

Regular Board Meeting  
Jackson Public Schools  
July 07, 2026  
05:30 PM

Board Members Present

Barbara Hilliard, President  
Mitch McGuffey, Vice-President  
Dr. Jeanne M. Hairston, Member  
Akilah Irvin, Member

Administrators Present

Dr. Errick L. Greene, Superintendent  
Dorian Turner, ESQ., Board Attorney  
Larriisa Harris, ESQ., General Counsel  
Earl Burke, CFOO  
Dr. William Merritt, IV, Deputy Superintendent  
Assistant Superintendents ES, MS & HS

Board Member via Teleconference

Lee Scott, Member

Board Member Absent

Frank Figgers

## MINUTES

- I. Call to Order: Barbara T. Hilliard, Board President, called the meeting to order on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 5:37 P.M.
- II. Establishment of Quorum: A quorum was established with five (5) board members present in person or via teleconference, namely: Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Akilah Irvin, Lee Scott, and Jeanne M. Hairston. Frank Figgers was absent from the meeting.
- III. Adoption of Agenda: Board Member Mitch McGuffey moved, seconded by Board Member Akilah Irvin, to amend the agenda by moving Items VII. E, F, and G for consideration of discussion in Executive Session and tabling Item XII.A. The motion carried unanimously: votes cast for the motion: Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Akilah Irvin, Lee Scott, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- IV. Reading and Approving Minutes
  - A. June 16, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes: The Board voted to approve June 16, 2026, regular meeting minutes. Jeanne M. Hairston moved, Lee Scott seconded; votes cast for the motion: Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Akilah Irvin, Lee Scott, and Jeanne M. Hairston. Votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- V. Superintendent's Remarks
- VI. Public Participation for General Comments and/or Proposed Issues: There were no public comments.
- VII. Information Items Only:
  - A. Review of the Renewal Agreement between The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD)
  - B. Review of Handbook Updates
  - C. Review RFP 2026-23-26, the Online and Blended Learning Service Agreement (Renewal) between Grade Results and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD)
  - D. Review of the 2026-2027 Salary Scale for the Jackson Public School District

- E. Review of the Agreement between Social Sprout and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to amend the agenda to move Item VII.E for consideration of discussion in Executive Session.
- F. Review of the Agreement between iHeartRadio Media and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to amend the agenda to move Item VII.F for consideration of discussion in Executive Session.
- G. Review of the Agreement between Canva US, Inc (Canva for Education) and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to amend the agenda to move Item VII.G for consideration of discussion in Executive Session.

VIII. Information / Action Items:

- A. Approval of the Cancellation and Release of the Agreement between Jackson Public School (Lessor) and Animal Center Inc. (Lessee): The Board voted to approve item A. Mitch McGuffey moved, Lee Scott seconded. Votes cast for the motion: Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Akilah Irvin, Lee Scott, and Jeanne M. Hairston. Votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- B. Approval of the Zoom Agreement: The Board voted to approve item B. Akilah Irvin moved, Jeanne M. Hairston seconded. Votes cast for the motion: Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Akilah Irvin, Lee Scott, and Jeanne M. Hairston. Votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- C. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Educators in Residence (EIR) Program and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item C. Mitch McGuffey moved, Akilah Irvin seconded. Votes cast for the motion: Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Akilah Irvin, Lee Scott, and Jeanne M. Hairston. Votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- D. Approval of the FY27-31 EIR Grant: The Board voted to approve item D. Mitch McGuffey moved, Akilah Irvin seconded. Votes cast for the motion: Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Akilah Irvin, Lee Scott, and Jeanne M. Hairston. 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. Lee Scott moved, Mitch McGuffey seconded. Votes cast for the motion: Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Akilah Irvin, Lee Scott, and Jeanne M. Hairston. Votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**

X. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS - General:

- A. Approval of RFP 2026-15-26 (04-08-2026) Awarded to Wayfinder: The Board voted to approve item A. Akilah Irvin moved, Lee Scott seconded. Votes cast for the motion: Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Akilah Irvin, Lee Scott, and Jeanne M. Hairston. Votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- B. Approval of the Amended Agreement between Defined Learning and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item B. Akilah Irvin moved, Lee Scott seconded. Votes cast for the motion: Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Akilah Irvin, Lee Scott, and Jeanne M. Hairston. Votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- C. Approval of Otus MOU (RRP 2025-21-26) Data Management: The Board voted to approve item C. Akilah Irvin moved, Lee Scott seconded. Votes cast for the motion: Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Akilah Irvin, Lee Scott, and Jeanne M. Hairston. Votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**

