

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
October 19, 2017

OFFICE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION

- H. Information: Final Report from the Commission on the Administrative Consolidation of the Lumberton Public School District as stated in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.5

Mississippi Code Ann. § 37-7-104.5 created the Commission on the Administrative Consolidation of the Lumberton Public School District that was required to make recommendations on how to dissolve the Lumberton Public School District into the Lamar County School District and the Poplarville School District under the authority granted in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-103.

On May 22, 2017, the Commission on the Administrative Consolidation of the Lumberton Public School District held their final meeting. On June 16, 2017, the State Board of Education approved the resolution of the Lumberton Public School District and the Lamar County School District to abolish and dissolve the Lumberton School District and its central administrative office and to merge that former territory into the Lamar County School District under the authority provided in Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-7-103 and 37-7-113. This item acknowledges receipt of the Final Report from the Commission on the Administrative Consolidation of the Lumberton Public School District and the subsequent delivery of the Report to the Governor and the Legislature on or before December 1, 2017 as required by Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.5.

Back-up material attached

**Final Report
of the
Commission on the Administrative Consolidation
of the Lumberton Public School District**

I. Senate Bill 2500 (2016 Legislative Session)

During the 2016 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature, Senate Bill 2500 was passed and subsequently codified as Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.5. The purpose of the legislation was to provide for the dissolution of the Lumberton Public School District by mutual agreement between the Lumberton Public School District, the Poplarville Separate School District, and the Lamar County School District. The proposed effective date of the dissolution and consolidation was “the start of the 2019-2020 school year.” (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.5 (1)). The legislation required the formation of an eleven (11) person “Commission on the Administrative Consolidation of the Lumberton Public School District.” (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.5 (2)(a)). In accordance with the legislation, the following persons were appointed and selected to serve on the Commission:

- Dr. Linda Smith, Superintendent of the Lumberton Public School District;
- Mrs. Tess Smith, Superintendent of the Lamar County School District;
- Mr. Carl Merritt, Superintendent of the Poplarville School District;
- Mr. Michael Pruitt, member of the Lamar County Board of Education;
- Mr. Jeremy Chance, member of the Lamar County Board of Education;
- Mr. Thomas Strahan, member of the Poplarville School District;
- Dr. Al Young, member of the Lumberton School District;
- Mr. Ben Winston, resident of the area which comprises the Lumberton School District;
- Mrs. Joelle Burnell, resident of the area comprising the Lamar County School District;
- Mrs. Samantha Sandifer, resident of the area which comprises the Poplarville School District; and
- Mr. Michael D. Kent, designee for the State Superintendent of Education and Chairman of the Commission.

II. July 28, 2016 Initial Meeting of the Commission

On July 28, 2016, the Commission held its first meeting at William Carey University in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. All members of the Commission attended the meeting along with approximately forty interested observers.

The Chairman of the Commission presented a brief overview of Senate Bill Number 2500 emphasizing its stern language and provided an overview of the authority granted to all school districts under Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-103. Following discussion,

Commission members affirmed that school consolidation through mutual agreement was preferable to consolidation mandated by legislation.

The Chairman invited each of the three districts represented to outline their three main concerns or challenges arising from the dissolution of the Lumberton Public School District and the consolidation with the two adjacent school districts. Representatives from Lamar County expressed their interest in accelerating the process and concerns that any delays would negatively affect remediation efforts and student achievement. The Lamar County representatives also stressed a concern for employee retention, a smooth well managed transition, the division of assets, real property, and debt associated with the dissolution.

The Lumberton representatives stressed the importance of continuing a K-12 facility in Lumberton to maintain the economic viability of the community. In addition, the Lumberton representatives expressed their concerns over the representation of the community on the school boards of the adjacent districts.

Representatives of the Poplarville School District listed concerns over the academic standards applied to transfer students (especially high school), funding, need for additional space (especially cafeteria space), existing debt, and the timetable for the consolidation.

The Commission discussed where to divide the Lumberton Public School District. Based on conversations with various legislators, Commission members generally agreed that the Pearl River-Lamar County line was the designated dividing line for splitting the Lumberton Public School District between the two adjacent school districts.¹ Further discussion resulted in the Commission concluding there were three (3) issues on which to focus: (1) a school presence in Lumberton, (2) the transition plan, and (3) the timetable for consolidation. The Commission discussed the possibility of accomplishing consolidation through a grade phase-in process. Ultimately, the members of the Commission determined they needed to report back to their respective school boards and seek guidance for directing discussions at future meetings of the Commission. Informal minutes of the July 28, 2016, meeting are attached hereto as Exhibit "1".

III. Interim Meeting with Superintendents

In the Fall of 2016 at William Carey University in Hattiesburg, Chairman Michael D. Kent and Dr. Bill Welch, Mississippi Department of Education, met informally with Superintendent Carl Merritt of Poplarville, Superintendent Tess Smith of Lamar County, and Superintendent Linda Smith of Lumberton. The purpose of the meeting with the three (3) superintendents was to ascertain if any progress had been made at the local level and whether or not there was need for a meeting of the Commission before the 2016 winter holidays. The consensus among the superintendents was no clear plan or

¹ This interpretation is consistent with the language in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.5 (1)(b) and (c).

solution had surfaced and extremist opinions were dominating everyday conversation. Chairman Kent recommended continuing the pause in meetings of the Commission to await possible developments during the 2017 session of the Mississippi Legislature.

IV. Lamar County School District's Voluntary Consolidation

In response to Senate Bill 2500, on February 27, 2017, the Lamar County School District proposed a "Voluntary Consolidation" with the Lumberton Public School District. The proposed Voluntary Consolidation was made through official action of the Board of Trustees of the Lamar County School District and conveyed to the Commission in the notice attached hereto as Exhibit "2". The Voluntary Consolidation proposed the dissolution of the Lumberton School District and the transfer of its existing boundaries into the Lamar County School District.

Representatives of the Poplarville School District complained to Commission Chairman Kent that they were "blindsided" by the Voluntary Consolidation proposal.

On March 10, 2017, Commission Chairman Kent, sent an email to all Commission members proposing a meeting at William Carey University on Friday, March 24, 2017, to receive an update from the parties and to potentially take an official position on the Voluntary Consolidation proposed by the Lamar County School District. The March 10, 2017, email is attached hereto as Exhibit "3".

V. March 24, 2017 Meeting of the Commission

All members of the Commission attended the March 24, 2017, meeting at William Carey University along with thirty (30) interested observers.

The central focus of the discussion among Commission members was whether or not Lamar County and Lumberton could move forward with consolidation under the authority granted to school districts in Miss. Code § 37-3-103. The representatives from Lamar County and those from Lumberton were of the opinion voluntary consolidation of the Lamar County School District and the Lumberton Public School District is authorized by Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-103. Representatives from the Poplarville Separate School District argued Miss. Code § 37-3-104.5 superseded Miss. Code § 37-3-103 in the matter of any consolidation of the Lumberton Public School District with the Lamar County School District.

After extensive debate on the subject, Superintendent Tess Smith submitted the Lamar County School District's Voluntary Consolidation proposal to the assembly. Superintendent Linda Smith responded by reading the Lumberton School Board's affirmative response.

Dr. Linda Smith moved and Mrs. Tess Smith seconded a motion for the Commission to support or reject the Voluntary Consolidation proposed by the Lamar County School District. Following debate, seven (7) members voted in favor of the proposed consolidation, while three (3) members abstained. There were no votes cast in opposition to the proposed consolidation.

Discussion followed that suggested making contact with Senate leadership to review the progress and work of the Commission. Informal Minutes of the March 24, 2017, meeting of the Commission are attached hereto as Exhibit "4".

VI. Informal Meeting with Legislators

On March 27, 2017, Senator Gray Tollison, Senator John Polk, and Representative John Corley met with members of the Commission representing the Poplarville Separate School District, the Lamar County School District, and the Lumberton Public School District. After listening to the three (3) factions involved, the Senators expressed support for the Voluntary Consolidation proposed by the Lamar County School District. A summary of the notes from the meeting on March 27, 2017, are attached hereto as Exhibit "5".

VII. Final Meeting of the Commission

On May 22, 2017, at the Ben Barrett Community Center in Lumberton, Mississippi, the Commission convened for the final time. All members of the Commission were present with the exception of Poplarville School Board member, Tommy Strahan. Approximately thirty (30) spectators attended the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was for the Commission to consider a consolidation proposal adopted by the Poplarville Separate School District on April 21, 2017. A copy of the Poplarville Separate School District proposal of April 21, 2017, is attached hereto as Exhibit "6". Following debate, the Commission voted down the Poplarville proposal by a margin of seven (7) votes against to two (2) votes for the proposal. The informal minutes from the May 22, 2017, meeting of the Commission are attached hereto as Exhibit "7".

VIII. June 16, 2017 Meeting of the State Board of Education

At their June 16, 2017, meeting the Mississippi State Board of Education considered the documents submitted by the Lamar County School District and the Lumberton Public School District for consolidation as authorized by Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-103. The documents submitted by the two (2) school districts are attached hereto as Exhibit "8".

