MEETING OF THE BENTON COUNTY

BOARD OF EDUCATION

BENTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

August 13, 2018

 BE IT REMEMBERED that on this the 13th day of August, 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

 Erma Poplar Member

 Brian Gresham Member

The following persons were present:

Lori Whaley Shaw Michelle Carter Dedrich Page Jeannie Brock

Brenda Mason Priscilla McKinnie Renee Hooper Tonya Gray

Casondra Hopkins DiAnne Brown Sharon Albert LaShaunda Reaves

Jessica Kennedy Jane Hubbard Dornesha White Merri Gadd

Cole Childs Mackenize Ormon Ayesha Brooks Trinity Castor

Tanitra Stigger Alonzo Tucker Lori Tucker Shawanda Caldwell

Alexus Gentry Danyeall Gentry Lucy M. Walls Charlie A. Walls

Caitlyn McDandy Brent McDandy Shonika Hamilton James Williams

Rosie Ladd Veronica Kimmons

 WHEREUPON, the following business was transacted:

 Candace Sanders recorded the minutes of this meeting.

 President Page called the meeting to order at 5:37 P. M.

 Member Gresham opened the meeting with prayer.

 Member Poplar asked for a point of clarification regarding two items from the July 16th meeting. Vice-President Elliott made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 16th and July 26th meetings. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Abstain

 Gresham Aye

 The motion passed. Secretary Poplar abstained because she was not present for the July 26th meeting.

 The following changes were made to the agenda: following approval of the agenda, the Board Clerk will read Policy BCBI; due to the number and nature of public concerns, a portion will be heard following the reading of policy and a portion will be heard following administrator updates; a resignation from Amy Gresham will be addressed prior to hearing hiring recommendations; Item 9E will become Item 9A and the subsequent sub-items will be re-ordered accordingly; under Board Concerns, sub-item A is deleted, sub-items B and C become A and B (respectively) and a new sub-item C “Re-address Summer Employment” is added. Member Poplar made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The motion passed.

 At this time, President Page advised those present that the board would allow 20 minutes total for those parties wishing to address the class schedule at Ashland High School, and the discussion would follow the administrator updates. The remaining public concerns would now be addressed. Member Gresham made a motion to enter executive session to discuss matters pertaining to staff and/or students. Member Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The motion passed and the board entered executive session at 5:50 P. M.

During executive session the following parties individually presented their concerns: Cordero Bean, Lashonda Reaves, Vaitor Joyner, Shawanda Caldwell, and Sarita Thompson. Following the individuals, Cole Childs, Danyeall Gentry, and the current FFA chapter members addressed the board. Subsequently, Vice-President Elliott made a motion to exit executive session. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

The motion passed. The board exited executive session at 6:43 P. M. No action was taken during executive session; matters were taken under advisement only.

At this time, President Page gave the floor to Dr. LaKimberly Hobson, Curriculum Coordinator. Dr. Hobson presented an in-depth analysis of the district’s state testing results for 2017-2018, with a comparison to 2016-2017 results. These results helped identify areas in which all schools within the district need to work cooperatively to provide improved, consistent instruction for all students.

Dr. Sharon Albert (AES Principal) presented the administrator’s update for Ashland Elementary.

Dr. Rosie Ladd (AHS Principal) presented the administrator’s update for Ashland High School.

Mrs. Jane Hubbard (HFAC Principal) presented the administrator’s update for Hickory Flat Attendance Center.

Dr. Merri Gadd (CTC Director) presented the administrator’s update for the Career Technical Center.

Member Gresham presented a resignation on behalf of his wife, Amy Gresham. Mrs. Gresham will no longer serve as Hickory Flat’s assistant cross-country coach, due to State compliance requirements. Member Poplar made a motion to approve the recommendation. Vice-President Elliott seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

The motion passed.

Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation from Anola Stricklin (Food Service Director) to hire the following persons as cafeteria substitutes for the 2018-2019 school year:

April Owens

Anna Williamson

Lesia Porter

Derricka Griffin

Member Gresham made a motion to approve the Food Service recommendations. Member Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The motion passed.

 Superintendent Bostick , on behalf of Dr. Sharon Albert, presented recommendations to hire Mrs. Lillar Foster and Mrs. Delcenia Daniels as tutors for Ashland Elementary School during the 2018-2019 school year. Both positions will be funded through Title monies. Vice-President Elliott made a motion to approve the recommendations. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The motion passed.

