

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION  
OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
SOUTH TIPPDAH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Oscar Shannon Building  
September 6, 2023

Members Present: Kerry Cockrell, Tim Clark, Arnold Witt and Kevin Barefield

Members Absent: Nicole Bullock

Others Present: Tony Elliott, Superintendent; Ruby Bennett, Assistant Superintendent;  
Price Elliott, Board Attorney

Chairman Kerry Cockrell called the meeting to order in closed session to determine the need for an Executive Session of the September 6, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the South Tippah School District.

Arnold Witt made the motion to convene in Executive Session to discuss Agenda Item Number 4 (Student Disciplinary Matter) and Agenda Item Number 5 (Student Disciplinary Matter). The motion was seconded by Tim Clark. WHEREUPON, Chairman Cockrell called for a vote and upon said votes being duly canvassed the same were recorded as follows:

Kerry Cockrell, voting "Aye";  
Tim Clark, voting "Aye";  
Kevin Barefield, voting "Aye";  
Arnold Witt, voting "Aye";  
Voting against the motion: "None";  
Absent and not voting: Nicole Bullock.

WHEREUPON, Chairman Cockrell declared the foregoing motion adopted by the unanimous vote of all South Tippah School Board Members present.

Chairman Cockrell announced in open session that the Board in closed session had voted unanimously to convene in Executive Session. He immediately cleared the room.

Chairman Cockrell called the Board to Order in Executive Session with the following members present: Kerry Cockrell, Tim Clark, Kevin Barefield and Arnold Witt. He turned the attention of the Board to the business at hand, Agenda Item No. 4 (Student Disciplinary Matter).

WHEREAS, the Board members of the South Tippah School District were informed that the parents of South Tippah School District Student Number ST1235 were informed of their right to appeal the action of the Superintendent and the South Tippah School District Disciplinary Appeals Committee regarding the disciplinary action of South Tippah School District Student Number ST1235; and

WHEREAS, the Board was informed that Superintendent Tony Elliott informed the parents through a certified letter and by telephone of the date, time and place of the South Tippah School District's special meeting to appeal the disciplinary action.

WHEREAS, the mother of South Tippah School District Student ST1235 had requested to appear before the Board to appeal the decision of the Superintendent and the South Tippah School District Appeals Committee regarding the disciplinary action of Student Number ST1235; and

WHEREAS, no person appeared before the Board on behalf of the South Tippah School District Student Number ST1235 regarding the appeal of this disciplinary action.

WHEREAS, George Buchanan, Principal of Ripley High School, gave a statement regarding his reasons for recommending the expulsion of one calendar year for South Tippah School District Student Number ST1235.

WHEREAS, after reviewing a slideshow presentation presented by Mr. Buchanan regarding the circumstances surrounding his recommendation of expulsion for a calendar year for Student ST1235, and reviewing the full report of the South Tippah School District Disciplinary Appeals Committee, the Board entered into a complete discussion of Agenda Item No. 4 (Student Disciplinary Matter). Tim Clark made the motion to uphold the disciplinary recommendation of the South Tippah School District Disciplinary Appeals Committee and Superintendent Tony Elliott regarding South Tippah School District Student Number ST1235, being expulsion for one calendar year. Kevin Barefield seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Cockrell then turned the Board's attention to Agenda Item No. 5 (Student Disciplinary Matter).

WHEREAS, subsequent to the hearing before the South Tippah School District Disciplinary Appeals Committee, the parents of South Tippah School District Student Number ST1234 executed a home school card and withdrew South Tippah School District Student Number ST1234 from the South Tippah School District; and

WHEREAS, no person appeared to address the Board concerning a request to overturn the recommendation of the Superintendent and the South Tippah School District Disciplinary Appeals Committee regarding the disciplinary action of Student ST1234; and

WHEREAS, upon hearing all matters and reviewing the report of the South Tippah School District Disciplinary Appeals Committee, Arnold Witt made the motion to uphold the recommendation of the Superintendent and the South Tippah School District Disciplinary Appeals Committee regarding South Tippah School District Student ST1234, being expulsion for one calendar year. The motion was seconded by Kevin Barefield. The motion was unanimously approved.

Arnold Witt moved that since the business for which the executive session had been called was completed, that the executive session be adjourned and that Board Chairman Cockrell report the action taken therein. Motion was seconded by Tim Clark.

WHEREUPON, Chairman Cockrell called for a vote and upon said votes being duly canvassed the same were recorded as follows:

Kerry Cockrell, voting "Aye";  
Tim Clark, voting "Aye";  
Kevin Barefield, voting "Aye";  
Arnold Witt, voting "Aye";  
Voting against the motion: "None";  
Absent and not voting: Nicole Bullock.

WHEREUPON, the Chairman declared there being no further business to come before the session, the foregoing motion to adjourn having been duly carried by unanimous affirmative vote of all South Tippah School Board members present, the executive session stood adjourned.

This the 6<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.

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Chairman, South Tippah School Board

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Secretary, South Tippah School Board