

**Columbus Municipal School District
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes
Brandon Central Services Center
February 10, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.**

The Columbus Municipal School District Board of Trustees held a Regular School Board Meeting on February 10, 2025, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at Brandon Central Services Center. Board Members in attendance were Board President Dr. Cynthia Brown, Board Secretary Dr. Josie Shumake, Trustee Robert Smith, Trustee James Richardson, and Trustee Telisa Young. Also, present were Superintendent Dr. Stanley K. Ellis, Board Attorney Chris Hemphill, Board Clerk Velma Woodard, and CMSD employees and members of the community were notified of this meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM (POLICY BCBFA)

Board President Dr. Cynthia Brown called the meeting to order and noted a quorum was present to conduct business.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY CMSD BOARD MEMBER

Trustee James Richardson provided the invocation, and the Board President Dr. Cynthia Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA (POLICY BBB, POLICY BCBD)

Trustee James Richardson made a motion to adopt the agenda, as amended.

Move Item VI.B.6 to Executive Session – “Consideration and/or Discussion to Approve Staff/Personnel Items”

Trustee Telisa Young seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Trustee Robert Smith – yes, Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake – yes, Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown – yes, Trustee James Richardson – yes, and Trustee Telisa Young - yes.

IV. BOARD OF EDUCATION (POLICY BCBD)

A. Consideration to Approve Minutes

Trustee Robert Smith made a motion to approve the following minutes:

1. January 13, 2025 - Board Regular Meeting Minutes
2. January 16, 2025 - Board Special Call Meeting Minutes - Microsoft Teams
3. January 18, 2025 - Board Special Call Meeting Minutes - Annual Board Retreat
4. January 20, 2025 - Board Special Call Meeting Minutes – Microsoft Teams
5. January 29, 2025 - Board Special Call Meeting Minutes - Microsoft Teams

Trustee James Richardson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Trustee Robert Smith – yes, Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake – yes, Trustee

Dr. Cynthia Brown – yes, Trustee James Richardson – yes, and Trustee Telisa Young – yes.

B. Trustees District Review

1. Trustee Travel Report – None
2. Discussion and Consideration of Capital Improvement Plan for CMSD

Assistant Superintendent of Operations Mr. Craig Chapman updated the board on the Capital Improvement Projects. There was no action taken.

3. Discussion of Hunt Campus Recovery; Review of Expenditures and Reimbursements / Payments for Projects

Mr. Taylor Guild of Eley Guild Hardy appeared before the board to give an update on the progress of the Hunt Facility. Mr. Guild stated that the building should be completed in February, the temporary fencing will stay, there will be a proposal for additional fencing, proposal to asphalt the parking lot, gym is 100% completed, museum is 98% completed, classrooms are 95% completed, elevators are working, and the final progress meeting will be held in February.

4. PryorMorrow Architects Update on CMSD Bond Projects - Mr. Jose Arellano

Mr. Jose Arellano of PryorMorrow Architect appeared before the board to give an update on the CMSD Bond Projects. Columbus High School, Cook Elementary, Sale Elementary and Stoke-Beard Elementary design development have been submitted for review and their projects are projected to be completed July 2026. Cook Elementary Projects are projected to be completed by the summer of 2025.

5. Contract Renewals Updates – There was no action taken.
6. Review of the Mississippi School Boards Association Professional Governance Standards and Resolution for Adoption and Approval During March 10, 2025, Board Meeting.

There was no action taken.

7. FYI: Submission of Statement of Economics Interest to the Mississippi Ethics Commission Due by May 1, 2025 (www.ethics.state.ms.us)

There was no action taken.

C. Goal Updates (Policy BA)

1. Student Attendance Report (Goal 1) – There was no action taken.

2. School Safety Report (Goal 4)
 - a. Student Discipline – There was no action taken.
3. Dropout Report (Goal 1) – There was no action taken.
4. Safety Report: Number of Accidents in Schools (Goal 4) – There was no action taken.
5. Superintendent's Updates and Report
 - a. Columbus Municipal School District - Dr. Stanley K. Ellis, Superintendent

There was no action taken.

V. OPEN FORUM (POLICY BCBD)

There was no one who signed up to speak before the board.

