

Jackson Public School DISTRICT
621 SOUTH STATE STREET, JACKSON, MS 39201
REGULAR MEETING OF THE JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Tuesday, January 21, 2020
5:30 P.M.

Board Members Present

Letitia Johnson, President
Dr. Ed Sivak, Vice President
Barbara Hilliard, Secretary
Frank Figgers, Member
Dr. Robert Luckett, Member

Attorneys and Administrative Staff

Dr. Errick L. Greene, Superintendent
Dr. Michael Cormack, Chief of Staff
Hon. Dorian Turner, Board Attorney
Dr. Kathleen Grigsby, Elem. Asst. Supt.
Dr. Fredrick Murray, MS Asst. Supt.
Saundra Lyons, Ex. Director HR
Sharolyn Miller, CFO
Laketia Thomas, High School Asst. Supt.
Sherwin Johnson, Communications
Dionne Woody, Elem. Asst. Supt.
Pam Franklin, Elem. Asst. Supt.

Participated via Teleconference

Dr. Jeanne M. Hairston, Board Member

Secretary to the Board

Rosalind Williams

Others Present

Members of the Public

- I. Call to Order, Pledge to the Flag and Words of Encouragement: The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District was called to order at 5:31 P. M. by Letitia S. Johnson, Board President, on January 21, 2020. She extended greetings to all and called for the scholars, who would lead the Pledge of Allegiance and Words of Encouragement.
- II. Establishment of Quorum: A quorum was established as five (5) members were present, namely: Letitia Johnson, Dr. Ed Sivak, Barbara Hilliard, Dr. Robert Luckett and Frank Figgers. Dr. Hairston participated via teleconference.
- III. Adoption of Agenda: Dr. Luckett moved that the Board adopt the agenda as presented; Frank Figgers second; votes cast for the motion: Letitia Johnson, Dr. Sivak, Barbara Hilliard, Dr. Hairston, Dr. Luckett and Frank Figgers; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- IV. Reading and Approving Minutes:
 - a. January 7, 2020 Board Minutes: The Board voted to approve item a. Dr. Sivak motioned; Barbara Hilliard second; votes cast for the motion: Letitia Johnson, Dr. Sivak, Barbara Hilliard, Dr. Luckett, Dr. Hairston and Frank Figgers; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- V. Superintendent's Report:
 - a. Scholar Presentation
 - b. Course Offerings and Special Programs (IB, APAC, Advanced Placement)
- VI. Public Participation for General Comments and/or Proposed Policy Issues:

None
- VII. Information Items Only:
 - a. Review of the Revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Tougaloo College and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD) for the Continued

Implementation of the Michelle Obama Early College High School (MOECHS) Program at Tougaloo College

- b. Review of the 2020-2021 Academic Calendar
- c. Review of the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for the Jackson Public School District (JPSD):
- d. Review and/or Revisions to Policies IFCA Textbooks; ILE Student Purchase of District Issued Technology, JBE Bona Fide Residence, JBU/IGD promotion and Retention of Students, IH/JE Comprehensive School Counseling Program (recommended title change from Guidance Program):

VIII. Information/Action Items:

- a. Approval of the Lease Agreement between J.R. Jones and Jackson Public Schools: The Board voted to approve item a. Barbara Hilliard motioned; Frank Figgers second; votes cast for the motion: Letitia Johnson, Dr. Sivak, Barbara Hilliard, Dr. Luckett, Dr. Hairston and Frank Figgers; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- b. Approval of Monthly Financial Report for the Month Ended December 31, 2019: The Board voted to approve item b. Barbara Hilliard motioned; Frank Figgers second; votes cast for the motion: Letitia Johnson, Dr. Sivak, Barbara Hilliard, Dr. Luckett, Dr. Hairston and Frank Figgers; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**

IX. Consent Agenda Items - Finance:

- a. Approval of Recommendation to Dispose of Surplus Property: The Board voted to approve item a. Dr. Luckett motioned; Frank Figgers second; votes cast for the motion: Letitia Johnson, Dr. Sivak, Barbara Hilliard, Dr. Luckett, Dr. Hairston and Frank Figgers; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- b. Approval of Accounts Payable Claims Docket and Ratification of Travel and Activity Fund Claims for the period of December 21, 2019 through January 10, 2020: The Board voted to approve item b. Dr. Luckett motioned; Frank Figgers second; votes cast for the motion: Letitia Johnson, Dr. Sivak, Barbara Hilliard, Dr. Luckett, Dr. Hairston and Frank Figgers; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- c. Approval of Various Bids: The Board voted to approve item c. Dr. Luckett motioned; Frank Figgers second; votes cast for the motion: Letitia Johnson, Dr. Sivak, Barbara Hilliard, Dr. Luckett, Dr. Hairston and Frank Figgers; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- d. Approval to Reject Bid # 3111 for Provine High School Restroom and Locker Room Renovations: The Board voted to approve item d. Dr. Luckett motioned; Frank Figgers second; votes cast for the motion: Letitia Johnson, Dr. Sivak, Barbara Hilliard, Dr. Luckett, Dr. Hairston and Frank Figgers; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**

