MEETING OF THE BENTON COUNTY

BOARD OF EDUCATION

BENTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

April 11, 2018

BE IT REMEMBERED that on this the 11th day of April, 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

Brian Gresham Member

The following persons were present:

Lori Whaley Shaw Michelle Carter Tanitra Stigger

LaQuinta Hodges Patricia Walls Latasha Coleman

Vicky Everett Alison Reaves LaKiesha Morgan

Veronica Kimmons Casondra Hopkins Trina Hall

Darnell Gibson Annie Hodges Charlie Thomas

Lacy M. Walls Charlie A. Walls Aylena Smith

Aymiah Smith Marqus McKinnie Sheila Clifton

Jerry Clifton Jamayious Hudson Maris Gibson

Mark Ehrie Brenda Mason Devora Kimmons

Beverly Estes Jerry Estes Don Moody

Merri Gadd Rutha Martin Charles McDonald

Margaret Morgan

WHEREUPON, the following business was transacted:

Candace Sanders recorded the minutes of this meeting.

President Elliott called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Member Gresham opened the meeting with prayer.

Member Gresham made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 12th board meeting with corrections. Vice-president McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Gresham Aye

Superintendent Bostick requested the following addition to the agenda: Item 4A – Special Guest. Member Page made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Gresham Aye

Superintendent Bostick introduced Tavionne Stigger, a member of the Ashland Blue Devils Basketball team. Tavionne’s family lost many of their possessions due to a house fire, including Tavionne’s two State Championship medals. Ms. Sarita Thompson had contacted the proper parties to obtain replacement medals, and the Superintendent presented these to Tavionne.

Ms. Vicky Everett addressed the board concerning a presentation by Ms. Lekeshia Perry at the January 2017 board meeting. Ms. Everett also had questions concerning block scheduling of students at Ashland High School, and the science labs at that school.

Mrs. Brenda Mason addressed the board to follow-up on the issue of raises for bus drivers. Member Page responded to Mrs. Mason, stating that the board was unaware that the approved pay increases had not been implemented, and they will need more time to work on addressing the matter.

Ms. Patricia Walls addressed the board concerning the restructuring of Ashland schools (presented at March 11, 2018, meeting.) Ms. Walls brought up the possibility of consolidation, and asked what the community could do to begin that process. Member Page responded by explaining that consolidation would involve the entire county, not just the school district, and many issues would have to be considered. Superintendent Bostick agreed to invite Lekeshia Perry back to present information on consolidation at a parent meeting.

Mrs. Sheila Clifton addressed the board as a representative of the FFA Alumni Association. Mrs. Clifton stated that the Alumni Association had met with the Director of the Career Technical Center to discuss the role of the Alumni in working with the current FFA chapter, as well as their involvement in the expanded FFA program for next school year. Mrs. Clifton stated that this meeting was unproductive due to lack of cooperation and support. The Alumni Association would like suggestions from the Superintendent and/or the board as to how to proceed in order to serve the best interest of students.

Mrs. Beverly Estes was recognized by the board. Mrs. Estes stated that her concerns pertained to her daughter. Due to the need to discuss confidential student information, Member Page made a motion to enter executive session. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Gresham Aye

The board entered executive session at 6:16 P. M. with the following persons present: all five board members, Superintendent Bostick, Candace Sanders, attorney Lori Whaley Shaw, Beverly Estes, Sheila Clifton and Jerry Clifton. During the session, Member Page requested that Ms. Peaches Hoyle of “The Southern Advocate” enter the room to allow the board to verify information pertaining to a conversation she had with Mrs. Estes. Ms. Hoyle answered the question posed to her, and then exited. Member Page 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

Gresham Aye

The board exited executive session at 7:02 P. M. At this time, President Elliott advised those present that no action had been taken during executive session. The members took a brief recess before moving to the next item of business.

The next item presented was the Claims Docket. After a brief discussion, Member Page made a motion to approve Claims Docket #059711-059772. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Gresham Aye

There was no discussion of any items on the Consent Agenda. Secretary Poplar made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Gresham Aye

At this time, Superintendent Bostick stated that he would like to withdraw Items 12 and 13 from the agenda. Member Page made a motion to table Items 12 and 13. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Gresham Aye

The next item was disposal of fixed assets. As there was only one item presented, Member Page made a motion to approve the disposal of the fixed asset. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Gresham Aye

Superintendent Bostick presented letters of resignation from three retiring teachers. The following teachers will be retiring at the end of the 2017-2018 school year:

Rutha Martin – Ashland Elementary School

Rose Ann Jones – Hickory Flat Attendance Center

Melba Bowlin – Hickory Flat Attendance Center

Member Page made a motion to approve all three resignations. Vice-President McGregor seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Gresham Aye

Superintendent Bostick presented the recommendations for Food Service personnel on behalf of Ms. Catriece Braddock, Food Service Director. The recommendations are as follows:

**Ashland Elementary Ashland High School Hickory Flat Attendance Center**

Cicely Evans, Manager Virginia Gibson, Manager Anola Stricklin, Manager

Annie Hodges Sheila Bullock Michelle Bass

Mary Payne Shervon Beard Shelia Pruett

Patsy Glisson Sonya Cloutier Patricia Brown

Laura Williams

Melisha Peters

Anthony Gabbert

Member Page made a motion to accept the recommendations. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Gresham Aye

The next item was 2018-2019 Certified Personnel recommendations. Member Gresham made a motion to enter executive session in order to discuss confidential personnel issues. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Gresham Aye

The board entered executive session at 7:18 P. M. Member Gresham made a motion to exit executive session. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Gresham Aye

The board exited executive session at 7:53 P. M. President Elliott announced that no action was taken during the session. Recommendations for Certified Personnel were then addressed on a school-by-school basis.

