

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

July 18, 2013

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a work session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 18, 2013 in the 4th Floor Boardroom of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present were: Ms. Kami Bumgarner, Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Mr. Hal Gage, Dr. John R. Kelly, Mr. Richard Morrison, and Mr. Simon F. Weir, II. Board members absent were: Mr. William H. Jones and Mr. Charles McClelland.

The work session was called to order by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Chair. Dr. Gann noted the statement on the agenda that cellular telephones and pagers are not permitted during the work session.

Dr. Lynn House welcomed Ms. Laura Hipp from the Lt. Governor's Office, Dr. Laurie Smith, Education Policy Advisor for the Governor, and Representative Lataisha Jackson for District 11 (Panola County and Tate County). Dr. House welcomed all other guests in the audience.

Dr. House gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:

- Reported that the sessions at the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents (MASS) Conference were a success. Thanked the Board members that attended the MASS Conference. The feedback that was received from the sessions was very positive.
- Reported the Legislative Priorities will be presented later in the Board meeting by Mr. Todd Ivey and Ms. Gracie Sanders. The Legislative Budget Hearing on the FY 2015 budget will be held in six to eight weeks.
- Reported that an update will be presented to the legislature on the progress with the Early Learning Collaborative.
- Reported that MDE is planning parent regional meetings in August to inform parents of important information they need to know for their children.
- Asked Mr. Mike Kent to present to the Board the Early Warning System, which is being developed by eScholar for the Department.

Dr. John R. Kelly reported from the Educational Accountability subcommittee about House Bill 1530, 2013 Legislative Session on school attendance and absenteeism and the search for a Director of the Office of Educational Accountability.

Mr. Richard Morrison reported from the Legislative subcommittee that the legislative priorities will be presented later in the Board meeting and there are no substantial changes from last year.

Dr. Larry Drawdy, Dr. Bill Welch, Ms. Kathy Boteler and Mr. Robert King presented Item No. 3, the reconstitution of the North Panola School District. Dr. Drawdy described to

the Board the challenges of being a Conservator for a school district. Ms. Boteler presented the reasons for the establishment of the conservatorship in the North Panola School District and reported that the conservatorship was established on April 21, 2008 and the district was abolished on May 18, 2012. Ms. Boteler provided the requirements for the reconstitution of the district as set out in Sections 37-17-6 and 37-17-13 of the Mississippi Code and also stated that it was the decision of the Conservator, Office of Accreditation, Office of the Recovery School District and the Deputy Superintendent that the impairments in the North Panola School District have been substantially corrected and that satisfactory corrective action has taken place. Documentation provided to the Board supports this decision (copies attached).

Mr. Robert King, the Board's Conservator for the district, presented the following information on the current status of the North Panola School District:

The North Panola School District has successfully resolved the twenty-two accreditation deficiencies identified during the 2008 audit. All of the life safety code violations were addressed and all classrooms have two means of egress. During the past twenty-seven months, the district has spent approximately \$3,000,000 on upgrades to facilities in the district. New heating and cooling systems have been added to four schools in the district. Restrooms were remodeled at the high school and junior high school. The chemistry lab at the high school was upgraded. Air conditioning was added to the high school auditorium. New restroom facilities were added to the high school gymnasium. A new drop ceiling and lighting were added to the corridors at the high school and junior high school. A new intercom and security camera system were added at the high school. Plans are to install additional cameras at two more schools. A new bus shop was built to replace the one that burned. Six new buses have been added to the transportation fleet.

Over the past four years, the district has seen increased academic growth. The district was within one point of being a successful school district for the 2011-2012 school year. Honors classes and dual enrollment courses in English have been added. Algebra I was taught to eighth graders this past school year. Calculus will be offered at the high school next year. There is increased rigor in all schools across the district. Academic efforts are paying off for students. The 78 graduates in the class of 2013 received approximately \$1,480,000 in scholarships. That speaks to the efforts being done in the district to improve academics by the staff and administration at the high school and other schools across the district.