VI. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, DR. STANLEY K. ELLIS

A. School Operations

1. Superintendent's Travel (Goal 1)
 - a. Superintendent's Travel Report – Dr. Stanley Ellis attended the 2025 MASS Alliance Winter Conference in Flowood, MS on January 26-29, 2025.
 - b. Superintendent's Travel Review (For Information Only)

B. Superintendent's Recommendations

1. Consideration and/or Discussion to Approve Administrators and Directors for the 2025-2026 School Year (Submitted by the Office of Human Resources)

Trustee Telisa Young made a motion to approve the Administrators and Directors for the 2025-2026 School Year. Trustees Robert Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Trustee Robert Smith – yes, Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake – yes, Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown – yes, Trustee James Richardson – yes, and Trustee Telisa Young – yes.

Trustee James Richardson recused himself from the meeting.

2. Consideration and/or Discussion to Approve Certified Staff for the 2025-2026 School Year (Submitted by the Office of Human Resources)

Trustee Telisa Young made a motion to approve the Certified Staff for the 2025-2026 School Year. Trustee Robert Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Trustee Robert Smith – yes, Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake – yes, Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown – yes, and Trustee Telisa Young – yes.

Trustee James Richardson returned to the meeting.

Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown recused herself from the meeting and Vice President Robert Smith presided over the meeting.

3. Consideration and/or Discussion to Approve Classified Staff for the 2025-2026 School Year (Submitted by the Office of Human Resources)

Trustee James Richardson made a motion to approve the Classified Staff for the 2025-2026 School Year. Trustee Telisa Young seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Trustee Robert Smith – yes, Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake – yes, Trustee James Richardson – yes, and Trustee Telisa Young – yes.

Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown returned to and resumed the meeting.

4. Consideration and/or Discussion to Approve Administrative Supplement, Salary Schedule 34 for Technology (Submitted by the Office of Human Resources)

Trustee Telisa Young made a motion to approve the Administrative Supplement, Salary Schedule 34 for Technology. Trustee Robert Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Trustee Robert Smith – yes, Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake – yes, Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown – yes, Trustee James Richardson – yes, and Trustee Telisa Young – yes.

5. Consideration and/or Discussion to Approve Administrative Staff/Personnel Items (Submitted by the Office of Human Resources)

Trustee Telisa Young made a motion to approve Administrative Staff/Personnel Items. Trustee James Richardson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Trustee Robert Smith – yes, Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake – yes, Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown – yes, Trustee James Richardson – yes, and Trustee Telisa Young – yes.

6. Consideration and/or Discussion to Approve Staff / Personnel Items (Submitted by the Office of Human Resources)

This item was moved to Executive Session for discussion.

7. Consideration and/or Discussion to Approve Athletics Supplemental Pay (Submitted by the Office of Human Resources)

Trustee Robert Smith made a motion to approve the Athletics Supplemental Pay. Trustee James Richardson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Trustee Robert Smith – yes, Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake – yes, Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown – yes, Trustee James Richardson – yes, and Trustee Telisa Young – yes.

Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown and Trustee James Richardson recused themselves from the meeting and Vice President Robert Smith presided over the meeting.

8. Consideration and/or Discussion to Approve the 2025-2026 CMSD Salary Schedules (Submitted by the Office of Business).

Trustee Telisa Young made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 CMSD Salary Schedules. Trustee Robert Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Trustee Robert Smith – yes, Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake – yes, and Trustee Telisa Young – yes.

Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown and Trustee James Richardson returned to the meeting and Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown resumed the meeting.

**VII. OFFICE OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT CMSD BUSINESS ADMINSTRATOR
DISCUSSION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS**

A. Consideration to Approve Monthly Financial Reports (Policy DI)

Trustee Robert Smith made a motion to approve Items 1 through 5 collectively.

1. Fund Balance Report
2. Cash Balance Report
3. Budget Status Report
4. Monthly Revenue Budget Report
5. Monthly Expenditure Budget Report

Trustee Telisa Young seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Trustee Robert Smith – yes, Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake – yes, Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown – yes, Trustee James Richardson – yes, and Trustee Telisa Young – yes.

6. Certification and Summary of Reconciled Bank Statements

Trustee Telisa Young made a motion to approve the certification and summary of reconciled bank statements. Trustee James Richardson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Trustee Robert Smith – yes, Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake – yes, Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown – yes, Trustee James Richardson – yes, and Trustee Telisa Young – yes.

