MEETING OF THE BENTON COUNTY

BOARD OF EDUCATION

BENTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

November 9, 2017

 BE IT REMEMBERED that on this the 9th day of November, 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

 Betty Page Member

 Brian Gresham Member

The following persons were present:

 Lana Estes Mac Ormon Chelsey Killough

 Cole Childs Sheila Clifton Jerry Clifton

 Beverly Estes Shonika Hamilton Michelle Carter

 Tirease Williams

 WHEREUPON, the following business was transacted:

 Candace Sanders recorded the minutes of this meeting.

 President Elliott called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

 Member Gresham opened the meeting with prayer.

 Secretary Poplar made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 16th meeting. Member Page seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Gresham Aye

The meeting agenda was revised to include a recommendation for Shonika Hamilton as item 12 and re-order the remaining items. Member Page made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The board recognized Member Page, wishing to speak as a parent, regarding an issue with a homework packet that had been sent home with her daughter. Superintendent Bostick advised that he was already looking into the situation.

 The board recognized Mr. Jerry Clifton and Mrs. Sheila Clifton on behalf of the newly formed FFA Alumni Association. The new chapter was organized in the interest of helping the local FFA Chapter by providing support to Mr. Jordan Wilson (the new Advisor) and assistance with recruiting new students. In addition, Mrs. Clifton presented statistical information regarding the role of FFA in Agricultural Education programs, as well as State policies regarding young students who wish to be involved with FFA. Benton County currently only offers participation opportunities to students who are enrolled in the Career & Technical Center’s Agriculture and Natural Resources class. The Alumni Association requested that the board update the district policy to mirror State policy, and offered assistance in the implementation of an expanded FFA program. All board members agreed to work with the board attorney to draft such a policy, and Superintendent Bostick will begin working with school administrators to discuss plans for recruiting and student participation. At this time, student Lana Estes was allowed to address the board to share her experiences as a member of the local FFA chapter and competitive opportunities that have been afforded her. Lana recently traveled to Indianapolis and received a bronze medal in National competition.

 The board had the second reading of 2016 MSBA Policy Revisions, Sections BCAC, BCAD, BCBA, CEDA, DJED, GADAC, GAHB, GBA, IEBA, JCAA, JCBE, JDD, JDDA, JDDA-P and JDE. President Elliott invited any questions or discussion on the policies. It was noted that GADAC relates to suicide prevention training, and the district’s crisis management plan should be updated to include this information. Superintendent Bostick advised that two teachers within the district have attended “Train the Trainer” education which will allow them to provide the necessary training to other staff members, and this process will begin in January. Member Page noted that policy JCAA refers to due process as pertains to student discipline, and adoption of this policy will require revisions to the student handbook. Superintendent Bostick was asked to contact school administrators and schedule a work session in February, in order for administrators and board members to collaborate. President Elliott and Member Page both made reference to policy GAHB concerning political activities of staff members and request that this be included in the employee handbook. There being no other discussion, President Elliott entertained a motion to adopt the Policy Revisions. Vice-President McGregor made the motion. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The board reviewed the Dual Credit Policy which had been tabled at the October meeting. Additional information was provided as to the effective date of the policy and clarification was given about grade “weight” of English IV vs. English Comp. I. Member Page made a motion to approve the Dual Credit Policy. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Gresham Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation from Ms. Catriece Braddock to hire Patsy Glisson, Stephanie Holts and Vicki McNeal as cafeteria substitutes for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve the recommendations. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Gresham Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented a letter of resignation from Ms. Madison Hawkins, effective October 31, 2017. Secretary Poplar made a motion to accept Ms. Hawkins’ resignation. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Gresham Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation from Mr. Roger Browning (HFAC Principal) to hire Ms. Jane Fly as TST Assistant, replacing Ms. Hawkins. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve the recommendation. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Gresham Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented a letter of resignation from Ms. Laurie Curtis, effective November 10, 2017. Member Page made a motion to approve the recommendation. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Gresham Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented three recommendations on behalf of Dr. Sharon Albert (AES Principal.) The first was to hire Ms. Shonika Hamilton as a Special Education assistant, replacing Ms. Curtis. The second and third were to hire Mrs. Delcenia Daniels and Mrs. Lillar Foster, respectively, as substitute teachers/tutors at Ashland Elementary beginning in January 2018. Member Page made a motion to approve all three recommendations. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Gresham Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation to hire Mr. Tirease Williams as Bus Shop Mechanic for the remainder of the 2017-18 school year, pending the result of a background check. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve the recommendation. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Gresham Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented the Superintendent’s Report. Topics covered were the 2017 Accountability Report (Benton County School District is now a “B” rated district;) the Term Score Failure Report, based on results of the 1st Nine Weeks testing; and the Literacy-Based Promotion Act Annual Report of Performance & Student Retention for the 2016-2017 school year. In addition Mr. Bostick presented the names of the School Recognition Program award recipients. Through funds from the State of Mississippi the following Ashland High School teachers will receive monetary awards:

 Jeannie Brock Ayesha Brooks Wendell Brown Rhonda Coleman

 Sandra Childs Rolandus Cox Tonya Gray Renee Hooper

 Casondra Hopkins Chris Jones Jessica Kennedy Veronica Kimmons

 Connie Nutt Valerie Smith Rolanda Tipler

 Member Page made a motion to approve Claims Docket #058869-059104. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Gresham Aye

 Secretary Poplar made a motion to approve the consent agenda, with the stipulation that the Athletic Director’s travel request must be paid by funds from the AHS Athletics budget, not district funds. Member Page seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Gresham Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented the Fixed Asset Disposals. Member Page noted that two of the forms did not have the building administrator’s signature. Member Page made a motion to approve the properly documented fixed asset disposals. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Gresham Aye

 At this time the floor was open for board members to express any issues or concerns. Member Page expressed concern that the district’s athletic programs are in need of review, in particular the standards of acceptable behavior among athletes.

 The next meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2017. This will be followed by the board’s annual Christmas dinner celebration.

Member Page made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Page Aye

 Gresham Aye

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 P. M.

Attest:

Gary Elliott, President

Katrina McGregor, Vice-President

Erma Poplar, Secretary

Betty Page, Member

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Brian Gresham, Member