

Regular Board Meeting of the Jackson Public School District

December 17, 2024, at 05:30 PM

Board Present

Dr. Ed Sivak, Jr., Board President
Barbara Hilliard, Vice-President
Dr. Jeanne M. Hairston
Frank Figgers, Member
Mitch McGuffey, Member
Cynthia Thompson, Secretary

Attorneys and Administrative Staff

Dr. Errick L. Greene, Superintendent
Dorian Turner, ESQ., Board Attorney
Larissa Harris, ESQ., General Counsel
Network Assistant Superintendent(s)
Dr. William Merritt, IV, Chief of Staff
Dr. Michael Cormack, Deputy Supt.
Earl Burke, CFOO

MINUTES

I. Call to Order: Dr. Sivak, Board President, called the Board Meeting of the Jackson Public School District to order on December 17, 2024, at 5:32 P.M.

II. Establishment of Quorum: A quorum was established with five (5) members present: Ed Sivak, Jeanne M. Hairston, Mitch McGuffey, Cynthia Thompson, and Barbara Hilliard. Frank Figgers arrived later at 5:36 p.m.

III. Adoption of Agenda: The Board voted to adopt the agenda as presented; motion by Barbara Hilliard, seconded by Mitch McGuffey, votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Barbara Hilliard, Cynthia Thompson, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. Frank Figgers had not arrived yet. **PASSED**

IV. Reading and Approving Minutes

A. December 3, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes: The Board voted to approve item a. Jeanne M. Hairston moved; Barbara Hilliard seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. Frank Figgers had not arrived yet. **PASSED**

V. Superintendent's Report: Dr. Greene presented his report.

VI Public Participation for General Comments and/or Proposed Issues: None.

VII Information Items Only:

- A. Student Board Presentation (Forest Hill High School):
- B. ESSER III Monthly Update October 16, 2024 -November 15, 2024:
- C. Review of Various Policies for Amendment | IGA - Grading System and GAEE - Anti-Bullying Policy for Employees:
- D. Review of School Improvement Monthly Updates for Identified Schools:
- E. Review of the Jackson Public School District's 2024-2025 Emergency Operations Plan (EOP):

VIII Information / Action Items:

- A. Approval of the Renewal Agreements between the Mississippi Food Network (MFN) and the Jackson Public School District: The Board voted to approve item a. Mitch McGuffey moved; Fank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. **PASSED**
- B. Approval of the Amended Contracts for Kids First, LLC and The Kirkland Group: The Board voted to approve item b. Mitch McGuffey moved; Fank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. **PASSED**
- C. Approval of the Renewal Agreement with Avant Assessment, LLC. and Jackson Public School District (JPSD) to Comply with Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Guidelines for the Seal of Biliteracy Assessment: The Board voted to approve item c. Mitch McGuffey moved; Fank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. **PASSED**
- D. Approval of Recommendation to Ratify the JPS-Hinds Early Learning Collaborative Grant Agreement with the Mississippi Department of Education: The Board voted to approve item d. Mitch McGuffey moved; Fank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. **PASSED**
- E. Approval of Preliminary Monthly Financial Report for the Month Ended November 30, 2024 (FY2024-2025): The Board voted to approve item e. Mitch McGuffey moved; Fank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. **PASSED**

IX CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS - Finance:

- A. Approval to Designate Specified Property as Surplus Property and Approve Disposal: The Board voted to approve item a. Barbara Hilliard moved; Jeanne M. Hairston seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. **PASSED**
- B. Approval of Various Disbursements from Accounts Payable and Activity Funds: The Board voted to approve item b. Barbara Hilliard moved; Jeanne M. Hairston seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. **PASSED**

X. CONCENT AGENDA ITEMS - Personnel

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

XI Consideration to Hold an Executive Session: Jeanne Hairston moved, and Frank Figgers seconded the motion, to close the meeting to consider entering into executive session. The motion was unanimously approved.

In closed session, Frank Figgers moved, and Barbara Hilliard seconded the motion, to enter into executive session to take up one employee termination recommendation and to

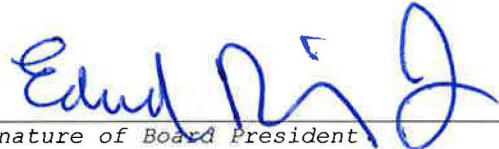
discuss an employee's performance and her request to be released from her contract. The motion was unanimously approved.

In executive session, the board first took up the superintendent's recommendation to terminate K. Clerk. The board's findings and decision are set out in the order attached hereto.

Next, the board took up the job performance and requested Autumn Evans to be released from her employment contract. After discussion, Mitch McGuffey moved, and Barbara Hilliard seconded the motion, to deny the request for release from contract. The motion was unanimously approved.

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.

Adjourn: Back in open session, there being no further business, Jeanne Hairston moved, and Frank Figgers seconded the motion, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.



Signature of Board President

2/4/25

Date



Attested by Board Secretary

2/4/25

Date

**ORDER UPHOLDING RECOMMENDATION OF
TERMINATION OF KATRINA CLERK**

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. Sections 37-9-59 and 37-9-11, the Board granted Ms. Katrina Clerk (Clerk) an opportunity to make a statement on her behalf prior to the Board making its final decision on the Superintendent's recommendation of termination of Clerk for her involvement in testing security violations during the Spring 2023 MAAP Assessment . Clerk was represented by Attorney Marcus Williams in her termination proceedings, and both Clerk and Mr. Williams appeared before the Board with Mr. Williams making a statement. The Board had also previously reviewed the transcript of the termination hearing and read the hearing officer's report submitted by Nathaniel Armistad, Esq.

During its deliberations, the Board determined that the overwhelming and consistent testimony from students was corroborated by additional evidence. The testimony presented clearly demonstrated that Ms. Clerk engaged in inappropriate conduct by coaching students, reading test items aloud to students, and helping students to pronounce words during assessments. The Board found the volume and consistency of the evidence was compelling and it could not discount the severity of these actions. Based on the substantial evidence presented, the Board concluded that termination was justified and unanimously upheld the Superintendent's recommendation for termination.

After discussion, Mitch McGuffey, Esq. moved, and Dr. Jeanne M. Hairston seconded the motion to uphold the Superintendent's recommendation of termination of Katrina Clerk.

The question being put to a vote, the result was as follows:

BOARD MEMBER:

VOTED:

Dr. Jeanne M. Hairston

Aye

Dr. Ed Sivak

Aye

Mrs. Barbara Hilliard

Aye

Mrs. Cynthia Thompson

Aye

Mr. Mitch McGuffey, Esq.


Aye

Mr. Frank Figgers

Aye



President, Board of Trustees



Secretary, Board of Trustees