

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

December 16, 2021

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 16, 2021, via video means pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5 for the purpose of conducting the Board meeting.

The meeting was available to the public via live stream.¹ Board members present in the 4th Floor Boardroom at the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi included: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Dr. Wendi Barrett (Biloxi, Mississippi), Dr. Angela Bass, Mr. Glen V. East, Dr. Karen J. Elam, Mr. Bill Jacobs, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Mr. Matt Miller, and Ms. Mary Werner. Student Representative: Ms. Micah Hill. Student Representative absent: Ms. Amy Zhang. Dr. Carey M. Wright was also present at the 4th Floor Boardroom at the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

- I. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman called the Board meeting to order at 10:03 a.m., after determining that a quorum of the Board existed for the purpose of conducting a meeting through video means in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5.
- II. Dr. Angela Bass led the Pledge of Allegiance and Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Mr. Bill Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the November 12, 2021, Board meeting minutes.
- IV. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Glen V. East, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.
- V. Dr. Carey M. Wright gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:
 - Dr. Wright stated she attended the National Assessment Governing Board quarterly meeting, and they govern the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP). Dr. Wright stated that this is the only assessment that is administered in every state. Dr. Wright stated that the last time it was administered was in 2019 and Mississippi was the only state in the Nation that showed improvements in both fourth and eighth grades. Dr. Wright stated that Mississippi was ranked number one in the Nation for gains in NAEP. Dr. Wright stated the assessments will start in January 2022 and the NAEP organization will send MDE a list of all the schools where the test will

¹ Due to the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) and the recommendations of the CDC and the Mississippi Department of Health, social distancing is encouraged and capacity in the Boardroom is limited. To protect the public health, the State Board of Education met via teleconference and video means and the meeting was available to the public via video means (live stream). The SBE exercised their authority granted by the Governor in his Proclamation of a State of Emergency. See Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-31.

be administered, all the grade levels that school will administer in ELA and Math, science in grades 5-8, and biology. Dr. Wright stated this test is not like the state assessments where all students are administered the test. Dr. Wright stated that this is a sampling where NAEP selects students that will reflect the demographic makeup of Mississippi, and this is random. Dr. Wright stated that MDE does not administer the tests. Dr. Wright stated that the results will be sent to MDE in the fall. Dr. Wright stated that she will be sending out a video about NAEP soon to the schools and districts that are chosen. Dr. Wright stated that this is the gold standard in assessments, and it is referred to as the Nation's Report Card.

- Dr. Wright stated that the National Assessment Governing Board is gearing up to revise the science framework and science teachers will be providing feedback.
- Dr. Wright stated that she held the Principals Advisory Council meeting.
- Dr. Wright stated that the Technical Advisory Committee met and has started discussions around what Mississippi is going to do in terms of growth for the accountability model.
- Dr. Wright stated that the Accountability Taskforce met for the first time on Wednesday. This Taskforce is made up of superintendents, principals, teachers, curriculum coordinators, some MDE staff, Dr. Chris Domaleski serves as Chair, and Mr. Alan Burrow serves as Co-chair. Dr. Wright stated that Dr. Domaleski also chairs the Technical Advisory Committee. Dr. Wright stated that they have been given a lot of that information to read over and MDE will be running impact data on suggestions they have, and MDE will keep the Board updated.
- Dr. Wright stated that she attended the Southern Regional Education Board's State Leaders Forum. Dr. Wright stated they are looking at workforce development across an entire state. Dr. Wright stated there were some representatives from Kentucky that came and were responsible for that information. Dr. Wright stated that Kentucky had the most amazing Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) that she has ever seen, and this gives us a lot to think about with our own system.
- Dr. Wright stated she served on a panel for Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) entitled Working with Legislators. Dr. Wright stated that CCSSO asked some state superintendents that work with their legislators to talk to new state superintendents about what are the challenges, what are the successes, how you maneuver that, and build those relationships.
- Dr. Wright stated that she was on the Paul Gallo Radio Show.
- Dr. Wright recognized the Communication Team that won seven major awards from the Southern Public Regulations Federation. Dr. Wright stated the awards recognize top work produced by communication professionals in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Dr. Wright stated that the MDE Team won the Best of Tier Award for the Mississippi Connects Communication Campaign, awards for writing, logo design, video production, the Superintendent's Annual Report, and the MDE Strong

Readers web site. Dr. Wright recognized Mr. Pete Smith, Ms. Jean Cook, and Ms. Corie Jones.

- Dr. Wright did a shout out to Dr. Felicia Gavin and Mr. Joe Goff for all their hard work in reviewing all the contracts and grants for MDE to make sure that everything is legal, Procurement procedures are being followed, and MDE is getting the most for the state of Mississippi.

VI. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair of the State Board, gave the following report.

- Ms. Aultman stated that she met with Dr. Wright on a couple of issues that were brought to her attention, and she is working on them. Ms. Aultman stated that she has spent a lot of time reading and looking at the data on student mental health that are coming to the forefront since the pandemic. Ms. Aultman stated this speaks well of three of our student representatives who have brought that issue up before, during, and after the pandemic of what they are hearing from their peers. Ms. Aultman stated that she thought we will see a lot more on this topic.

