

## Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

July 23, 2014

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a work session at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 23, 2014 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, Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Dr. John R. Kelly, Mr. Charles McClelland, and Mr. Richard Morrison. Board members absent were: Ms. Kami Bumgarner and Mr. William H. Jones.

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 Board meeting.

01. Dr. Carey M. Wright gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:

- Dr. Wright recognized Ms. Jean Cook, Communication Specialist in the Office of Communications and Legislative Services.
- Dr. Wright welcomed Ms. Laurie Hipp from the Governor's Office and she welcomed former Superintendent Dr. John Buchanan.
- Dr. Wright recognized Ms. Melissa Henry with Teach for America (TFA) for her internship at the Mississippi Department of Education.
- Dr. Wright attended the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) College and Career Readiness Standards Networking Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.
- Dr. Wright spoke in Natchez, Mississippi at the Early Childhood Education Conference to 550 participants about the importance of early childhood education.
- Dr. Wright stated that in the *Clinton Hometown Magazine* that Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman was featured in an article about her rise to the Mayor of the City of Clinton.
- Dr. Wright recognized Mr. James Hart, Bureau Director in the Office of Accounting for spearheading the entire Mississippi Accountability System for Government Information and Collaboration (MAGIC). Mr. Hart is the lead person for the Mississippi Department of Education.
- Dr. Wright stated that Mr. Scott Clements was asked by Senator Thad Cochran to present to the Senate on the agricultural purchasing program in Mississippi.
- Dr. Wright recognized the presence of Mr. Dennis Dupree, Superintendent of Clarksdale School District.

02. There was no report on State Board of Education Subcommittee meetings.

03. Mr. Pat Ross and Dr. Bill Welch reported on the following conservator school districts: North Panola School District, Hazlehurst City School District, Sunflower

County Consolidated School District to include Indianola School District, and Tate County School District. All of these districts were returned to their communities as of July 1, 2014. The North Panola School Board has appointed Mr. Cedric L. Richardson, Superintendent; Hazlehurst City School Board has appointed Mr. John Sullivan, Superintendent; and Tate County School Board has appointed Dr. Billy Ray Jones, Superintendent. The Sunflower County Consolidated School Board has appointed Dr. Debra Dace, Superintendent. All districts worked with the Mississippi School Boards Association to select the superintendents.

04. Mr. Ross and Dr. Welch discussed Dr. Debra Dace as Superintendent of Sunflower County Consolidated School District. Section 37-7-104 (4)(2) of the Mississippi Code, which provides for the consolidation of the three school districts in Sunflower County, states that the selection of county superintendent of education shall be the responsibility of successor county board of education with the approval of the conservator and State Board of Education. Mr. Ross recommended approval.
05. Mr. Ross and Dr. Welch discussed the methodology to award Mississippi Community Oriented Policing (MCOPs) grant dollars to local and county law enforcement agencies or local education agencies with School Resource Officers (SRO) certified in accordance with Section 37-7-321, Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated. Mr. Ross recommended approval.
06. Mr. Ross discussed modifying the grant awards for FY14 and FY15 in support of local improvement efforts in current Cohort 2 School Improvement Grant (SIG) schools as authorized under Section 1003(g) of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965*. Mr. Ross recommended approval.
07. Mr. Ross discussed awarding grant dollars in support of local improvement efforts for the persistently lowest-achieving schools in the State as authorized under Section 1003(g) of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965*. Mr. Ross recommended approval.
08. Mr. Ross and Dr. Paula Vanderford discussed a temporary rule based on a finding that the rule only confers a benefit or removes a restriction on the public or some segment thereof and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System to include the process of evaluation and reporting for districts and schools participating in the *Excellence for All* program for school year 2013-2014. Mr. Ross recommended approval.

