy) and Landon Long (West Point Military Academy)
4. Spelling Bee Winners
5. Milam Students – MS Stock Exchange Winners
6. Milam Students – MS Council of Economic Education
7. Milam Students – Science Fair Winners
8. TPSD's Teacher Leadership Academy
9. TPSD Music Teachers on National Organization of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation – named TPSD as one of the Best Communities in the nation for music Education.
10. Employees for the Month of May were honored.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A grandparent was granted permission to address the Board at the noon meeting.

## **COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD**

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

### **A. National School Boards Association Annual Conference Overview**

Mr. Wheeler, Mrs. Davis and Mr. Prather presented a brief overview of the sessions they attended at the recent NSBA Annual Conference in San Antonio. (TPSD Goals #1-#4)

### **B. Ad Valorem Collections through April, 2018 (TPSD Goal #4, TPSD Policy DFA)**

Finance Director Rachel Murphree reported that collections for Operations for March, 2018, received by the District in April, 2018, were 95.95% of the amount requested compared to 95.92% in the previous year. The collections for Debt Service for March, 2018, received by the District in April, 2018, were 96.33% of the amount requested compared to 96.12% 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. Hudson 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 (TPSD Policy DJAAB Contract Signing Authority)
  - a. Contracts to be Acknowledged and Awarded: #CO1875 through #CO1882;  
Contracts for Rental of School Facilities #SFR1829, #SFR1830 and #SFR1831
  - b. Ratification of Contractual Agreements – #CO1873, #CO1874 and #CO1816
2. Donations #2017-2018-050 through #2017-2018-059
3. Request Permission to Submit Grants (TPSD Policy DEEG Grant Management)  
TPSD Grants #1818 through #1822
4. Request Permission to Accept Grants (TPSD Policy DEEG Grant Management)  
TPSD Grants #1819 through #1822
5. Permission to Advertise BD1806 School Cameras (replacement)
6. Permission to Advertise BD1807 Milk Bid
7. Permission to Advertise BD1805 Chromebooks
8. Permission to Sell 8 Old Buses by Lowest Bidder  
Permission to Dispose of 6 Old Buses (Sold for Scrap Metal)
9. Permission to Delete 58 Assets from the TPSD Asset Listing and Add Back  
Two (2) Assets (TPSD Policy DM)

### B. Office of Assistant Superintendent Mr. Andy Cantrell

1. Student Transfer Report (TPSD Policy JBCD Transfers and Withdrawals of Students)
2. Overnight Field Trip Requests (TPSD Policy IFCB) (TPSD Goals #1 and #2)
  - TMS Cheer, UCA Cheer Camp, Starkville, MS , July 6-9, 2018

### C. Office of Director of Federal Programs Mrs. Corlis Curry (TPSD Goal #4)

Approval of Memorandums of Understanding – Mississippi State University for Field Experience

The motion was seconded by Mr. Wheeler and was approved unanimously. 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 and Athletic Activity Ref Pay**

As Mr. Kenneth Wheeler had reviewed the Docket of Claims prior to the meeting, he recommended approval of the Docket of Claims and Athletic Activity Referee Pay as described below:

- Docket of Claims for the period March 30 through May 4, 2018, Docket of Claims #52222 through #53231 in the amount of \$3,833,763.07;
- Athletic Activity Ref Pay paid officials and fees in the amount of \$4,303.88 for March 30 through May 4, 2018.

The grand total for all funds is \$3,838,066.95.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Babb 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 3** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

#### **2. Monthly Financial Reports Required by MS Code § 37-9-18 (Month Ending 3/31/18)**

Following a review of each report and discussion, on a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Hudson, the Board voted unanimously by all members present 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

Mr. Prather declared the motion passed. The Financial Reports for Month Ending February 28, 2018, are marked **EXHIBIT 4** 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 New Job Description (Lead Teacher)**

Mr. Hudson moved to approve a new job description titled Lead Teacher as recommended. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Prather declared the motion passed. A copy of the new job

description titled Lead Teacher is marked **EXHIBIT 5** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

## **2. Licensed Personnel Recommendations**

Mrs. Davis moved to approve the Licensed Personnel Recommendations including the Addendum and the deletion of Willie Harmon's name from the Building Administrators report. Mr. Hudson seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by all members present. Mr. Prather declared the motion passed. The Licensed Personnel Report is marked **EXHIBIT 6** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

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

### **1. Student Discipline Case #80-2017-2018**

On a motion by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the administrative decision to expel Student #80-2017-2018, from TPSD for one calendar year for violation of TPSD Policies JCDAE (2) and JD-E5 #12. Mr. Prather declared the motion passed.

