MEETING OF THE BENTON COUNTY

BOARD OF EDUCATION

BENTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

June 26, 2017

 BE IT REMEMBERED that on this the 26th day of June, 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

The following persons were present:

Rutha Martin Jeannie Brock Atoyia Jackson

Catriece Braddock Rosie Ladd LaKimberly Hobson

Michelle Carter Scott Poff Ralph Green

Lori Whaley Shaw

 WHEREUPON, the following business was transacted:

 Candace Sanders recorded the minutes of this meeting.

 President Elliott called the meeting to order at 5:29 p.m.

 President Elliott opened the meeting with a moment of silence.

 Secretary Poplar, who did not attend the June 19th meeting, asked for a correction to the minutes of the June 1st meeting. The vote to approve hiring Halie Bell (CTC – Agricultural Science/FFA) should reflect that Secretary Poplar abstained.

 Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 19th board meeting. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

The agenda was amended as follows: A recommendation to hire Rhonda Coleman was added as item 8B. Secretary Poplar made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Member Page seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented a letter of resignation from Kristi Cox (HFAC – Teacher.) Member Page made a motion to accept Ms. Cox’s resignation. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation (on behalf of Roger Browning, HFAC) to hire Mrs. Aundrea Foley as a Special Education Assistant for the 2017-2018 school year. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve hiring Mrs. Foley. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation (on behalf of Roger Browning, HFAC) to hire Mrs. Mandy Owen as 5th/6th Grade Teacher for the 2017-2018 school year. This will fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Ms. Kristi Cox. Member Page made a motion to approve hiring Mrs. Owen. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation (on behalf of Dr. Sharon Albert, AES) to hire Ms. Mallory Hurt as a Teacher for the 2017-2018 school year. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve hiring Ms. Hurt. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation (on behalf of Dr. Sharon Albert, AES) to hire Mrs. Christine Wommack as an Assistant Teacher for the 2017-2018 school year. Member Page made motion to approve hiring Mrs. Wommack. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation (on behalf of Ralph Green, Jr., AMS) to hire Mrs. Atoyia Jackson as Math Teacher for the 2017-2018 school year. Secretary Poplar made a motion to approve hiring Mrs. Jackson. Member Page seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation (on behalf of Dr. Rosie Ladd, AHS) to hire Ms. Rhonda Coleman as Counselor for the 2017-2018 school year. This position was previously offered to Mrs. Morgan Tatum, who declined the offer. Member Page made a motion to approve hiring Ms. Coleman with the stipulation that Ms. Coleman will move into the “Principal’s House;” utilities will be Ms. Coleman’s responsibility, but she will act as night watchman of Ashland High School in lieu of rent. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Superintendent Bostick presented a request from Mr. Roger Browning, HFAC Principal. Mr. Browning is seeking an increase in salary for the 2017-2018 school year. Superintendent Bostick requested that he be allowed to table the request until such time as the 2017-2018 Budget figures are available. Member Page made a motion to table Mr. Browning’s request. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Ms. Catriece Braddock, Food Service Director, addressed the board concerning the issue of students who do not have funds available to cover the cost of their meals. Per Benton County School Board policy code JGHR “Food Service” item 14: “No lunches may be charged for anyone at any time.” It is the opinion of the Food Service Director and the board members that no child should be denied a meal. Therefore, Member Page made a motion to approve allocating a “loan fund” in each school office. The cafeteria cashiers will keep a list of students who did not present payment and submit the list to the office daily for reimbursement. The office will then be responsible to contact parents for repayment of the “loans.” Ms. Braddock will be responsible to provide the board with monthly status reports in regard to this procedure. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Superintendent Bostick, on behalf of Mrs. Glossie Terry (Technology Coordinator), presented the District Acceptable Use Policy. Secretary Poplar made a motion to approve the Acceptable Use Policy. Member Page seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Dr. LaKimberly Hobson (Curriculum Coordinator) presented drafts of the 2017-2018 Employee Handbook and the 2017-2018 Student Handbook, which had also been emailed to the board members two weeks prior to this meeting. The board questioned whether or not the administrators had referenced updated board policies when drafting changes to the handbooks. Dr. Hobson advised that, due to lack of access to current policies, the administrators had aligned the handbook policies to Mississippi statutes, with the assumption that board policies would correspond. Some members stated that they had not read the email version of the handbooks. Secretary Poplar made a motion to accept and approve both handbooks. Member Page seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Oppose

 McGregor Oppose

 Poplar Aye

 Page Oppose

At this time, Member Page asked President Elliott if she may have permission to rescind the previous vote and make a new motion. President Elliott granted her request to rescind the vote. Member Page made a new motion to approve the handbooks as presented, without total board review. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Oppose

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Superintendent Bostick opened and read the bids for lawn maintenance service, which were received according to the procedure approved at the June 1st meeting. Scott Poff bid $19,988.00 per year for 2 years. Griffin’s Lawn Service bid $21,600 per year for 2 years. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve awarding the bid to Scott Poff. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Oppose

Superintendent Bostick presented the list of National Board Certified Teachers who will be paid a required supplement of $6,000.00 per year. Member Page made a motion to approve the National Board Certification supplements. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation to rehire Dr. Merri Gadd as Director of the Career and Technical Center for the 2017-2018 school year. 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 Oppose

Michelle Carter, Business Manager, presented the estimated 2017-2018 Ad Valorem Tax Request Worksheet. Member Page made a motion to approve the 2017-2018 Ad Valorem request. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Michelle Carter presented a proposal of Risk Management and Insurance Services from Fisher Brown Bottrell Insurance, Inc. The premium for this coverage has decreased versus the 2016-2017 cost. Member Page made a motion to approve Fisher Brown Bottrell as the provider of Risk Management Insurance for 2017-2018. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Member Page asked for an opportunity to discuss the process for appointing a 3rd District board member to fill the vacancy created by Rocky Miller’s resignation. She suggested that the board hold “town hall” meetings for interested candidates. Secretary Poplar suggested the possibility of appointing Mr. Miller’s last opponent, if that person were still interested in the position. After further discussion, Vice-President McGregor made a motion to have Attorney Lori Shaw draft a Notice of Public Meetings to be held July 20, 2017, and July 24, 2017, for interested parties to participate. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

The next regular meeting will be held on July 10, 2017, at 5:30 p. m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 P. M.

Attest:

Gary Elliott, President

Katrina McGregor, Vice-President

Erma Poplar, Secretary

Betty Page, Member