MEETING OF THE BENTON COUNTY

BOARD OF EDUCATION

BENTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

February 12, 2018

BE IT REMEMBERED that on this the 12th day of February, 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

Betty Page Member

The following persons were present:

Michelle Carter Jimmy Gresham Beverly Estes

Lori Whaley Shaw Lana Estes Sheila Clifton

Jerry Clifton Pamela Gray Rose Thompson

Elysse Smith Ocquavion Agyekum DeAnthony Tipler

Sarita Thompson Vaitor Joyner Shirley Galmore

Kawanda Galmore

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.

Mr. Jimmy Gresham opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary Poplar made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8th meeting. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

Page Aye

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

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

Page Aye

At this time, Superintendent Bostick welcomed and introduced several student guests. The students were presented with plaques recognizing their recent accomplishments, as well as small tokens of appreciation. The recognitions were as follows:

Ocquavion Agyekum (AHS – Basketball) 1,000 points scored (career)

DeAnthony Tipler (AHS – Basketball) 2,000 points scored (career) and 53 points scored in single game (new record)

Elysse Smith (AMS) Winner of Spelling Bee (Benton County)

Jarvis Harris\* (HFAC – Basketball) 1,000 points scored

R’Daztiny Harris\* (HFAC – Basketball) 1,000 points scored

\*Students were not present to receive their awards.

President Elliott acknowledged Ms. Sarita Thompson. Ms. Thompson requested the immediate removal of the counselor at Hickory Flat Attendance Center, and presented documentation supporting her claim that the counselor, on multiple occasions, violated the Mississippi Department of Education Code of Ethics. Upon reviewing Ms. Thompson’s information, the board directed Superintendent Bostick to conduct an investigation and report back to the board at the next regular meeting.

At this time, President Elliott recognized Ms. Vaitor Joyner. Ms. Joyner’s granddaughter attends Ashland Elementary School, and another student has made threats of serious physical violence against her. Superintendent Bostick advised that he has already addressed and resolved the situation.

President Elliott recognized Ms. Shirley Galmore and Ms. Kawanda Galmore. Kawanda’s son is also a student at Ashland Elementary. The concerns center on discipline issues which are now affecting the child’s grades, and lack of positive communication between school staff and the family. Superintendent Bostick suggested that he have a conference with the parent and relevant staff, and then require daily reports between school and home. The board and the family were agreeable to this solution. The board also requested follow-up information on this situation.

Pamela Gray (Special Education Director) presented the Justification Documentation for Exceeding 1% of Test Students Participating in Alternate Assessment. This information was required by the Mississippi Department of Education on behalf of Questar, the company that oversees required State testing. No vote was required, but the documentation did require the signature of the board president.

Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation, on behalf of Mr. Roger Browning (Principal, HFAC,) to approve the hiring of Mrs. Shirley White as second grade teacher for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year. Mrs. White would be paid according to State scale, retroactive to January 24, 2018. Member Page made a motion to approve hiring Mrs. White. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

Page Aye

Superintendent Bostick introduced Mr. Jimmy Gresham, the Benton County Emergency Management Director. Mr. Gresham provided updated information on plans to create a FEMA 361 safe room at Benton County CTC. The project was originally approved by the board in May 2016, but has met with several delays. The board of supervisors has agreed to pay half of the costs associated with architectural services and retro-fitting an existing hallway to create the 768 square foot safe room. The school district’s obligation would be $2,250.00 for architect’s services, and $20,360.00 for construction expenses. FEMA has approved a grant which would reimburse 75% of all costs after project completion, which is expected to be during the summer of 2019. Superintendent Bostick advised the board that the budget for 2018-2019 is currently under review, and he would prefer to postpone any financial commitments. The board agreed to defer a decision until budgetary information can be provided at the next regular meeting.