The State Board of Education examined evidence to ensure that all provisions of Miss. Code § 37-7-105 had been satisfied and then voted unanimously under the provisions of Miss. Code § 37-3-113 to approve the abolition of the Lumberton Public School District and the resulting reorganization of boundaries of the Lamar County School District effective July 1, 2018.

This report is submitted to the Governor, the Legislature, and the State Superintendent of Education in compliance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.5 (2)(b) on this the _____ day of _____, 2017.

**Michael D. Kent, Chairman
Commission on the Administrative Consolidation
of the Lumberton Public School District**

Exhibits “1” – “8”

Exhibit “1” – Informal minutes of the July 28, 2016 meeting

Exhibit “2” – Voluntary Consolidation from Lamar County School District

Exhibit “3” – Email from Commission Chair Michael D. Kent

Exhibit “4” – Informal minutes of the March 24, 2017 meeting

Exhibit “5” – Informal meeting with Legislators on March 27, 2017

Exhibit “6” – Poplarville Separate School District Proposal

Exhibit “7” – Informal minutes from the May 22, 2017 meeting

Exhibit “8” – State Board of Education document submitted by Lamar County School District and Lumberton Public School District for consolidation

Minutes of the Commission on the Administrative Consolidation of Lumberton Public School District

The Commission on the Administrative Consolidation of Lumberton Public School District (Senate Bill 2500) was held at 10:00 am on July 28, 2016 at William Carey University.

Introduction: Dr. Ben Burnett welcomed those in attendance at the Commission meeting to the William Carey Campus, prayed to open the meeting, and invited everyone present to join them for lunch in the cafeteria. Mr. Mike Kent introduced himself, gave a brief background of his educational experiences, and indicated he was assigned as facilitator of this Commission.

Protocol for Meeting(s): Mr. Kent: The Commission will follow the Open Meetings law and will be open to the public as well as the press. Commission members will interact with one another and any comments to the press should include the implication that each individual speaks for him/herself and not the Commission at large. Dr. Bill Welch was introduced as an MDE employee who has been through all the consolidations and may act as facilitator in the absence of Mr. Kent. A request for the adoption of the proposed agenda was made by Mr. Kent and Mr. Carl Merritt made the motion. It was seconded by Dr. Linda Smith and all voted "aye." Mr. Kent invited the Commission members to introduce themselves. Mr. Merritt introduced Mr. Tommy Strahan and Mrs. Samantha Sandifer as members from Poplarville; Dr. Linda Smith introduced Dr. Al Young and Mr. Ben Winston as members from Lumberton; and Mrs. Tess Smith introduced Mr. Mike Pruitt, Mr. Jeremy Chance, and Mrs. Joelle Bunnell from Purvis.

Review of SB 2500: Mr. Kent gave a brief overview of SB 2500 and Mr. Pruitt remarked about not leaving the determination of the consolidation to the Legislature. Mr. Kent said it would be important to keep the conversation going and to find solutions. Mr. Kent pointed out some specific language in SB 2500 in order to help the group agree on the task and the content of the task. The Commission is established on Line 7 and the deadline for submission of a plan to the Legislature is December 1, 2017. He also pointed out Lines 23-32 where the three districts "shall" ... "enter into an agreement" that would ultimately abolish and dissolve the Lumberton Public School District by July 1, 2019. The

Commission members agreed that this group was established by the Legislature and that its task is to come up with a plan for the abolition and dissolution of the Lumberton Public School District by July 1, 2019. There was no further discussion and agreement appeared to be unanimous. Mr. Kent pointed out that MS Code 37-7-103 provides for districts to voluntarily consolidate with each other. SB 2500 mandates that the guidance in this statute is the basis for the consolidation. If the Commission fails to come to agreement, the Legislature will “do it to us.” Mr. Merritt said that his conversations with legislators led him to believe that they will “do it to us” if we do not come up with a plan. Mr. Winston asked if there could be any schools left in Lumberton? Mr. Kent responded that SB 2500 requires an administrative consolidation so that the district is abolished, but also indicates that there should be a “good faith effort to maintain a school in the Lumberton area.”

Concerns/Challenges: Mr. Kent invited each school district contingent to present their top three (3) concerns/challenges regarding the proposed consolidation. Mrs. Smith presented for Lamar County: 1. Delay in Timing – employee retention, 2. Transition – smooth/soon, 3. Assets. Dr. Smith presented for Lumberton: 1. Maintain K-12 schools in Lumberton until 2030, 2. Representation for Lumberton community on the school boards, 3. Legal concerns as a result of decisions made by this commission. Mr. Merritt and Mrs. Sandifer presented for Poplarville: 1. Academic standards transition and benefits for students (particularly high school), 2. Assets – real property and debt, 3. Funding for additional students, building needs, teachers, and time table. Mr. Kent indicated that the Commission would need to address debt. It was agreed that the county line would be the dividing line based on conversations with legislators and the language in the original bill. It was reiterated that the Board member representation for the Lumberton Community must be in place prior to the consolidation.

Common Ground: 1. A school presence in Lumberton, 2. Transition plan, 3. Timeframe for consolidation. Mr. Merritt – small influx at a time with phasing in beginning with Kindergarten. Dr. Young – phase in would indicate being nimble to work into five (5) year plans. He would like to suggest as long as possible that students get to choose. Mrs. Sandifer indicated that a possible consequence is the effect on ad valorem taxes and that the money should follow the student. This would require additional record keeping on the revenue side. Mr. Pruitt – Lamar County regarding phase in that it would be hard to operate a school K-12 with 400 students

with our successful set up. Dr. Young – If Lamar County set up a phase in and Lumberton kids stayed in Lumberton, the impact is virtually nil until the effective date. Mrs. Sandifer and Mr. Merritt said that they will need to add about one (1) teacher per grade, transportation will be an issue, and the addition of potential homeschool and private school students would be an additional financial burden on the Poplarville district. Mr. Chance indicated that the phase in would work better for them if the middle and high school students were moved first. Mr. Kent restated that the Poplarville phase in may be possible for K-2 (2017), 3-5 (2018), 6-8 (2019), and 9-12 (2020) and Lamar County could move 420 kids no later than August 2019 leaving K-5 in Lumberton. Dr. Smith expressed that this could be terribly disruptive to families in the Lumberton Public School District. Mr. Kent restated that potentially, Poplarville could take Kindergarten students beginning in the Fall of 2019 with Lamar County keeping 1-5 students as they phase in to the Poplarville District.

Action Items: - Mr. Kent says we are at a point of things to consider and work on and we have two (2) notions:

1. Time to communicate with our Boards the information gathered at this meeting today; and
2. Consider the issues associated with MAEP funding and how to make that work for everyone during the transition.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.



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 www.lamarcountyschools.org

Lamar County School District Proposal Response to MS Senate Bill 2500
VOLUNTARY CONSOLIDATION
 February 27, 2017

In order to fully support the directive of Senate Bill 2500, the Superintendent and Board of Trustees of the Lamar County School District propose the following to ensure the student population and families enjoy every opportunity for educational achievement and success afforded to all our students in the Lamar County Schools. To begin fall 2018, the requirements include:

1. The existing Lumberton student attendance boundaries, including both Lamar and Pearl River Counties shall remain to comprise an enrollment that will allow an efficient operation of K-12 grades in the current footprint.
 - a. Representation on the Lamar County School Board of Trustees shall be determined by the Lamar County Board of Supervisors/Circuit Clerk.
 - b. Tax assessment/debt/assets shall be equitably allocated amongst all property in the defined attendance area/existing footprint.
2. The Lamar County School District shall have the full ability to structure curriculum and programs to match the existing county structure.
3. The Lamar County School District shall have the full authority to staff the consolidated district according to LCSD existing metrics and standards.
 - a. Where practical, certain support departments will be restructured to match the organizational chart currently in use by LCSD – transportation, food service, custodial for example.
 - b. Existing certified and noncertified staff will not be retained upon consolidation, but will be asked to reapply for positions within the approved organizational chart.
4. The existing LCSD Strategic Plan, Mission Statement and student handbook principles will apply immediately but will have the ability for revision when the newly constituted board is seated.
5. Lamar County School District – in accordance with the requirement in SB 2500 – will attempt to operate a separate attendance zone in Lumberton as long as the Board of Trustees and administration believe that structure can be maintained regarding appropriate enrollment and diversity considerations.

This voluntary consolidation proposal is submitted to all interested parties with the endorsement of the full Board of Trustees, Lamar County School District.



 Buddy Morris
 LCSD, Board President


 Tess Smith
 LCSD, Superintendent


 Carolyn Adams
 Board Member


 Jeremy Chance
 Board Member


 Deborah Pierce
 Board Member


 Mike Pruitt
 Board Member

From: Mike Kent
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 10:29 AM
To: Ben Winston; Bill Welch; Carl Merritt; Darla Hammons; Dr. Al Young; Linda L. Smith, Ph.D.; Jeremy Chance; Mike Kent; Mike Pruitt; Mrs. Joelle Bunnell; Mrs. Samantha J. Sandifer; Tess Smith; Tommy Strahan
Cc: Pete Smith; Tonya McDonald; Darla Hammons; Kim Benton; Gray Tollison, Chairman; John L. Moore; Patrice Guilfoyle; Jean Cook
Subject: proposed meeting of SB2500 Commission
Attachments: Lamar Co. Proposal.pdf

Ladies and Gentlemen, in case you do not have a copy, please find attached the proposal sent on March 2, 2017 by the Lamar County School District to the Lumberton School District.

