

Regular Board Meeting of
the Jackson Public School District
Board of Trustees
June 20, 2023
5:30 p.m.

Board Members in person

Barbara Hilliard, Vice-President
Letitia S. Johnson, Member
Cynthia Thompson, Member
Frank Figgers, Member

Attorneys and Administrative Staff

Dr. Errick L. Greene, Superintendent
Dorian Turner, Board Attorney
Larriisa Moore, ESQ., General Counsel
Dr. Michael Cormack, Deputy Supt.
Earl Burke, Chief Operations Officer
William M. Merritt, IV., Chief of Staff
Elem., Middle & High School Asst. Supt.

Board Members via Teleconference

Dr. Ed Sivak, President
Dr. Jeanne M. Hairston

Board Members Absent

None

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Rosalind Williams

- I. Call to Order: Barbara Hilliard, Board Vice-President, called the Regular Board Meeting of the Jackson Public School District to order on June 20, 2023, at 5:35 P. M.
- II. Establishment of Quorum: A quorum was established as six (6) members, namely, Dr. Ed Sivak, Frank Figgers, Barbara Hilliard, Letitia S. Johnson, Dr. Jeanne M. Hairston, and Cynthia Thompson were present or participated via video/teleconference.
- III. Adoption of Agenda: Letitia Johnson moved that the Board adopt the agenda as presented; Frank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Cynthia Thompson, Dr. Jeanne M. Hairston, and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none.
- IV. Reading and Approving of the Minutes:
June 6, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes: The Board voted to approve item a. Letitia Johnson moved to approve the minutes as corrected to reflect her presence at the meeting; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Jeanne M. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none.
PASSED
- V. Superintendent's Report:
- VI. Public Participation for General Comments and/or Proposed Policy Issues:
Falicia Edwards' comments were heard in executive session as they dealt with her employment at JPS.
- VII. Information Only Item (s) :
 - a. Review of Various Policies for Amendment/Creation/Deletion: Amendment:
BBBC - Board Member Compensation and Expenses, DHB - Financial Reports and Statements, GADJ - Personal Leave Chart, GADEAA - Worker's Compensation, GAE - Employment - Related Grievances and Complaints, GAEE - Procedures for Employee Complaints of Bullying or Harassing Behavior; Deletion: GAEE - Procedures for Employee Complaints of Bullying or Harassing Behavior

- b. Review of Agreement between The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) the Jackson Public School District (JPSD)

VIII. Information/Action Item(s):

- a. Approval of Multi-Party Agreements with the Jackson Public School District (JPSD) and Additional School Districts as a Part of the 2023 TSL Grant Application: The Board voted to approve item a. Letitia Johnson moved; Frank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED
- b. Approval of Engagement Letter between The Law Offices of Anne T. Nguyen, Attorneys at Law and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item b. Cynthia Thompson moved; Frank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED
- c. Approval of RFP 2023-03 for Universal Screener and Supplemental Software for the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item c. Frank Figgers moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED
- d. Approval to Amend the Agreement between McGraw Hill Achieve3000 and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item d. Frank Figgers moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED
- e. Approval to Purchase Insurance Coverage for Jackson Public Schools: The Board voted to approve item e. Letitia Johnson moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED
- f. Approval of Agreement between MasteryPrep and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item f. Cynthia Thompson moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED
- g. Approval of the English Learners District Plan for the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item g. Cynthia Thompson moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED
- h. Approval of Addendum to the Agreement between the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (MSDB) and the Mississippi Department of Education (MOE) and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item h. Cynthia Thompson moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED

- i. Approval of Job Description for Assistant Director: The Board voted to approve item i. Frank Figgers moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED
 - j. Approval to Award RFP 2022-17 to the LowerSchool Group, LLC for Student Information System (SIS): The Board voted to approve item j. Frank Figgers moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED
 - k. Approval for Consent to a Right-of-Way Instrument between 16th Section Lessee, Evelyn Fletcher, Tax Parcel 4851-982-1, and Entergy Mississippi,
The Board voted to approve item k. Letitia Johnson moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED
 - l. Approval of Monthly Financial Report for the Month Ended May 31, 2023:
The Board voted to approve item l. Letitia Johnson moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED
 - m. Approval of the Resolution Requesting Ad Valorem Support of the Jackson Public School District for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024: The Board voted to approve item m. Letitia Johnson moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED
 - n. Approval of Legal Proposed Original Budgets for Fiscal Year 2023-2024:
The Board voted to approve item n. Letitia Johnson moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED
- IX. Consent Agenda Items - Finance:
- a. Approval of Various Donations: The Board voted to approve item a. Letitia Johnson moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED
 - b. Approval Various Original Budgets for Fiscal Year 2022-2023: The Board voted to approve item b. Letitia Johnson moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED
 - c. Approval to Declare Specified Property as surplus Property: The Board voted to approve item c. Letitia Johnson moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED
 - d. Approval of Various Disbursements from Accounts Payable and Activity Funds:
The Board voted to approve item d. Letitia Johnson moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED

- e. Approval to Reject RFQ 2023-01, Energy Savings Performance Contracting Services: The Board voted to approve item e. Letitia Johnson moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**