 Superintendent Bostick, on behalf of Mrs. Pamela Gray (Special Services Director,) presented a recommendation to re-hire Mrs. Melba Bowlin, who has reconsidered her decision to retire. Mrs. Bowlin will serve as the District Reading Teacher, and will perform case management duties district-wide. In addition, the following staff transfers were submitted: Leanna Stubbs from Ashland High School to Hickory Flat Attendance Center; Kathy Bennett from Ashland Elementary to Hickory Flat Attendance Center; and Miriam Hill from Ashland Elementary to Ashland High School. Member Poplar made a motion to approve all of the Special Services recommendations. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The motion passed.

 Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation to hire Mr. Chris Vineyard as a bus driver for Hickory Flat Attendance Center for the 2018-2019 school year. His salary for this position will be $7,063.00. In addition, the superintendent presented a recommendation on behalf of Mrs. Jane Hubbard (HFAC Principal,) to hire Ms. Karen Elliott as an ELA consultant to work with 5th and 6th grade teachers until December 2018. The cost of Ms. Elliott’s services will be $6,600.00, which is available through Title II funds. Vice-President Elliott made a motion to approve these recommendations. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The motion passed.

 Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation from Dr. Rosie Ladd (AHS Principal) to hire Ms. Dorneshia White as a Science teacher for the 2018-2019 school year. Member Poplar made a motion to approve the recommendation, pending Ms. White receiving proper certification from MDE. Vice-President Elliott seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The motion passed.

 Superintendent Bostick, on behalf of Mrs. Pamela Gray, presented the FY 2018-2019 IDEA Part B and Pre-School Budgets. Member Poplar made a motion to approve the budgets. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The motion passed.

 Superintendent Bostick, on behalf of Ms. Anola Stricklin (Food Service Director,) presented the 2018-2019 Food Service Procurement Plan. Vice-President Elliott made a motion to approve the Procurement Plan. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The motion passed.

 Michelle Carter (Business Manager) presented the 2018-2019 District Combined and Combining Budget and the Ad Valorem Request. Vice-President Elliott made a motion to approve the budget and Ad Valorem request. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The motion passed.

 Superintendent Bostick presented requests for 3 school bus turn arounds. Member Poplar made a motion to approve the requests. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The motion passed.

 Member Poplar made a motion to approve Claims Docket #060217-060320. Vice-President Elliott seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The motion passed.

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

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The motion passed.

 Superintendent Bostick presented the fixed asset disposals. Member Poplar made a motion to approve the fixed asset disposals. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The motion passed.

 At this time, the board began to address the requirements for Valedictorian and Salutatorian. The 2018-2019 Benton County Student Handbook states that students must attend all 4 years of high school at the same school in order to be eligible. Superintendent Bostick presented a recommendation that this be amended to begin with this year’s freshman class. Vice-President Elliott made a motion to enter executive session in order to discuss policy. Member Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The motion passed, and the board entered executive session at 8:33 P. M. Subsequently, Vice-President Elliott made a motion to exit executive session. Member Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The motion passed, and the board exited executive session at 8:48 P. M. No action was taken during executive session. President Page entertained a motion regarding the Superintendent’s recommendation. The call for a motion was repeated. The handbook will remain as-is, due to lack of a motion on the recommendation.

 Superintendent Bostick presented information from Mrs. Glossie Terry (Technology Coordinator) regarding Google Apps for Education, which would require Mrs. Terry to create email accounts for students in grades 3-8. Due to Mrs. Terry’s absence, Vice-President Elliott made a motion to table the item until further information can be made available. Member Poplar seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The motion passed.

 During the meeting on June 11, 2018, a recommendation was made to hire summer maintenance personnel. The minutes of that meeting indicate that no vote was taken on the matter. President Page asked that this be clarified in the minutes of this meeting.

 At this time, Vice-President Elliott made a motion to enter executive session in order to discuss personnel and buildings. Member Gresham seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The motion passed, and the board entered executive session at 8:58 P. M. Subsequently, Member Gresham made a motion to exit executive session. Vice-President Elliott seconded the motion. Members voted as follows:

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The motion passed, and the board exited executive session at 9:05 P. M.

 The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2018 at 5:30 P. M.

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

 Elliott Aye

 Poplar Aye

 Gresham Aye

 The motion passed.

 The meeting adjourned at 9:07 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