After speaking to Dr. Linda Smith and Mrs. Tess Smith, it is my understanding that the proposal is under deliberation and no official action has been taken as of 5:00 pm on March 8.

I propose that the SB2500 Commission meet on Friday, March 24, 2017 at 100pm at William Carey University in order to get an update from all parties.

I ask that the 3 superintendents poll their respective representatives regarding their availability on that date. In the meantime, I will check with Senate leadership regarding their instructions for the Commission.

Please call me if you have any questions.

MK

MIKE KENT *Interim Deputy Superintendent*
Office of Academic Education

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DRAFT

**Commission on the Administrative Consolidation of the Lumberton Public School District
Meeting held at William Carey University
March 24, 2017 1:00 p.m.**

Members Present

Mike Kent, Chairman
 Carl Merritt, Poplarville Municipal Superintendent
 Linda L. Smith, Lumberton Superintendent
 Tess Smith, Lamar County Superintendent
 Samantha Sandifer, Poplarville Representative
 Tommy Strahan, Poplarville Board President
 Ben Winston, Lumberton Representative
 Al Young, Lumberton Board President
 Joelle Bunnell, Lamar County Representative
 Jeremy Chance, Lamar County Board Member
 Mike Pruitt, Lamar County Board Member

Call to Order: The meeting of the Commission on the Administrative Consolidation of the Lumberton Public School District convened on **Friday, March 24th** at **1:00 p.m.** on the campus of William Carey University in Hattiesburg, MS. The meeting was called to order by **Chairman Mike Kent** and commenced as an open meeting.

Mike Kent gave an overview of the meeting, had members introduce themselves and asked all to follow the agenda presented. **Part I** of the agenda was a review of the Preamble to SB2500 calling for a plan to be submitted no later than December 1, 2017 in report form to the Legislature.

II. Approval of the June 28, 2016 Meeting Minutes: The members voted to approve the meeting minutes as presented. (/M/ Linda Smith /S/Mike Pruitt . Votes cast for the motion: Carl Merritt, Linda L. Smith, Tess Smith, Samantha Sandifer, Tommy Strahan, Ben Winston, Al Young, Joelle Bunnell, Jeremy Chance, Mike Pruitt, Votes cast against the motion: none).

III. The Commission reviewed the authority granted under 37-7-103. Poplarville opined that 37-7-104 was the more appropriate statute. This was followed by considerable discussion.

Tess Smith submitted the Proposal to Voluntarily Consolidate the Lumberton Public School District into the Lamar County School District. Linda Smith read the Lumberton School Board's affirmative response to the Proposal. The committee considered a motion to accept the proposal of the Lamar County School Board. (/M/ Linda L. Smith, /S/ Tess Smith. There was much discussion and then **Votes cast for the motion:** Linda L. Smith, Tess Smith, Ben Winston, Al Young, Joelle Bunnell, Jeremy Chance, Mike Pruitt; **Votes cast against** the motion: none; **Abstentions:** Carl Merritt, Samantha Sandifer, Tommy Strahan).

There was further discussion regarding making contact with the Senate Leadership to review the progress of the work of the Commission and having Superintendents and one Board Representative attend a meeting if one could be arranged.

Adjournment

Addendum

**Summary of Meeting with Senate Leadership
March 27, 2017
Mississippi State Capitol, Room 402 10:00 a.m.**

Members Present

Senator Gray Tollison

Senator John Polk

Mike Kent, Chairman

Linda L. Smith, Lumberton Superintendent

Al Young, Lumberton Board President

Tess Smith, Lamar County Superintendent

Buddy Morris, Lamar County Board Chair

Carl Merritt, Poplarville Municipal Superintendent

Dr. Bill Welch, Mississippi Department of Education

Samantha Sandifer, Poplarville

Hudson Holiday, Pearl River County

Senator Gray Tollison, Chairman of the Mississippi Senate Education Committee and Senator John Polk hosted certain members of the SB2500 Commission at 10:00 .m. on Monday, March 27, 2017.

The Senators listened to comments and concerns from each of the three parties involved.

Senator Tollison expressed support for the Lamar County Proposal and encouraged them to proceed. He then adjourned the meeting.

Poplarville Special Municipal Separate School District

Board of Trustees
THOMAS STRAHAN
President
SAMUEL GENTRY
Vice President
SHIRLINE MAGEE
Secretary
VIOLINE JORDAN
LISA GRAVES

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POPLARVILLE, MISSISSIPPI 39470
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CARL W. MERRITT
Superintendent
KONYA MILLER
Assistant Superintendent
SAMANTHA J. SANDIFER
CPA, CGMA
Chief Financial Officer

Poplarville School District Proposal in Response to Senate Bill 2500

April 21, 2017

In an effort to implement the Administrative Consolidation of Lumberton Public School District, the Poplarville School District proposes the following:

- I. Lamar County School District's proposal dated February 27, 2017, shall be approved as long as the schools located within the City of Lumberton maintain all grade levels currently existing in their K-12 attendance center along with all student services.
- II. If at any time in the future the schools located in the City of Lumberton can no longer maintain all grade levels currently existing in their K-12 attendance center and/or any services currently provided to the students are discontinued, the agreement shall provide for the following:
 - A. All students residing in Pearl River County shall be transferred to the Poplarville School District.
 - B. All federal, state and local funds including ad valorem taxes and sixteenth section revenues associated with the students residing in Pearl River County shall be transferred to the Poplarville School District.
 - C. At the parent's request, Poplarville School District shall release the Pearl River County students within the Lumberton Schools current attendance zone to Lamar County Schools for those students currently attending Lumberton Schools.
 - D. Poplarville School District's release applies only to the existing students already enrolled in the Lumberton Schools and does not apply to future students residing in Pearl River County. All releases for future students of Pearl River County shall be at the discretion of the Poplarville School District.
 - E. At the parent's request, Lamar County School District shall accept the Pearl River County students within the Lumberton Schools current attendance zone for existing students only.
 - F. Lamar County School District's acceptance applies only to the existing students enrolled in the Lumberton Schools for the remainder of the students' K-12 education and does not apply to future students of Pearl River County.

This proposal is submitted in response to senate bill 2500 with the endorsement of the full Board of Trustees, Poplarville School District.

Thomas Strahan
Board President

Carl Merritt
PSD, Superintendent

Samuel Gentry
Board Vice-President

Violine Jordan
Board Member

Shirline Magee
Board Secretary

Lisa Graves
Board Member

DRAFT

**Commission on the Administrative Consolidation of the Lumberton Public School District
Meeting held at Ben Barrett Community Center
May 22, 2017 2:00 p.m.**

Members Present

Mike Kent, Facilitator
 Carl Merritt, Poplarville Municipal Superintendent
 Linda L. Smith, Lumberton Superintendent
 Tess Smith, Lamar County Superintendent
 Samantha Sandifer, Poplarville Representative
 Ben Winston, Lumberton Representative
 Al Young, Lumberton Board President
 Joelle Bunnell, Lamar County Representative
 Jeremy Chance, Lamar County Board Member
 Mike Pruitt, Lamar County Board Member

Members Not Present

Tommy Strahan, Poplarville Board President

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting of the Commission on the Administrative Consolidation of the Lumberton Public School District convened on **Monday, May 22nd at 2:00 p.m.** at the Ben Barrett Community Center in Lumberton. The meeting was called to order by **Facilitator Mike Kent** and commenced as an open meeting.

Mike Kent gave an overview of the meeting, had members introduce themselves, and asked all to follow the agenda presented.
2. **Adoption of the Agenda:** The members voted to approve the agenda as presented. (/M/ Al Young, /S/ Jeremy Chance. Votes cast for the motion: Carl Merritt, Linda L. Smith, Tess Smith, Samantha Sandifer, Ben Winston, Al Young, Joelle Bunnell, Jeremy Chance, Mike Pruitt; Votes cast against the motion: none).
3. **Adoption of the Minutes of the March 24, 2017 Meeting Minutes:** The members voted to approve the meeting minutes as presented. (/M/ Jeremy Chance, /S/ Mike Pruitt. Votes cast for the motion: Carl Merritt, Linda L. Smith, Tess Smith, Samantha Sandifer, Ben Winston, Al Young, Joelle Bunnell, Jeremy Chance, Mike Pruitt; Votes cast against the motion: none).
Adoption of the Summary Minutes of the March 27, 2017 Meeting with Senate Leadership: The members voted to approve the summary of meeting minutes as presented. (/M/ Al Young, /S/ Carl Merritt. Votes cast for the motion: Carl Merritt, Linda L. Smith, Tess Smith, Samantha Sandifer, Al Young; Votes cast against the motion: none; Abstentions: Joelle Bunnell, Jeremy Chance, Mike Pruitt, Ben Winston).
4. **Review of the Process by Facilitator, Mike Kent.** Meeting of Commission on June 28, 2016, meeting of superintendents in December of 2016, Meeting of Commission on March 24, 2017.
5. **New Business – Poplarville Proposal:** Carl Merritt presented the major points of the Poplarville Proposal, Mike Kent read the details of the proposal to the committee. After much discussion, the members voted to reject the proposal by Poplarville as presented. (/M/ Carl Merritt, /S/ Jeremy Chance. Votes cast for the motion: Carl Merritt, Samantha Sandifer; Votes cast against the motion: Linda L. Smith, Tess Smith, Ben Winston, Al Young, Joelle Bunnell, Jeremy Chance, Mike Pruitt). The motion

failed. Samantha Sandifer wanted it stated in the minutes that her opinion was that the Lamar Co. proposal was not presented as a group undertaking. Mike Pruitt disagreed stating Lamar's proposal was submitted in the same fashion as Poplarville's.