7. Budget Amendments

Trustee Telisa Young made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments. Trustee Robert Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Trustee Robert Smith – yes, Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake – yes, Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown – yes, Trustee James Richardson – yes, and Trustee Telisa Young – yes.

8. Fixed Asset Disposals

Trustee James Richardson made a motion to approve the fixed asset disposal. Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Trustee Robert Smith – yes, Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake – yes, Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown – yes, Trustee James Richardson – yes, and Trustee Telisa Young – yes.

Trustee Robert Smith recused himself from the meeting.

9. Claims Docket

Trustee Telisa Young made a motion to approve items a and b collectively.

- a. Paid Accounts Payable Claims for Board Ratification
- b. Held Accounts Payable Claims to Columbus Light & Water Department

Trustee James Richardson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake – yes, Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown – yes, Trustee James Richardson – yes, and Trustee Telisa Young – yes.

Trustee Robert Smith returned to the meeting.

- c. Regular Accounts Payable Claims Docket

Trustee Telisa Young made a motion to approve the regular Accounts Payable Claims Docket. Trustee Robert Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Trustee Robert Smith – yes, Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake – yes, Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown – yes, Trustee James Richardson – yes, and Trustee Telisa Young – yes.

B. FYI: Chief Financial Officer Updates

- 1. Monthly Ad Valorem Tax Collection Analysis Report (Policy DI)
- 2. CMSD Fund Balance Trends
- 3. Bank / Cash Balance Yearly Comparison
- 4. Student Events Activity Report
- 5. Federal Programs and IDEA Monthly Financial Review

There was no action taken.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA (POLICY BCBL)

- A. Consideration to Approve Agreements, Contracts, Memorandums of Understanding, Out-of-State Travel, Field Trips and Student Transfers:

Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake recused herself from the meeting,

1. Accept Donation from Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake for the Purchase of a Table at the Forge Construction Leadership Summit (Submitted by the Office of the Superintendent)

Trustee Robert Smith made a motion to accept the donation from Dr. Josie Shumake for the purchase of a table at the Forge Construction Leadership Summit. Trustee James Richardson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Trustee Robert Smith – yes, Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown – yes, Trustee James Richardson – yes, and Trustee Telisa Young – yes.

Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake returned to the meeting.

Trustee Robert Smith made a motion to approve Items 2 through 15 collectively.

2. 2024-2025 CMSD Test Security Plan (Submitted by the Office of the Curriculum Coordinator)
3. Revised Mississippi State University / Humphrey Coliseum Agreement for Columbus High School Class of 2025 Graduation (Submitted by the Office of the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services)
4. Rosemont Consulting Services (Submitted by the Office of Special Education)
5. Accept 2024-2025 IDEA Assurances (Submitted by the Office of Special Education)
6. GRG Educational Consulting, LLC Proposal for Leadership Support at the Elementary Schools (Submitted by the Office of Federal Programs)
7. GRG Educational Consulting, LLC Proposal to Support CMSD Leadership Team (Submitted by the Office of Federal Programs)
8. Accept TVA Grant Awarded to Fairview Elementary School (Submitted by the Office of Federal Programs)
9. Columbus High School Track and Field Overnight / Out-of-State Field Trip to Participate in the Morehouse Relays 2025 in Atlanta, GA, on March 26-31, 2025 (Submitted by the Office of the Assistant Superintendent of Operations)
10. Stokes-Beard Elementary School Out-of-State Field Trip to the Memphis Zoo on April 4, 2025 (Submitted by the Office of the Assistant Superintendent of Operations)
11. Stokes-Beard Elementary School Out-of-State Field Trip to the Memphis Zoo on April 11, 2025 (Submitted by the Office of the Assistant Superintendent of Operations)
12. Columbus High School Track and Field Out-of-State / Overnight Field Trip to Participate in the Houston High School Competition in Germantown, TN, on April 11-12, 2025 (Submitted by the Office of the Assistant Superintendent of Operations)
13. Columbus High School Track and Field Overnight Field Trip to Participate in the Championship at Pearl High School on May 2-3, 2025 (Submitted by the Office of the Assistant Superintendent of Operation)
14. Trotter Convention Center Agreement for CMSD / Columbus High School Athletic Banquet (Submitted by the Assistant Superintendent of Operations)
15. Millennium Consulting Service, LLC (MCS) Network Agreement (Submitted by the Office of Information Systems)

Trustee James Richardson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Trustee Robert Smith – yes, Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake – yes, Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown – yes, Trustee James Richardson – yes, and Trustee Telisa Young – yes.

