MEETING OF THE BENTON COUNTY

BOARD OF EDUCATION

BENTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

August 14, 2017

 BE IT REMEMBERED that on this the 14th day of August, 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:

Catrenia Walker Shameva Tipler Tanitra Stigger

Merri Gadd Jordan Wilson Katrina Walker

Ayesha Brooks Roger Browning Brian Gresham

Yadi Martin Sharon Albert Pamela Gray

Dr. LaKimberly Hobson Rose Thompson Michelle Carter

Lori Whaley Shaw Rutha Martin Rosie Ladd

Catriece Braddock Glossie Terry

 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 made a motion to approve the minutes. Member Page seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

The agenda was amended as follows: Item 6 - District Test Security Plan was removed due to unforeseen changes at the State level. Item 13 – Hiring Recommendation for Ashland High School was removed at the request of the Superintendent. A recommendation to hire a substitute custodian was added as Item 14A. 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

 At this time, the board recognized Catrenia Walker. Ms. Walker was concerned about her child being retained in 3rd grade. Superintendent Bostick stated he would review the student’s information, meet with the principal and contact Ms. Walker with a determination.

 Tanitra Stigger was allowed to address the board on behalf of the Ashland Middle/High School Booster Club. Ms. Stigger presented a request to allow the Booster Club to place a new concession stand at the Ashland High School athletic field. Michelle Carter (Business Manager for the district) stated that she needed to review the State regulations pertaining to this type of donation, due to the scope of the project and long-term ramifications for the district. Member Page made a motion to grant approval for the project as per State regulations. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Dr. LaKimberly Hobson, Curriculum Coordinator, presented a list of course additions for the 2017-2018 school year. The following classes are to be offered on campus: Dual Enrollment Comp English I, Botany, and Zoology. The following courses will be offered online through Mississippi Virtual Public School (MVPS): AP Biology; AP Calculus AB; AP Calculus BC; AP Computer Science; AP English & Language Composition; AP English Literature & Composition; AP Human Geography; AP Spanish Language; AP Statistics; CCSS English IV; Calculus; CCSS Algebra II, III, Geometry; Statistics; American Government (U.S. Government); World History; French I, II, III, IV; German I, II, III; Latin I, II, III; Spanish I, II, III, IV; Chemistry; Earth & Space; Physical Science; Physics; and Law Related Education. Dr. Hobson also asked for a change in policy that will allow students to substitute Dual Enrollment English Comp I without affecting their opportunity to become Valedictorian or Salutatorian. Member Page advised that a change in policy would require the request to be made twice. Dr. Hobson will return at the September board meeting. Member Page made a motion to approve the additional course offerings. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Mrs. Glossie Terry presented the Dual Enrollment Course Registrations. In addition, Mrs. Terry recommended that Mrs. Sandy Childs be paid $330.00 per month for her service as instructor of the English Comp I course. Mrs. Childs is already on staff at Ashland High School and has the credentials necessary to teach the class. Member Page made a motion to approve the recommendation of Mrs. Childs. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented a resignation from Ms. Mallory Hurt (Ashland Elementary.) Member Page made a motion to accept Ms. Hurt’s resignation. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation from Dr. Sharon Albert, requesting the transfer of Ms. Jennifer Young to the position of Ashland Elementary School 2nd grade teacher to replace Mallory Hurt. The superintendent also presented a recommendation from Dr. Albert to transfer Tammy Hardin to the position of secretary at Ashland Elementary. Secretary Poplar made a motion to approve both transfers. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented two recommendations from Dr. Sharon Albert for Ashland Elementary School. The first was to hire Mrs. Hillary Henderson as an assistant teacher. The second was to hire Ms. Tonya Peterson as an assistant teacher. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve hiring Mrs. Henderson and Ms. Peterson. Member Page seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation from Dr. Merri Gadd for the Career and Technical Center. Dr. Gadd recommends hiring Mr. Jordan P. Wilson as Agriculture & Natural Resources teacher and FFA sponsor for the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Wilson will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mr. Jerry Clifton. Ms. Halie Bell had been previously recommended for this position, but withdrew her application in favor of another position. Mr. Wilson’s teaching license is currently pending issue by the Mississippi Department of Education. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to hire Mr. Wilson pending certification, and review his status and the September board meeting. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Dr. Merri Gadd presented information regarding a Perkins Reserve Funds Grant awarded to the Career & Technical Center. The grant will provide $24, 676.46 for the purchase of equipment to upgrade the Metal Fabrication shop. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to accept the grant. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation to hire Mr. Randy Mauney as a bus driver for the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Mauney will be replacing Mr. Andrew Aldrich who resigned. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve hiring Mr. Mauney. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation to hire Ms. Katrina Walker as a substitute custodian. Secretary Poplar made a motion to approve hiring Ms. Walker. Member Page seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Ms. Catriece Braddock presented a recommendation to hire Marsel Owens, Shaquita Evans, and Judith Meeks as cafeteria substitutes for the 2017-2018 school year. Member Page made a motion to approve hiring the substitutes. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Ms. Catriece Braddock presented the Food Service Procurement Plan for the 2017-2018 school year. Member Page made a motion to approve the procurement plan. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Once approved, the procurement plan was signed by President Elliott and Secretary Poplar, as required.