6. **Closing Business:** The members voted on a motion to dissolve the commission pending appropriate legislative approval of Senate Education leadership. (/M/ Mike Pruitt, /S/ Linda L. Smith. Votes cast for the motion: Linda L. Smith, Tess Smith, Ben Winston, Al Young, Joelle Bunnell, Jeremy Chance, Mike Pruitt; Votes cast against the motion: Carl Merritt, Samantha Sandifer). The motion carried.
7. **Adjournment:** (/M/ Linda L. Smith, /S/ Ben Winston. Votes cast for the motion: Carl Merritt, Linda L. Smith, Tess Smith, Samantha Sandifer, Ben Winston, Al Young, Joelle Bunnell, Jeremy Chance, Mike Pruitt; Votes cast against the motion: none). The motion carried.

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
June 16, 2017

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC EDUCATION

04. Action: Resolutions of the Lumberton Public School District and the Lamar County School District to abolish and dissolve the Lumberton School District and its central administrative office and to merge that former territory into the Lamar County School District under the authority provided in Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-7-103 and 37-7-113 [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Mississippi Code Ann. § 37-7-104.5 created the Commission on the Administrative Consolidation of the Lumberton Public School District that was required to make recommendations on how to dissolve the Lumberton Public School District into the Lamar County School District and the Poplarville School District under the authority granted in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-103.

Mississippi Code Ann. § 37-7-103 gives school districts the authority to voluntarily abolish, reorganize, change, or alter boundaries, provided both/all districts agree.

Mississippi Code Ann. § 37-7-105 establishes a process that must be followed under Miss. Code Ann. 37-7-103 i.e., (1) school board must pass resolutions and publish/advertise their intentions for three weeks, (2) opposition may file petition and force the issue to a vote.

Mississippi Code Ann. § 37-7-113 requires any alteration, reorganization, or abolition of school district(s) to be approved by the State Board of Education.

On March 24, 2017, the Commission on the Administrative Consolidation of the Lumberton Public School District approved the Lamar County proposal 7 to 0 and 3 abstained.

This item references Goals, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2016-2020 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

Dear Dr. Wright,

Please accept this letter as notice that the boards of trustees of the Lumberton Public School District and the Lamar County School District, pursuant to the authority granted to them in Mississippi Code Annotated §37-7-103 (1972), have agreed to consolidate the Lumberton Public School District into the Lamar County School District effective July 1, 2018. The boards of trustees of both the Lumberton Public School District and the Lamar County School District, in accordance with Mississippi Code Annotated §37-7-105 (1972), have unanimously adopted a *Resolution to Consolidate the Lumberton Public School District into the Lamar County School District* by separate orders of the boards, and published notice of the orders in The Lamar Times newspaper on April 13th, 20th and 27th, 2017 advising that the orders shall become final thirty (30) days after the first publication of said notice unless a petition is filed protesting against the same within such time. The time in which a petition could have been filed has now elapsed, with no petition protesting the orders being filed with either Lumberton Public School District or the Lamar County School District.

Enclosed for your information are copies of all documents referenced hereinabove:

- (1) *Resolution to Consolidate the Lumberton Public School District into the Lamar County School District;*
- (2) *Order Adopting Resolution to Consolidate Lumberton Public School District into Lamar County School District* entered by the Lumberton Public School District Board of Trustees;
- (3) *Order Adopting Resolution to Consolidate Lumberton Public School District into Lamar County School District* entered by the Lamar County School District Board of Trustees;
- (4) *Proof of Publication – Public Notice of Order Adopting Resolution to Consolidate Lumberton Public School District into Lamar County School District* entered by the Lumberton Public School District Board of Trustees; and
- (5) *Proof of Publication – Public Notice of Order Adopting Resolution to Consolidate Lumberton Public School District into Lamar County School District* entered by the Lumberton Public School District Board of Trustees;


The undersigned Superintendents, each on behalf of their respective school districts and pursuant to Mississippi Code Annotated §37-7-113 (1972), respectfully request the State Board of Education approve the *Resolution to Consolidate the Lumberton Public School District into the Lamar County School District*.

Sincerely,

Lumberton Public School District

By 
Dr. Linda L. Smith, Superintendent

Lamar County School District

By: 
Tess R. Smith, Superintendent

**RESOLUTION TO CONSOLIDATE LUMBERTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
INTO LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature in recent years has introduced legislation with the objective of reducing the number of school districts in Mississippi by dissolving and abolishing the central administrative offices of certain districts; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature during the 2016 Regular Session approved M.C.A. §37-7-104.5 to abolish and dissolve the Lumberton Public School District and its central administrative office no later than the start of the 2019-2020 school year; and

WHEREAS, M.C.A. §37-7-104.5 (2)(b) required all involved districts to use reasonable effort to maintain and operate a school in the "former" Lumberton School District; and

WHEREAS, the Lamar County School District and the Lumberton Public School District have agreed that a voluntary consolidation of the Lumberton Public School District into the Lamar County School District shall provide the best possibility for continued operation of Kindergarten through 12th grades in Lumberton and afford the student population and families of the Lumberton Public School District the same opportunities for educational achievement and success afforded to students of Lamar County Schools; and

WHEREAS, M.C.A. §37-7-103 allows the School Board of any school district to abolish its existing District and further allows adjoining School Districts to detach territory from one District and attach it to an adjoining District; and

WHEREAS, the school districts made subject to M.C.A. §37-7-104.5 have met through the Commission on the Administrative Consolidation of the Lumberton Public School District and approved the voluntary consolidation of the Lumberton Public School District into the Lamar County School District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

That the Lumberton Public School District and its central administrative office shall be abolished and dissolved effective July 1, 2018;

That all territory of the Lumberton Public School District in both Lamar and Pearl River Counties shall be transferred and vested in and to the Lamar County School District, as currently laid out and maintained, said property of the Lumberton School District being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the intersection of Courtney Road and the North line of Section 4, Township 1 North, Range 15 West, and thence run East along the section lines to the Northeast Corner of Section 1, Township 1 North, Range 14 West and the Forrest / Lamar County line; thence run South along the said line to its intersection with Pistol Ridge Road; thence run Northwesterly along Pistol Ridge Road to its intersection with Yawn School Road; thence run Westerly and Northwesterly along Yawn School Road to its intersection with Old Highway 11; thence run Southwesterly and Southerly along Old Highway 11 to Carters Reed Brake; thence run Northwesterly along Carters Reed Brake to the Southern boundary of the North half of Section 30, Township 1 North, Range 14 West; thence run West along the forty line to its intersection with the Southern Railroad; thence run Southerly along the Railroad to the center of a Mississippi Power transmission power line right-of-way near King Avenue; thence run northwesterly along said power line to its intersection with Four Mile Road; thence run Northeasterly along Four Mile

Road to its intersection with Emmett Byrd Road; thence run Northwesterly along Emmett Byrd Road to its intersection with Courtney Road; thence run Northerly along Courtney Road back to the Point of Beginning.

AND ALSO

Begin at the intersection of the Southern Railroad and Main Street; thence run Northwesterly along Main Street to its intersection with Eighth Street; thence run Southwesterly along Eighth Street to its intersection with Tenth Avenue; thence run Northwesterly along Tenth Avenue to its intersection with Tenth Street; thence run Southwesterly along Tenth Street to its intersection with Poplar Drive; thence run Northwesterly along Poplar Drive to its intersection with Eleventh Street; thence run Northerly along Eleventh Street to its intersection with State Highway 13; thence run Northwesterly along State Highway 13 to its intersection with a tributary of Red Creek called South Branch Red Creek; thence run Northeasterly along South Branch Red Creek to Red Creek; thence run Easterly along Red Creek to its intersection with Little Black Creek Road; thence run Northerly along Little Black Creek Road to its intersection with the center of a Mississippi Power transmission power line right-of-way; thence run Southeasterly along said power line to its intersection with the Southern Railroad near King Avenue; thence run Southerly along the Railroad back to the Point of Beginning.

