MEETING OF THE BENTON COUNTY

BOARD OF EDUCATION

BENTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

September 10, 2018

BE IT REMEMBERED that on this the 10th day of September, 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

Katrina McGregor Secretary

Erma Poplar Member

Brian Gresham Member

The following persons were present:

Lori Whaley Shaw Pamela Gray Michelle Carter

Tim Sinkler Jean Sinkler LaZarick Shaw

Angela Bolden Ayesha Brooks Sharon Albert

Sarita Thompson Rutha Martin Rosie Ladd

J D Harston

WHEREUPON, the following business was transacted:

Candace Sanders recorded the minutes of this meeting.

President Page called the meeting to order at 5:40 P. M.

Vice-President Elliott opened the meeting with prayer.

Member Gresham made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 13th meeting. Vice-President Elliott seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

The motion passed.

President Page requested the addition of Item 19B “Letter from the State Auditor” to the agenda. There being no other changes or additions, Member Gresham made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Vice-President Elliott seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

The motion passed.

At this time, President Page recognized Dr. Sharon Albert. Subsequently, Member Gresham made a motion to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Member Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

The motion passed and the board entered executive session at 5:42 P. M. Subsequently, Vice-President Elliott made a motion to exit executive session. Member Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

The motion passed, and the board exited executive session at 6:09 P. M. President Page announced that no action was taken during executive session.

The board recognized Mr. LaZarick Shaw, a student at Ashland High School. Member Gresham made a motion to enter executive session in order to protect student confidentiality. Member Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

The motion passed, and the board entered executive session at 6:10 P. M. Ms. Angela Bolden, the student’s mother, was also present. Subsequently, Member Gresham made a motion to exit executive session. Vice-President Elliott seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

The motion passed and the board exited executive session at 6:53 P. M. President Page announced that no action was taken during executive session. There had been a discussion regarding a change in policy published in the 2018-2019 student handbook. The board’s decision on the matter is that the handbook will remain as-is, and there will be no “grandfathering.”

At this time, a loud disruption occurred outside the meeting room. President Page entertained a motion for recess. Vice-President Elliott made a motion to recess. Secretary McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

The motion passed, and the meeting was recessed at 6:57 P. M. President Page, Superintendent Bostick, and Member Gresham left the room to investigate the disruption. Upon their return, Secretary McGregor made a motion to exit recess. Vice-President Elliott seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

The motion passed, and the meeting resumed at 7:00 P. M.

Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation from Mrs. Jane Hubbard (HFAC Principal) to hire Mr. Michael Green as Assistant Cross Country coach for the 2018-2019 school year. Vice-President Elliott made a motion to approve the recommendation. Secretary McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

The motion passed.

Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation from Ms. Anola Stricklin (Food Service Director) to hire the following individuals as cafeteria substitutes for the 2018-2019 school year: Merlinda Evans, Laquinta Hodges, Lestine Strickland, Yasmine Walker, and Josey Hopkins. Member Gresham made a motion to approve the recommendations. Member Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

The motion passed.

Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation to contract with Ms. Bertha Williams to provide bus transportation for students from Hickory Flat Attendance Center to the Career Technical Center for 24 days, at a rate of $39.23 per day. Member Poplar made a motion to approve the recommendation. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

The motion passed.

Superintendent Bostick presented two recommendations for custodial staff: Mr. Marvis Strickland, replacing James McKenzie at Ashland Elementary; Mr. Jamar Rutherford, replacing Katrina Walker at Ashland High School. The salary for these positions is $16, 727.00. Vice-President Elliott made a motion to approve these recommendations. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

The motion passed.

On behalf of Dr. LaKimberly Hobson, Mrs. Pamela Gray presented a request to amend the policy on make-up work for students on suspension. The BCSD student handbook currently states that suspended students will receive unexcused absences, and will not be allowed to make up missed assignments. According to a ruling in T. H., III vs. Board of Trustees, 1996, this is a violation of the students’ rights (double jeopardy.) It is requested, effective immediately, that suspended students in grades K-3 be allowed to make up work at 70% credit, and grades 4-12 at 65% credit. Secretary McGregor made a motion to approve the request as stated. Member Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

The motion passed.

On behalf of Dr. LaKimberly Hobson, Mrs. Pamela Gray also presented a request for the removal of SREB Math as a requirement for eligibility to serve as Valedictorian or Salutatorian (BCSD Student Handbook, page 40.) This request is based on information obtained from Mississippi Department of Education. Vice-President Elliott made a motion to approve the request. Secretary McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

The motion passed. President Page requested that information regarding this change be posted to the district website and notices be sent to parents.

On behalf of Mrs. Jane Hubbard, Superintendent Bostick presented a discipline ladder to be used as the disciplinary policy at Hickory Flat Attendance Center. After a period of discussion, Secretary McGregor made a motion to table this item until the next regular meeting. Member Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

The motion passed.

Superintendent Bostick presented a memorandum of agreement between BCSD and Janice Cruthirds for school financial consulting services. Following a brief discussion, President Page believed it would be beneficial to address the letter received from the State Auditor regarding the findings of the district’s annual audit. Subsequently, Vice-President Elliott made a motion to approve the agreement with Mrs. Cruthirds. Member Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

The motion passed.

Superintendent Bostick presented requests for 3 students to be released from Benton County Schools to attend schools in North Tippah. None of the students had previously attended school within Benton County. Vice-President Elliott made a motion to approve the releases. Secretary McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Abstain

Gresham Aye

The motion passed.

Vice-President Elliott made a motion to approve Claims Docket #060380-060451. Member Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

The motion passed.

Superintendent Bostick presented the consent agenda. Vice-President Elliott made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Member Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

The motion passed.

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

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

The motion passed.

Superintendent Bostick presented the following information in his monthly report: Hickory Flat Attendance Center’s 4th grade students have been selected to take the NAEP exam. The Child Nutrition Department successfully completed their annual audit. The accountability grades for the district and each school were discussed; however, this data remains under embargo by MDE and cannot be released to the public. Current student enrollment figures are: Ashland Elementary – 284, Ashland High School – 246, Hickory Flat Attendance Center – 567; for a total district enrollment of 1,097 students.

At this time, the board completed the annual MSBA Legislative Survey.

Member Poplar stated her concern that President Page was not regularly casting a vote for the record. President Page reiterated that she is within the Rules of Order to ask that her opinion be recorded when necessary, and to continue only voting when required to break a tie.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2018. This date has been adjusted due to the Columbus Day holiday.

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

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Gresham Aye

The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 P. M.

Attest:

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Betty Page, President

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Gary Elliott, Vice-President

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Katrina McGregor, Secretary

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Erma Poplar, Member

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Brian Gresham, Member