X. Consent Agenda Items - General:

- a. Approval of the Salary Scale for 2023 - 2024 SY for the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item a. Cynthia Thompson moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- b. Approval of Policy FB for Amendment: The Board voted to approve item b. Cynthia Thompson moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- c. Approval of the Job Description for Arts Coordinator: The Board voted to approve item c. Cynthia Thompson moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- d. Approval of the Renewal Agreement between 806 Technologies - TitleCrate and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item d. Cynthia Thompson moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- e. Approval of Agreement between Progress Learning and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item e. Cynthia Thompson moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- f. Approval of the Renewal Agreement between Hinds County Human Resource Agency (HCHRA) and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item f. Cynthia Thompson moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- g. Approval of the Renewal Agreement between Willowood Developmental Center and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item g. Cynthia Thompson moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- h. Approval of the Renewal Agreement between Canopy/Cares School and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item h. Cynthia Thompson moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**

- i. Approval of Agreement between Core Learning, LLC and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item i. Cynthia Thompson moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- j. Approval of Agreement between the Special Olympics Unified Champion School Program and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item j. Cynthia Thompson moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- k. Approval of the Renewal Agreement between Mobile Medic Ambulance Service d/b/a American Medical Response (AMR) and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item k. Cynthia Thompson moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- l. Approval of Agreement between the Jackson Convention Complex and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item l. Cynthia Thompson moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- m. Approval of Agreement between the Cox Medical and Wellness Clinics, LLC and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item m. Cynthia Thompson moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- n. Approval of Renewal Agreements between Junior League of Jackson (JLJ) and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item n. Cynthia Thompson moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- o. Approval of Renewal Agreements between Mississippi Food Network (MFN) and the Jackson Public School District: The Board voted to approve item o. Cynthia Thompson moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- p. Renewal Agreement between Parents for Public Schools-Jackson (PPSJ) and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD) for the Ask for More Arts Program: The Board voted to approve item p. Cynthia Thompson moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- q. Approval of the Renewal Agreement between the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra (MSO) and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD) for the Strings in the Schools Program: The Board voted to approve item q. Cynthia Thompson moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**

- r. Approval of District to District Transfers (Incoming/Outgoing): The Board voted to approve item r. Cynthia Thompson moved; Letitia Johnson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Letitia Johnson, Dr. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED

XI. Consent Agenda Items - Personnel:

- a. Approval of Staff Personnel Matter: Letitia Johnson moved to approve Staff Personnel except item H-2; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Barbara Hilliard, Dr. Hairston, Letitia Johnson, and Cynthia Thompson; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED

XII. Other Business:

- a. Consideration of Election of Board Officers for the 2023-2024 School Year: Letitia Johnson moved, and Cynthia Thompson seconded the motion, that the board go through a nominations process for the election of board officers for the 2023-2024 school year; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Barbara Hilliard, Dr. Hairston, Letitia Johnson, and Cynthia Thompson; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED

Dr. Sivak then moved that the officers for the 2023-2024 school year will be Dr. Sivak as president, Barbara Hilliard as vice-president, and Cynthia Thompson as secretary. Letitia Johnson seconded the motion. Votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Barbara Hilliard, Dr. Hairston, Letitia Johnson, and Cynthia Thompson; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED

- XIII. Consideration to Bold Executive Session: Letitia Johnson moved, and Cynthia Thompson seconded the motion, to enter into executive session. Letitia Johnson moved, and Cynthia Thompson seconded the motion, to enter into executive session to (1) consider the superintendent's recommendation of termination of a district employee, and (2) to hear from district employee, Falcia Edwards, whose request for public participation was moved to executive session because it dealt with her employment performance, (3) to consider a student discipline appeal, and (4) to receive an update regarding legal issues and potential litigation regarding Entergy's closeout plan for Lake Hico. The motion was unanimously approved.

In executive session, the board first heard from Falcia Edwards regarding her request to be allowed to resign and be released from her employment contract, and in connection with that request, the superintendent's recommendation to deny Ms. Edwards' request to be released from her contract and adopt the resolution in Consent Agenda Personnel Items, H.2., the recommendation to request MOE to suspend Ms. Edwards teaching contract. After discussion, Letitia Johnson moved, and Frank Figgers seconded the motion, to deny Ms. Edwards' request to resign and be released from her contract and to approve and adopt the resolution in Consent Agenda Personnel Items, B.2., the recommendation to request MOE to suspend Ms. Edwards' teaching contract for one year. The motion was unanimously approved.

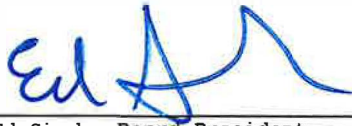
Next, the Board took up for consideration the matter of the recommendation of suspension for 90 days with placement at the alternative school of Student No. 00124428 for participating in a group fight. After hearing from the student, parent and district administration and discussing the matter, Dr. Sivak moved, and Dr. Hairston seconded the motion, to uphold the Superintendent's recommendation to suspend Student No. 00124428 for 90 days with placement at the alternative school for a group fight. Hairston, Hilliard, Sivak and Thompson voted in favor, and Figgers and Johnson voted nay. The motion passed.

Next, the board took up the superintendent's recommendation of termination of James Nowell. The board's findings and decision are set out in the order attached to these executive session minutes as Exhibit A.

Finally, the board received an update regarding, and discussed, legal issues and potential litigation regarding Entergy's closeout plan for Lake Hico. The board took no action regarding this matter.

There being no further business to discuss in executive session, Cynthia Thompson moved, and Letitia Johnson seconded the motion, to exit executive session. The motion was unanimously approved.

XIV. Adjourn: Back on *open* session, there being no further business, Cynthia Thompson moved, and Letitia Johnson seconded the motion, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned.


Ed Sivak, Board President

July 18, 2023
Date


Cynthia Thompson, Board Secretary

July 18, 2023
Date