

## Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

February 15, 2018

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:05 a.m. on Thursday, February 15, 2018, in the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Mr. Buddy Bailey, Ms. Kami Bumgarner, Dr. Jason S. Dean, Dr. John R. Kelly, Mr. Charles McClelland, and Mr. Sean Suggs. Board members absent: Dr. Karen J. Elam and Mr. Johnny Franklin. Dr. Carey M. Wright was also present.

- I. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair, called the Board meeting to order. Ms. Aultman noted the statement on the agenda that cellular telephones and pagers are not permitted during the meeting.

Ms. Aultman stated that most are aware of the tragedy that took place yesterday in Parkland, Florida where 17 individuals were killed and 14 were wounded. The President has issued a Proclamation honoring the victims of the tragedy and today the flags will be lowered to half-staff to honor them.

- II. Dr. Jason S. Dean led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence was observed in memory of the victims of the tragedy, the town, and school district. Dr. John R. Kelly gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2018, Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.
- V. Recognition Ceremony

### **2017 Student Who Earned Perfect ACT Score of 36**

Rachael Lee Reynolds  
Ocean Springs School District

### **Junior ROTC Legion of Valor Award Winners**

Emory Booth  
Zachary Savoie  
Rankin County School District

Major Ed Butler, JROTC Director for the Mississippi Department of Education, presented the JROTC winners The Mississippi Department of Education JROTC Challenge Coin. Dr. Kim Benton stated that today the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) is going to start something new – The Challenge Coin. Dr. Benton presented information on the history of The Challenge Coin and stated that the coins had the Mississippi Department of Education logo on one side and the JROTC motto on the other.

**2018 February Employee of the Month**

Whitney Young

Special Projects Officer II

Office of Teaching and Leading

Dr. John R. Kelly thanked whomever from the Department initiated The Challenge Coin and stated that with generations to come this will prove to be a great idea.

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

- Dr. Wright recognized Dr. Nathan Oakley who gave an update on the *Every Student Succeeds Act* State Plan. Dr. Oakley stated the United States Department of Education provided feedback in December about MDE's plan. Dr. Oakley stated the Department submitted the response to the United States Department of Education on February 1, 2018. Dr. Oakley stated that the Department responded to three significant points of feedback related to how schools and districts are graded: banking of Algebra I scores for students who take the course in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, incorporating a measure on the progress toward language proficiency of English learners, and adjustment to the growth measure for the lowest 25 percent of students. Dr. Oakley stated the Department is waiting for a response.
- Dr. Wright stated that under the Consent Agenda today there are thirteen Corrective Action Plans to be approved. Dr. Wright stated that the Department is still working with three districts on their Corrective Action Plans. Dr. Wright stated that the Corrective Action Plans for Hazlehurst, Natchez-Adams, and the Jackson Public School District will come before the Board in March.
- Dr. Wright clarified that Mississippi does not have any exit exams. Dr. Wright stated that the only "exit exam" is in the third grade. Dr. Wright stated that to pass to the fourth grade one has to pass or have good cause exemption in the third grade. Dr. Wright stated that Mississippi does have end-of-course assessments. Dr. Wright stated that when she started in November of 2013, the Department did have exit exams. Dr. Wright stated that you had to pass each end-of-course assessment in order to graduate

high school. Dr. Wright stated that during the first year she was here they changed Board Policies 36.1, 36.2, and changed Miss. Code § 37-16-7. Dr. Wright stated there were other options established for children to graduate. Dr. Wright stated that by the federal government MDE is required to administer end-of-course assessments in science, mathematics, and English. Dr. Wright stated that the only exam that MDE is not required, by either state or federal mandate, is U.S. History. Dr. Wright stated that it is a part of MDE's accountability model. Dr. Wright stated that some superintendents are alarmed at the idea of not having end-of-course assessments because they feel that the students will not take the exams seriously and this will negatively impact their accountability model.

