

Jackson Public School DISTRICT
621 SOUTH STATE STREET, JACKSON, MS 39201
REGULAR MEETING OF THE JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Tuesday, February 18, 2020
5:30 P.M.

Board Members Present

Dr. Ed Sivak, Vice President
Barbara Hilliard, Secretary
Frank Figgers, Member
Dr. Jeanne M. Hairston, Member
Dr. Robert Luckett, Member

Board Members Absent

Letitia Johnson, President

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.
Pam Franklin, Elem. Asst. Supt.
Sharolyn Miller, CFO
Sherwin Johnson, Communications
Hon. JoAnne Shepherd, General Counsel
Dionne Woody, Elem. Asst. Supt.
Laketia Marshall-Thomas, HS Asst. Supt.

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 5:36 P. M. by Dr. Ed Sivak, Jr., Board Vice-President, on February 18, 2020. He extended greetings to all and called for the scholar, who would lead the Pledge of Allegiance and Words of Encouragement.
- II. Establishment of Quorum: A quorum was established as four (4) members were present, namely: Dr. Ed Sivak, Dr. Jeanne Hairston, Dr. Robert Luckett and Frank Figgers. Barbara Hilliard joined the meeting at 5:46 p.m. Letitia Johnson was absent from the meeting.
- III. Adoption of Agenda: Dr. Hairston moved that the Board adopt the agenda with the exception of personnel agenda items page 99, #24 and page 119, #21. Dr. Luckett second; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Dr. Hairston, Dr. Luckett and Frank Figgers; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- IV. Reading and Approving Minutes:
 - a. February 4, 2020 Board Minutes: The Board voted to approve item a. Dr. Hairston motioned; Frank Figgers second; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Dr. Luckett, Dr. Hairston and Frank Figgers; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- V. Superintendent's Report:
 - a. School Board Member Recognition Week
 - b. Student Presentation
 - c. Graduation Rate Data Update
 - d. Jackson Public School District's Budgeting Process

Barbara Hilliard joined the meeting at 5:46 p.m.

- VI. Public Participation for General Comments and/or Proposed Policy Issues:
None
- VII. Consent Agenda Items - Finance:



For Release: February 17, 2020

Subject: JPS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Contact: Sherwin Johnson, JPS Public and Media Relations, 601-960-8935

The Jackson Public Schools' Board of Trustees will host its regular meeting on **Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.** at 621 South State Street.

The Board may also take up any other matters properly coming before the Board.

The meeting will be telecast live on JPS Instructional Television on Comcast Channel 19 and the JPS ITV You Tube Channel and Facebook page.

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- a. Recommendation to Dispose of Surplus Property: The Board voted to approve item a. Dr. Hairston motioned; Dr. Luckett second; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Barbara Hilliard, Dr. Luckett, Dr. Hairston and Frank Figgers; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**

VIII. Consent Agenda items - Personnel:

- a. Approval of Staff Personnel Matters: The Board voted to approve Staff Personnel with the exception of page 99, item #24 and page 119, item #21. Dr. Luckett motioned; Dr. Hairston second; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Barbara Hilliard, Dr. Hairston, Dr. Luckett and Frank Figgers; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- b. Approval of Teachers, Counselors, Librarians, and Psychometrist Staff for SY2021: The Board voted to approve item b. Dr. Luckett motioned; Dr. Hairston second; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Barbara Hilliard, Dr. Hairston, Dr. Luckett and Frank Figgers; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**

- IX. Consideration to Hold an Executive Session: Dr. Luckett moved, and Barbara Hilliard seconded the motion, to close the meeting to consider entering into executive session. All 5 board members voted in favor of the motion.

Mrs. Hilliard moved, and Dr. Hairston seconded the motion, to enter into executive session to consider proposed settlements of three vehicular accidents and to make a decision on the superintendent's recommendation of termination of a licensed employee. All 5 board members voted in favor of the motion.

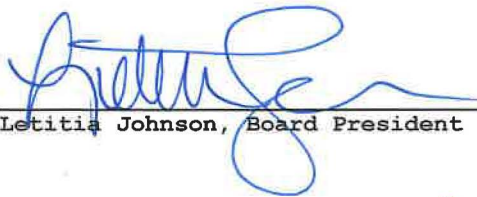
In executive session, the board first heard a report and recommendations from JoAnne Shepherd, general counsel, regarding proposed settlements of three (3) vehicular accident claims. First was claimant, Daphne Singleton, who sustained injuries when a district driver ran a stop sign. Attorney Shepherd recommended settlement of this claim in the amount of \$18,500.00 payable to Ms. Singleton. Next was the J. Buckhaultler claim in which a district bus driver rear-ended the claimant. Attorney Shepherd recommended settlement of this claim in the amount of \$47,000.00 payable to the claimant. Finally, there was the claim of Cynthia Lee who sustained injuries when a district bus driver struck her vehicle. Attorney Shepherd recommended settlement of this claim in the amount of \$16,414.27. Upon discussion, Dr. Luckett moved, and Frank Figgers seconded the motion, to approve all three settlements in the amounts recommended. The vote was unanimously approved.

Next, the board took up the Superintendent's recommendation of termination of Victor Maiden. Mr. Maiden failed to appear to make a statement to the board before the board deliberated upon his termination. The board's findings and decision are set out in the order attached to these minutes as Exhibit A.

There being no further business to discuss in executive session, Dr. Luckett moved, and Dr. Hairston seconded the motion, to exit executive session. All 5 board members voted in favor of the motion.

Upon returning to open session, Dr. Greene reported to the board regarding his proposed staffing model for next school year and the recent cyberbreach of JPS. Board members were also presented certificates and gifts of appreciation in recognition of board member appreciation week.

Dr. Hairston then moved, and Dr. Luckett seconded the motion, to adjourn the meeting. That motion was unanimously approved.



Letitia Johnson, Board President

03-04-2020

Date



Barbara Hilliard, Board Secretary

03-04-2020

Date

**ORDER UPHOLDING RECOMMENDATION OF
TERMINATION OF VICTOR MAIDEN**

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. Sections 37-9-59 and 37-9-111, the Board granted Victor Maiden ("Maiden") an opportunity to appear before it to present a statement on his behalf prior to the Board making a final decision on the superintendent's recommendation of termination of Maiden for (1) abandonment of contract, and (2) unprofessional conduct and inappropriate language in his interactions with his principal, district staff, a student and parent during a May 3, 2019, incident. Maiden failed to appear before the Board to make a statement. 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 Maiden failed to return to work after his FMLA expired on November 11, 2019, which constituted job abandonment. Additionally, during an incident that occurred on May 3, 2019, Maiden used profanity and exhibited inappropriate, intimidating and threatening behavior toward his principal and district staff. Maiden also exhibited inappropriate conduct toward a parent and student during that same incident. The extremity of Maiden's speech and conduct constituted poor professional judgment, and along with his threatening and intimidating behavior during the May 3, 2019, incident, justified his termination.

After discussion, Dr. Hairston moved, and Mrs. Hilliard seconded the motion, to uphold the Superintendent's recommendation of termination of Maiden.

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.

Absent

Dr. Robert Luckett

Aye

Mr. Frank Figgers

Aye

The motion passed.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Superintendent's recommendation of termination of Victor Maiden be upheld.



President, Board of Trustees



Secretary, Board of Trustees