Ms. Boteler discussed that the method of reconstitution for North Panola School District, a consolidated school district, is an election specially called and set by the Governor and conducted by the County Election Commission. The newly-elected board members

would then appoint a Superintendent. She also noted that the Conservator remains in control and administration of the schools until the Superintendent officially takes office. The recommendation of Dr. Drawdy was that the Board approve on Friday (a) the Resolution determining that the impairments that resulted in the establishment of the conservatorship and the abolishment of the district have been substantially corrected and that satisfactory corrective action has taken place, and (b) the request to the Governor to declare that an emergency no longer exists in North Panola School District and to call a special election for the election of board members for the district.

Dr. Larry Drawdy, Dr. Bill Welch, Ms. Kathy Boteler and Mr. Jimmy Hopkins presented Item No. 4, the reconstitution of the Hazlehurst City School District. Ms. Boteler presented the reasons for the establishment of the conservatorship and reported that the conservatorship was established on May 20, 2008 and the district was abolished five (5) months later on October 24, 2008. Ms. Boteler presented the requirements for the reconstitution of the district as set out in Sections 37-17-6 and 37-17-13 of the Mississippi Code and also stated that it was the decision of the Conservator, Office of Accreditation, Office of the Recovery School District and the Deputy Superintendent that the impairments in the Hazlehurst City School District have been substantially corrected and that satisfactory corrective action has taken place. Documentation provided to the Board supports this decision (copies attached).

Mr. Jimmy Hopkins, the Board's Conservator for the district, presented information on the current status of the Hazlehurst City School District. Mr. Hopkins reported that the district had cleared all accreditation standards except one, 23.3 – Special Education, which had recently been added to the Accreditation Record Summary. He also reported that a Lowe's grant written by teacher and students provided funds to replace all exit doors at the high school and to provide landscaping. Mr. Hopkins further reported that an energy project with Johnson Controls provided new heating, air conditioning, lighting and energy efficient window screens. Mr. Hopkins reported that the district has completely refurbished the library at the K-8 school, and remodeled restrooms at both campuses.

Ms. Boteler discussed that the method of reconstitution for Hazlehurst City School District, a municipal separate school district, is the appointment of five (5) board members by the mayor and city council, including the two (2) board members elected from the added territory. She stated that pursuant to an opinion of the Attorney General, the appointments will fill unexpired terms, allowing for staggered terms, except the two (2) Board members from the added territory would only serve until the next general election following appointment. The newly formed school board appoints the Superintendent of the reconstituted municipal separate school district with the assistance of the Conservator. Ms. Boteler also noted that the Conservator remains in control and administration of the schools until the Superintendent officially takes office.

The recommendation of Dr. Drawdy was that the Board approve on Friday (a) the Resolution determining that the impairments that resulted in the establishment of the

conservatorship and the abolishment of the Hazlehurst City School District have been substantially corrected and that satisfactory corrective action has taken place, and (b) the request to the Governor to declare that an emergency no longer exists in Hazlehurst City School District.

Dr. Larry Drawdy, Dr. Bill Welch, Ms. Kathy Boteler and Mr. James Malone presented Item No. 5, the reconstitution of the Tate County School District. Mr. James Malone, the Conservator for the Tate County School District presented the following report:

- Fiscal--The district has repaid \$800,000.00 of the \$1.2 million borrowed from the state. The other \$400,000.00 will be paid in the near future. The repayment has taken some time due to MAEP cuts the first year in Conservatorship and Level funding the last 3 years. The district has a fairly healthy fund balance at the present.
- Academics--The district has moved from At-Risk of Failing to a Successful or C District and has Met Growth. There are two High Performing or B schools in the district. The district should be close to a "B" Level this year but a "C" at least.
- Accreditation Standards are all met except two minor situations: (1) Science labs must have drains constructed for the safety showers, and (2) Textbooks are being updated as the state adoptions are made.
- Facilities--All facilities have been upgraded in the district. Second egress has been placed in all facilities. There has been an expense of over \$300,000.00 to repair/replace existing fire alarms as required by law.
- The P16 Advisory Council has been used instrumentally in the district in making decisions.
- Transportation--Twelve (12) new buses have been added to the fleet over the past two (2) years.
- Schools have been merged to save finances in the future and personnel have been reduced as much as possible.
- Curriculum logs are used at every school with on-going adaptation of Pacing Guides and common assessments.

