

Regular Board Meeting of  
the Jackson Public School District  
Board of Trustees  
August 15, 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  
Larissa 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 Absent

Letitia S. Johnson, Member  
Dr. Jeanne M. Hairston, Member

Secretary to the Board

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 August 15, 2023, at 5:30 P. M.
- II. Establishment of Quorum: A quorum was established as five (5) members, namely, Dr. Ed Sivak, Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers and Cynthia Thompson were present or participated via video/teleconference. Letitia Johnson and Dr. Jeanne M. Hairston was absent from the meeting.
- III. Adoption of Agenda: Mitch McGuffey moved that the Board adopt the agenda as presented; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Mitch McGuffey and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none.
- IV. Reading and Approving of the Minutes:  
August 1, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes: The Board voted to approve item a. Frank Figgers moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Mitch McGuffey 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:
  - a. Joshua Strong and Ebony Rice commented to the Board.
- VII. Information Only Item(s):
  - a. Emergency Declaration Due to the failure of HVAC Systems at Various Schools throughout the District.
- VIII. Information/Action Item(s):
  - a. Approval of Mississippi Employer Assisted Housing Teacher Program Loan Agreement: The Board voted to approve item a. Frank Figgers moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
  - b. Approval of an Amended Job Description for Project Director for School-Based Mental Health Grant (SBMH): The Board voted to approve item b. Barbara Hilliard moved; Mitch McGuffey seconded; votes cast for the motion:

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

- c. Approval of Agreement between AmeriCorps and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item c. Barbara Hilliard moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- d. Approval of the Instructional Management System for 2023-2024 School Year: The Board voted to approve item d. Cynthia Thompson moved; Barbara Hilliard seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- e. Approval of Legacy Scholars Grant Agreement with Equal Justice Initiative: The Board voted to approve item e. Frank Figgers moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- f. Approval of the Annual Dropout Prevention Plan and Restructuring Plans for the Jackson Public School District (JPSD) The Board voted to approve item f. Frank Figgers moved; Mitch McGuffey seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- g. Approval of the Agreement for Educational Services with the Hinds County Board of Supervisors for the Henley-Young-Patton Juvenile Justice Center and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item g. Cynthia Thompson moved; Mitch McGuffey seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Mitch McGuffey, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none **PASSED**
- h. Approval of Agreement between Triage Facility Consultants, LLC Project Management Services (RFQ 2023-02) and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item h. Barbara Hilliard moved; Mitch McGuffey seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none **PASSED**
- i. Approval of Preliminary Monthly Financial Report for the Month Ended July 31, 2023: The Board voted to approve item i. Mitch McGuffey moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none **PASSED**

**IX. Consent Agenda Items - Finance:**

- a. Approval of Various Budgets for Fiscal Year 2023-2024: The Board voted to approve item a. Mitch McGuffey moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Dr. Hairston, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- b. Approval to Declare Specified Property as Surplus Property: The Board voted to approve item b. Mitch McGuffey moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Dr. Hairston, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**

c. Approval to Award Bid 3236 to Hotel & Restaurant Supply: The Board voted to approve item c. Mitch McGuffey moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Dr. Hairston, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**

d. Approval to Award Bid 3238 to Prairie Farms Dairy: The Board voted to approve item d. Mitch McGuffey moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Dr. Hairston, Mitch McGuffey, 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/Outgoing): The Board voted to approve item a. Frank Figgers moved; Mitch McGuffey seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Cynthia Thompson, Frank Figgers, Dr. Hairston, Mitch McGuffey, 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 as presented. Barbara Hilliard moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Mitch McGuffey, Barbara Hilliard, and Cynthia Thompson; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**

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

Cynthia Thompson moved, and Frank Figgers seconded the motion, to enter into executive session to (1) discuss potential violations of law and/or misconduct regarding the Greater Jackson Arts Council contracts, (2) potential violations of law and/or misconduct regarding state testing irregularities, and (3) discuss and receive an update concerning legal issues and potential litigation regarding Entergy's closeout plan for Lake Hico. The motion was unanimously approved.

In executive session, the board first 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.

Next, the board received an update regarding, and discussed, potential violations of law and/or misconduct regarding expenditures under the Greater Jackson Arts Council contracts with the district. The board took no action regarding this matter.

Next, the board received an update regarding, and discussed, potential violations of law and/or misconduct regarding state testing irregularities in certain district schools. The board took no action regarding this matter.

There being no further business to discuss in executive session, Cynthia Thompson moved, and Frank Figgers 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

9/5/23

Date



Cynthia Thompson, Board Member

9/6/23

Date