- Dr. Wright recognized Mr. Pete Smith. Mr. Smith gave a legislative update on the appropriations bills from the House and Senate. Mr. Smith stated there are very few general bills coming out on education this year. Mr. Smith stated he would keep the Board posted (copy attached).
- Dr. Wright stated there have been a lot of meetings with the legislators and she made a presentation to the House Appropriations Subcommittee and they asked a lot of good questions about the monies MDE is requesting for around early childhood education and technology. Dr. Wright stated that she has met with the House and Senate Education Chairs again. Dr. Wright stated that she had a very productive meeting yesterday with the Lt. Governor bringing him up to speed on MDE's strategic plan and what MDE's requests are with the budget. Dr. Wright stated she met with the Senate Appropriations Chair yesterday.
- Dr. Wright stated that the Milken Award was given to a principal, Dr. Robyn Killebrew, Principal of Pass Christian High School.
- Dr. Wright stated there was a filming in Petal where they have an amazing collaborative around early childhood. Dr. Wright stated that the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) wanted to do a filming to show at their Annual Legislative Conference around early childhood.
- Dr. Wright stated that she also attended the Regional Education Lab Southeast Governing Board. Dr. Wright stated that she serves as Vice-Chair and they do a lot of MDE's research.
- Dr. Wright stated that she had a Teacher's Advisory meeting and a Superintendent's Advisory meeting this month.
- Dr. Wright stated that she has established meetings with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Jackson Public School District Board to collaborate with them about their Corrective Action Plan. Dr. Wright stated that staff from the Department has presented to the new Board to get them up to speed.
- Dr. Wright stated she spoke at the Leadership Greater Jackson meeting yesterday giving them an update where MDE is with education.
- Dr. Wright stated that she was asked to testify for Congress at the United States House of Representatives hearing on Education and Workforce. Dr. Wright stated this opportunity gave her a chance to present positive information about Mississippi.

- Dr. Wright recognized Ms. Jean Cook, Communications Specialist, who is now the Treasurer of the Mississippi School Public Relations Association. Dr. Wright thanked Ms. Cook for her work at the Department and taking on an additional role.
- Dr. Wright stated the Spotlight for this Board meeting is “AmeriCorps Volunteers – Strengthen Grenada School District.” Dr. Wright stated that Grenada School District uses AmeriCorps members to strengthen their instructional program. Dr. Wright stated that Grenada created a partnership with AmeriCorps about 10 years ago when the district lost more than 50 employees due to budget cuts. Dr. Wright stated that the AmeriCorps members support teachers by working one-on-one or with small groups of children and they focus on children scoring the lowest on math and reading. Dr. Wright stated that it benefits the children because they get individual tutoring and it benefits the AmeriCorps members because it gives them an advance on their education. Dr. Wright stated that MDE is trying to get other communities involved with the AmeriCorps program. Dr. Wright recognized Ms. Gwen Woodson, AmeriCorps Program Director. Dr. Wright thanked Ms. Woodson for all the good work she is doing in the Grenada School District.

VII. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman as the Chair of the State Board gave the following report:

- Ms. Aultman stated she has spoken to several groups this month about what is going on in the Department and across the state.
- Ms. Aultman stated that the Department is providing assistance to the Jackson Public School District as they do to all other schools. Ms. Altman stated that she wanted to compliment and thank the Department for providing technical assistance. Ms. Aultman stated that the Department is providing technical assistance to schools working on their Corrective Action Plans. Ms. Aultman stated that the decision of the State Board has energized the school district and good things will come out of this work.
- Ms. Aultman stated that with all the invitations that Dr. Carey M. Wright and Dr. John R. Kelly are getting to speak, Mississippi is really getting a lot of positive press from the success that is going on in our schools. Ms. Aultman stated that MDE really has to tell Mississippi’s story across the nation. Ms. Aultman stated that MDE will stay focused on the 70% passing schools and MDE is doing good work. Ms. Aultman stated there are new ways and innovative ways for the other 30% of the schools to improve. Ms. Aultman stated that the Board is committed that school districts will improve. Ms. Aultman stated the Department has many talented people and Mississippi needs to tell the story and set the narrative.

VIII. There were no Subcommittee meeting reports.

IX. Discussion of Board Items

01. Dr. Carey M. Wright presented the progress on the Mississippi Board of Education's 5-year Strategic Plan for 2016-2020 [Goals, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]. The Board had comments about the presentation.
02. Dr. Kim Benton and Dr. Nathan Oakley discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise the Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three- and Four-Year-Old Children (2018) [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Benton recommended approval.
03. Dr. Paula Vanderford presented a Report of the 2018 graduation rates for the state, district, and school levels [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:58 a.m. and reconvened at 12:48 p.m.