Ms. Boteler stated that to reconstitute the district, the Board will notify the Tate County Board of Supervisors to provide for the election of school board members to govern the district. The newly elected Board will appoint a Superintendent. She also noted that the Conservator remains in control and administration of the schools until the Superintendent officially takes office.

Dr. Drawdy noted that all three (3) conservator school districts met growth during the 2011-2012 school year. The recommendation of Dr. Drawdy was that the Board approve on Friday (a) the Resolution determining that the impairments that resulted in the establishment of the conservatorship and the abolishment of the Tate County School District have been substantially corrected and that satisfactory corrective action has taken place, and (b) the request to the Governor to declare that an emergency no longer exists in Tate County School District.

Dr. Drawdy, Dr. Welch, Mr. Charles Barron, and Dr. Earl Watkins reported from Sunflower County School District including Drew School District and Indianola School District.

Mr. Barron, Conservator for the Sunflower County School District that includes Drew School District, and Dr. Watkins, Conservator for the Indianola School District, reported the following:

The Conservators of the Indianola School District and the Sunflower County School District have met with personnel in the following areas from both districts to address consolidated efforts: Federal programs, business management of the districts, and technology. Follow-up meetings will be scheduled to address alignment of business operations, technology systems, and personnel matters.

By December 2013, the policies of both districts will be combined as one and will be ready for review by the new school board members who are elected in November 2013. The new school board will be elected according to the boundaries of the board of supervisors that were released/approved in April 2013.

Both districts are using this opportunity to blend professional development. Through the partnership with Partners in School Innovation of San Francisco, CA and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the districts will evaluate the goals and academic support systems in order to develop a consolidated strategic plan and theory of action. Course offerings will be aligned, as well as instructional materials.

Dr. Drawdy, Dr. Welch, and Mr. Robert Strebeck reported on Aberdeen School District. Mr. Strebeck, Conservator of the Aberdeen School District, presented the following report:

- All classrooms have second means of egress as opposed to no classrooms having a second means of egress a year ago;
- All Life Safety Issues have been completed;
- 23 accreditation standards have been cleared of the 31 accreditation standards found to be non-compliant when the takeover occurred; and
- The financial situation is improving.

Dr. Drawdy, Dr. Welch, and Dr. Margie Pulley reported on Oktibbeha County School District. Dr. Pulley, Conservator for Oktibbeha County School District, reported that student achievement has improved; both high schools show preliminary improvement in QDI ranging from 18-38 points; and 15 accreditation standards have been cleared since January 7, 2013.

Dr. Drawdy, Dr. Welch, and Dr. Pulley reported on the Commission on Starkville Consolidated School District Structure that includes Oktibbeha County that met on July 16, 2013. The next meeting of this Commission will be held on August 22, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. and a public hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m. that night.

Dr. Drawdy and Ms. Toni Kersh discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish State Board Policy 3107 - Home School Enrollment Guidelines. Dr. Drawdy recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Drawdy and Ms. Kersh discussed the methodology to pilot an on-line learning program, with sponsoring school districts, to implement "Grade Results" in the Juvenile Detention Centers. Dr. Drawdy recommended approval on Friday.

Ms. Jean Massey discussed the methodology to award discretionary grant dollars to statewide agencies and organizations to provide technical services and training across MDE offices. Ms. Massey recommended approval on Friday.

Ms. Massey discussed to award a discretionary grant to the Research and Curriculum Unit (RCU) at Mississippi State University to enhance the statewide system of support and coordinated services to local districts. Ms. Massey recommended approval on Friday.

Ms. Trecina Green discussed to award discretionary grants to school districts for the purpose of contracting with Educators in Residence to provide consultative services and technical assistance. Ms. Green recommended approval on Friday.

Ms. Green discussed to contract with literacy personnel to provide consultative services relative to serving as literacy director and regional literacy coordinator. Ms. Green recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Therrell Myers discussed to contract with the following individuals to provide administrative consultant services to selected local school districts and State agency school programs:

- A. Discussed to contract with Joseph Fisher to provide administrative consultation services to selected local school districts and State agency school programs
- B. Discussed to contract with Robert L. Greer to provide administrative consultation services to selected local school districts and State agency school programs

Dr. Myers recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Myers discussed to award grants to three (3) service providers to provide on-site technical assistance to local school districts as a part of *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004* (IDEA). Dr. Myers recommended approval on Friday.