09. Dr. Kim Benton discussed the five-year Interagency Agreement (IA) with the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) to continue the school program for children with autism. Dr. Benton recommended approval.
10. [PULLED]
11. Dr. Benton and Mr. Nathan Oakley discussed textbooks, as recommended by the 2014 State Textbook Rating Committee, for the adoption of textbooks in the areas of Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4. Dr. Benton recommended approval.
12. Dr. Benton and Mr. Oakley discussed contracting with vendors as recommended by the 2014 State Textbook Rating Committee for the adoption of textbooks in the areas of Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4. Dr. Benton recommended approval.
13. Dr. Benton and Mr. Oakley discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish the *2014 Mississippi Library Monitoring Rubric*. Dr. Benton recommended approval.
14. Mr. Todd Ivey and Ms. Gracie Sanders discussed the Mississippi Department of Education FY 2016 Budget Request. Mr. Ivey recommended approval.
15. Mr. Ivey and Ms. Cerissa Neal discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise State Board Policy 1710, Reporting Infractions. Mr. Ivey recommended approval.
16. Mr. Ivey and Ms. Neal discussed the request from Tougaloo College to add a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development. Mr. Ivey recommended approval.
17. Mr. Ivey and Ms. Neal discussed contracting with Educational Awareness to provide classroom performance systems in the ten Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) schools during the 2014-2015 academic year. Mr. Ivey recommended approval.
18. Mr. Ivey discussed the preliminary estimate of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program Base Student Cost for Fiscal Year 2016. Mr. Ivey recommended approval.

19. Mr. Ivey discussed the preliminary estimate of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program for Fiscal Year 2016. Mr. Ivey recommended approval.
20. Mr. Ivey and Ms. Estelle Watts discussed the grant awards for a special project appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature and identified as the Mary Kirkpatrick-Haskell, Mary Sprayberry School Nurse Program in House Bill 1648, 2013 Legislative Session. Mr. Ivey recommended approval.
21. [PULLED]
22. 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 (Todd Ivey)
  - B. Discussion of request from the Office of Career and Technical Education for new license codes 948, 949, 953 and 961 as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment) (Todd Ivey)
  - C. Discussion of the Mississippi School for the Blind Student Handbook (Kim Benton)
  - D. Discussion of the Mississippi School of the Arts 2014-2015 Employee Handbook (Kim Benton)
  - E. Discussion of the Mississippi School of the Arts 2014-2015 Crisis Management and Safety Plan (Kim Benton)
  - F. Discussion to renew 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) (Todd Ivey)
  - G. Report of Personnel Actions (Todd Ivey)

Dr. John R. Kelly moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session with respect to prospective litigation, litigation,

investigative proceedings, and personnel issues in accordance with Mississippi Code Sections 25-41-7 (4)(a), (b), (d), and (k). The motion was seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, and the motion passed on a vote of 4 to 0.

Dr. John R. Kelly, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of a strategy session or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation and with respect to litigation involving the State Board of Education and the Department of Education in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(b), investigative proceedings of allegations of misconduct or violation of law by school districts in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(d) and discussion of discrete personnel matters regarding job performance of persons holding specific positions in the Department of Education and concerning the operation of the Department of Education, including but not limit to the reassignment and/or reorganization of staff in specific offices and positions within the Department of Education, in accordance with Sections 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k) of the Mississippi Code. Mr. Richard Morrison, seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 4 to 0.

Dr. O. Wayne Gann stated the following to remain in the Executive Session: Dr. Carey M. Wright, Dr. Kim Benton, Mr. Todd Ivey, Mr. Washington Cole, Mr. Pat Ross, Mr. Mike Kent, Ms. Sonya Amis, and Ms. Kathy Boteler. Ms. Kathy Boteler informed the public of the Board's vote to go into Executive Session for the above-stated reasons.

### **Minutes of the Executive Session**

The Board discussed strategy session or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation and with respect to litigation involving the State Board of Education and the Department of Education in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(b), investigative proceedings of allegations of misconduct and violation of law by school districts in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(d) and discussion of discrete personnel matters regarding job performance of persons holding specific positions in the Department of Education and concerning the operation of the Department of Education, including but not limit to, the reassignment and /or reorganization of staff in specific offices and positions within the Department of Education, in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k) of the Mississippi Code.

