

## Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

September 12, 2013

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a work session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 12, 2013 in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present were: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Ms. Kami Bumgarner, Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Mr. Hal Gage, Mr. William H. Jones, Dr. John R. Kelly, Mr. Charles McClelland, and Mr. Richard Morrison. Board member absent: Mr. Simon F. Weir, II.

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. Gann welcomed the new State Board member, Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, who was sworn in on September 11, 2013.

Dr. Lynn House welcomed Ms. Laura Hipp from the Lt. Governor's Office.

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

- Acknowledged the MDE staff who worked so diligently in preparing the accountability results information that will be shared today. The work has been truly collaborative and under Mike Kent's leadership the process has moved along very smoothly.
- Met with the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents (MASS) Board to share information and glean their feedback on several transitions related to assessment and accountability during September 3-6, 2013.
- Have been invited to participate in their Regional Legislative Meetings held by MASS that will take place over the next several weeks. Reported that she is looking forward to being a part of as many of these sessions as possible and to continue the collaborative relationship.
- Reminded the Board that the Department's Legislative Budget Hearing is next Wednesday, Sept 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m. Stated she appreciates the work done by Mr. Ivey and Ms. Sanders to get our budget materials ready for this presentation and we look forward to the opportunity to present the Board's Legislative Priorities at that time.
- Reported that 848 participants attend the 8 regional parent community meetings held over the last several weeks. All of the materials used in the sessions as well as a host of other resources on Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are available on MDE's website. More meetings are planned over the next several months to continue to share information with a range of constituents related to the increased rigor needed for college and career readiness

Dr. John R. Kelly reported from the Educational Accountability subcommittee on the accountability results that will be presented later today.

Mr. Hal Gage reported from the Special-Called Board meeting on September 11, 2013 where the Board discussed the applications for the State Superintendent of Education position and they have chosen five finalists that will be called in for interviews later this month.

Mr. Mike Kent and Dr. Paula Vanderford reported on action of the Commission on School Accreditation concerning the assignment of district accreditation statuses. Mr. Kent recommended approval on Friday.

Mr. Kent, Dr. Vanderford, Ms. Jo Ann Malone, and Mr. Pat Ross discussed the 2013 Accountability Results. Mr. Kent recommended approval on Friday.

Mr. Kent and Ms. Malone discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: To approve the proposed recommendations for the Statewide Accountability System beginning school year 2013. Mr. Kent recommended approval on Friday.

[PULLED]

Dr. Larry Drawdy and Dr. Laura Jones reported on the Student Performance in Conservator Districts, Schools At-Risk, and School Improvement Grant (SIG) and non-SIG Priority Schools.

Dr. Drawdy and Dr. Jones reported on the impact of the New Start School law for school year 2013-2014. Dr. Jones pointed out that there are 50 schools in over 30 districts with at least one school in the second year of "F" status under the New Start Law. The school board members will have their per diem reduced by half and travel restrictions are placed on the board and superintendents of these school districts (copy attached). Dr. Drawdy stated that if the New Start School law is not changed during the upcoming Legislative session, then next year the State Board could possibly takeover 30 plus school districts and stated that this law needs to be repealed.

Dr. Drawdy and Ms. Toni Kersh discussed piloting the Dropout Prevention Plan/Graduation Completion Plan for one year. Dr. Drawdy recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Drawdy and Ms. Kersh discussed piloting the Dashboards to Diplomas: Using Data for Student Success. Dr. Drawdy recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Drawdy and Mr. Shane McNeill discussed beginning the Administration Procedures Act process: To establish the *School Safety Educational Leadership Framework (K-3)*. Dr. Drawdy recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Kim Benton, Ms. Debbie Murphy, and Dr. Daphne Buckley discussed submitting an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Request for additional waivers. Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Benton and Ms. Murphy discussed awarding competitive grants for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program. Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Benton, Mr. Nathan Oakley, and Ms. Jean Massey discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise the *Mississippi Business and Technology Framework 2014*. Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Daphne Buckley discussed awarding discretionary grants to support National Board Certification career paths. Dr. Buckley recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Benton and Ms. Murphy discussed modifying a continuation grant to Mississippi State University – Mississippi Migrant Education Service Center. Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.

Mr. Kent reported on Senate Bill 2637, 2013 Legislative Session. This is the consolidation of Clay County into one school district to be designated as West Point Consolidated School District. Mr. Kent stated that the Department will work with Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) to accomplish the task as outlined in the legislation.