Mr. Mike Kent, Dr. Paula Vanderford, and Ms. Massey discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: Approval to allow up to two (2) of the three (3) required science units (excluding Biology I) to be earned by completing Agriculture and Natural Resources I & II. Mr. Kent recommended approval on Friday.

Mr. Kent, Dr. Vanderford, and Ms. Massey discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process for the following Carnegie unit credit for 8th grade courses:

- A. Discussed to allow Introduction to Agriscience to be taught at the eighth (8th) grade level for one (1) Carnegie unit credit for high school graduation purposes (Mike Kent)
- B. Discussed to allow Carnegie unit credit in Mississippi Studies (1/2 unit) and Geography (1/2 unit) in the eighth (8th) grade beginning in school year 2013-2014 (Mike Kent)

Mr. Kent recommended approval on Friday.

Mr. Kent, Dr. Vanderford, and Ms. Massey discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: Approval of establishment of the Mississippi Early Exit Diploma. Mr. Kent recommended approval on Friday.

Mr. Kent, Dr. Vanderford, and Ms. Massey discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: Approval of innovative program courses to be taken in lieu of the required courses for graduation. Mr. Kent recommended approval on Friday.

Mr. Kent and Dr. Vanderford discussed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Harvard College to participate in the Strategic Data Project (SDP) Fellowship. Mr. Kent recommended approval on Friday.

Mr. Kent and Dr. Vanderford discussed to contract with a Harvard Data Fellow with the Office of Educational Accountability as provided by House Bill 1648, 2013 Legislative Session. Mr. Kent recommended approval on Friday.

Mr. Kent discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise State Board Policy 3102 – Reporting Unexcused Absences – to comply with House Bill 1530. Mr. Kent recommended approval on Friday.

Mr. Kent and Dr. Vanderford reported on the Accountability Task Force/Technical Review Team meeting held on July 11, 2013.

Mr. Kent and Dr. Vanderford reported on the Educational Principles and Practices Task Force meetings and timeline for completion of the review of the process standards, state statute, and State Board of Education Policies.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:03 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Todd Ivey discussed the preliminary estimate of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program Base Student Cost for Fiscal Year 2015. Mr. Ivey recommended approval on Friday.

Mr. Ivey discussed the preliminary estimate of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program for Fiscal Year 2015. Mr. Ivey recommended approval on Friday.

Ms. Gracie Sanders and Ms. Sharon Rosell discussed the Mississippi Department of Education FY 2015 Budget Request. Ms. Sanders recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. House discussed the State Board of Education's 2014 Legislative Priorities. Dr. House recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Gann gave the Board an opportunity to discuss the following consent agenda items:

- A. Discussion of monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits (Kim Benton)
- B. Discussion to award competitive contracts to various produce distributors to supply and deliver produce to local organizations in the State Food Purchasing Program (six regions in the state) (Kim Benton)
- C. Discussion of the Mississippi School for the Deaf 2013-2014 Staff Handbook (Daphne Buckley)
- D. Discussion of the Mississippi School for the Deaf 2013-2014 Student Handbook and Academic Calendar (Daphne Buckley)
- E. Report of Personnel Actions (Cassandra Moore)

Consideration of Executive Session

Mr. Richard Morrison moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation, prospective litigation, investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law, and personnel issues in accordance with Mississippi Code Sections 25-41-7 (4)(a), (b), (d), and (k). The motion was seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, and the motion passed on a vote of 4 to 0. Mr. Hal Gage left the Executive Session before the vote.

Mr. Richard Morrison then moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of a strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to litigation and prospective litigation involving the Department of Education in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(b), discussion with respect to investigative proceedings of school districts regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(d), and discussion of discrete personnel matters related to the job performance of person holding specific positions in the Department of Education and discussion of the employment of persons in specific positions and transaction of business related thereto in accordance with Mississippi Code Sections 25-41-7 (a) and (k). Dr. John R. Kelly seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 4 to 0.

Mr. Hal Gage returned to the Executive Session.

Dr. O. Wayne Gann stated the following to remain in the Executive Session: Dr. Lynn House, Mr. Mike Kent, and Ms. Kathy Boteler.