- D. Approval of the Renewal Agreement between the Junior League of Jackson (JLJ) and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item D. Akilah Irvin moved, Lee Scott seconded. Votes cast for the motion: Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Akilah Irvin, Lee Scott, and Jeanne M. Hairston. Votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- E. Review of the Agreement between the Black Teacher Collaborative (BTC) and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item E. Akilah Irvin moved, Lee Scott seconded. Votes cast for the motion: Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Akilah Irvin, Lee Scott, and Jeanne M. Hairston. Votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- F. Approval of the Renewal Agreement between The Canopy School and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item F. Akilah Irvin moved, Lee Scott seconded. Votes cast for the motion: Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Akilah Irvin, Lee Scott, and Jeanne M. Hairston. Votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- G. Approval of the Agreement between Southeastern Baptist College and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item G. Akilah Irvin moved, Lee Scott seconded. Votes cast for the motion: Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Akilah Irvin, Lee Scott, and Jeanne M. Hairston. Votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- H. Approval of the Renewal Agreement between the Mississippi School Board Association (MSBA) and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD) for Online Services (Oagendas): The Board voted to approve item H. Akilah Irvin moved, Lee Scott seconded. Votes cast for the motion: Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Akilah Irvin, Lee Scott, and Jeanne M. Hairston. Votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- I. Approval of the Agreement between the Mississippi School Board Association (MSBA) and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD) for Online Services (Policy): The Board voted to approve item I. Akilah Irvin moved, Lee Scott seconded. Votes cast for the motion: Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Akilah Irvin, Lee Scott, and Jeanne M. Hairston. Votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- J. Approval of Legacy Scholars Grant Agreement with Equal Justice Initiative and Jackson Public Schools: The Board voted to approve item J. Akilah Irvin moved, Lee Scott seconded. Votes cast for the motion: Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Akilah Irvin, Lee Scott, and Jeanne M. Hairston. Votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- K. Approval of District-to-District Transfer (Incoming/Outgoing): The Board voted to approve item K. Akilah Irvin moved, Lee Scott seconded. Votes cast for the motion: Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Akilah Irvin, Lee Scott, and Jeanne M. Hairston. Votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- XI. CONCENT AGENDA ITEMS - Personnel
- A. Approval of Personnel: The Board voted to approve item A. Mitch McGuffey moved, Akilah Irvin seconded. Votes cast for the motion: Barbara Hilliard, Mitch McGuffey, Akilah Irvin, Lee Scott, and Jeanne M. Hairston. Votes cast against the motion: none. **PASSED**
- XII. Other Business
- A. Consideration of the Nomination of the Board Secretary for the 2026-2027 School Year: This item was tabled.
- XIII. Consideration to Hold an Executive Session: Mitch McGuffey moved, and Jeanne M. Hairston seconded the motion, to close the meeting to consider the need to go into executive session. The motion was approved by all five members present.

In Closed Session: Mitch McGuffey moved, and Jeanne M. Hairston seconded the motion to go into executive session (1) to discuss and consider potential legal claims and liabilities in connection with the contracts recommended in items VII-E, the contract with Social Sprout, item VII-F, the contract with iHeartRadio Media, and item VII-G, the contract with Canva for Education; and (2) to discuss a request from General Counsel, Larissa Harris, for additional settlement authority in connection with the M. Dearman workers' compensation claim. The motion was unanimously approved by the five members present.

In Executive Session, the Board heard from the administration and board attorney regarding potential legal claims and liability in connection with the Sprout Social contract, the iHeartRadio Media contract and the Canva for Education contract. The Board took no action on these items.

Finally, the Board took up a request from General Counsel, Larissa Harris, regarding additional settlement authority in connection with the M. Dearman worker's compensation claim. After discussion, Lee Scott moved, and Mitch McGuffey seconded the motion, to approve the request for additional settlement authority. The motion was unanimously approved by the five members present.

There being no further business to discuss in the executive session, Jeanne M. Hairston moved, and Mitch McGuffey seconded the motion, to exit the executive session. The motion was unanimously approved.

- XIV. Adjournment: Back in open session, Jeanne M. Hairston moved, and Akilah Irvin seconded the motion, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned.



Signature of Board President



Date



Attested by Board Secretary



Date