Mr. Kent and Dr. Vanderford gave a report from the Commission on School Accreditation concerning the Commission's determination that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Claiborne County School District.

Dr. Vanderford gave the following report:

Dr. Paula Vanderford reported on the September 10, 2013 action of the Commission on School Accreditation regarding the Claiborne County School District. The Commission determined by Resolution that there is sufficient cause to believe an extreme emergency situation exists in the Claiborne County School District brought on by serious violations of accreditation standards and state law and a continued pattern of poor student performance which jeopardizes the safety, security, and educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of this district.

An extensive record of noncompliance with accreditation requirements and state statutes was made relating to the Claiborne County School District during a four (4) day show cause hearing held by the Commission on March 6 and 7, and July 31 and August 1, 2013.

The Claiborne County School District failed to implement appropriate standards of governance (Process Standards 1, 2, and 3). The district also failed to comply with

academic standards as evidenced by the continued pattern of poor academic performance. The QDI and Performance Classification for the district for 2009 was 105 (At-Risk of Failing), 2010 was 134 (Successful), 2011 was 150 (Successful), and 2012 was 128 (F-Low Performing), and is 135 (D) for 2013.

The following summary of the 2012-2013 Accountability Results for the Claiborne County School District was presented: Claiborne County School District: Performance Classification (D), QDI 135, Growth Status of Not Met, 5 Year Graduation Rate 84.9%; A. W. Watson Jr. Elementary School: Performance Classification (D), QDI 160, Growth Status Not Met; Port Gibson Middle School: Performance Classification (F), QDI 129, Growth Status Not Met; and Port Gibson High School Performance Classification (D), QDI 117, Growth Status Not Met, 5 Year Graduation Rate 84.9%.

The Claiborne County School District was given 10 minutes to address the Board. Rev. Elijah Brown, Claiborne County Superintendent; Ms. Josie McClorine, Board President; Mr. Everett Sanders, Board Attorney; and Ms. Debra McDonald, Board Attorney; presented their concerns to the State Board about being taken over by the Board.

Mr. Kent and Dr. Vanderford discussed the determination and resolution by the State Board of Education that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Claiborne County School District.

Mr. Kent discussed the determination by the State Board of Education to officially abolish the Claiborne County School District contingent upon a declaration of a state of emergency in the District by the Governor.

Mr. Kent discussed the request to the Governor that the Governor declare a state of emergency in the Claiborne County School District.

Dr. Drawdy discussed the appointment of a Conservator for the Claiborne County School District contingent upon a declaration of a state of emergency in the District by the Governor.

Dr. Drawdy discussed the contract for Conservator for the Claiborne County School District.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:55 a.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Kent and Dr. Vanderford gave a report from the Commission on School Accreditation concerning the Commission's determination that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Yazoo City School District.

Dr. Vanderford gave the following report:

Dr. Vanderford reported on the September 10, 2013, action of the Commission on

School Accreditation regarding the Yazoo City School District. The Commission determined by Resolution that there is sufficient cause to believe that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Yazoo City School District brought on by a continued pattern of poor performance resulting in Yazoo City High School failing for three (3) consecutive years (and thus a new start school per Miss. Code Ann. Section 37-167-1) and 100% of the schools in the district being designated as failing as shown by the 2013 accountability results, all of which jeopardizes the safety, security, and educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of this district.

Yazoo City School District met the State Board of Education's definition of a failing school district for two (2) consecutive full school years, 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. The performance classification for 2011-2012 was (F) Failing with a QDI of 92. The performance classification for 2012-2013 is (F) with a QDI of 100.

The Commission may determine that an extreme emergency exists if more than 50% of the schools within the district are designated as Schools at Risk in any one year. School at Risk is defined in the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards* as a failing school in any one (1) year. 100% of the schools in Yazoo City School District are designated as Failing (Schools at Risk). In addition, Yazoo City High School having been a failing school for three (3) consecutive years and is now defined as a New Start School in accordance with Section 37-167-1 of the *Mississippi Code of 1972*, as amended.

The following summary of the 2012-2013 Accountability Results was presented for the Yazoo City School District: Yazoo City School District (district-wide): Performance Classification (F), QDI 100, Growth Status of Not Met, 5 Year Graduation Rate 56.2%; B.E. Woolfolk Middle School: Performance Classification (F), QDI 103, Growth Status Not Met; McCoy Elementary School: Performance Classification (F), QDI 99, Growth Status Met; and Yazoo City High School: Performance Classification (F), QDI 103, Growth Status Not Met, 5 Year Graduation Rate 56.2%.