Detailed information regarding Student Discipline Case #80-2017-2018 is marked **EXHIBIT 7** "Sealed and Confidential" and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

### **2. Student Discipline Case #83-2017-2018**

On a motion by Mr. Babb, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the administrative decision to expel Student #83-2017-2018, from TPSD for one calendar year for violation of TPSD Policy JD. Mr. Prather declared the motion passed.

Detailed information regarding Student Discipline Case #83-2017-2018 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)**

### **Summer 2018 Projects**

At the noon meeting, Mr. Charles Laney updated the Board on the following summer projects:

- Upgrade to fire alarm at Fillmore Center
- Replace roof at Lawhon, Building A
- Handicap ramp at Rankin
- New Fencing at Rankin and Pierce

Total price of projects: \$160,000

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

**Reminder of Upcoming Events:**

- May 18, Graduation, BancorpSouth Area
- End of the Year Convocation, May 24, THS Performing Arts Center
- Memorial Day Holiday, May 28
- June 12, 2018, Noon, Regular Board Meeting

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No “Unfinished Business” items were presented at this meeting of the Board.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Budget Amendment Request**

At noon, Mrs. Murphree explained that funds exist to purchase Chromebooks but are not budgeted in the appropriate accounts. The total purchase requirement for the Chromebook bid is \$1,155,225, and \$631,564.78 remains in the bond fund that can be used towards this purchase. Therefore, \$523,660.22 of district funds will be required to fund the remaining portion of this purchase.

On a motion by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mr. Babb, the Board voted unanimously to amend the 2017-2018 Budget to fund the remaining portion of the purchase of Chromebooks as follows:

\$200,000 from technology accounts budgeted for increased costs associated with expanding bandwidth, cost not incurred;

Remainder: \$323,660.22 from accounts budgeted for renovations to Church Street which were not undertaken.

Mr. Prather declared the motion passed.

**B. Memorandum of Understanding – Toyota Wellspring Education Fund Career Coach Grant**

On a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mrs. Davis, the Board voted unanimously to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between TPSD and Toyota Wellspring Education Fund to hire two career coaches administered by the CREATE Foundation.

A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between TPSD and Toyota Wellspring Education Fund is marked **EXHIBIT 9** and held in the Exhibit Book of this meeting date and incorporated herein.

**C. Change of July 24, 2018 Regular Board Meeting and FY19 Budget Hearing to July 31**

It was recommended that the July 24, 2018, Regular Noon Board meeting and 5:00pm FY19 Budget Hearing be changed to July 31, 2018, to allow Board members to attend the NSBA Southern Region Leadership Conference in Biloxi on July 24-24, hosted by the Mississippi School Boards Association.

On a motion by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously to change the Tuesday, July 24, 2018, Regular Noon Board Meeting to Tuesday, July 31, 2018, at noon, at the Hancock Leadership Center.

It was also the consensus of the Board to call a Special Called Meeting on Tuesday, August 7, 2018, at 5:00pm, at the Hancock Leadership Center, to adopt the FY19 Budget.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**A. Future Agenda Topics – Superintendent Gearl Loden**

**June 12, 2018, Noon Meeting**

- Potential Handbook Changes
- Year End Athletic Report
- Year End ADA Report
- Turf Collections Report

**B. Future Agenda Topics – Board Members**

Mr. Prather mentioned that at the June 12 Board meeting he would like an update report by Mrs. Rachel Murphree and Mr. Charles Laney regarding the bond referendum projects. Mr. Prather also suggested that there be discussions at the June 28-29 Board Retreat concerning the 2018-2019 budget and concerning security planning.

**C. Executive Session**

Mr. Prather stated that an Executive Session was held at the noon meeting to hear a legal update, however, no action was taken at the noon meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board voted unanimously by all members present to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Prather declared the motion passed and the meeting in adjournment at 5:53 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Eddie Prather, President

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Rob Hudson, Secretary