

Special Board Meeting of
the Jackson Public School District
Board of Trustees
December 5, 2023
5:30 p.m.

Board Members in Person

Dr. Ed Sivak, President
Barbara Hilliard, Vice-President
Cynthia Thompson, Member
Mitch McGuffey, Member
Frank Figgers, Member

Attorneys and Administrative Staff

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

Board Member via Teleconference

Dr. Jeanne M. Hairston, Member

Secretary to the Board

Rosalind Williams

- I. Call to Order: Ed Sivak, Jr., Board President, called the Special Board Meeting of the Jackson Public School District to order on December 5, 2023, at 5:31 P. M.
- II. Establishment of Quorum: A quorum was established as all six (6) members, namely, Dr. Ed Sivak, Jr., Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Dr. Jeanne M. Hairston and Cynthia Thompson were present or participated via video/teleconference. **Frank Figgers joined at 5:35 p.m.**
- III. Adoption of Agenda: Cynthia Thompson motioned to adopt the agenda as presented; Mitch McGuffey seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Barbara Hilliard, Cynthia Thompson, Jeanne M. Hairston, and Mitch McGuffey; votes cast against the motion: none. Frank Figgers was absent from this vote.
- IV. Reading and Approving of the Minutes:
- a. November 9, 2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes: The Board voted to approve item a. Cynthia Thompson moved; Barbara Hilliard seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Cynthia Thompson, Dr. Hairston, Mitch McGuffey and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
Frank Figgers was absent from this vote.
- b. November 14, 2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes: The Board voted to approve item a. Cynthia Thompson moved; Barbara Hilliard seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Cynthia Thompson, Dr. Hairston, Mitch McGuffey and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
Frank Figgers was absent from this vote.
- V. Superintendent's Report:
- VI. Public Participation for General Comments and/or Proposed Policy Issues:
- a. Meredith Coleman McGee addressed the Board against closure of schools.
b. Baba Lukata addressed the Board regarding curriculum suggestions.
c. Nathan Bryant addressed the Board regarding future use of Chastain Middle School Facilities.
d. Timothy Bracey addressed the Board regarding school closure.
- VII. Information Only Item(s):
- a. Review of Final Optimization Plan
b. Review of the Revised Job Descriptions for Director, Library Services and Manager, Teacher Resource Center

- c. Review of Amended Agreement between the University of Phoenix (UoPX) and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD)

VIII. Information/Action Item(s):

- a. Approval of Mississippi Employer Assisted Housing Teacher Program Loan Agreement: The Board voted to approve item a. Barbara Hilliard moved; Mitch McGuffey seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Dr. Hairston, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- b. Approval for the Student Blanket Professional Liability Insurance: The Board voted to approve item b. Barbara Hilliard moved; Mitch McGuffey seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Dr. Hairston, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- c. Approval of Legacy Scholars Grant Agreement with Equal Justice Initiative and Jackson Public Schools: The Board voted to approve item c. Barbara Hilliard moved; Mitch McGuffey seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Dr. Hairston, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- d. Approval of Agreement between Jackson State University (JSU) and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD) for the Mental Health Service Professional Grant Project: The Board voted to approve item d. Barbara Hilliard moved; Mitch McGuffey seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Dr. Hairston, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- e. Approval of Grant Agreement between Mississippi Arts Commission and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD) at Casey Elementary School: The Board voted to approve item e. Barbara Hilliard moved; Mitch McGuffey seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Dr. Hairston, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- f. Approval of Agreement between the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD) for the Childhood Hunger Initiative Power Pack (CHIPP) program: The Board voted to approve item f. Barbara Hilliard moved; Mitch McGuffey seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Dr. Hairston, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- g. Approval of Monthly Financial Report for the Month Ended October 31, 2023 (FY2023-2024): The Board voted to approve item g. Frank Figgers moved; Barbara Hilliard seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Dr. Hairston, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**

IX. Consent Agenda Items - Finance:

- a. Approval of Various Disbursements from Accounts Payable and Activity Funds: The Board voted to approve item a. Mitch McGuffey moved; Frank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Dr. Hairston, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- b. Approval of Bid 3244 ESSER Program HVAC Upgrades for Casey, Galloway, Spann and Whitten: The Board voted to approve item b. Mitch McGuffey moved; Frank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Dr. Hairston, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**

X. Consent Agenda Items - General:

- a. Approval of District to District Transfer (Incoming): The Board voted to approve item a. Mitch McGuffey moved; Barbara Hilliard seconded; votes cast for

the motion: Dr. Sivak, Dr. Hairston, Frank Figgers, Mitch McGuffey, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none **PASSED**

XI. Consent Agenda Items - Personnel:

- a. Approval of Staff Personnel Matter: The Board voted to approve Staff Personnel. Barbara Hilliard moved; Frank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Dr. Hairston, Frank Figgers, Mitch McGuffey, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none **PASSED**

- XII. Consideration to Hold Executive Session: Frank Figgers moved, and Barbara Hilliard seconded the motion, to close the meeting to consider entering into executive session. The motion was unanimously approved by all 6 members present.

After discussion Frank Figgers moved, and Cynthia Thompson seconded the motion, to enter into executive session to consider approval of the filing of a quantum meruit proceeding seeking court authorization to pay for four (4) teachers who worked during the summer at Casey Elementary School and Jim Hill and to hear an update regarding representation of the district in connection with Lake Hico closing matters. The motion was unanimously approved.

In executive session, the board received a report from district administration asking for approval to file a quantum meruit proceeding seeking court authorization to pay for services rendered by four district teachers, two at Casey Elementary School, Rebecca Walker and Monica Marshall and two at Jim Hill, Olivia Cote and Lamario Kirksey. After discussion, Mitch McGuffey moved, and Frank Figgers seconded the motion, to approve the filing of a quantum meruit proceeding seeking court authorization to pay the above-listed employees for services rendered at Casey Elementary and Jim Hill High School for the summer program. The motion was unanimously approved.

Next, the board heard an update from General Counsel, Larrissa Harris, regarding representation of the district in connection with the Lake Hico proceedings. The Board took no action on this matter.

There being no further business to discuss in executive session, Frank Figgers moved, and Barbara Hilliard seconded the motion, to exit executive session. The motion was unanimously approved.

- XIII. Adjourn: Back in open session, there being no further business, Cynthia Thompson moved, and Barbara Hilliard seconded the motion, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned.



Ed Sivak, Board President

12/19/2023

Date



Cynthia Thompson, Board Member

12/19/2023

Date