04. Dr. Vanderford discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*, specifically, the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System to revise the definition of senior snapshot and add additional weights to the growth component beginning school year 2017-2018 [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Vanderford recommended approval.
05. Dr. Vanderford recognized Dr. Benton and Ms. Jean Massey. Ms. Massey discussed establishing the Mississippi Innovation Lab Network Project (MS ILN), a partnership between the Mississippi Department of Education and selected A and B school districts, to advance new models of learning that can better prepare all students for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century [Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Vanderford recommended approval.
06. Dr. Vanderford recognized Dr. Benton and Ms. Gretchen Cagle. Ms. Cagle discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Standard 14.3 and establish Appendix A-11 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2017: Requirements for a Certificate of Completion* for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) effective school year 2018-2019 [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Vanderford recommended approval.

07. Dr. Vanderford presented the Results of Inclement Weather Survey for 2017-2018 School Year in accordance with Process Standard 13 (requirement of 180 teaching days) of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, 2017* and Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-13-63 (2) and 37-13-64 [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan].
08. Ms. Aultman gave the Board an opportunity to discuss the following consent agenda items (item A is information only).
  - A. Information: Annual Report of the Mississippi Special Education Advisory Panel (Kim Benton)
  - B. Approve methodology to award grant dollars to non-profit entities for professional development in the areas of workforce development, economics education, and advanced placement studies (Kim Benton)
  - C. Approve Corrective Action Plan for districts assigned a PROBATION or WITHDRAWN status in accordance with Accreditation Policy 2.8.1 (Paula Vanderford)
  - D. Begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Standards 14.1.4 and 26, and Appendices A and B of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, 2017* (Paula Vanderford) (Kim Benton)
  - E. Modify eligible participants to include Special Education teachers (who hold a valid Special Education (221, 222, or 223 license) in the Approved Early Childhood Specialized Training for obtaining the Pre-Kindergarten (122) add-on endorsement (Paula Vanderford) (Kim Benton)
  - F. Revise the Child Development (Pre-K - K endorsement code 153) licensure requirements to include an option for Special Education teachers who hold a valid Special Education (221, 222, or 223) license to add the Child Development (Pre-K – K endorsement code 153) license by earning the required qualifying passing score on the appropriate Praxis II (Specialty Area) Assessment (Paula Vanderford) (Kim Benton)

- G. Begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish Part 189: *Mississippi School Safety Manual* (Paula Vanderford)
  - H. Approve the new boundaries of the Lamar County School District (Kim Benton)
- X. Approval of Action Items
- 02. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise the Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three- and Four-Year-Old Children (2018) [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief Academic Officer)**
  - 04. On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*, specifically, the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System to revise the definition of senior snapshot and add additional weights to the growth component beginning school year 2017-2018 [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief Accountability Officer)**
  - 05. On a motion by Dr. Jason S. Dean, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board unanimously approved to establish the Mississippi Innovation Lab Network Project (MS ILN), a partnership between the Mississippi Department of Education and selected A and B school districts, to advance new models of learning that can better prepare all students for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century [Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief Accountability Officer)**  
**(Office of Chief Academic Officer)**
  - 06. On a motion by Dr. Jason S. Dean, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Standard 14.3 and establish Appendix A-11 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2017: Requirements for a Certificate of Completion for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) effective school year 2018-2019* [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).