AND ALSO

Commence at the Northeast Corner of Section 1, Township 1 South, Range 14 West, Pearl River County, Mississippi; thence run South along the section lines and the Forrest / Pearl River County line to Hickory Creek; thence run Westerly along Hickory Creek to its intersection with Thomas School Road; thence run Northerly and Westerly along Thomas School Road to its intersection with Gumpond Beall Road; thence run Northwesterly along Gumpond Beall Road to its intersection with Interstate Highway 59; thence run Southwesterly along Interstate Highway 59 to its intersection with the Western boundary line of Section 36, Township 1 South, Range 15 West; thence run North along the section line to the Southeast Corner of Section 23, Township 1 South, Range 15 West; thence run West along the section line to the West line of the East one-half of Section 23; thence run North along the forty lines to the South line of Section 11, Township 1 South, Range 15 West; thence run West along the section lines to the Southwest Corner of Section 9, Township 1 South, Range 15 West; thence run North along the section line to the Northwest Corner of said Section 9; thence run West along the section line to the Southwest Corner of Section 5, Township 1 South, Range 15 West; thence run North along the section line to the Northwest Corner of said Section 5; thence run West along the section line to the Southwest Corner of the East one-half of the West one-half of Section 32, Township 1 North, Range 15 West; thence run North along the forty lines to the Lamar / Pearl River County line; thence run East along the Lamar / Pearl River County line to the Western boundary line of Section 27, Township 1 North, Range 15 West; thence run South along the County line to the Southwest Corner of Section 34, Township 1 North, Range 15 West; thence run East along the County line to the Northeast Corner of Section 3, Township 1 South, Range 15 West; thence run South along the County line to the Southwest Corner of Section 2, Township 1 South, Range 15 West; thence run East along the County line to the Southeast Corner of Section 6, Township 1 South, Range 14 West; thence run North along the County line to its intersection with East Main Street; thence run Westerly along East Main Street to its intersection with Red Creek; thence run Northwesterly along Red Creek to its intersection with the Southern Railroad; thence run North along the Railroad to the Southern Boundary of the North half of Section 30, Township 1 North, Range 14 West; thence East along said forty line to its intersection with Carters Reed Brake; thence run Southeasterly along Carters Reed Brake to its intersection with Old Highway 11; thence run Northerly and Northeasterly along Old Highway 11 to its intersection with Yawn School Road; thence run Easterly along Yawn School Road to its intersection with Pistol Ridge Road; thence run Southeasterly along Pistol Ridge Road to its intersection with the East line of Section 25, Township 1 North, Range 14 West and the Forrest / Lamar County line; thence run

South along said line to the Southeast Corner of Section 36, Township 1 North, Range 14 West; thence run East back to the Point of Beginning.

AND ALSO

Commence at the intersection of East Main Avenue and the East Boundary of Section 32, Township 1 North, Range 14 West, Lamar County, Mississippi, also being the Lamar / Pearl River County line; thence run South along the County line to the Southeast Corner of Section 6, Township 1 South, Range 14 West; thence run West along the County line to the Southwest Corner of Section 2, Township 1 South, Range 15 West; thence run North along the County line to the Northwest Corner of said Section 2; thence run West along the County line to the Southwest Corner of Section 34, Township 1 North, Range 15 West; thence run North along the County line and the forty lines to the Southwest Corner of the North 1/2 of Section 27, Township 1 North, Range 15 West; thence run East along the Southern line of said North 1/2 to the Southwest Corner of the Southeast 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4, Section 27, Township 1 North, Range 15 West; thence North along the Western line of said Forty to its intersection with State Highway 13; thence run Southeasterly along State Highway 13 to its intersection with South Wells Town Road; thence run Northerly and Easterly along South Wells Town Road to its intersection with L. McLemore Street; thence run North along L. McLemore Street to its intersection with North Wells Town Road; thence run East along North Wells Town Road to its intersection with Little Black Creek Road; thence run South along Little Black Creek Road to its intersection with Red Creek; thence run Westerly along Red Creek to the fork of a Southern tributary of Red Creek called South Branch Red Creek; thence run Westerly along said tributary to its intersection with State Highway 13; thence run Southeasterly along State Highway 13 to its intersection with Eleventh Street; thence run South along Eleventh Street to its intersection with Poplar Drive; thence run Southeasterly along Poplar Drive to its intersection with Tenth Street; thence run Northeasterly along Tenth Street to its intersection with Tenth Avenue; thence run Southeasterly along Tenth Avenue to its intersection with Eighth Street; thence run Northeasterly along Eighth Street to its intersection with Main Street; thence run Southeasterly along Main Street to its intersection with the Southern Railroad; thence run Northerly along the railroad to its intersection with Red Creek; thence run Southeasterly along Red Creek to its intersection with East Main Street; thence run Easterly along East Main Street back to the Point of Beginning.

AND ALSO

Commence at the point where Hickory Creek intersects the Eastern boundary of Section 24, Township 1 South, Range 14 West and the Forrest / Pearl River County line; thence run South along said line to the Southeast Corner of Section 1, Township 2 South, Range 14 West; thence run West along the section lines to the Southwest Corner of Section 5, Township 2 South, Range 14 West; thence run North along the section line to the Northwest Corner of said Section 5; thence run West along the section lines to the Southwest Corner of Section 36, Township 1 South, Range 15 West; thence run North along the Section line to its intersection with Interstate 59; thence run Northeasterly along Interstate 59 to its intersection with Gumpond Beall Road; thence run Southeasterly along Gumpond Beall Road to its intersection with Thomas School Road; thence run Easterly and Southerly along Thomas School Road to its intersection with Hickory Creek; thence run Easterly along Hickory Creek back to the Point of Beginning.

All as shown by the Lumberton School District Trustee District Map attached and incorporated herein.

It being the intention to transfer all territory of the Lumberton Public School District in both Lamar and Pearl River Counties to the Lamar County School District, whether or not said property is particularly or correctly described herein above.

That the existing Lumberton Public School District attendance boundaries located in both Lamar and Pearl River Counties shall be transferred to the Lamar County School District and that territory shall be operated by the Lamar County School District as the Lumberton Attendance Center as long as the Lamar County School Board Trustees find that operation to be in the best interest of all students in the District.

That representation on the Lamar County School Board of Trustees shall be set by the current Lamar County School Board of Trustees to provide adequate representation to the existing and added territory of the Lamar County School District as required by law;

That all assets of the Lumberton Public School District shall be transferred and vested in and to the Lamar County School District;

That all tax assessments shall be assessed and distributed according to law;

That any debt of the Lumberton Public School District shall be assumed by the Lamar County School District and shall be equitably serviced as required by law;

That the Lamar County School District shall have full authority to structure curriculum and programs at the discretion of the Lamar County School District;

That the Lamar County School District shall have the full authority to staff the schools of the former Lumberton Public School District according to the metrics and standards of the Lamar County School District and restructure departments where necessary to match the organizational chart utilized by the Lamar County School District;

That because the Lumberton Public School District shall cease to exist as of July 1, 2018, all certified and noncertified staff of the former Lumberton Public School District shall be nonrenewed for the 2018-2019 school year;

That all hiring for certified and noncertified staff at the schools located in the former Lumberton Public School District for the 2018-2019 school year shall be made by the Lamar County School District;

That the Lamar County School District Strategic Plan, Mission Statement, and student handbook principles will apply to the schools of the former Lumberton Public School District;

That the Lamar County School District shall attempt to operate a separate attendance zone in Lumberton as long as the Board of Trustees of the Lamar County School District believe that structure can be maintained with due regard to appropriate enrollment and diversity considerations;

That the administrations of the Lamar County School District and Lumberton Public School District shall have authority to do all things necessary or beneficial to accomplish this voluntary consolidation;

That the voluntary consolidation resolved herein accomplishes cost savings as described in M.C.A. §37-7-104.5 and is the best opportunity to preserve a K-12 school in Lumberton;

That a transition team shall be appointed by Lamar County School Superintendent within thirty (30) days of the adoption of this Resolution and the transition team will work with representatives

appointed by the current Lumberton School District Superintendent to facilitate optimal cost savings, enhancement of educational opportunities.

THIS RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED BY INDIVIDUAL ORDER OF THE BOARDS OF TRUSTEES OF THE LUMBERTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT AND LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND SHALL BE SPREAD UPON THE MINUTES OF EACH BOARD

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE LUMBERTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**ORDER ADOPTING RESOLUTION TO CONSOLIDATE LUMBERTON PUBLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICT INTO LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

THIS DAY there came to be heard at a lawful meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Lumberton Public School District, the matter of the *Resolution to Consolidate the Lumberton Public School District into Lamar County School District* and the Board upon proper motion, proper second, discussion, and favorable vote thereon, finds and orders as follows, to-wit:

THAT before the board is a *Resolution to Consolidate Lumberton Public School District into Lamar County School District*;

THAT the *Resolution to Consolidate Lumberton Public School District into Lamar County School District* is well taken and is hereby approved and adopted;

THAT this Order and the *Resolution to Consolidate Lumberton Public School District into Lamar County* shall be and are hereby spread upon the minutes of this board;

THAT notice of this Order shall be published in a newspaper as provided by Section 37-7-105, Mississippi Code of 1972;

THAT notice is hereby given that this Order shall become final thirty (30) days after the first publication of said notice unless a petition is filed protesting against same within such time;

THAT a copy of this Order and the *Resolution to Consolidate Lumberton Public School District* shall remain on file for public inspection at the Lumberton Public School District Office located at 107 Tenth Avenue, Lumberton, Mississippi 39455 Monday through Friday during normal business hours.