 Ms. Catriece Braddock advised the board that in the first 8 days of school, students have incurred a debt of $311.95 district-wide for meals received without payment. Ms. Braddock and her staff have been making attempts to contact parents by phone and/or mail to collect payments, but are having difficulty due to incorrect contact information in the student records. Members expressed several concerns about this situation. Member Page asked that the record reflect her concern that the district is operation out of compliance (as per State audit standards) by allowing students to receive meals without payment. President Elliott asked that the record also reflect the district will be penalized for allowing outstanding debt in food services; therefore an effective solution needs to be determined. Member Page made a motion to use the schools’ Activity Funds to cover the outstanding food service balances. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Oppose

 McGregor Oppose

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 The motion failed.

 Ms. Braddock advised the board that there is an online service known as “My School Bucks” which can be utilized by parents for pre-payment of students’ cafeteria account. There is no cost to the district for using this service. Each parent would set up an account for their student, and there is a $2.00 transaction fee whenever the account is reloaded. Member Page made a motion to approve set-up of the “My School Bucks” service. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Mrs. Pamela Gray (Special Services Director) presented the IDEA Part B and Preschool Budget Request for fiscal year 2017-18. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve the special education budget. Member Page seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation to hire Mrs. Rosemary Thompson as a consultant for the 2017-2018 school year. Mrs. Thompson will be assigned to the central office and paid $161.00 per day for no more than 187 days beginning July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. Vice-President McGregor made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 The board entered executive session at 6:50 P. M. Secretary Poplar made a motion to exit executive session. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 The board exited executive session at 7:20 P. M. There was no action taken during executive session. Secretary Poplar made a motion to approve hiring Mrs. Thompson. Member Page seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented a proposal for the district to purchase two (2) solar school zone signs at a budgeted cost of $3,000.00 per sign. One (1) sign would be placed near Hickory Flat Attendance Center; one (1) sign would be placed near Ashland Elementary School. Currently, the Board of Supervisors – 3rd District has already purchased the same type of sign and has placed it near Ashland Elementary. The Board of Supervisors – 5th District has agreed to purchase an additional sign for the Hickory Flat Attendance Center area. Member Page made a motion to approve the purchase of the school zone signs. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Superintendent Bostick presented the Interagency Agreement between Lifecore Health Group and Benton County School District for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. Member Page made a motion to approve the agreement. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Mr. Roger Browning, principal of Hickory Flat Attendance Center, provided the board with a general overview of the school including current enrollment figures and improvements that were completed over summer break.

 Ms. Michelle Carter (Business Manager) distributed copies of the current financial statements for review.

 Vice-President McGregor made a motion to approve claims docket #058433-058501. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Upon review by the board, Secretary Poplar made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 Dr. Merri Gadd had submitted a request to delete fixed asset ID# BC153 – Dak Tech Computer. Secretary Poplar made a motion to approve deletion of the fixed asset. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

Page Aye

 At this time, Member Page left the meeting.

 The remaining members completed the 2018 MSBA Legislative Survey.

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

 Elliott Aye

 McGregor Aye

 Poplar Aye

The next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2017 at 5:30 P. M.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 P. M.

Attest:

Gary Elliott, President

Katrina McGregor, Vice-President

Erma Poplar, Secretary

Betty Page, Member