The Board took action on the following items during the Executive Session:

1. On a motion by Mr. Richard Morrison, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board voted 4 to 0 to appoint Donna C. Nester as Education Bureau Manager for the Office of School Financial Services at a salary of \$100,000.00.

Mississippi Board of Education – Minutes

Page 6

July 23, 2014

Members voting aye: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman  
Dr. John R. Kelly  
Mr. Charles McClelland  
Mr. Richard Morrison

Members voting no: None

Member absent: Ms. Kami Bumgarner  
Mr. William H. Jones

2. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board voted 4 to 0 to appoint Ms. Lakesia Bryant as Education Bureau Director II at the Mississippi School for the Blind to serve as the Principal at a salary of \$75,000.00.

Members voting aye: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman  
Dr. John R. Kelly  
Mr. Charles McClelland  
Mr. Richard Morrison

Members voting no: None

Member absent: Ms. Kami Bumgarner  
Mr. William H. Jones

3. On a motion by Mr. Richard Morrison, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board voted 4 to 0 to appoint Ms. Sarita Donaldson to serve as Education Bureau Director II in the Office of Technology and Strategic Services at a salary of \$84,000.00.

Members voting aye: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman  
Dr. John R. Kelly  
Mr. Charles McClelland  
Mr. Richard Morrison

Members voting no: None

Member absent: Ms. Kami Bumgarner  
Mr. William H. Jones

On motion by Mr. Richard Morrison, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the motion passed on a vote 4 to 0 to come out of Executive Session. The public returned to the open meeting.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:59 a.m. and reconvened at 12:49 p.m.

### **Immediately following the Work Session**

- 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. Mr. Richard Morrison led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Dr. John R. Kelly gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 19-20, 2014 Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as presented.
- V. Report of the Chair

Dr. Gann reported that he attended the Mississippi Association of State Superintendent (MASS) Conference on the Coast along with most of the Board members. He stated that Dr. Carey M. Wright also attended the conference. Dr. Gann also reported that he attended several break out sessions, especially one dealing with Common Core.

Dr. Gann reported that in the Executive Session, the Board approved the following:

1. Appointment of Ms. Donna C. Nester as Education Bureau Manager for the Office of School Financial Services.
2. Appointment of Ms. Lakesia Bryant as Education Bureau Director II at the Mississippi School for the Blind to serve as Principal.
3. Appointment of Ms. Sarita Donaldson to serve as Education Bureau Director II for the Office of Technology and Strategic Services.

VI. Approval of Action Items

04. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Debra Dace as Superintendent of Sunflower County Consolidated School District (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief School Performance Officer)**
  
05. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved the methodology to award Mississippi Community Oriented Policing (MCOPs) grant dollars to local and county law enforcement agencies or local education agencies with School Resource Officers (SRO) certified in accordance with Section 37-7-321, Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief School Performance Officer)**
  
06. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to modify grant awards for FY14 and FY15 in support of local improvement efforts in current Cohort 2 School Improvement Grant (SIG) schools as authorized under Section 1003(g) of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief School Performance Officer)**
  
07. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to award grant dollars in support of local improvement efforts for the persistently lowest-achieving schools in the State as authorized under Section 1003(g) of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief School Performance Officer)**
  
08. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved a temporary rule based on a finding that the rule only confers a benefit or removes a restriction on the public or some segment thereof and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System to include the process of evaluation and reporting for districts and schools participating in the *Excellence for All* program for school year 2013-2014 (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief School Performance Officer)**