SO ORDERED AND RESOLVED on this the 10th day of April, A.D., 2017.

LUMBERTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BY: _____


Its President, Al Young

ATTEST _____



Dr. Linda L. Smith, Superintendent

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**ORDER ADOPTING RESOLUTION TO CONSOLIDATE LUMBERTON PUBLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICT INTO LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

THIS DAY there came to be heard at a lawful meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Lamar County School District, the matter of the *Resolution to Consolidate the Lumberton Public School District into Lamar County School District* and the Board upon proper motion, proper second, discussion, and favorable vote thereon, finds and orders as follows, to-wit:

THAT before the board is a *Resolution to Consolidate Lumberton Public School District into Lamar County School District*;

THAT the *Resolution to Consolidate Lumberton Public School District into Lamar County School District* is well taken and is hereby approved and adopted;

THAT this Order and the *Resolution to Consolidate Lumberton Public School District into Lamar County* shall be and are hereby spread upon the minutes of this board;

THAT notice of this order shall be published in a newspaper as provided by Section 37-7-105, Mississippi Code of 1972;

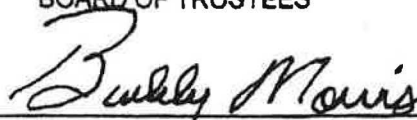
THAT notice is hereby given that this order shall become final thirty (30) days after the first publication of said notice unless a petition is filed protesting against same within such time;

THAT a copy of this Order and the *Resolution to Consolidate Lumberton Public School District* shall remain on file for public inspection at the Lamar County School District Office located at 424 Martin Luther King Blvd., Purvis, Mississippi 39475 Monday through Friday during normal business hours.

SO ORDERED AND RESOLVED on this the 10th day of April, A.D., 2017.

LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BY: _____



Its President, Buddy Morris

ATTEST: _____



Tess Smith, Superintendent

**BEFORE THE BOARD
OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE LAMAR COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**ORDER ADOPTING RESOLUTION
TO CONSOLIDATE LUMBERTON
PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT INTO
LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

THIS DAY there came to be heard at a lawful meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Lamar County School District, the matter of the Resolution to Consolidate the Lumberton Public School District into Lamar County School District and the Board upon proper motion, proper second, discussion, and favorable vote thereon, finds and orders as follows, to-wit:

THAT before the board is a Resolution to Consolidate Lumberton Public School District into Lamar County School District;

THAT the Resolution to Consolidate Lumberton Public School District into Lamar County School District is well taken and is hereby approved and adopted.

THAT this Order and the Resolution to Consolidate Lumberton Public School District into Lamar County shall

PUBLIC NOTICE

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF
TRUSTEES FOR THE LUMBERTON
PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**ORDER ADOPTING RESOLUTION
TO CONSOLIDATE LUMBERTON
PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT INTO
LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

THIS DAY there came to be heard at a lawful meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Lumberton Public School District, the matter of the Resolution to Consolidate the Lumberton Public School District into Lamar County School District and the Board upon proper motion, proper second, discussion, and favorable vote thereon, finds and orders as follows, to-wit:

THAT before the board is a Resolution to Consolidate Lumberton Public School District into Lamar County School District;

THAT the Resolution to Consolidate Lumberton Public School District into Lamar County School District is well taken and is hereby approved and adopted;

THAT this Order and the Resolution to Consolidate Lumberton Public School District into Lamar County shall be and are hereby spread upon the minutes of this board;

THAT notice of this Order shall be published in a newspaper as provided by Section 37-7-105, Mississippi Code of 1972;

THAT notice is hereby given that this Order shall become final thirty (30) days after the first publication of said notice unless a petition is filed protesting against same within such time;

THAT a copy of this Order and the Resolution to Consolidate Lumberton Public School District shall remain on file for public inspection at the Lumberton Public School District Office located at 107 Tenth Avenue, Lumberton, Mississippi 39455 Monday through Friday during normal business hours.

SO ORDERED AND RESOLVED on this the 10th day of April, A.D., 2017.

**LUMBERTON PUBLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

BY: /s/ Al Young
Its President, Al Young

ATTEST: /s/ Linda L. Smith
Dr. Linda L. Smith, Superintendent

Published in The Lamar Times
April 13th, 20th, 27th, 2017.

LEGAL NOTICES - 123

be and are hereby spread upon the minutes of this board;

THAT notice of this order shall be published in a newspaper as provided by Section 37-7-105, Mississippi Code of 1972;

THAT notice is hereby given that this order shall become final thirty (30) days after the first publication of said notice unless a petition is filed protesting against same within such time.

THAT a copy of this Order and the Resolution to Consolidate Lumberton Public School District shall remain on file for public inspection at the Lamar County School District Office located at 424 Martin Luther King Blvd., Purvis, Mississippi 39475 Monday through Friday during normal business hours.

SO ORDERED AND RESOLVED on this the 10th day of April, A.D., 2017

**LAMAR COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

BY: /s/ Buddy Morris
Its President, Buddy Morris

ATTEST: /s/ Tass Smith
Tass Smith, Superintendent

Published in The Lamar Times
April 13th, 20th, and 27th 2017

HUB CITY SPOKES

A PUBLISHING COMPANY
NEWSPAPERS | MAGAZINES | DIGITAL
103 N. 40th Ave. - Hattiesburg, MS 39401

Month Ending	Invoice #
4/30/2017	78739

Bill To:

Lumberton School District
P.O. Box 551
Lumberton, MS 39455

The Hattiesburg Post
The Lamar Times
The Petal News
Signature Magazine

If you have any problems with your statements or if there's something we can do to help improve our accounting system, please feel free to call (801) 268-2331.

Due Date	P.O. No.
5/7/2017	#H17-003597
Sales Rep	Tearsheets
H	

Date	Description	Size of Ad	Total Inches	Rate	Publication	Amount
4/13/2017	Legal Notices - Resolution to Consolidate	297 words		98.04		98.04

Total \$98.04

Payments/Credits \$0.00

Phone #	Fax #	Questions? E-Mail:
601-268-2331	601-268-2965	accounting@HubCitySPOKES.com

Outstanding balances will incur a 1.5% service charge monthly, calculated from due date of invoice.

1120 900 - 2310 - 000 - 540 - 01

Rene Bullard

Copy

Hattiesburg Publishing, Inc.

103 N. 40th Ave. • Hattiesburg, MS 39401
(601) 268-2331 tel • (601) 268-2965 fax

Proof of Publication

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, LAMAR COUNTY, FORREST COUNTY
Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, Autumn
Pennington Perry, Legal Advertising Clerk, for The LAMAR TIMES
and The PETAL NEWS, weekly newspapers published in Lamar
County and Forrest County, Mississippi respectively, who, being
duly sworn, says that the notice, a true copy of which is hereto
annexed, appeared in the issues of said newspapers as follows:

Total # of Words: 297 Published 3 times

Date 1st Published: 4.13.17 Amt: 35.00

Date 2nd Published: 4.20.17 Amt: 29.70

Date 3rd Published: 4.27.17 Amt: 29.70

Date 4th Published: _____ Amt: _____

Date 5th Published: _____ Amt: _____


Subtotal Printer's Fee: \$75.04

Proof of Publication Fee: \$3

TOTAL: \$78.04

(signed) [Signature]
The LAMAR TIMES • The PETAL NEWS • The HATTIESBURG POST

Sworn to and subscribed before me in my Presence, this
day of April, 2017, a Notary Public in
and for the County of Lamar, State of Mississippi.

(signed) [Signature]


PUBLIC NOTICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF
TRUSTEES FOR THE LUMBERTON
PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

ORDER ADOPTING RESOLUTION
TO CONSOLIDATE LUMBERTON
PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT INTO
LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

THIS DAY there came to be heard at
a lawful meeting of the Board of
Trustees for the Lumberton Public
School District, the matter of the Reso-
lution to Consolidate the Lumberton
Public School District into Lamar
County School District and the Board
upon proper motion, proper second, dis-
cussion, and favorable vote thereon,
finds and orders as follows, to-wit:

THAT before the board is a Resolu-
tion to Consolidate Lumberton Public
School District into Lamar County
School District:

THAT the Resolution to Consolidate
Lumberton Public School District into
Lamar County School District is well
taken and is hereby approved and
adopted;

THAT this Order and the Resolution
to Consolidate Lumberton Public
School District into Lamar County shall
be and are hereby spread upon the min-
utes of this board;

THAT notice of this Order shall be
published in a newspaper as provided
by Section 37-7-105, Mississippi Code
of 1972;

THAT notice is hereby given that this
Order shall become final thirty (30) days
after the first publication of said notice,
unless a petition is filed protesting
against same within such time;

THAT a copy of this Order and the
Resolution to Consolidate Lumberton
Public School District shall remain on
file for public inspection at the Lum-
berton Public School District Office located
at 107 Tenth Avenue, Lumberton, Mis-
sissippi 39455 Monday through Friday
during normal business hours.

