

Tupelo Public School District Board Meeting Minutes

Date: March 31, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Tupelo School District Boardroom, 1st Floor

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairperson Brock English..

II. Roll Call

Present:

- Brock English, Chairperson
- Robert Piccou, Superintendent
- Emily Turner, Board Member
- William Jackson, Board Member
- Maria Edwards, Board Member
- David Holmes, Board Member

Absent:

- None

III. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda was made by William Jackson, seconded by Emily Turner. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2025, meeting was made by Maria Edwards, seconded by David Holmes. The motion carried unanimously.

V. Public Comments

1. **Mr. James Carter**, a local parent, expressed concern about the availability of mental health services for students, advocating for more counselors and wellness programs to be integrated into the school day.
2. **Ms. Laura Grant**, a community member, thanked the district for its recent engagement efforts and requested more family-oriented events throughout the year to strengthen the

school-community connection.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Robert Piccou provided the following updates:

- **Student Achievement:** Dr. Piccou shared that the district has seen a 10% increase in math scores and a 15% increase in literacy scores compared to last year. He attributed this progress to the new curriculum rollout and increased teacher collaboration.
- **Professional Development:** A recent training session on social-emotional learning (SEL) was successfully conducted, with feedback from teachers indicating a strong desire for additional SEL-focused workshops.
- **Community Engagement:** Dr. Piccou reported that the district is preparing for a Family Literacy Night on April 15, 2025, and a town hall on school safety scheduled for May 10, 2025.
- **Financial Update:** The district's current budget stands at \$45 million, with upcoming expenditures focused on upgrading classroom technology and enhancing safety measures in schools.

VII. Old Business

1. **LED Lighting in Classrooms:** Discussion was held regarding the proposal to install blue LED lights in classrooms to create a calming environment. Several board members raised concerns about potential health effects. A motion to approve the installation was made by Emily Turner and seconded by William Jackson. After discussion, the motion was tabled until further review by a health expert.
2. **School Safety Initiatives:** Dr. Piccou gave an update on the recent installation of additional security cameras at each school campus. He also reported that staff safety training is scheduled for May 2025.

VIII. New Business

1. **Approval of the School Calendar for 2025-2026:** Dr. Piccou presented the proposed school calendar for the 2025-2026 academic year. The calendar includes 180 school days, with breaks aligned with national holidays. A motion to approve the calendar was made by David Holmes, seconded by Maria Edwards. The motion carried unanimously.
2. **Parent Survey Results:** Dr. Piccou presented findings from the recent parent survey, which indicated a high level of satisfaction with academic programs but identified

communication as a key area for improvement. The board discussed strategies to improve communication through newsletters, social media, and a revamped school website.

IX. Committee Reports

- **Curriculum Committee:** Emily Turner reported that the committee is working on expanding STEM initiatives at the elementary school level. They are planning to introduce robotics clubs and coding workshops for students starting in the fall of 2025.
- **Facilities Committee:** William Jackson shared that renovations for the Tupelo Middle School gymnasium are scheduled to begin on June 1, 2025. The project is expected to be completed by September 2025, with additional parking spaces being added to accommodate increased visitor traffic.

X. Announcements

- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Family Literacy Night will take place on April 15, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Tupelo High School.
 - A community forum on school safety is scheduled for May 10, 2025, from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM in the boardroom.
 - The next school board election is scheduled for June 2025. Board nominations will be accepted until May 15, 2025.
- **Special Recognition:** Dr. Piccou recognized the Tupelo High School debate team for their outstanding performance at the state competition, where they took home first place in both team and individual categories.

XI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Maria Edwards, seconded by David Holmes. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Next Meeting:

The next school board meeting will be held on April 28, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the Tupelo School District Boardroom.