The Yazoo City School District was given 10 minutes to address the Board. Dr. Arthur Cartledge, Yazoo City Superintendent; Ms. Lucille Lovette, Federal Program Coordinator; Mr. Briggs Hopkins, Board Attorney; and Mr. John Wallace, Board President; presented their concerns to the State Board about being taken over by the Board. They presented a Plan of Action already being implemented by the district.

Mr. Kent discussed the determination and resolution by the State Board of Education that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Yazoo City School District.

Mr. Kent discussed the determination by the State Board of Education to officially abolish the Yazoo City School District contingent upon a declaration of a state of emergency in the District by the Governor.

Mr. Kent discussed the request to the Governor that the Governor declare a state of emergency in the Yazoo City School District.

Dr. Drawdy discussed the appointment of a Conservator for the Yazoo City School District contingent upon a declaration of a state of emergency in the District by the Governor.

Dr. Drawdy discussed the contract for Conservator for the Yazoo City School District.

Mr. Kent and Dr. Vanderford gave a report from the Commission on School Accreditation concerning the Commission's determination that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Leflore County School District.

Dr. Vanderford gave the following report:

Dr. Vanderford reported on the September 10, 2013, action of the Commission on School Accreditation regarding the Leflore County School District. The Commission determined by Resolution that there is sufficient cause to believe that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Leflore County School District brought on by the district and four (4) of its five (5) schools being designated as failing for two (2) consecutive years demonstrating a continued pattern of poor student performance which jeopardizes the safety, security, and educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of this district.

Leflore County School District met the State Board of Education's definition of a failing school district for two (2) consecutive full school years, 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. The performance classification for 2011-2012 was (F) Low-Performing with a QDI of 120. The performance classification for 2012-2013 is (F) with a QDI of 120.

The Commission may determine that an extreme emergency exists if more than 50% of the schools within the district are designated as Schools at Risk in any one year. School at Risk is defined in the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards* as a failing school in any one (1) year. 100% of the schools in Leflore County School District are designated as Failing (Schools at Risk).

The following summary of the 2012-2013 Accountability Results was presented for the Leflore County School District: Leflore County School District: Performance Classification (F), QDI 120, Growth Status Not Met, 5 Year Graduation Rate 65%; Amanda Elzy Elementary: Performance Classification (F), QDI 126, Growth Status Not Met; Amanda Elzy High School: Performance Classification (F), QDI 115, Growth Status Not Met, 5 Year Graduation Rate 60.4%; East Elementary: Performance Classification (F), QDI 121, Growth Status Not Met; Leflore County Elementary: Performance Classification (F), QDI 115, Growth Status Not Met; and Leflore County High School: Performance Classification (F), QDI 122, Growth Status Not Met, 5 Year Graduation Rate 71.6%.

The Leflore County School District was given 10 minutes to address the Board. Dr. Viola Williams-McCaskill, Leflore County Superintendent; Mr. Willie Perkins, Board Attorney, and Mr. Roy Hudson, Board President; presented their concerns to the State Board about being taken over by the Board.

Mr. Kent discussed the determination and resolution by the State Board of Education that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Leflore County School District.

Mr. Kent discussed the determination by the State Board of Education to officially abolish the Leflore County School District contingent upon a declaration of a state of emergency in the District by the Governor.

Mr. Kent discussed the request to the Governor that the Governor declare a state of emergency in the Leflore County School District.

Dr. Drawdy discussed the appointment of a Conservator for the Leflore County School District contingent upon a declaration of a state of emergency in the District by the Governor.

Dr. Drawdy discussed the modified contract for Conservator for the Leflore County School District.

Dr. Drawdy discussed the appointment of a Conservator for the Aberdeen School District.

Dr. Drawdy discussed the contract for Conservator for the Aberdeen School District.

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 grants for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (Kim Benton)
- C. Discussion to modify the 2013 Legislative Session grant to Mississippi Arts Commission – Arts Institute (Lynn House)
- D. Report of Personnel Actions (Cassandra Moore)

Mr. William H. Jones moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation, prospective litigation, investigative proceedings, and personnel issues in accordance with Mississippi Code Sessions 25-41-7 (4)(a), (b), (d), and (k). The motion was seconded by Ms. Kami Bumgarner, and the motion passed on a vote of 7 to 0.

Mr. William H. Jones 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, 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 (4)(a) and (k). Mr. Charles McClelland seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 7 to 0.