09. On a motion by Mr. Richard Morrison, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved a five-year Interagency Agreement (IA) with the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) to continue the school program for children with autism (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief Academic Officer)**
10. [PULLED]
11. On a motion by Mr. Richard Morrison, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved textbooks, as recommended by the 2014 State Textbook Rating Committee, for the adoption of textbooks in the areas of Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief Academic Officer)**
12. On a motion by Mr. Richard Morrison, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved to contract with vendors as recommended by the 2014 State Textbook Rating Committee for the adoption of textbooks in the areas of Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief Academic Officer)**
13. On a motion by Mr. Richard Morrison, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish the *2014 Mississippi Library Monitoring Rubric* (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief Academic Officer)**
14. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved the Mississippi Department of Education FY 2016 Budget Request (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief Operations Officer)**
15. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise State Board Policy 1710, Reporting Infractions (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief Operations Officer)**

16. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved the request from Tougaloo College to add a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief Operations Officer)**
17. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved to contract with Educational Awareness to provide classroom performance systems in the ten Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) schools during the 2014-2015 academic year (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief Operations Officer)**
18. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved the preliminary estimate of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program Base Student Cost for Fiscal Year 2016 (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief Operations Officer)**
19. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved of the preliminary estimate of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program for Fiscal Year 2016  
**(Office of Chief Operations Officer)**
20. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved the grant awards for a special project appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature and identified as the Mary Kirkpatrick-Haskell, Mary Sprayberry School Nurse Program in House Bill 1648, 2013 Legislative Session (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief Operations Officer)**
21. [PULLED]
22. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved the following consent agenda items (copy attached).
  - A. Approval of monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits  
**(Office of Chief Operations Officer)**

- B. Approval of request from the Office of Career and Technical Education for new license codes 948, 949, 953 and 961 as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment)  
**(Office of Chief Operations Officer)**
- C. Approval of the Mississippi School for the Blind Student Handbook  
**(Office of Chief Academic Officer)**
- D. Approval of the Mississippi School of the Arts 2014-2015 Employee Handbook  
**(Office of Chief Academic Officer)**
- E. Approval of the Mississippi School of the Arts 2014-2015 Crisis Management and Safety Plan  
**(Office of Chief Academic Officer)**
- F. Approval to renew 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 Chief Operations Officer)**

VII. Recognition Ceremony

**2014 July Employee of the Month**

McKay “Pleshette” Smith  
Office of Special Education  
Educ-Special Education Program Coordinator

VIII. State Board of Education

- 01. There was no report on meetings attended.
- 02. There was no request to attend a meeting.
- 03. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman moved to nominate Dr. John R. Kelly to serve as Board Chairman from July 2014 to July 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland and approved on the following roll-call vote.

Members voting aye: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman  
Dr. John R. Kelly  
Mr. Charles McClelland  
Mr. Richard Morrison

Members voting no: None

Member absent: Ms. Kami Bumgarner  
Mr. William H. Jones

Dr. John R. Kelly moved to nominate Mr. Richard Morrison to serve as Board Vice-Chairman from July 2014 to July 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland and approved on the following roll-call vote.

Members voting aye: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman  
Dr. John R. Kelly  
Mr. Charles McClelland  
Mr. Richard Morrison

Members voting no: None

Member absent: Ms. Kami Bumgarner  
Mr. William H. Jones

Dr. Gann stated that he has enjoyed the last two years serving as the Board Chairman and that it was an honor to serve as the Chair of the State Board of Education.

Dr. John R. Kelly thanked Dr. Gann for his service, stated that it had been a joy to work with him, and thanked him for his professionalism.

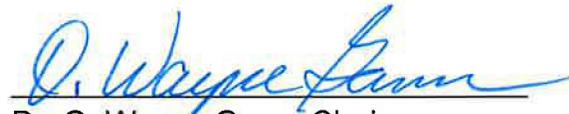
#### IX. Other Business

Dr. Gann announced that the August Board meeting is scheduled for August 14-15, 2014.

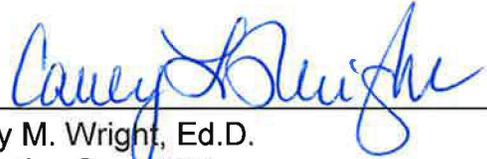
July 23, 2014

- X. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Approved:



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



Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.  
Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Board of Education