Minutes of the Executive Session

Ms. Kathy Boteler informed the public of the Board's decision to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of a strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to litigation and prospective litigation involving the Department of Education in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(b), discussion with respect to investigative proceedings of school districts regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(d), and discussion of discrete personnel matters related to the job performance of persons holding specific positions in the Department of Education and discussion of the employment of persons in specific positions and transaction of business related thereto in accordance with Mississippi Code Sections 25-41-7 (a) and (k).

Dr. John R. Kelly moved that the Board approve the salary adjustment for Ms. Sharon Rosell, School Finance Officer in the Office of Budget and Planning for a salary of \$78,571.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison and the vote passed on a vote of 5 to 0.

On motion by Mr. Richard Morrison and seconded by Mr. Hal Gage, the motion passed on a vote 5 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

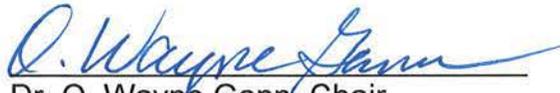
On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Mississippi Board of Education – Minutes

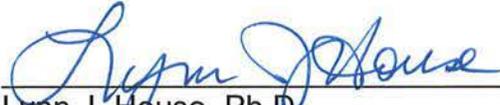
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Approved:



Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Lynn J. House, Ph.D.
Interim Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

July 19, 2013

The regular meeting of the Mississippi Board of Education was held at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, July 19, 2013, in the 4th Floor Boardroom of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present were: Ms. Kami Bumgarner, Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Dr. John R. Kelly, Mr. Richard Morrison, and Mr. Simon F. Weir, II. Board members absent were: Mr. Hal Gage, Mr. William H. Jones, and Mr. Charles McClelland.

- I. The meeting was called to order by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Chair. Dr. Gann noted the statement on the agenda that cellular telephones and pagers are not permitted during the Board meeting. Dr. Gann welcomed Dr. Mike Waldrop with the Mississippi School Boards Association. Dr. Waldrop provided each Board member with a packet of information documenting the work of the Mississippi School Boards Association for the past year.
- II. Mr. Simon F. Weir, II led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Mr. Richard Morrison gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Mr. Simon F. Weir, II, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 20-21, 2013 Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Mr. Richard Morrison, seconded by Ms. Kami Bumgarner, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as presented.
- V. Report of the Chair
 - Noted that the State Superintendent has been appointed to serve on the Mississippi Charter School Authorizing Board.
 - Reported that the Board voted on the following item in Executive Session on July 18, 2013:
 - Approved the salary adjustment for a School Finance Officer in the Office of Budget and Planning.
- VI. Approval of Action Items
(Items below are numbered to correspond to the items as discussed on Thursday, July 18, 2013.)
03. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to initiate the process to reconstitute North Panola School District that is in conservatorship, specifically approving the following:

- A. Approval of determination and the Resolution by the State Board of Education that the impairments have been substantially corrected in the North Panola School District (copy attached)
 - B. Approval of request to the Governor to dissolve and lift the emergency declaration for the North Panola School District (copy attached)
(Office of School Improvement, Oversight and Recovery)
04. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to initiate the process to reconstitute Hazlehurst City School District that is in conservatorship, specifically approving the following:
- A. Approval of determination and the Resolution by the State Board of Education that the impairments have been substantially corrected in the Hazlehurst City School District (copy attached)
 - B. Approval of request to the Governor to dissolve and lift the emergency declaration for the Hazlehurst City School District (copy attached)
(Office of School Improvement, Oversight and Recovery)
05. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to initiate the process to reconstitute Tate County School District that is in conservatorship, specifically approving the following:
- A. Approval of determination and the Resolution by the State Board of Education that the impairments have been substantially corrected in the Tate County School District (copy attached)
 - B. Approval of request to the Governor to dissolve and lift the emergency declaration for the Tate County School District (copy attached)
(Office of School Improvement, Oversight and Recovery)
10. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish State Board Policy 3107 - Home School Enrollment Guidelines (copy attached).
(Office of School Improvement, Oversight and Recovery)
11. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved the methodology to pilot an on-line learning program, with sponsoring school districts, to implement "Grade Results" in the Juvenile Detention Centers (copy attached).
(Office of School Improvement, Oversight and Recovery)