The recommendations for 2018-2019 Certified Personnel at Hickory Flat Attendance Center are as follows:

Tina Baker Brittany Holmes Brent Kuhl Andy Dillard\*

John Eaton Amanda Ford Tara Minnix Leah Green

Kyle Hall\* Robert Moody Amanda Wilkerson Michael Kelly

Nathan Pitney Audrey Little\* Belinda Massengill Ruthie Rowland

Jennifer Fuller Jeff Crews\* Chase Lowry\* Heath Robbins

Melissa Bennett Mary Thompson Sandy Garner Sherry Zollinger

Mandy Owen B J Lewis Stephanie Moffitt Chelsea Jones

Jodi Russell Audrey Davis Melinda Joyner Lauren Sanders

Jordan Owen Jessica Whitaker Alice Grisham Monica Rainey\*

Renee Fortner Holly Ormon Rebecca Ash\* Marcia McCalmon

Meloney Green Sandra Hobson

Names with \* indicate that the teacher’s certification is pending renewal by the Mississippi Department of Education. Member Page made a motion to table individuals with pending certification and two individuals who were discussed in executive session; all other recommendations will be approved. Secretary Poplar seconded this motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Gresham Aye

The recommendations for 2018-2019 Certified Personnel at Ashland Elementary School are as follows:

Brittany Bryant Martha Richard Christina Martini Jameril Johnson

Kristy Pannell Jennifer Young Kacey Rowland Brianna Lindsey

Alice Hughes Chelsea Campbell Netia Caviness Julia Hale

Laura Westmoreland Edward Mahler Mamie Polk Detrice Williams

Kathy Bennett Jessica Terry Kerri Clemmer Jennifer Parks

Elynda Finley

Secretary Poplar made a motion to approve the recommendations for Ashland Elementary School. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Oppose

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Gresham Aye

The recommendations for 2018-2019 Certified Personnel at Benton County Career Technical Center are as follows:

Jane Autry Tawanda Campbell Karen Patterson Bethany Pipkin

Billy Short Jordan Wilson

Member Page made a motion to table the two names discussed in executive session (to be revisited after further investigation) and approve all other recommended personnel. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Gresham Aye

After a brief review, Member Page made a motion to table all recommendations for 2018-2019 Certified Personnel at Ashland Middle-High School until further notice. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Gresham Aye

The monthly Superintendent’s Report was presented at this time and included the Mississippi Department of Education “Chronic Absenteeism Data Report 2018.” This report indicates that Benton County School District had a 20.31% absenteeism rate for 2016-2017, which is the 10th highest in the state. In addition to this information, Superintendent Bostick advised the board regarding fees for architectural services related to the discontinued safe room project.

Dr. LaKimberly Hobson (Curriculum Coordinator) addressed the board concerning revisions to the student and employee handbooks for 2018-2019. In order to ensure that the handbooks reflect current board policies, it will be necessary for the school administrators and board to collaborate. Member Page suggested that this would be best accomplished through a retreat. Dr. Hobson will follow up with administrators to determine possible schedule options, and report back to the board.

Member Gresham made a motion to enter executive session to discuss a legal matter. Member Page seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Gresham Aye

The board entered executive session at 8:24 P. M.

Member Page made a motion to exit executive session. Secretary Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Gresham Aye

The board exited executive session at 8:35 P. M. No action was taken during executive session.

Michelle Carter (Business Manager) presented the monthly financial statements. Member Page made a motion to enter executive session with the business manager to discuss specific financial information. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Gresham Aye

The board entered executive session at 8:55 P. M. Member Page made a motion to exit executive session. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Gresham Aye

The board exited executive session at 9:30 P. M. No action was taken during executive session.

The board requested that Superintendent Bostick obtain a report of outstanding cafeteria balances from the Food Service Director, to be presented at the next regular meeting.

Superintendent Bostick presented an agreement from SubTeach USA to provide substitute teachers for the district during the 2018-2019 school year. This will replace services formerly provided by Kelly Educational Staffing, and provide cost savings to the district. Member Page made a motion to end the district’s agreement with Kelly due to budget concerns and contract with SubTeach instead. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

Elliott Aye

McGregor Aye

Poplar Aye

Page Aye

Gresham Aye

The next meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

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

Gresham Aye

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 P. M.

Attest:

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Gary Elliott, President

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Katrina McGregor, Vice-President

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Erma Poplar, Secretary

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Betty Page, Member

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Brian Gresham, Member