

# \*Consolidation

(Continued from page 1.) expenditures of the districts. So that's is what's going to happen. "On February 21 of 2107 it (the time line) says Mike Kent will meet with the board of supervisors," said Welch.

According to the outline the February meeting was to discuss with the county supervisors to give them "an overview of their responsibilities as it relates to the new school board member districts, boundary lines, qualifying deadlines, and the special election to be conducted in November of 2017."

"In November (of 2017)," Welch continued, "special election for the new board members, so then you have to back up (to July-September of 2017) the board of supervisors will advertise. What's going to have to happen as far as new board members, you have to have time to qualify. If you want to be able to serve on that new school

board, you have to be legal to be on the ballot for the November election. All of this has to happen pretty quickly."

Welch indicated that during the transition there will be three schools boards working in conjunction during consolidation of the two districts into one.

In the time line it says the new consolidated school board "should be sworn in and begin strategic responsibilities, i.e.: Set consolidated salary schedule and begin budgeting process for 2018-2019; Establish and approve contracts for 2018-2019; Non-renew current central office staffs. Advertise for vacancies on the new consolidated central office staff; Appoint new superintendent; Hire legal counsel; and finalize hiring a central office staff."

"Then July 1, 2018," Welch continued, "you will have a brand new board."

Old boards and districts will cease to exist on June 30, 2018. "Their biggest concern," Welch said, "their main task will be looking to hire a new superintendent."

The new board will be limited in administrative powers, according to Welch, while both the Holmes County School Board and the Durant School Board are still in operation.

Issues with students or school problems will still be deferred to the separate school boards until July 1 of next year.

The two separate boards will also "have to extend (employment) contract offers or the superintendents will make res-

ignations for the new hires because you put them under contract before July 1," according to Welch.

"We're hopeful that these three boards are going to communicate on what's going to happen," Welch continued.

Citing Mississippi Legislature House Bill 926, the bill imposing school consolidations, Welch said if there were any hitches with consolidation not going well, "The State Board of Education shall promptly move on its own motion to administratively consolidate a school district which does not voluntarily consolidate in order to enable the affected school districts to reasonably accomplish the resulting administrative consolidation into the Holmes County Consolidated School District by July 1, 2018, following the election of the new board of trustees."

"We don't even want to go there with that," said Welch, "there's no reason to go there with that. We can work together to make this happen. But if something happens and it doesn't, we're held responsible for the State Board of Education to come in take over and doing it themselves, or ourselves."

One meeting attendee asked Welch about who would be eligible to serve on the new board. Welch said the new board would possibly be made up from a mixture of both Holmes County Durant school board members.

Welch added that he felt generally positive about the upcoming transition.

## Report phone scams to MS Public Service Commission

By Ryan Brown  
MPSC/Cent. Dist. Dep. Comm.

Many of us receive annoying telemarketing calls from scam artists promising a free trip or demanding money by pretending to be from a bank or the Internal Revenue Service. These scam artists are so good at what they do, many people fall for their scams without ever realizing it. The Mississippi Public Service Commission is committed to helping put a stop to these annoying and illegal calls.

How can you help? First, get registered for the Mississippi No Call list by calling 800-356-6430 or going online to <http://www.psc.state.ms.us/nocall/Subscriber.aspx>. We cannot stop all telemarketing calls from taking place, but we can help reduce the number of calls you receive.

In order to maintain your privacy, we do not sell or share your information with anyone. It takes up to 60 days to have your information added to the list. Once you receive a confirmation letter from us, you do not need to re-register unless you obtain a new phone number.

Second, help us combat these annoying telemarketing calls by filing complaints with our office.

We cannot track down these scam artists until we know whom they call and from which numbers. The fastest way to file a complaint with our office is to visit <https://www.psc.state.ms.us/nocall/complaint.aspx> and complete the online form. This allows our attorneys and investigators to look into these complaints and determine the best legal course of action.



A group of Durant High School students attended the Math and Engineering Fair at Jackson State University on Friday, March 31. They received several awards during the competition portion of the fair. Cori Hopson received 1st place in the Mathematics Exhibit Competition and 1st place in the Mathematics Essay Contest. She also received 3rd place on the Written Mathematics Exam. Quamon Newsom received the Dr. William White Award. The Math Trail team which consisted of Lakendra Roby, Shandrea Whitt, Jeremy Steverson and Tramell Boatman received 3rd place in their competition. Pictured above (from left) first row: Shandrea Whitt, Lakendra Roby, Quamon Newsom, and Darius Sharkey; second row: Orlexia Biffle, Tramell Boatman, Keshaela Parker, Amos Hightower and Nashun Hunt; third row: Rha'Leijah Roberson, Cori Hopson, Cordaryl Cobbins, Jeremy Steverson, Nephateria Thomas, Azariah Hickman and Teacher Rebecca Austin. (Photo submitted)

Third, please help spread the word about this issue. Remind your family, friends, and neighbors not to give their personal or bank account information to people they do not know. Legitimate businesses and government agencies will not call you and threaten action against you. If they need to contact you, they will send you letters. When in doubt, hang up, look up the company's telephone number, and call them back to ensure that the call you received was

legitimate. When filling out surveys and forms, do not provide your phone number unless it is a requirement to complete the form. Some companies make money by selling your information to other companies. If you receive a phone call and are told to press a number to "get on the no call list," do not press anything. When you do, it lets the company or scam artist know that your number works, and the telemarketing calls may become more frequent.

Always protect your private information. Do not share it unless you are absolutely confident that the person receiving it is honest and reliable.

While we cannot promise that we can stop all telemarketing calls from occurring, we can promise that we will do everything we can do to help protect consumers from having their hard-earned money stolen and from being bothered at all hours of the day by annoying phone calls.



## God Doesn't Let Go

Many Christians think they're saved, hope they're saved, but still they doubt, wondering, "Am I really saved?" Our behavior gives us reason to wonder. We're strong one day, weak the next. Devoted one hour,

flagging the next. Believing, then unbelieving. Conventional wisdom draws a line through the middle of these fluctuations. Perform above this line, and enjoy God's acceptance. But dip below it, and

expect a pink slip from heaven. Salvation then becomes a matter of timing and you just hope you die on an upswing.

Jesus' language couldn't be stronger: "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never lose it or perish throughout the ages...and no one is able to snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:28 AMP). God doesn't let go and He won't let go of you!

From God is With You Every Day

UpWords, with Max Lucado is a popular daily Bible devotion. This Max Lucado devotional offers wisdom and insight for applying Biblical truths to the ups and downs of everyday life. Reading daily devotions provides strength and encouragement in your daily walk with Jesus Christ. Used by permission.



Mary Kate Jenkins  
Tanner Bartlett  
June 3, 2017

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