MEETING OF THE BENTON COUNTY

BOARD OF EDUCATION

BENTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

December 10, 2018

BE IT REMEMBERED that on this the 10th day of December, the Board of Education, Benton County, met at the Office of the Superintendent with the following members present:

Betty Page President

Gary Elliott Vice-President

Brian Gresham Member

The following persons were present:

Lori Whaley Shaw LaKimberly Hobson Michelle Carter

Sandy Childs-Jones Merri Gadd Jane Hubbard

James D. Harper Sharon Albert Amy Gresham

Heather Roberts Ayesha Brooks Julie Brooks

WHEREUPON, the following business was transacted:

Candace Sanders recorded the minutes of this meeting.

President Page called the meeting to order at 5:30 P. M.

President Page extended an invitation for those present to join in her prayer.

Vice-President Elliott made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 11th meeting. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Page Aye

Elliott Aye

Gresham Aye

The motion passed.

At this time, Member Poplar joined the meeting.

The following parties addressed the board, individually, to provide monthly updates:

Dr. Sharon Albert, representing Ashland Elementary School

Mrs. Jane Hubbard, representing Hickory Flat Attendance Center

Ms. Atoyia Jackson, representing Ashland Middle-High School

Mrs. Sandy Childs-Jones, representing Ashland Middle-High School

Mrs. Ayesha Brooks, representing Ashland Middle-High School

Pursuant to these updates, President Page called upon Dr. LaKimberly Hobson regarding points of clarification on the testing data.

Superintendent Bostick presented a letter of resignation from Mrs. Bethany Pipkin, RN. (Career Technical Center) Member Gresham made a motion to approve the resignation. Vice-President Elliott seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

Gresham Aye

Poplar Aye

The motion passed.

Superintendent Bostick presented the following recommendations:

From Ms. Anola Stricklin (Food Service): to hire Ms. Lestine Strickland full-time due to inability of a previous candidate to fulfill the position.

From Dr. Merri Gadd (Career Technical Center): to hire Mrs. Heather Roberts, RN, to fulfill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Pipkin.

From Superintendent Bostick: to hire Mr. Jerry Clifton as the Interim Principal of Ashland Middle-High School.

From Mrs. Jane Hubbard (Hickory Flat Attendance Center): to hire Ms. Jackie Hancock as Assistant Softball Coach, replacing Mrs. Pipkin.

Vice-President Elliott made a motion to approve the recommendations. Member Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

Gresham Aye

Poplar Aye

The motion passed.

Ms. Michelle Carter (Business Manager) presented the financial review, consisting of bank balances at November 30, 2018, and a report of expenditures to date. No action was taken.

Superintendent Bostick presented a request to purchase a 2005 Chevrolet 1-Ton van at a cost of $8,000.00. This vehicle will be allocated to the Maintenance Department to replace an unusable van. Member Gresham made a motion to approve the purchase. Member Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

Gresham Aye

Poplar Aye

The motion passed.

Vice-President Elliott made a motion to approve Claims Docket #060377-060990. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

Gresham Aye

Poplar Aye

The motion passed.

Superintendent Bostick presented the Consent Agenda. Vice-President Elliott made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

Gresham Aye

Poplar Aye

The motion passed.

Superintendent Bostick presented a request for a bus turn around. Member Gresham made a motion to approve the request. Member Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

Gresham Aye

Poplar Aye

The motion passed.

Superintendent Bostick reported that the December 6th ceremony recognizing Ashland Elementary School for their “A” rating was very successful. President Page announced that Greenwood Baptist Church will also hold a recognition reception for Ashland Elementary on the fourth Sunday in February at 9:00 A. M.

President Page recognized Ms. Julie Brooks and Attorney James D. Harper, with regard to an appeal of termination from Ms. Brooks. Member Gresham made a motion to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Vice-President Elliott seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

Gresham Aye

Poplar Aye

The motion passed and the board entered executive session at 6:03 P. M. Secretary McGregor arrived at 6:11 P. M. and joined the assembly.

During executive session, Vice-President Elliott made a motion to allow Attorney Lori Shaw to investigate Ms. Brooks’ employment timeline to determine if EEPL applies to these circumstances and make appropriate arrangements based on her findings. Member Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

Gresham Aye

Poplar Aye

McGregor Aye

The motion passed. Subsequently, Vice-President Elliott made a motion to exit executive session. Member Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

Gresham Aye

Poplar Aye

McGregor Aye

The motion passed and the board exited executive session at 6:14 P. M. Upon reconvening, Ms. Brooks and Mr. Harper were advised of the action taken during executive session. Any further communication will take place between the attorneys.

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

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 P. M.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Candace Sanders

Board Clerk