The board had the first reading of the FFA Policy. Member Page made a motion to accept the first reading. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

Page Aye

Superintendent Bostick presented the proposed 2018-2019 Benton County School District Calendar. Secretary Poplar made a motion to approve the 2018-2019 Calendar. Member Page seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

Page Aye

Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation from Ms. Catriece Braddock (Food Service Director) to hire Patsy Glisson and Melisha Peters as Cafeteria workers for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year. Member Page made a motion to approve the recommendation. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

Page Aye

The next item on the agenda was Federal Programs secretary recommendation. Superintendent Bostick requested that the board agree to table this item. Member Page made a motion to table the recommendation for Federal Programs secretary. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

Page Aye

Next on the agenda were the recommendations for 2018-2019 Administrators. Prior to presentation of the recommendations, Member Page made a motion to enter executive session to discuss confidential personnel matters. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

Page Aye

The board entered executive session at 7:11 P. M. with the following persons present: President Elliott, Vice-President McGregor, Secretary Poplar, Members Page and Gresham, Superintendent Bostick and Attorney Lori Whaley Shaw.

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

Page Aye

The board exited executive session at 7:46 P. M. At this time, President Elliott announced that there was no action taken during executive session.

Superintendent Bostick presented his list of recommendations for Administrators for the 2018-2019 school year. President Elliott asked the members if they wished to vote as a group or for individual recommendations. Secretary Poplar made a motion to approve the recommendations. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Prior to a vote, Member Gresham asked for a point of clarification. After the question, Member Page made a motion to approve the recommendations on an individual basis. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

Page Aye

Recommendations and votes were recorded as follows:

Dr. Sharon Albert – Principal, Ashland Elementary School ($70,000.00 annual salary.) Member Page made a motion to approve hiring Dr. Albert. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

Page Aye

Rosie Ladd – Principal, Ashland Middle/High School ($70,000.00 annual salary.) Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve hiring Rosie Ladd. Member Page seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

Page Aye

Roger Browning – Principal, Hickory Flat Attendance Center ($70,000.00 annual salary.) Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve hiring Mr. Browning. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

Page Aye

Robert Merritt – Assistant Principal (part-time,) Hickory Flat Attendance Center ($37,000.00 annual salary.) Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve hiring Mr. Merritt. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

Page Oppose

Eric Rice – Assistant Principal (part-time) and Head Football Coach, Hickory Flat Attendance Center ($51,000.00 annual salary.) Member Page made a motion to approve hiring Coach Rice. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

Page Aye

Dr. Merri Gadd – Director, Career & Technical Center ($76,352.00 annual salary.) Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve hiring Dr. Gadd. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Oppose

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

Page Oppose

Rochelle Thompson – Director, Alternative School ($63,852.00 annual salary.) Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve hiring Ms. Thompson. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

Page Oppose

Dr. LaKimberly Hobson – Curriculum Coordinator, District ($74,500.00 annual salary.) Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve hiring Dr. Hobson. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

Page Aye

Pamela Gray – Director of Special Education, District ($70,000.00 annual salary.) Member Page made a motion to approve hiring Mrs. Gray. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

Page Aye

Michelle Carter – Business Manager, District ($50,000.00 annual salary.) Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve hiring Michelle Carter. Member Page seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

Page Aye

At this time, Michelle Carter presented the monthly financial statements. In addition, plans were made for a work session to discuss planning the 2018-2019 budget, although no date was selected at this time.

Member Page left the meeting at 8:00 P. M.

The board conducted the second reading and adoption of Policy GBKAR – Professional Personnel (Reduction in Force). Secretary Poplar made a motion to adopt Policy GBKAR. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

The board conducted the second reading and adoption of the 2017 MSBA Policy Revisions CEA, CEB, CEC, CGD, CGM, DFCAA, CJEC, GBN, IC, IDDF, IHA, IHE, IHF, II, JDG, JF, JG, JGFA and JOA. Vice President McGregor made a motion to adopt the revised policies. 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 #059398-059510. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

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

71 Chinaberry Ln., Ashland

761 Lamar Rd., Ashland

347 Bogard Rd, Michigan City

143 Bean Dr., Lamar

1751 Hoover Rd., Holly Springs

1621 Country Church Rd., Lamar

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

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

Superintendent Bostick presented the fixed asset disposals. Secretary Poplar 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

Gresham Aye

The board questioned whether or not the school nurse would be resigning and if there were any candidates interested in the position. Superintendent Bostick advised that he had spoken with someone regarding the position, but he was doing some research with regard to the grant that covers the salary.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2018.

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 8:48 P. M.

Attest:

Gary Elliott, President

Katrina McGregor, Vice-President

Erma Poplar, Secretary

Betty Page, Member

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Brian Gresham, Member