POWERS AND DUTIES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Members of the board shall attend board meetings, discuss items presented on the agenda, suggest other items for consideration and vote upon motions and resolutions presented. Official decisions of the board can be arrived at only at duly constituted board meetings. Individual board members or groups of board members do not have independent authority to speak for the board and should make no out-of-meeting commitments unless directed to do so on behalf of the board. The expectations for individual board members are outlined below:

To familiarize oneself with the state school laws, regulations of the State Department of Education, and Jackson Public School District policies, rules, and regulations

To have a general knowledge of educational aims and objectives of the school system

To work harmoniously with other board members without trying to dominate the board or to neglect their share of the work

To acknowledge the necessity for a “team” relationship between each individual board member and the superintendent, reflecting integrity, sincerity, and devotion to the goal of providing the best possible educational program for the community.

To vote and act in the board meetings impartially for the good of the entire school district

To accept the will of the majority vote in all cases and to give wholehearted support to the resulting policy

To represent the board and the Jackson Public School District to the public in such a way as to promote both interest and support, and

To refer complaints to the proper school authorities, and to abstain from taking individual action.

The Board of Trustees shall have the following powers, authority, and duties in addition to all others imposed or granted by law:

(a) To organize and operate the schools of this district and to make such division between the secondary grades and elementary grades as, in their judgment, will serve the best interest of the school;

(b) To introduce public school music, art, manual training and other special subjects into either the elementary or secondary grades, as the board shall deem proper;

(c) To be the custodians of real and personal school property and to manage, control and care for same, both during the school term and during vacation;
(d) To have responsibility for the erection, repairing and equipping of school facilities and the making of necessary school improvements;

(e) To suspend or to expel a pupil for misconduct in the school, upon school buses, on the road to and from school, during recess or upon the school playgrounds, and to delegate such authority to the appropriate officials of the school district;

(f) To visit schools in the district, in their discretion, in a body for the purpose of determining what can be done for the improvement of the school in a general way;

(g) For every school board member, to spend at least one full day in a school in the district they represent, without compensation;

(h) To support, within reasonable limits, the superintendent, and staff where necessary for the proper discipline of the school;

(i) To exclude from the schools students with what appears to be infectious or contagious diseases; provided, however, such student may be allowed to return to school upon presenting a certificate from a public health officer, duly licensed physician, or nurse practitioner that the student is free from such disease;

(j) To require those vaccinations specified by the State Health Officer as provided in Section 41-23-37, Mississippi Code of 1972;

(k) To see that all necessary utilities and services are provided in the schools at all times when same are needed;

(l) To authorize the use of the school buildings and grounds for the holding of public meetings and gatherings of the people under such regulations as may be prescribed by said board;

(m) To prescribe and enforce rules and regulations not inconsistent with law or with the regulations of the State Board of Education for their own government and for the government of the schools, and to transact their business at regular and special meetings called and held in the manner provided by law;

(n) To maintain and operate all of the schools under their control for such length of time during the year as may be required;

(o) To enforce in the schools the courses of study and the use of the textbooks prescribed by the proper authorities;

(p) To make orders directed to the superintendent of schools for the issuance of pay certificates for lawful purposes on any available funds of the district and to have full control of the receipt, distribution, allotment and disbursement of all funds provided for the support and operation of the schools of whether
such funds be derived from state appropriations, local ad valorem tax collections, or otherwise;

(q) To select all school district personnel in the manner provided by law, and to provide such employee fringe benefit programs including accident reimbursement plans, as may be deemed necessary and appropriate by this board;

(r) To provide athletic programs and other school activities and to regulate the establishment and operation of such programs and activities;

(s) To join, in their discretion, any association of school boards and other public school related organizations, and to pay from local funds other than minimum foundation funds, any membership dues;

(t) To expend local school activity funds, or other available school district funds, other than minimum education program funds, for the purposes prescribed under Miss. Code Ann. §37-7-301(s);

(u) To contract, on a shared savings, lease or lease-purchase basis, for energy efficiency services and/or equipment as provided for in Miss. Code Ann. §31-9-14, not to exceed ten (10) years;

(v) To maintain accounts and issue pay certificates on school food service bank accounts;

(w) To lease, in the manner provided by law, a school building from an individual, partnership, nonprofit corporation or a private for-profit corporation for the use of such school district, and to expend funds therefor as may be available from any non-minimum program sources.

(x) To employ all noninstructional and noncertificated employees and fix the duties and compensation of such personnel pursuant to the recommendation of the superintendent of schools and in the manner provided by law;

(y) To employ and fix the duties and compensation of such legal counsel as deemed necessary;

(z) Subject to rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, to purchase, own and operate trucks, vans and other motor vehicles, which shall bear the proper identification required by law;

(aa) To expend funds for the payment of substitute teachers and to adopt reasonable regulations for the employment and compensation of such substitute teachers;

(bb) To acquire in its own name by purchase all real property which shall be necessary and desirable in connection with the construction, renovation or improvement of any public school building or structure. The Board shall have
the right of eminent domain if an agreement cannot be reached with the real property owner;

(cc) To charge reasonable fees related to the educational programs of the district, in the manner prescribed in Miss. Code Ann. §37-7-335;

(dd) Subject to rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, to purchase relocatable classrooms for the use of such school district, in the manner prescribed in Miss. Code Ann. §37-1-13;

(ee) To enter into contracts or agreements with other districts, political subdivisions or governmental entities to carry out one or more of the powers or duties of the school board, or to allow more efficient utilization of limited resources for providing services to the public;

(ff) To provide for in-service training for employees of the district;

(gg) The school boards of all school districts as part of their duties to prescribe the use of textbooks, may provide that parents and legal guardians shall be responsible for the textbooks and for the compensation to the school district for any books which are not returned to the proper schools upon the withdrawal of their dependent child. If a textbook is lost or not returned by any student who drops out of the public school district, the parent or legal guardian shall also compensate the school district for the fair market value of the textbooks;

(hh) To conduct fund-raising activities on behalf of the school district that the school board, in its discretion, deems appropriate or beneficial to the official or extracurricular programs of the district; provided that:

   (i) Any proceeds of the fund-raising activities shall be treated as “activity funds” and shall be accounted for as are other activity funds under this section; and

   (ii) Fund-raising activities conducted or authorized by the board for the sale of school pictures, the rental of caps and gowns or the sale of graduation invitations for which the school board receives a commission, rebate or fee shall contain a disclosure statement advising that a portion of the proceeds of the sales or rentals shall be contributed to the student activity fund;

(ii) To allow individual lessons for music, art and other curriculum-related activities for academic credit or nonacademic credit during school hours and using school equipment and facilities, subject to the board’s rules and regulations;

(jj) To charge reasonable fees for participating in an extracurricular activity for academic or nonacademic credit for necessary and required equipment such as safety equipment, band instruments and uniforms;
(kk) To conduct or participate in any fund-raising activities on behalf of or in connection with a tax-exempt charitable organization;

(ll) To exercise such powers as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this section; and

(mm) To expend funds for the services of nonprofit arts organizations or other such nonprofit organizations that provide performances or other services for the student of the school district.

SOURCE: Jackson Public School District, Jackson, Mississippi

LEGAL REF.: Miss. Code Ann. §37-7-301; 37-7-306

Current Version of Mississippi Public Accountability Standards

DATE: October 16, 1978

AMENDED: July 21, 1986
August 29, 1989
December 15, 1997
September 20, 2016

REVIEWED: February 7, 2017
September 18, 2018