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

Mr. Charles McClelland, Mr. Richard Morrison, and Dr. John R. Kelly left the meeting.

### **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, 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).

1. On a motion a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Ms. Kami Bumgarner, the Board voted 4 to 0 to hire an Educ-Bureau Director II at the Mississippi School for the Blind.
2. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, Seconded by Ms. Kami Bumgarner, the Board voted 4 to 0 to hire Bradley Porche as an Educ-Bureau Director II at the Mississippi School for the Deaf.

On motion by Mr. William H. Jones, seconded by Mr. Hal Gage, the motion passed on a vote 4 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

On a motion by Mr. William H. Jones, seconded by Mr. Hal Gage, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:40 p.m.



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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

September 13, 2013

The regular meeting of the Mississippi Board of Education was held at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, September 13, 2013, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present were: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Ms. Kami Bumgarner, Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Mr. Hal Gage, Mr. William H. Jones, Dr. John R. Kelly, and Mr. Charles McClelland. Board members absent were: Mr. Richard Morrison and Mr. Simon F. Weir, II.

- 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.
- II. Ms. Kami Bumgarner led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Dr. Gann gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Mr. William H. Jones, seconded by Mr. Hal Gage, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the August 15-16, 2013 Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Mr. William H. Jones, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as amended with the addition of the following: Item 39: Action on the request of Yazoo City School District to grant a delay in the transformation of the Yazoo City High School into a New Start School.
- V. Report of the Chair
  - Reported that the Board voted in Executive Session on September 12, 2013:
    1. To hire an Education-Bureau Director II at the Mississippi School for the Blind.
    2. To hire Bradley Porche as Education-Bureau Director II – Principal at the Mississippi School for the Deaf (PIN 0833) at an annual salary of \$84,000.00.
- VI. Approval of Action Items  
*(Items below are numbered to correspond to the items as discussed on Thursday, September 12, 2013.)*
  03. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the action of the Commission on School Accreditation concerning the assignment of district accreditation statuses (copy attached).  
**(Office of Educational Accountability)**

04. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the 2013 Accountability Results (copy attached in notebook).  
**(Office of Educational Accountability)**
05. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To approve the proposed recommendations for the Statewide Accountability System beginning school year 2013-2014 (copy attached).  
**(Office of Educational Accountability)**
09. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved to pilot Dropout Prevention Plan/Graduation Completion Plan (copy attached).  
**(Office of School Improvement, Oversight and Recovery)**
10. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved to pilot Dashboards to Diplomas: Using Data for Student Success (copy attached).  
**(Office of School Improvement, Oversight and Recovery)**
11. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administration Procedures Act process: To establish the *School Safety Educational Leadership Framework (K-3)* (copy attached).  
**(Office of School Improvement, Oversight and Recovery)**
12. On a motion by Ms. Kami Bumgarner, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved to submit an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Request for additional waivers (copy attached).  
**(Office of Instructional Enhancement and Internal Operations)**
13. On a motion by Ms. Kami Bumgarner, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved to award competitive grants for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program (copy attached).  
**(Office of Instructional Enhancement and Internal Operations)**
14. On a motion by Ms. Kami Bumgarner, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise the *Mississippi Business and Technology Framework* (copy attached).  
**(Office of Instructional Enhancement and Internal Operations)**

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15. On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved to award discretionary grants to support National Board Certification career paths (copy attached).  
**(Office of Quality Professionals and Special Schools)**
16. On a motion by Ms. Kami Bumgarner, seconded by Mr. Hal Gage, the Board unanimously approved to modify a continuation grant to Mississippi State University – Mississippi Migrant Education Service Center (copy attached).  
**(Office of Instructional Enhancement and Internal Operations)**
19. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved the determination and resolution by the State Board of Education that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Claiborne County School District (copy attached).  
**(Office of Educational Accountability)**
20. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved the determination by the State Board of Education to officially abolish the Claiborne County School District contingent upon a declaration of a state of emergency in the District by the Governor (copy attached).  
**(Office of Educational Accountability)**
21. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved the request to the Governor that the Governor declare a state of emergency in the Claiborne County School District (copy attached).  
**(Office of Educational Accountability)**
22. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Hal Gage, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Jayne Sargent as Conservator for the Claiborne County School District contingent upon a declaration of a state of emergency in the District by the Governor (copy attached).  
**(Office of School Improvement, Oversight and Recovery)**
23. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Hal Gage, the Board unanimously approved to contract with Dr. Jayne Sargent as Conservator for the Claiborne County School District (copy attached).  
**(Office of School Improvement, Oversight and Recovery)**

The Chair asked for a motion to approve items 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29, having no motion the Board took no action on these items at this time.