VII. Report of Student Representative

Ms. Micah Hill reported on how Laurel High School was doing on state tests and how dual credit classes are proceeding. Ms. Hill stated that two weeks ago dual and middle college students and students that take Jones College courses had to take final exams. Ms. Hill stated that she was proud of the outcome and how students had prepared for the final exams of the semester. Ms. Hill stated that although it was not the easiest workload the outcome was very rewarding. Ms. Hill stated that middle college students went to Jones last week to talk to their counselors about their upcoming classes. Ms. Hill stated that in the beginning they were only going to get their associates degree but now can get an associate degree in the area they are going to major in. Ms. Hill stated that she will major in computer science. Ms. Hill stated she is excited to see how well she performed this school year. Ms. Hill stated that dual credit courses will have new students arriving to take Jones County courses and depending on their ACT scores and their sub-scores. Ms. Hill stated that the entire week of school for state testing was hectic, and everyone was taking a test in Algebra I, biology, and U.S. History. Ms. Hill stated that students taking U.S. History did not have to perform well last year, but this year they have to pass the test to proceed. Ms. Hill stated that the math, biology, and history teachers are working hard with their students, and she is very proud of the teachers at her school. Ms. Hill stated that the applications for junior student representative are open and upcoming juniors must go through a very rigorous selection process. Ms. Hill stated she is excited to see how these amazing groups of young students are determined to benefit Mississippi and represent their schools. Ms. Hill stated that Ms. Aultman wants to hear more about the middle college program so next meeting she will have a very special treat to show about middle college program.

VIII. Mr. Glen V. East, Chair of the Academic Achievement PreK-12/Early Childhood Subcommittee, stated that the subcommittee met yesterday afternoon via Teams with Mr. Matt Miller and Dr. Karen J. Elam. Mr. East stated some items discussed are on the Board agenda today around the strategic plan for Computer Science, which MDE is rolling out, and the integration plan that is being developed by the RCU at MSU. Mr. East stated they discussed the digital subscription work with information about when districts could opt in and opt out and also the concern of whether a district has to do away with a current program and that was clarified that a district does not have to and can elect whether to engage with this digital service. Mr. East stated that for him as a superintendent the access by parents and families will be an important piece for parents to use and help their students in schools. Mr. East thanked Dr. Kim Benton, Ms. Wendy Clemons, and Dr. Tenette Smith on a great job on their presentations.

Dr. Karen J. Elam, Chair of the Educator Quality Subcommittee, stated that she, Dr. Bass, and Dr. Barrett met with the Office of Teaching and Learning and they have several items on the consent agenda to be approved today. Dr. Elam stated that during this meeting the Board will have the opportunity to hear from the Office of Teaching and Learning about just two of their projects they have been working on. Dr. Elam stated there are more going on in the Office of Teaching and Learning, but only two projects will be presented today.

Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Chair of the Workforce/Career and Technical Education Subcommittee, stated the subcommittee met prior to the Board meeting today. Dr. McGehee stated that Dr. Kim Benton and Dr. Aimee Brown gave a report on work-based learning on the Career and Technical side which will be on the agenda today for approval. Dr. McGehee stated this is an important message to increase workforce participation going forward.

IX. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Action: Begin the public comment period to revise the Mississippi Perkins V State Plan to include work-based learning as a measure of CTE program quality [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved item 01 (copy attached).

02. Action: Approval of *Ten-Year Strategic Plan for Computer Science Education in Mississippi* [Goals 1, 2, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board unanimously approved item 02 (copy attached).

03. Information: Update from the Office of Teaching and Leading [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

Dr. Paula Vanderford introduced Dr. Cory Murphy, Executive Director, Office of Teaching and Leading. Dr. Murphy stated there are three divisions within the office: Educator Talent Acquisition and Effectiveness, Educator Preparation, and Educator Licensure. Dr. Murphy stated there is lots of exciting work underway across the divisions and we will directly address the needs of our education stakeholders in the state. Dr. Murphy stated that the update today will only focus on the recent critical education shortage results by the Educator Talent Acquisition and Effectiveness Team, and MDE wanted to make the Board aware of and provide a brief high-level overview of the key recommendations made by the Governor’s Education Human Capital Task Force. Dr. Murphy introduced Ms. Courtney van Cleve, State Director, Educator Talent Acquisition and Effectiveness, who gave an update on the educator shortage survey results. Dr. Murphy introduced Dr. Debra Burson, Bureau Director of Educator Preparation, who gave an update on the Governor’s Education Human Capital Task Force Recommendations (copy attached).

