MEETING OF THE BENTON COUNTY

BOARD OF EDUCATION

BENTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

July 24, 2017

 BE IT REMEMBERED that on this the 24th day of July, 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:

Brian Gresham Connie Nutt Tawanda Campbell

Misty Wilder Elaine Valentine Vicky Everett

Jeannie Brock Rutha Martin Peggy Rainey

Bill Taylor Joyce Abram Rosie Ladd

Lori Whaley Shaw Barbara Knighton

 WHEREUPON, the following business was transacted:

 Candace Sanders recorded the minutes of this meeting.

 President Elliott called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

 Secretary Poplar opened the meeting with prayer.

 Secretary Poplar requested the following amendment to the July 10, 2017, minutes: The minutes stated that “Member Poplar addressed the board…” (following adoption of the agenda.)The record should state “Member Page addressed the board…” Secretary Poplar made a motion to approve the amended minutes. Member Page seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

The agenda was amended as follows: “Town Hall Meeting” was added as Item 5. The remaining items will be renumbered accordingly. 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 following people were present as candidates wishing to fill the vacant 3rd District seat on the board: Bill Taylor, Vicky Everett, Brian Gresham, Barbara Knighton. Each was asked to introduce him- or her-self, and briefly explain their interest in the position. A short question and answer period followed. No action was taken at this time.

 Superintendent Bostick presented a proposal with regard to projects at Hickory Flat Attendance Center. The County Board of Supervisors has agreed to purchase one (1) Solar School Zone Beacon from K&K Systems of Tupelo, MS, at a quoted cost of $2,609.31. In return, they would like the school district to purchase a second identical sign. Additionally, a significant water leak was identified at HFAC. The Town of Hickory Flat agrees to cover the cost of repairing the leak, which will be nearly equivalent to the cost of the school zone signs. Member Page made a motion to table purchase of the sign until after the budget hearing takes place and re-address the issue at the August board meeting. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Superintendent Bostick presented letters of resignation from the following teachers, both from Hickory Flat Attendance Center: Gina Jordan, 7th/8th Grade ELA; Angela Brown, 3rd Grade ELA. Member Page made a motion to accept both resignations. 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 Roger Browning (HFAC principal) to hire Britany Lewis as 3rd Grade ELA teacher for the 2017-2018 school year. The superintendent also presented Mr. Browning’s recommendation to hire Tara Minnix as 7th/8th Grade ELA teacher for the 2017-2018 school year. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve hiring Ms. Lewis and Ms. Minnix. 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. Rosie Ladd (AHS principal) to hire Connie Nutt as a Special Education teacher for the 2017-2018 school year. Ms. Nutt was present during the recommendation. Member Page made a motion to approve hiring Ms. Nutt. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 At this time, the board stated that, going forward, new-hire candidates will need to be present at the time they are recommended. The superintendent was directed to notify all administrators of this requirement.

 Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation to hire Ralph Green, Jr. as principal at Ashland Middle School for the 2017-2018 school year. His salary would remain at $68,000.00, as per the previous year. Member Page made a motion to approve hiring Mr. Green. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Oppose

 McGregor Oppose

 Poplar Aye

 Page Oppose

 Superintendent Bostick opened the Depository Bid from Merchants & Farmers Bank. This was the only bid received prior to the July 21, 2017, deadline. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve/accept the bid from Merchants & Farmers Bank. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Superintendent Bostick presented a Memorandum of Agreement between Benton County School District and Smith Sparks, School Finance Consultant. The agreement is to begin on July 1, 2017 and terminate on June 30, 2018. Member Page made a motion to accept Smith Sparks as financial consultant. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Superintendent Bostick presented several requests for students to be released from Benton County School District in order to attend schools in neighboring districts. During the discussion of this matter, Member Page stated that she would like the board to draft a policy with regard to the limitations and requirements for releasing students. Secretary Poplar made a motion to table the releases until policy can be drafted. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Oppose

Superintendent Bostick presented a request for a bus turn around at 143 County Church, Lamar, MS. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve the request. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

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

The next meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2017 at 5:30 P. M. Superintendent Bostick requested that the regular meeting dates now fall on the second Monday of each month, and the board members agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 P. M.

Attest:

Gary Elliott, President

Katrina McGregor, Vice-President

Erma Poplar, Secretary

Betty Page, Member