MEETING OF THE BENTON COUNTY

BOARD OF EDUCATION

BENTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

March 12, 2018

 BE IT REMEMBERED that on this the 12th day of March, the Board of Education, Benton County, met at the Office of the Superintendent with the following members present:

 Gary Elliott President

 Katrina McGregor Vice-President

 Erma Poplar Secretary

 Brian Gresham Member

The following persons were present:

 Michelle Carter Beverly Estes Lori Whaley Shaw

Lana Estes Sheila Clifton Brenda Mason

 Jerry Clifton Merri Gadd Sarita Thompson

 Elizabeth McMullen

 WHEREUPON, the following business was transacted:

Candace Sanders recorded the minutes of this meeting.

 President Elliott called the meeting to order at 5:34 P. M.

 Secretary Poplar opened the meeting with prayer.

 Secretary Poplar made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 29th special called meeting and the February 12th meeting. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

Member Gresham made a motion to approve the agenda. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 Mrs. Elizabeth McMullen addressed the board concerning a teacher making an inappropriate comment to her son, a teacher refusing to assist students with assignments/make-up work, and an incident involving an unsupervised student. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to enter executive session to allow further investigation and still maintain confidentiality. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The board entered executive session at 5:41 P. M.

 Vice-President McGregor made a motion to exit executive session. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The board exited executive session at 6:10 P. M. No action was taken during executive session. Superintendent Bostick was asked to obtain further information about the matters discussed and to provide a follow up report.

 Mrs. Brenda Mason addressed the board concerning raises for bus drivers. Mrs. Mason’s husband is a bus driver and has not received a raise in 13 years. The board has previously approved pay increases for drivers, but they have not been implemented, due to lack of funding.

 Superintendent Bostick presented a letter of resignation from Mrs. Clarissa Simmons, RN. This resignation is effective as of March 5, 2018. Secretary Poplar made a motion to accept Nurse Simmons’ resignation. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation to hire Mrs. Lesia Carnell, RN, as the district’s school nurse for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve hiring Nurse Carnell. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The board had the second reading of the FFA Policy. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, Elementary students, ages 8 through 6th grade will receive developmental activities related to FFA at least twice per year. Junior FFA membership will be available to students in grades 7-9, and Senior FFA will continue to be offered to students in grades 10-12. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve the second reading and approve the FFA Policy. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

Poplar Oppose

 Gresham Aye

 Ms. Michelle Carter (Business Manager) presented the monthly financial statements and review. As a follow-up to the plans to construct a safe room at BCCTC, Ms. Carter advised the board that the project is cost prohibitive and the district cannot commit the required funds at this time. Ms. Carter also advised the board that she had received notice from Mississippi Department of Revenue, that the district had received an overpayment and will be required to repay $27,000.00.

 Superintendent Bostick presented a proposal for school restructuring. The following changes would take effect for the 2018-2019 school year: Ashland Elementary will now serve students in Kindergarten through 6th Grade. Ashland High School will now serve students in 7th Grade through 12th Grade. Ashland Middle School will be eliminated. Hickory Flat Attendance Center will continue to service students from Kindergarten through 12th Grade. If approved by the board, these changes will then be forwarded to Mississippi Department of Education for final review and approval. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve the restructuring plan. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented recommendations for personnel to implement the 21st Century Learning After-School Tutoring program. This service is provided through a grant and cooperative agreement with Prentiss County Schools. Personnel are as follows:

 **CERTIFIED STAFF**

 **Ashland Hickory Flat**

Christina Martini, Lead Teacher Anna Hurst, Lead Teacher

 Jennifer Parks Holly Ormon

 Kristy Pannell Melba Bowlin

 Netia Caviness Sandy Garner

 Mamie Polk

 Connie Nutt

 Martha Richard (substitute)

 **NON-CERTIFIED STAFF**

 **Ashland Hickory Flat**

 Tammy Hardin Therese Mills

 Shameva Tipler

 Hillary Henderson (substitute)

 Tonya Peterson (substitute)

 Miriam Hill (substitute)

 **BUS DRIVERS**

Joyce Abram Ira Reliford Brenda Hunt Randy Mauney

 Alex Williams Rodney Holloway Thurman Mason Virginia Leseuer

The number of teachers at each location is based on the number of students participating in the program. The program started later this year than previous years due to a delay in receiving funds from MDE. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve the recommendations. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented the following letters of resignation: Mr. William Smith, Ashland High School; Mr. Rolandus Cox, Ashland High School; Mrs. Zana McBride, Benton County Career Technical Center. Secretary Poplar made a motion to accept all three resignations. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve Claims Docket #059566-059647. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented the consent agenda. There was no discussion of any items. Member Gresham made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented the 2017-2018 Title V Rural and Low-Income Budget. The requested $20,151.00 will be allocated for the purchase of a new Science program for Kindergarten through 5th grade, and new printers for all computer labs. Secretary Poplar made a motion to approve the Title V Budget. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 Superintendent Bostick began his monthly report by requesting an executive session, including Ms. Sarita Thompson, in order to discuss an issue pertaining to confidential student information. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to enter executive session. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

The board entered executive session at 7:00 P. M.

 Secretary Poplar made a motion to exit executive session. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

The board exited executive session at 8:10 P. M. No action was taken during the session.

 At this time, Attorney Shaw asked to be excused from the remainder of the meeting.

 Superintendent Bostick concluded his monthly report by providing follow-up, as requested at the February 12, meeting. He has made weekly contact with both families who presented concerns, and no further issues have been reported. With regard to TST personnel, the superintendent believes there is much work to be done, based on reports focusing on three critical areas of student performance: Attendance, discipline issues, and grades. All students are off track in at least one area; many are struggling in all areas. Superintendent Bostick will address this issue when meeting with principals to discuss staffing for 2018-2019.

 At this time, due to the concern presented by Mrs. Brenda Mason, the board questioned whether the budget for 2017-2018 had included the bus drivers’ pay increase. It was stated that the estimated budget, which was based on previous funding levels, had included the amount. Due to actual funding amounts received, this had to be changed. The board requested that the Final Amended Budget for 2017-2018, include a description of any amounts that were changed.

 The board will meet for a work session on March 26, at 5:30 P. M. The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2018, at 5:30 P. M.

 Vice-President McGregor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P. M.

Attest:

Gary Elliott, President

Katrina McGregor, Vice-President

Erma Poplar, Secretary

Betty Page, Member

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Brian Gresham, Member