BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORITY

As a body created under law by the State of Mississippi, the Jackson Public School District’s Board of Trustees has authority within the limitations and interpretations of federal and state laws.

The Board of Trustees determines policy, delegates executive, supervisory and instructional authority to its employees, and appraises the results achieved in light of the goals of this school district.

The Board of Trustees shall concern itself primarily with broad questions of policy and with the appraisal of results, rather than with administrative details. The application of policies shall be an administrative task to be performed by the superintendent and her or his staff who shall be held accountable for the effective administration and supervision of the entire school system.

All matters to be submitted to the Board shall first be brought before the superintendent for investigation. If these matters require school board action, they shall be presented to the school board by the superintendent or his or her designee. Board members, acting as individuals, have no authority over school affairs, but have such authority when acting as a body duly called in session.

It shall be the duty of the superintendent and the board to limit the expenditure of school funds during the fiscal year to amounts set forth in the respective school budgets as reflected in the board minutes unless such school fund budgets be revised in the manner provided by law. It shall be unlawful for any school district to budget expenditures from a fund in excess of the resources available within that fund for such expenditures.

Any member of the school board who shall knowingly enter into any contract, incur any obligation, or make any expenditure in excess of the amount available for that purpose for the fiscal year shall be liable for the amount of such excess. However, no board member shall be personally liable (a) in the event of any reduction in minimum education payments by action of the governor, or (b) for claims, damages, awards or judgments due to tort actions. Such immunity shall not be a defense in case of fraud, criminal action, or intentional breach of fiduciary obligations imposed by statute.

In all cases where laws or the regulations of the state superintendent of education do not provide, permit, or prohibit, the Board of Trustees shall consider itself the agent responsible for establishing and appraising educational activities.