**(Office of Chief Accountability Officer)**

**(Office of Chief Academic Officer)**

08. On a motion by Dr. Jason S. Dean, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved consent agenda items B., C., D., E., F., G., and H. (copy attached).
- B. Approve methodology to award grant dollars to non-profit entities for professional development in the areas of workforce development, economics education, and advanced placement studies  
**(Office of Chief Academic Officer)**
- C. Approve Corrective Action Plan for districts assigned a PROBATION or WITHDRAWN status in accordance with Accreditation Policy 2.8.1  
**(Office of Chief Accountability Officer)**
- D. Begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Standards 14.1.4 and 26, and Appendices A and B of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, 2017*  
**(Office of Chief Accountability Officer)**  
**(Office of Chief Academic Officer)**
- E. Modify eligible participants to include Special Education teachers (who hold a valid Special Education (221, 222, or 223 license) in the Approved Early Childhood Specialized Training for obtaining the Pre-Kindergarten (122) add-on endorsement  
**(Office of Chief Accountability Officer)**  
**(Office of Chief Academic Officer)**
- F. Revise the Child Development (Pre-K - K endorsement code 153) licensure requirements to include an option for Special Education teachers who hold a valid Special Education (221, 222, or 223) license to add the Child Development (Pre-K – K endorsement code 153) license by earning the required qualifying passing score on the appropriate Praxis II (Specialty Area) Assessment  
**(Office of Chief Accountability Officer)**  
**(Office of Chief Academic Officer)**



- G. Begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish Part 189: *Mississippi School Safety Manual*  
**(Office of Chief Accountability Officer)**
  
- H. Approve the new boundaries of the Lamar County School District  
**(Office of Chief Academic Officer)**

As a matter of personal privilege, Dr. John R. Kelly asked the Board to consider two students to become part of the Board as non-voting members. Dr. Kelly asked would the Board like for Dr. Carey M. Wright to appoint someone from her staff to bring back opportunities to the Board about this matter.

#### XI. Consideration of Executive Session

Dr. Jason S. Dean moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session. Mr. Buddy Bailey seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a vote of 6 to 0. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman asked Dr. Carey M. Wright, Ms. Raina Lee, Ms. Erin Meyer, Mr. Mike Kent, and the Executive Leadership Team to remain in the Executive Session.

Dr. Jason S. Dean, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss discrete personnel matters related to the job performance of persons holding specific positions in the Department of Education in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k), discussion of a strategy session or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation involving the Department and the issuance of an appealable order in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(b), and discussion with respect to investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(d). Mr. Buddy Bailey seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 6 to 0. Ms. Erin Meyer informed the public of the Board's vote to go into Executive Session for the above-stated reasons.

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

During the Executive Session, the Board discussed discrete personnel matters related to the job performance of persons holding specific positions in the Department of Education in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k), discussed a strategy session or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation involving the Department and the issuance of an appealable order in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(b), and discussed with respect to investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(d).

On a motion by Dr. Jason S. Dean, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board voted 6 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

The public came back into the Board meeting and Ms. Aultman reported the action taken during the Executive Session.

01. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board voted to approve the appointment of Dr. Margaret Holland Ellmer as Education - Bureau Director II to serve as Director of Special Education Support Services in the Office of Special Education at a salary of \$84,000.00.

Members voting aye:

Ms. Kami Bumgarner  
Dr. Jason S. Dean  
Dr. John R. Kelly  
Mr. Charles McClelland  
Mr. Sean Suggs

Member voting nay:

None

Member abstaining:

Mr. Buddy Bailey

Members absent:

Dr. Karen J. Elam  
Mr. Johnny Franklin

02. On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Stanley D. Gipson as Education - Bureau Director II to serve as Grants Manager at a salary of \$84,000.00.
03. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. John D. Kraman as Deputy State Superintendent to serve as Chief Information Officer in the Office of Technology and Strategic Services at a salary of \$148,000.00.
04. On a motion by Dr. Jason S. Dean, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the MDE to descope the Renaissance Learning contract for school year 2018-2019 to eliminate the screener component and the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading summative alternate assessment.

05. On a motion by Dr. Jason S. Dean, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the MDE to redirect funds from the Renaissance universal screener as formula grants to districts for the administration of locally selected, MDE approved, screeners.

XII. State Board of Education

1. There were no meetings attended.
2. Dr. John R. Kelly requested approval to attend the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. on March 3-6, 2018.

On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board unanimously approved for Dr. John R. Kelly to attend the NASBE Conference in Washington, D.C.

XIII. Other Business

The March Board meeting will be held March 15, 2018, in Jackson, Mississippi at the Central High School Building starting at 10:00 a.m. The March Board meeting may be changed to a later date.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:51 p.m.

Approved:

  
Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair  
Mississippi Board of Education

  
Carey M. Wright  
Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Board of Education