

EUREKA SCHOOL AGREEMENT

This Agreement, effective this ___ day of January 2006 between the Hattiesburg Public School District and the Hattiesburg Convention Commission;

RECITALS

1. Senate Bill 3232 approved May 3, 1991, creates the Hattiesburg Convention Commission for the “promotion of conventions and tourism.” [SECTION 2(1)]
2. SECTION 4 of the Act states in part,

“The commission shall have jurisdiction and authority over all matters relating to the establishment, development, construction, furnishing and equipping of convention and tourism-related facilities within the City of Hattiesburg, including the authority to enter into such contracts and agreements as may be necessary to carry out the intent of this act.....”
3. SECTION 5 of the Act refers to the provision of funds for the construction, furnishing, equipping, erection and operation of tourism and convention facilities. The Commission is authorized to make contracts in that respect and has full and sole discretion and authority to do so as long as it complies with the law.
4. The Convention Commission, created by Legislative act, is a separate and independent body corporate and politic. Its members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council, and its budget is approved by the City Council. The Convention Commission seeks to partner with the Hattiesburg Public School District in common effort to achieve educational, cultural and economic growth within the City of Hattiesburg and conduct responsible stewardship of an historical and cultural asset of the community.
5. All funds for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Convention Center, Saenger Theater and Hattiesburg Visitors Center, as well as future facilities, expansions and developments, are derived solely from the 2% Food and Beverage tax and operational revenues of these facilities. No property ad valorem taxes are involved.
6. The Hattiesburg Public School District has legal title and full responsibility for the historic Eureka School.
7. The Hattiesburg Convention Commission within its capacity and mandate to develop viable tourism-related facilities has requested the Hattiesburg Public School District to enter into a one-year management agreement with the intention of transferring legal ownership of the Historic Eureka School to the Commission at the end of the one-year period contingent upon the agreement of both parties. This initial management contract will permit the Commission to initiate renovations, and provide development, marketing, staffing and overall management of the rehabilitation of the Historic Eureka School and related property into an African-American Heritage and Cultural Museum. Transfer of legal title will fully vest in the Hattiesburg Convention Commission the continuation of the funding, development and operation of the African-American Heritage and Cultural Museum at the Historic Eureka School.