X. Consent Agenda Items - General:

- a. Approval of Agreement between Scientific Learning and Jackson Public Schools (JPS): The Board voted to approve item a. Barbara Hilliard motioned; Dr. Luckett second; votes cast for the motion: Letitia Johnson, Dr. Sivak, Barbara Hilliard, Dr. Luckett, Dr. Hairston and Frank Figgers; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- b. Approval of Consulting Services Agreement with IMS Engineers for 2018 Bond Program Staff Augmentation/Project Management: The Board voted to approve item b. Barbara Hilliard motioned; Dr. Luckett second; votes cast for the motion: Letitia Johnson, Dr. Sivak, Barbara Hilliard, Dr. Luckett, Dr. Hairston and Frank Figgers; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**

c. Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Fertile Ground, Community Foundation for Mississippi (CFM) and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item c. Barbara Hilliard motioned; Dr. Luckett second; votes cast for the motion: Letitia Johnson, Dr. Sivak, Barbara Hilliard, Dr. Luckett, Dr. Hairston and Frank Figgers; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**

d. Approval of Policy BD-Policies of the Board of Trustees: The Board voted to approve item d. Barbara Hilliard motioned; Dr. Luckett second; votes cast for the motion: Letitia Johnson, Dr. Sivak, Barbara Hilliard, Dr. Luckett, Dr. Hairston and Frank Figgers; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**

XI. Consent Agenda items - Personnel:

a. Approval of Staff Personnel Matters: The Board voted to approve Staff Personnel as presented. Dr. Luckett motioned; Barbara Hilliard second; votes cast for the motion: Letitia Johnson, Dr. Sivak, Barbara Hilliard, Dr. Hairston, Dr. Luckett and Frank Figgers; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**

XII. Consideration to Hold an Executive Session: Dr. Luckett moved, and Frank Figgers seconded the motion, to close the meeting to consider entering into executive session. All 6 board members voted in favor of the motion.

Dr. Sivak moved, and Mr. Figgers seconded the motion, to enter into executive session to take up one employee discipline matter. All 6 board members voted in favor of the motion.

In executive session, the board took up the superintendent's recommendation to impose a 4-day suspension on Cynthia Veals. The board heard from Ms. Veals and her attorney, Damon Stevenson, and members of district administration. The board's findings and decision are set out in the order attached to these minutes.

There being no further business to discuss in executive session, Dr. Luckett moved, and Mrs. Hilliard seconded the motion, to exit executive session. All 6 board members voted in favor of the motion.

Upon returning to open session, Dr. Luckett then moved, and Mrs. Hilliard seconded the motion, to adjourn the meeting. That motion was unanimously approved.



Letitia Johnson, Board President

2/4/2020

Date



Barbara Hilliard, Board Secretary

2/4/2020

Date

ORDER UPHOLDING RECOMMENDATION OF
4-DAY SUSPENSION OF CYNTHIA VEALS

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. Sections 37-9-59 and 37-9-111, the Board granted Cynthia Veals (“Veals”) an opportunity to appear before it to present a statement on her behalf prior to the Board making a final decision on the superintendent’s recommendation of a 4-day suspension of Veals for exercising poor professional judgment. Veals and her attorney, Damon Stevenson, were present to make a statement on Veals’ behalf. The Board had also previously reviewed the transcript of the hearing and hearing officer’s report submitted by Nathaniel Armistad, Esq., hearing officer.

During its deliberations, the Board determined that, on August 21, 2019, Veals had an encounter with a male student who was behaving in an unruly and uncontrolled manner. During the encounter, Veals tried to stop the student from entering a classroom and physically manhandled him. Video footage of the encounter reflected that, contrary to Veals’ initial description of the encounter, Veals approached the student from behind and aggressively swung him around. Veals’ physical contact with the student was not initiated from a defensive posture and the student’s conduct at the time, while inappropriate, posed no physical threat to Veals. The extremity of Veals’ conduct constituted poor professional judgment and justified the imposition of a 4-day suspension.

After discussion, Dr. Hairston moved, and Mr. Figgers seconded the motion, to uphold the Superintendent’s recommendation of a 4-day suspension of Veals.

The question being put to a vote, the result was as follows:

BOARD MEMBER:

Dr. Jeanne Hairston

Dr. Ed Sivak

VOTED:

Aye

Aye

Mrs. Barbara Hilliard

Aye

Letitia Johnson, Esq.

Aye

Dr. Robert Luckett

Aye

Mr. Frank Figgers

Aye

The motion passed.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Superintendent's recommendation of a 4-day suspension of Cynthia Veals be upheld.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Hilliard", written over a horizontal line.

President, Board of Trustees

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barbara Hilliard", written over a horizontal line.

Secretary, Board of Trustees