

Regular Board Meeting of
the Jackson Public School District
Board of Trustees
September 19, 2023
5:30 p.m.

Board Members in Person

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

Attorneys and Administrative Staff

Dr. Errick L. Greene, Superintendent
Dorian Turner, Board Attorney
Larissa Harris, 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 Member via Teleconference

Dr. Jeanne M. Hairston, Member
Frank Figgers, Member

Secretary to the Board

Rosalind Williams

- I. Call to Order: Ed Sivak, Jr., Board President, called the Regular Board Meeting of the Jackson Public School District to order on September 19, 2023, at 5:32 P. M.
- II. Establishment of Quorum: A quorum was established as six (6) members, namely, Dr. Ed Sivak, Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Dr. Jeanne M. Hairston and Cynthia Thompson were present or participated via video/teleconference.
- III. Adoption of Agenda: Barbara Hilliard moved that the Board adopt the agenda as presented; Mitch McGuffey seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Barbara Hilliard, Frank Figgers, Jeanne M. Hairston, Mitch McGuffey and Frank Figgers; votes cast against the motion: none.
- IV. Reading and Approving of the Minutes :
 - a. September 5, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes: The Board voted to approve item a. Cynthia Thompson moved; Mitch McGuffey seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Dr. Hairston, Mitch McGuffey and Barbara Hilliard; votes cast against the motion: none. PASSED
 - b. September 14, 2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes: The Board voted to approve item b. Cynthia Thompson moved; Mitch McGuffey seconded; votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Dr. Hairston, 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:
None.
- VII. Information Only Item(s):
 - a. Review of a Resolution of the Board of Trustees Declaring the Necessity for and Intention of Borrowing Money for Certain Purposes at an Approximate Cost of Not to Exceed Fifty-Seven Million Dollars (\$57,000,000)
- VIII. Information/Action Item(s):

- a. Approval of RFP 2023-16 for the Afterschool/Summer Academic Enrichment Prograllls Agreements and Activities for the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item a. Barbara Hilliard moved; Cynthia Thompson 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 Workers' Compensation Insurance Policy for Jackson Public Schools: The Board voted to approve item b. Barbara Hilliard moved; Cynthia Thompson 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 (Provine High School) and Jackson Public Schools: The Board voted to approve item c. Barbara Hilliard moved; Cynthia Thompson 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 to Extend the Agreement between the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item d. Barbara Hilliard moved; Cynthia Thompson 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 Canceling and Releasing the 16th Section Lease Agreement between Jackson Public School District and Garrett Tires & Trucking Services, LLC: The Board voted to approve item e. Barbara Hilliard moved; Cynthia Thompson 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 for Purchase of Buses (Pre-K): The Board voted to approve item f. Barbara Hilliard moved; Cynthia Thompson 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 for Purchase of Buses - ESSER: The Board voted to approve item g. Barbara Hilliard moved; Cynthia Thompson 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**
- h. Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Employment of Professionals in Connection with the Issuance of a Limited Tax Note and/or Series of Taxable or Tax-Exempt Notes, Not to Exceed Fifty-Seven Million Dollars (\$57,000,000): The Board voted to approve item h. Barbara Hilliard moved; Cynthia Thompson 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**
- i. Approval of Monthly Financial Report for the Month Ended August 31, 2023 (FY 2023-2024): The Board voted to approve item i. Barbara Hilliard moved; Cynthia Thompson 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 to Designate Specified Property as Surplus and Approve Disposal.:
The Board voted to approve item a. Mitch McGuffey 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
- b. Approval of Various Disbursements from Accounts Payable and Activity Funds:
The Board voted to approve item b. Mitch McGuffey 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
- X. Consent Agenda Items - General.:
 - a. Approval of District to District Transfers (Incoming/Outgoing): The Board voted to approve item a. Mitch McGuffey 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
- XI. Consent Agenda Items - Personnel.:
 - a. Approval of Staff Personnel Matter: The Board voted to approve Staff Personnel. excluding item I-2 and pulling item I-4 for consideration of discussion in executive session. 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
- XII. Consideration to Hold Executive Session: Barbara Hilliard moved, and Mitch McGuffey seconded the motion, to close the meeting to consider entering into executive session. The motion was unanimously approved.

Cynthia Thompson made a motion to enter into executive session to (1) consider a request from the general counsel to authorize settlement authority in pending litigation, and (2) discuss Personnel Item I.4, the recommendation to adopt a resolution requesting MDE to suspend the license of Angela Watkins. The motion was seconded by Barbara Hilliard and approved unanimously.

In executive session, the received additional information regarding the recommendation to adopt a resolution requesting MDE to suspend the license of Angela Watkins. After discussion, Mitch McGuffey moved, and Cynthia Thompson seconded the motion, to approve the adoption of the resolution. The motion was unanimously approved.

Next, General Counsel Larissa Harris requested authority to settle the Christopher Simmons litigation for \$55,000.00. After questions and discussion, Mitch McGuffey moved, and Cynthia Thompson seconded the motion, to authorize the settlement of the Christopher Simmons litigation for \$55,000.00. The motion was unanimously approved.

There being no further business to discuss in executive session, Frank Figgers made a motion to exit executive session, which was seconded by Barbara Hilliard and approved unanimously.
- XIII. Adjourn: Back in open session, Frank Figgers made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Jeanne Hairston and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.



Ed Sivak, Board President

10/03/2023

Date



Cynthia Thompson, Board Member

10/03/2023

Date