25. Approval of determination and resolution by the State Board of Education that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Yazoo City School District  
**(Office of Educational Accountability)**
26. Approval of determination by the State Board of Education to officially abolish the Yazoo City School District contingent upon a declaration of a state of emergency in the District by the Governor  
**(Office of Educational Accountability)**
27. Approval of request to the Governor that the Governor declare a state of emergency in the Yazoo City School District  
**(Office of Educational Accountability)**
28. Approval of appointment of a Conservator for the Yazoo City School District contingent upon a declaration of a state of emergency in the District by the Governor  
**(Office of School Improvement, Oversight and Recovery)**
29. Approval to contract for Conservator for the Yazoo City School District  
**(Office of School Improvement, Oversight and Recovery)**
31. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Kami Bumgarner, the Board unanimously approved the determination and resolution by the State Board of Education that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Leflore County School District (copy attached).  
**(Office of Educational Accountability)**
32. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Kami Bumgarner, the Board unanimously approved the determination by the State Board of Education to officially abolish the Leflore County School District contingent upon a declaration of a state of emergency in the District by the Governor (copy attached).  
**(Office of Educational Accountability)**
33. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Kami Bumgarner, the Board unanimously approved the request to the Governor that the Governor declare a state of emergency in the Leflore County School District (copy attached).  
**(Office of Educational Accountability)**
34. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Robert Strebeck as Conservator for the Leflore County School District contingent upon a declaration of a state of emergency in the District by the Governor (copy attached).  
**(Office of School Improvement, Oversight and Recovery)**

35. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved to modify the contract with Mr. Robert Strebeck as Conservator for the Leflore County School District (copy attached).  
**(Office of School Improvement, Oversight and Recovery)**
36. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. John M. Curlee, III, as Conservator for the Aberdeen School District (copy attached).  
**(Office of School Improvement, Oversight and Recovery)**
37. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the contract with Mr. John M. Curlee, III, as Conservator for the Aberdeen School District (copy attached).  
**(Office of School Improvement, Oversight and Recovery)**
38. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, 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 grants for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program  
**(Office of Instructional Enhancement and Internal Operations)**
  - C. Approval to modify the 2013 Legislative Session grant to Mississippi Arts Commission – Arts Institute  
**(Office of State Superintendent)**
39. On a motion by Mr. William H. Jones, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the following action:

Based on the Plan of Action presented by the Yazoo City School District, the Board unanimously approved the request of the District to grant a delay until March 14, 2014 for the transformation of the Yazoo City High School into a New Start School and allow until March 14, 2014 for the District to come in full compliance with all accreditation standards and state and federal laws for all schools in the District prior to the State Board of Education taking further action on the situation of the District contingent upon the execution of an agreement on or before October 4, 2013 as presented by the Mississippi Department of Education, without any negotiation, that provides at a minimum:

- (1) That the accreditation of the District will be withdrawn for a minimum of the 2013-2014 school year and the District will waive any right to a hearing;
- (2) That the State Superintendent will appoint an Administrator of the Corrective Action Plan, a Financial Advisor and external consultants deemed necessary by the State Superintendent, who report directly to MDE but who are paid by the District;
- (3) That the Administrator of the Corrective Action Plan, Financial Advisor and external consultants will monitor compliance, including but not limited to, accreditation standards, state and federal law and safety, academic and instructional practices;
- (4) That the District will ensure that academic, attendance, safety and accreditation concerns of the Administrator of the Corrective Action Plan will be addressed and resolved, including any revisions of the current Corrective Action Plan deemed necessary by the Administrator of the Corrective Action Plan; and
- (5) That the District will ensure that district personnel will work collaboratively with and adhere to the recommendations of the Administrator of the Corrective Action Plan, the Financial Advisor, MDE personnel and MDE consultants.

The Agreement will address the specific details of the monitoring of the District. If an Agreement is not entered into on or before October 4, 2013, then the State Board of Education will review and reexamine whether an extreme emergency situation exists in the District.

VII. Recognition Ceremony

**2013 September Employee of the Month**

Tina Sellers

Office of Instructional Enhancement

Projects Officer IV, Special

VIII. State Board of Education

01. There was no report from a meeting attended.

02. There was no request to attend a meeting.

IX. There was no other business.

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- X. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. William H. Jones, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

Approved:



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



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