B. Dates to Remember (Policy BCBD)

1. Academics
 - a. March 10-14, 2025 - CMSD Spring Intercession
 - b. March 14, 2025 - End of 3rd 9 Weeks
 - c. March 17-21, 2025 - CMSD Spring Break
2. Athletics and Activities (List is attached to OAgendas.)
3. Board Meetings
 - c. March 5, 2025 - Board Review Meeting – McKellar Technology Center - 11:30 a.m.
 - d. February 10, 2025 - Board Regular Meeting - Brandon Central Service Center – 5:00 p.m.

IX. CLOSED DETERMINATION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION (POLICY BCBK)

Board President Dr. Cynthia Brown made an announcement for a Closed Determination of the need for Executive Session. Trustee Robert Smith made a motion to go into Closed Determination. The motion passed with the following vote: Trustee Robert Smith – yes, Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake – yes, Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown – yes, Trustee James Richardson – yes, and Trustee Telisa Young – yes.

Trustee Telisa Young made a motion to take up seven (7) items in the Executive Session. Trustee James Richardson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Trustee Robert Smith – yes, Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake – yes, Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown – yes, Trustee James Richardson – yes, and Trustee Telisa Young – yes.

- A. Student Matter E-21-24
- B. Student Matter E-22-24
- C. Personnel Matter (2 items)
- D. Consideration and/or Discussion to Approve January 13, 2025, Regular Meeting Executive Session Minutes
- E. Consideration and/or Discussion to Approve January 16, 2025 - Special Meeting Executive Session Minutes - Microsoft Teams
- F. Consideration and/or Discussion to Approve January 18, 2025 - Special Meeting Executive Session Minutes - Annual Retreat

Board President Dr. Cynthia Brown announced to the public that upon motion made by Trustee Telisa Young and seconded by Trustee James Richardson the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to take up seven (7) items in Executive Session.

- A. Student Matter E-21-24

- B. Student Matter E-22-24
- C. Personnel Matter (2 items)
- D. Consideration and/or Discussion to Approve January 13, 2024, Regular Meeting Executive Session Minutes
- E. Consideration and/or Discussion to Approve January 16, 2025 - Special Meeting Executive Session Minutes - Microsoft Teams
- F. Consideration and/or Discussion to Approve January 18, 2025 - Special Meeting Executive Session Minutes - Annual Retreat

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

{Executive Session Begins and Ends Here}

XI. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Board President Dr. Cynthia Brown announced to the public that during Executive Session the board took the following actions:

Upon motion of Trustee James Richardson seconded by Trustee Robert Smith, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to uphold the recommendation of the superintendent of expulsion of Student E-21-24 for one calendar year.

Upon motion of Trustee Robert Smith seconded by Trustee James Richardson the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to uphold the recommendation of the superintendent of expulsion of Student E-22-24 for one calendar year.

Upon motion of Trustee Robert Smith seconded by Trustee James Richardson, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve the Executive Session Minutes of January 13, 2025, January 16, 2025, and January 18, 2025.

Upon a motion by Trustee Robert Smith and a second by Trustee James Richardson, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to extend Superintendent Dr. Stanley Ellis's contract by one calendar year (to June 2027), with the current salary remaining the same.

Lastly, President Dr. Cynthia Brown announced to the public that the motion was made by Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake and seconded by Trustee Telisa Young to return to Open Session. The motion was carried by unanimous vote of the trustees.

Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown and Trustee Telisa Young recused themselves from the meeting and Vice President Robert Smith presided.

Item VI.B.6 – Consideration and/or Discussion to Approve Staff/Personnel Items

Trustee James Richardson made a motion to approve the staff/personnel items. Trustee Robert Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Trustee Robert Smith – yes, Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake – yes, and Trustee James Richardson – yes.

Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown and Trustee Telisa Young returned to and Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown presided over the meeting.

XII. ADJOURN

Board President Dr. Cynthia Brown called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Robert Smith made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown. The motion passed with the following vote: Trustee Robert Smith – yes, Trustee Dr. Josie Shumake – yes, Trustee Dr. Cynthia Brown – yes, Trustee James Richardson – yes, and Trustee Telisa Young – yes.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Dr. Cynthia S. Brown
President

Dr. Josie S. Shumake
Secretary

Date