12. On a motion by Mr. Simon F. Weir, II, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved the methodology to award discretionary grant dollars to statewide agencies and organizations to provide technical services and training across MDE offices (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Enhancement and Internal Operations)
13. On a motion by Mr. Simon F. Weir, II, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved to award a discretionary grant to the Research and Curriculum Unit (RCU) at Mississippi State University to enhance the statewide system of support and coordinated services to local districts (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Enhancement and Internal Operations)
14. On a motion by Mr. Simon F. Weir, II, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved to award discretionary grants to school districts for the purpose of contracting with Educators in Residence to provide consultative services and technical assistance (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Enhancement and Internal Operations)
15. On a motion by Mr. Simon F. Weir, II, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved the contract with literacy personnel to provide consultant services relative to serving as literacy director and regional literacy coordinator (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Enhancement and Internal Operations)
16. On a motion by Mr. Simon F. Weir, II, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved the contract with the following individuals to provide administrative consultant services to selected local school districts and State agency school programs (copies attached):
 - A. Approval to contract with Joseph Fisher to provide administrative consultation services to selected local school districts and State agency school programs
 - B. Approval to contract with Robert L. Greer to provide administrative consultation services to selected local school districts and State agency school programs**(Office of Instructional Enhancement and Internal Operations)**
17. On a motion by Mr. Simon F. Weir, II, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved the award of grants to three (3) service providers to provide on-site technical assistance to local school districts as a part of *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004* (IDEA) (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Enhancement and Internal Operations)

18. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: Approval to allow up to two (2) of the three (3) required science units (excluding Biology I) to be earned by completing Agriculture and Natural Resources I & II (copy attached).

(Office of Educational Accountability)

19. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process for the following Carnegie unit credit for 8th grade courses (copies attached):

- A. Approval to allow Introduction to Agriscience to be taught at the eighth (8th) grade level for one (1) Carnegie unit credit for high school graduation purposes
- B. Approval to allow Carnegie unit credit in Mississippi Studies (1/2 unit) and Geography (1/2 unit) in the eighth (8th) grade beginning in school year 2013-2014

(Office of Educational Accountability)

20. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: Approval of establishment of the Mississippi Early Exit Diploma (copy attached).

(Office of Educational Accountability)

21. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: Approval of innovative program courses to be taken in lieu of the required courses for graduation (copy attached).

(Office of Educational Accountability)

22. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Harvard College to participate in the Strategic Data Project (SDP) Fellowship.

(Office of Educational Accountability)

23. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to contract with Dr. William Buchannan as a Harvard Data Fellow for the Office of Educational Accountability as provided by House Bill 1648, 2013 Legislative Session in the amount of \$82,560.00.

(Office of Educational Accountability)

24. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise State Board Policy 3102 – Reporting Unexcused Absences – to comply with House Bill 1530, 2013 Legislative Session (copy attached).
(Office of Educational Accountability)
27. On a motion by Ms. Kami Bumgarner, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved the preliminary estimate of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program Base Student Cost for Fiscal Year 2015 (copy attached).
(Office of School Financial Services)
28. On a motion by Ms. Kami Bumgarner, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved the preliminary estimate of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program for Fiscal Year 2015 (copy attached).
(Office of School Financial Services)
29. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Simon F. Weir, II, the Board unanimously approved the Mississippi Department of Education FY 2015 Budget Request (copy attached).
(Office of Budget and Planning)
30. On a motion by Mr. Richard Morrison, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved the State Board of Education's 2014 Legislative Priorities (copy attached).
(Office of Legislative Services and Communication)
31. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Simon F. Weir, II, the Board unanimously approved the following consent items (copies attached):
 - A. Approval of monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits
(Office of Instructional Enhancement and Internal Operations)
 - B. Approval to award competitive contracts to various produce distributors to supply and deliver produce to local organizations in the State Food Purchasing Program (six regions in the state)
(Office of Instructional Enhancement and Internal Operations)
 - C. Approval of the Mississippi School for the Deaf 2013-2014 Staff Handbook
(Office of Quality Professionals and Special Schools)
 - D. Approval of the Mississippi School for the Deaf 2013-2014 Student Handbook and Academic Calendar
(Office of Quality Professionals and Special Schools)

