MEETING OF THE BENTON COUNTY

BOARD OF EDUCATION

BENTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

September 11, 2017

 BE IT REMEMBERED that on this the 11th day of September, 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:

Sherwyn L. Thomas LaKimberly Hobson Melvin Allen

Georgia Allen Brian Gresham Catriece Braddock

Bethany Pipkin Everitt Jones Rosemary Thompson

Michelle Carter Rutha Martin Rosie Ladd

Vashon Pearson 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 5:37 p.m.

 President Elliott opened the meeting with a moment of silence. Superintendent Bostick asked that all those present would remember the victims of Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma, as well as several district staff members facing personal hardships.

 Member Page and President Elliott expressed concern that the minutes of the August 14, 2017, meeting did not accurately reflect their statements pertaining to discussion of a food service issue. Secretary Poplar made a motion to table approval of the minutes until corrections can be made. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

The meeting agenda was revised to include recommendations for Katrina Walker and Rosemary Thompson at Item 16A. Member Page made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 The board recognized Pastor Sherwyn Thomas, who presented for consideration, a partnership agreement with his church and Bible College – Total Change of Heart Ministries. The proposal requested use of Ashland High School athletic facilities and auditorium for the purpose of staging college-level athletic events and live theater productions. In addition, the proposal outlined enrichment opportunities that would be made available to district students.

 The board recognized Melvin and Georgia Allen. Mr. and Mrs. Allen expressed concern that their grandson (a 1st grader) has received 2 suspensions resulting from altercations that occurred as a resulting of their grandson being bullied. They asked if it would be possible to have someone monitor the restrooms (especially when the younger students are present) and for more monitoring on the playground. Superintendent Bostick advised that he and the principal are looking into these incidents in order to improve safety. He will follow up with Mr. and Mrs. Allen later in the week.

 Dr. LaKimberly Hobson, Curriculum Coordinator, presented the first reading of draft policy that will allow students to receive dual credit for dual enrollment courses offered by the district. This is a follow up to a request presented by Dr. Hobson at the August 14, meeting. Although not included in this draft policy, Dr. Hobson also requests that policy be amended to allow students to substitute Comp. English for English IV without excluding them from eligibility for Valedictorian and/or Salutatorian. Member Page made a motion to approve the draft policy with inclusion of the Valedictorian/Salutatorian policy. Secretary Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Ms. Catriece Braddock presented an update from the Food Service Department. Currently, there is a district-wide deficit of $1,881.93 in unpaid student meals. There was a discussion regarding options for collecting outstanding balances, including the use of suggestions from the USDA website. Superintendent Bostick stated that he had several ideas on the topic and would like to follow up with Ms. Braddock directly. Ms. Braddock advised that the district will be participating in the “My School Bucks” program, but the contact person working on the site set-up would be out of their office until September 21. No further action was taken at this time.

 Superintendent Bostick presented a resignation from Ms. Shaquita Williams (Assistant Teacher, HFAC) and a resignation from Ms. Bethany Clifton (Assistant Teacher, HFAC.) Member Page made a motion to accept the resignations. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented the following recommendations on behalf of Mr. Roger Browning (Principal, HFAC): Mr. Christopher Winburn is recommended as an Assistant Teacher (replacing Shaquita Williams;) Ms. Candace Nutt is recommended as Special Education Assistant (filling the vacancy created by the transfer of Ms. Aundrea Foley;) Mr. Brian Willard is recommended as Janitor (replacing Mr. Charles Brown.) Secretary Poplar noted that all applications were missing the “Professional Data” page. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to table the recommendations until this information can be obtained, and to vote by conference call at such time. Member Page seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Mrs. Bethany Pipkin presented the 2017-2018 Local School Wellness Policy. This document outlines the Mississippi Department of Education requirements concerning child nutrition, physical activity, healthy school environment, provision of health education and health services (including counseling, psychological and social services,) as well as a commitment to developing parental and community involvement. The following persons will serve as the Benton County School Health Council for 2017-2018: Steve Bostick, Sharon Albert, Rosie Ladd, Roger Browning, Merri Gadd, Catriece Braddock, Charles McDonald, Clarissa Simmons RN, Bethany Pipkin RN, Karen Patterson, Rhonda Coleman, Meloney Green, Jane Autry, Elynda Finley, Leah Green, Detrice Williams, Harmony Bell, Wesley Green, Linda Turner, Nancy Boatwright FNP, Sheila Burcham RN, Hon. Gary McBride and Paula Tice LSW. Member Page made a motion to approve the School Wellness Policy. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Ms. Michelle Carter advised that she was still working on financial reconciliations for September and would provide information for both September and October at the October meeting. Superintendent Bostick and Ms. Carter presented the board with an amendment to the recommendation to hire Mrs. Rosemary Thompson as a consultant for 2017-2018. Mrs. Thompson will be paid $161.00 per day as originally presented, but will be limited to no more than 120 days from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, instead of 180 days. In addition, Mrs. Thompson is to be paid a supplement of $6,000.00 to compensate her for services performed beyond the scope of her 2016-2017 agreement. Member Page made a motion to approve the adjusted recommendation. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented a copy of State of Mississippi Educator License issued to Jordan Presley Wilson on 8/25/2017. Mr. Wilson had been approved as the Agriculture and Natural Resources instructor and FFA sponsor, pending receipt of his teaching license. No action was taken.

 Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve Claims Docket #058546-058628. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Upon review of the consent agenda, members raised questions concerning two FFA fundraisers. It was stated that the funds were to be used for “travel and general expenses,” and it was discussed that this description was too vague and the members wanted more information regarding the allocation and distribution of monies. Member Page made a motion to approve the remainder of the consent agenda, with the FFA fundraisers being tabled until the teleconference regarding the previous hiring recommendations. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented a list of fixed asset disposals. Member Page made a motion to approve the fixed asset disposals. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented the Superintendent’s Report. He noted that the Mississippi Department of Education Accountability Report will be published in October, at which time we will be able to determine if the district is meeting goals with regard to student performance and improvement. A comparison of test scores from 2015-2016 vs. 2016-2017 was reviewed. Most scores are showing improvement, but reading should still be a major focus point. Members were concerned about the number of discipline referrals, and questioned whether or not schools are properly documenting instances of bullying. Superintendent Bostick will look into the issue and, if necessary, make arrangements for training with regard to proper reporting.

 Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation to hire Katrina Walker for the position of Janitorial Floater P/T for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year. Her annual salary will be $9,000.00. The Superintendent also presented a recommendation from Ms. Catriece Braddock to hire the following personnel as Cafeteria Substitutes for the 2017-2018 school year: Stephanie Page, Sandra Pannell, Melisha Peters, Timothy Campbell, and Teresa Matthews. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve the hiring recommendations. Member Page seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented requests for bus turn arounds at the following locations:

 4007 Friendship Road

 373 Lunsford Road

 425A Hudsonville Road

 175 Downing Road

 170 Leopard Road

 2483 Old Highway 178

Member Page made a motion to approve the bus turn arounds. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Superintendent Bostick extended an invitation for the board members to attend a block party at Ashland Elementary School on September 29, 2017, at 1:30. This will be a celebration in honor of Ashland Elementary moving out of priority school status.

 Member Page addressed some concerns regarding Board Policy BHA – Board Member Conflict. She requested that all board members work together to develop a plan of action to be sure the board is adhering to the Code of Ethics. Members agreed that this should happen after Mr. Brian Gresham officially joins the board. Mr. Gresham was the only candidate to qualify for the planned election to fill the vacant District 3 seat. He will be sworn in on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 3:30 by Judge Gary McBride.

 Superintendent Bostick addressed an email received from the Mississippi School Board Association regarding public prayer at school sponsored athletic events and the potential liability issues. Coaches and school administrators will be made aware of this issue.

 Superintendent Bostick presented a letter from Mississippi Department of Education regarding the 2016-2017 Accreditation Record Summary Report. The letter states that the district needs to submit appropriate documentation to clear Standard 1.3 and Standard 24. The Superintendent will be addressing this in the upcoming week.

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

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Page Aye

The next meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2017 at 5:30 P. M.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 P. M.

Attest:

Gary Elliott, President

Katrina McGregor, Vice-President

Erma Poplar, Secretary

Betty Page, Member