SO ORDERED AND RESOLVED ON
this the 10th day of April, A.D., 2017

LUMBERTON PUBLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By: /s/ Al Young
Its President, Al Young

ATTEST: /s/ Linda L. Smith
Dr. Linda L. Smith, Superintendent

Published in The Lamar Times
April 13th, 20th, 27th, 2017.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Em P: 4.11.17
 App: 4.11.17
 Inv. Crf./Mtd: 5.1.17
 Pymt Rec.d: _____
 POP sent: 5.1.17

Hattiesburg Publishing, Inc.

103 N. 40th Ave. • Hattiesburg, MS 39401
 (601) 268-2331 tel • (601) 268-2965 fax

Proof of Publication

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, LAMAR COUNTY, FORREST COUNTY
 Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, Autumn
 Pennington Perry, Legal Advertising Clerk, for The LAMAR TIMES
 and The PETAL NEWS, weekly newspapers published in Lamar
 County and Forrest County, Mississippi respectively, who, being
 duly sworn, says that the notice, a true copy of which is hereto
 annexed, appeared in the issues of said newspapers as follows:

Total # of Words: 295 Published 3 times

Date 1st Published: 4.13.17 Amt: 35.40

Date 2nd Published: 4.20.17 Amt: 29.50

Date 3rd Published: 4.27.17 Amt: 29.50

Date 4th Published: _____ Amt: _____

Date 5th Published: _____ Amt: _____


Subtotal Printer's Fee: \$94.40

Proof of Publication Fee: \$3

TOTAL: \$97.40

(signed) [Signature]
 The LAMAR TIMES • The PETAL NEWS • The HATTIESBURG POST

Sworn to and subscribed before me in my Presence, this 27th
 day of April, 2017, a Notary Public in
 and for the County of Lamar, State of Mississippi.

(signed) [Signature]


BEFORE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ORDER ADOPTING RESOLUTION TO CONSOLIDATE LUMBERTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT INTO LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

THIS DAY there came to be heard at
 a lawful meeting of the Board of
 Trustees for the Lamar County School
 District, the matter of the Resolution to
 Consolidate the Lumberton Public
 School District into Lamar County
 School District and the Board upon
 proper motion, proper second, discus-
 sion, and favorable vote thereon, finds
 and orders as follows, to-wit:

THAT before the board is a Resolu-
 tion to Consolidate Lumberton Public
 School District into Lamar County
 School District;

THAT the Resolution to Consolidate
 Lumberton Public School District into
 Lamar County School District is well
 taken and is hereby approved and
 adopted;

THAT this Order and the Resolution
 to Consolidate Lumberton Public
 School District into Lamar County shall
 be and are hereby spread upon the min-
 utes of this board;

THAT notice of this order shall be
 published in a newspaper as provided
 by Section 37-7-105, Mississippi Code
 of 1972;

THAT notice is hereby given that this
 order shall become final thirty (30) days
 after the first publication of said notice
 unless a petition is filed protesting
 against same within such time;

THAT a copy of this Order and the
 Resolution to Consolidate Lumberton
 Public School District shall remain on
 file for public inspection at the Lamar
 County School District Office located at
 424 Martin Luther King Blvd., Purvis,
 Mississippi 39475 Monday through Fri-
 day during normal business hours.

SO ORDERED AND RESOLVED on
 this the 10th day of April, A.D., 2017

LAMAR COUNTY
 SCHOOL DISTRICT
 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BY: /s/ Buddy Morris
 His President, Buddy Morris

ATTEST: /s/ Tess Smith
 Tess Smith, Superintendent

Published in The Lamar Times
 April 13th, 20th, and 27th, 2017.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:	
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Mississippi Code Ann. § 37-7-104.5

Mississippi Code Ann. § 37-7-103

Mississippi Code Ann. § 37-7-105

Mississippi Code Ann. § 37-7-113

Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.5

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TITLE 37. EDUCATION
CHAPTER 7. SCHOOL DISTRICTS; BOARDS OF TRUSTEES OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS
ARTICLE 3. ABOLITION, ALTERATION AND CREATION OF DISTRICTS

Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.5 (2017)

§ 37-7-104.5. Administrative consolidation of Lumberton Public School District; agreement between school boards of Lumberton Public, Lamar County and Poplarville Separate School Districts to abolish and dissolve Lumberton School District; Commission on Administrative Consolidation of the Lumberton Public School District created; composition and purpose

(1) Not later than July 1, 2019, the local school boards of the Lumberton Public School District, Lamar County School District and Poplarville Separate School District shall, under the authority provided in Section 37-7-103, enter into an agreement, by which the approval of such agreement shall be spread upon each board's minutes of their regularly scheduled meetings or at special meetings called for the specific purpose of such agreement, to abolish and dissolve the Lumberton School District and its central administrative office to be effective for the start of the 2019-2020 school year. The agreement between each school board made parties thereto must consider:

(a) The composition of the district boundaries of the Lumberton Public School District, as it existed on January 1, 2016, to ensure that the student population to be transferred to the Lamar County School District and Poplarville Separate School District does not disparately impact the desegregation of either school district entering into agreement;

(b) The territory embraced by Lumberton, Mississippi, located within the bounded territory of Lamar County, from which the school district to be abolished by agreement draws a portion of its student population, shall be absorbed into the boundary lines of the Lamar County School District, which shall spread a legal description of the district's new boundaries upon its minutes. It shall be the responsibility of the board of supervisors of such county to apportion the school district into five (5) new single-member board of education election districts, which shall be consistent with the apportioned population of the existing Lamar County School District and that portion of the former Lumberton Public School District situated within Lamar County as the former district existed on July 1, 2016. The board of supervisors of the county shall thereafter publish the same in some newspaper of general circulation in the county for at least three (3) consecutive weeks and after having given notice of publication and recording the same upon the minutes of the school boards of each appropriate school district in the county, the new district lines will thereafter be effective; and

(c) The territory embraced by Lumberton, Mississippi, located within the bounded territory of Pearl River County, from which the school district to be abolished by agreement draws a portion of its student population, shall be absorbed into the boundary lines of the Poplarville Separate School District as added territory, which shall spread a legal description of the district's new boundaries with added territory upon its minutes. It shall be the responsibility of the municipal governing authority having jurisdiction over the territory wherein the Poplarville Separate School District is located to provide residents of the added territory with representation on the school board as authorized under the provisions of Section 37-7-203(1), which shall be consistent with the apportioned population of the existing Poplarville Separate School District and the percentage of the student population from that portion of the former Lumberton Public School District situated in Pearl River County within the added territory of the Poplarville Separate School District as the former district existed on July 1, 2016. The municipal governing authority shall thereafter publish the same in some newspaper of general circulation in the county for at least three (3) consecutive weeks and after having given notice of publication and recording the same upon the minutes of the school boards of each appropriate school district in the county, the new member districts will thereafter be effective; and

(2) (a) There is hereby created and established an advisory council to be known as the Commission on the Administrative Consolidation of the Lumberton Public School District. The commission shall be composed of eleven (11) members as follows:

(i) The State Superintendent of Education, or his designee, who shall serve as Chairman of the Commission;

(ii) The Superintendent of the Lumberton Public School District;

(iii) The Superintendent of Education of the Lamar County School District;

(iv) The Superintendent of the Poplarville Separate School District;

(v) Two (2) members of the Lamar County Board of Education to be appointed by the Lamar County Board of Education;

(vi) One (1) member of the Board of Trustees of the Poplarville Separate School District to be appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Poplarville Separate School District;

(vii) One (1) member of the Board of Trustees of the Lumberton Public School District to be appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Lumberton Public School District;

(viii) One (1) resident of the area which comprises the Lumberton Public School District to be appointed by the State Superintendent of Public Education;

(ix) One (1) resident of the area which comprises the Lamar County School District to be appointed by the Lamar County Board of Supervisors; and

(x) One (1) resident of the area which comprises the Poplarville Separate School District to be appointed by the Pearl River Board of Supervisors.

(b) The Commission on the Administrative Consolidation of the Lumberton Public School District shall meet within thirty (30) days of July 1, 2016, upon the call of the State Superintendent of Education and shall hold hearings and meet as necessary and develop a report to the Legislature, the Governor and the State Board of Education on or before

December 1, 2017, with the agreed-upon plan for proceeding with the abolition and dissolving of the Lumberton Public School District, which shall include a reasonable effort to maintain and operate a school in the former Lumberton Public School District by which students desiring may, in the discretion of the parents of such students, attend.

(c) The plan may provide an option for students enrolled in the schools of the Lumberton Public School District on May 1, 2017, and children registered for kindergarten on that date with the Lumberton Public School District may be granted an automatic transfer by the Lamar County Board of Education or the Poplarville School Board, as determined by the agreed-upon plan.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the closing or maintenance of any school or school facility, unless the facility is an unneeded administrative office located within a school district which has been abolished under the provisions of this section.

HISTORY: SOURCES: Laws, 2016, ch. 463, § 1, eff from and after July 1, 2016.

Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-103

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TITLE 37. EDUCATION
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ARTICLE 3. ABOLITION, ALTERATION AND CREATION OF DISTRICTS

Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-103 (2017)

§ 37-7-103. Abolition, reorganization or alteration of district by school board

From and after July 1, 1987, the school board of any school district shall have full jurisdiction, power and authority, at any regular meeting thereof or at any special meeting called for that purpose, to abolish such existing district, or to reorganize, change or alter the boundaries of any such district. In addition thereto, with the consent of the school board of the school district involved, the school board may add to such school district any part of the school district adjoining same, and with the consent of the school board of the school district involved, may detach territory from such school district and annex same to an adjoining district. Provided, however, that the consent of the school board of the school districts involved in implementing the provisions of Section 37-7-104 or Section 37-7-104.2 or Section 37-7-104.3 or Section 37-7-104.4 or Section 37-7-104.5 or Section 37-7-104.6 or Section 37-7-104.7 shall not be required for the administrative consolidation of such school districts pursuant to the order of the State Board of Education.

HISTORY: SOURCES: Codes, 1942, § 6274-06; Laws, 1953, Ex Sess, ch. 16, § 6; Laws, 1986, ch. 492, § 52; Laws, 2012, ch. 441, § 2; Laws, 2012, ch. 551, § 1; Laws, 2013, ch. 568, § 2; Laws, 2013, ch. 572, § 3; brought forward without change, Laws, 2015, ch. 429, § 2; Laws, 2016, ch. 463, § 2; Laws, 2016, ch. 464, § 2; Laws, 2016, ch. 465, § 2; Laws, 2016, ch. 466, § 2, eff from and after July 1, 2016.

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Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-105 (2017)

§ 37-7-105. Procedure for alteration of district boundaries or consolidation of school districts by school boards; effect of consolidation as to contracts and taxation

(1) In cases where two (2) or more school boards determine that it is appropriate that their existing boundaries be altered to provide better service to students, each school board shall enter on its minutes the legal description of new district lines and shall publish the order altering such districts in some newspaper published and having a general circulation in such district(s) once each week for three (3) consecutive weeks, which said order shall be duly certified by the president of said school board. If no newspaper be published in said school district, then such order shall be published for the required time in some newspaper having a general circulation therein, and, in addition, a copy of said order shall be posted for the required time at three (3) public places in the school district. The order so published shall contain a provision giving notice that said order shall become final thirty (30) days after the first publication of said notice unless a petition is filed protesting against same within such time. In the event no such petition be filed, the said order shall become final at said time. However, in the event twenty percent (20%) or fifteen hundred (1500), whichever is less, of the qualified electors of any school district altered by such order shall file a petition with the school board, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of said notice, protesting against the alteration of such district, then an election shall be called and held, on order of the school board, by the county election commission(s), after publication of legal notice of such election, which said election shall be held within thirty (30) days after the first publication of the notice of such election. At such election the question shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the district or districts in which a petition is filed as to whether or not such district or districts shall be altered as provided in the said order of the school board. If a majority of those voting in said election in each district affected and from which a petition is filed shall vote in favor of the order of the school board then such order shall become final. If a majority of those voting in said election in any district from which a petition is filed shall vote against the order of the school board then such order shall be void and of no effect and no further attempt to make the proposed change in such district shall be made for a period of at least two (2) years after the date of said election.

(2) When the orders of all boards adopting the new lines have been entered and are final, all orders shall be submitted to and considered by the State Board of Education as prescribed in Section 37-7-113, Mississippi Code of 1972. If the new lines are approved by

the State Board of Education, the new district lines shall be submitted to the Attorney General of the United States for preclearance or to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia for a declaratory judgment in accordance with the provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended. In the event the change in the school district lines are either precleared by the United States Department of Justice, or approved by the United States District Court, the State Board of Education shall formally declare the new lines as the new boundaries of the school districts.

(3) Should two (2) or more school districts determine that they wish to consolidate, the following actions shall be taken by the districts to perfect this consolidation: (a) Each board shall state its intent to consolidate with the other district or districts by passing a resolution of the board to that effect and spreading it on the minutes of the districts; and (b) each school board shall publish the order consolidating such districts in some newspaper having a general circulation in such district(s) once each week for three (3) consecutive weeks, which said order shall be duly certified by the president of said school board. The order so published shall contain a provision giving notice that said order shall become final thirty (30) days after the first publication of said notice unless a petition is filed protesting against same within such time. In the event no such petition be filed, the said order shall become final on said date. However, in the event twenty percent (20%) or fifteen hundred (1500), whichever is less, of the qualified electors of any one (1) of the school districts affected by the proposed consolidation shall file a petition with the applicable school board, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of said notice, protesting against the consolidation of such district or districts, then an election shall be called and held in such school districts where petitions were filed, on order of the school board, by the county election commission(s), after publication of legal notice of such election, which said election shall be held within thirty (30) days after the first publication of the notice of such election. At such election the question shall be submitted to the qualified electors of any district or districts in which petitions were filed as to whether or not such district or districts shall be consolidated as provided in the said order of the school boards. If a majority of those voting in said election shall vote in favor of the order of the school boards then such order shall become final. Should less than a majority of the electors of any single school district vote in favor of the adoption of the proposed consolidation, such school district shall not participate in any voluntary consolidation as authorized in this subsection, and the proposed consolidation plan adopted by such districts shall be void.

After the order of the local school boards becomes final, it shall be submitted to and considered by the State Board of Education. If approved by the State Board of Education, the consolidation shall be submitted by the local school boards to the appropriate federal agencies for approval. After all preclearance has been received, the State Board of Education shall declare the new boundaries of the consolidated school district and all action shall proceed as outlined under law using the new boundaries.

Upon preclearance of such consolidation, all school boards shall approve a joint resolution for the election of five (5) new board members from single member districts as provided by law. These elections shall be scheduled prior to May 1 of the year in which the consolidation is to become effective. The new consolidated district shall become effective on July 1 of that same year. The superintendent of any district created through consolidation shall be appointed if all of the school districts which are consolidating had previously appointed their superintendents. The superintendent of any district created through consolidation shall be elected if all of the school districts which are consolidating had previously elected their superintendents. In the event two (2) or more school districts consolidating under the provisions of this section shall have previously appointed one or more superintendents and elected the remainder, the superintendent shall be elected or appointed in accordance with

the method utilized by the consolidating school district or districts with the larger or largest student populations. The superintendent shall begin work as the superintendent on July 1 of such year when the consolidation becomes effective. The order to consolidate shall invalidate the contracts of the superintendents of the preceding districts and shall terminate the term of the superintendent if that person was elected. The order to consolidate shall invalidate the term of any school board member beyond July 1 of that year whether they are elected or appointed. Any school board member from any school district may be eligible to run for election to the new consolidated school board.

Each school board shall be responsible for establishing the contracts for teachers and principals for the next school year with the consultation of the successor school board if they have been selected at the time such decisions are to be made. The selection of administrator in the central administration office shall be the responsibility of the successor school board. No existing dates for renewal of contracts shall invalidate the responsibility of the successor school board in taking such action. The successor school board may enter into these contracts at any time following their election, but no later than July 1 of that year. It shall also be the responsibility of the successor school board to prepare and approve the budget of the new district. The successor school board may use staff from the existing districts to prepare the budget. The school board shall have authority to approve the budget prior to the July 1 date and shall follow the time line established for budget preparation under the law. Should either district at the time of consolidation have more liabilities than assets, then the successor school board shall be authorized to levy an ad valorem tax upon the taxable property in the territory of the district where the deficit exists, a tax not to exceed five percent (5%) of the existing tax levy for the sole purpose of reducing the deficit. When the deficit is eliminated, then such tax levy shall be terminated. Any taxes levied to bring about the equalization of funding, to equalize pay scales or levied in the territory of a newly created district where a deficit exists, shall constitute a "new program" for the purposes of ad valorem tax limitations as prescribed in Sections 27-39-321 and 37-57-107, Mississippi Code of 1972.

HISTORY: SOURCES: Codes, 1942, § 6274-06; Laws, 1953, Ex Sess, ch. 16, § 6; Laws, 1986, ch. 492, § 53; Laws, 1991, ch. 471, § 2, eff August 14, 1991 (the date the United States Attorney General interposed no objection under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to the amendment of this section).

Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-113

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Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-113 (2017)

§ 37-7-113. Approval of reorganization, abolition or alteration of school district by State Board of Education

Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions, it is hereby expressly provided that no order of the school board reorganizing, abolishing or altering any school district, whether same be taken with or without a petition therefor, shall be final unless and until said proposed reorganization, alteration or abolition shall be submitted to and approved by the State Board of Education. In the event the proposed action shall be disapproved by the State Board of Education, the same shall be void and of no effect. In the event of the filing of any petitions with the school board under the provisions of said sections, the school board shall verify same and make a determination of whether same are signed by the requisite number of qualified electors. The finding of the school board upon such question shall be final and conclusive for the purpose of the submission of said matter to the State Board of Education and the approval or disapproval of the action by said board.

HISTORY: SOURCES: Codes, 1942, § 6274-06; Laws, 1953, Ex Sess, ch. 16, § 6; Laws, 1986, ch. 492, § 57, eff from and after July 1, 1987.