04. Action: Approval of MDE Contracts [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

04.A. Action: Contract with FY22 ESSER Technical Assistance Specialists for the Office of Federal Programs [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)

04.B. Action: Contract with TempStaff, Inc. for providing Temporary Staffing Services for a Call Center [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

04.C. Action: Renew contract with the Mississippi State Department of Health to provide health inspections for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Summer Food Service Program for the remainder of FY 2022 and FY 2023 [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

04.D. Action: Contract with Toshiba America Business Solutions, Inc., to provide agency wide networked multi-function copiers for the Mississippi Department of Education Central High School Building, Greymont Location (Child Nutrition and Healthy Schools), and Career and Technical Warehouse in Pearl [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

04.E. [PULLED]

- 04.F. Action: Contract with WorldWide Technology, LLC to provide consulting and capacity services to build a modernized student Information System [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)
- 04.G. Action: Modify contract with Mythics, Inc to provide Oracle Licensing Support through January 22, 2022 [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)
- 04.H. Action: Modify contract with the National Student Clearinghouse to provide post-secondary data on the enrollment status and educational achievement of students throughout Mississippi [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved items 04.A., 04.B., 04.C., 04.D., 04.F., 04.G., and 04.H. (copy attached).

- 04.I. Action: Contracts with selected vendors for the operation of supplemental English Language Arts (ELA) digital subscriptions for grades K – 2 and grades 3 – 12 [Goals 1, 2, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)
- 04.J. Action: Contract with selected vendor for the operation of a supplemental Mathematics digital subscription for grades K – 8 [Goals 1, 2, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)
- 04.K. Action: Contracts with selected vendors for the operation of supplemental Social Studies (K – 8) and Science (K – 6 and 7 –12) digital subscriptions [Goals 1, 2, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)

On a motion by Dr. Angela Bass, seconded by Mr. Glen V. East, the Board voted to approve items 04.I., 04.J., and 04.K. (copy attached).

Members voting aye:
Dr. Wendi Barrett
Dr. Angela Bass
Mr. Glen V. East
Dr. Karen J. Elam
Mr. Matt Miller

Member voting nay: None

Members abstain:
Mr. Bill Jacobs
Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee
Ms. Mary Werner

Member absent: None

- 05. Action: Approval of MDE Grant Awards [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
 - 05.A. Action: Award a formula grant to school districts to address the impact of COVID-19 on Pre-K classrooms [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)
 - 05.B. Action: Award competitive grants for the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)
 - 05.C. Action: Award discretionary grants for the ARP Homeless I Program [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)
 - 05.D. Action: Award discretionary grants for the ESSER Migrant Program [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)
 - 05.E. Action: Award discretionary grants for the ESSER Delinquent Program [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)
 - 05.F. Action: Award competitive grants for Non-Profit Workforce Professional Development Grant Program [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)
 - 05.G. Action: Award competitive grants to five (5) Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) for the Mississippi Teacher Residency in Critical Shortage Areas [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)
 - 05.H. Action: Award grants to the School Nurse ESSERII/ARP Program [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

Mr. Glen East recused himself from discussion and voting on all of Agenda Item 5. Mr. East left the room during discussion and voting.

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board unanimously (with exception of Mr. East) approved items 05.A., 05.B., 05.C., 05.D., 05.E., 05.F., 05.G., and 05.H. (copy attached).

- 06. Consent Agenda (All consent items are action items which require vote, unless otherwise noted.)

- A. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Kim Benton)
- B. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Kim Benton)
- C. Approval of the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Facilities Usage Application, Policies, and Procedures as addenda within the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Operations Manual (Kim Benton)
- D. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise the College- and Career-Readiness Standards for Social Studies (Kim Benton)
- E. Approval of methodology to award ESSER III and American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to local stand-alone Alternative Education Programs (Kim Benton)
- F. Approval to extend the deadline for districts to submit the Fiscal Year 2021 Single Audit reporting package (Paula Vanderford)
- G. Approval of nonpublic school accreditation statuses for School Year 2021-2022 (Paula Vanderford)
- H. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 to require all initial Special Education licensure candidates to earn a passing score on a rigorous test of scientifically research-based reading instruction, interventions, and data-based decision-making principles as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- I. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 to establish a new K-6 Elementary Education supplemental endorsement as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- J. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 to modify the existing Master of Arts in Teaching Special Education (K-12)

Mississippi State Board of Education approved Alternate Route Program (Paula Vanderford)

- K. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 to modify the existing Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary Education (4-6) Mississippi State Board of Education approved Alternate Route Program to include an Elementary Education (K-6) option (Paula Vanderford)
- L. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 to modify the existing pre-teaching coursework requirement for all Mississippi State Board of Education approved Alternate Route Programs (Paula Vanderford)
- M. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-107: 2021 Educator Preparation Provider Process and Performance Guidelines to modify the existing literacy coursework requirement for Mississippi State Board of Education approved Elementary Education K-6 licensure-track programs (Paula Vanderford)
- N. Approval of the Entry Level Driver Training mandated by the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administrator, Trainer Provide Registry effective February 7, 2022 (Paula Vanderford)
- O. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-12: *Mississippi Testing Accommodations Manual* (Paula Vanderford)
- P. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 14.6, 14.6.2, 14.6.3, and 14.6.4, State Board Policy Chapter 14, Rules 14.6, 14.6.2, 14.6.3, and 14.6.4, related to Licensure Commission, Discipline Procedures, Hearings and Appeals (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- Q. Approval of the final recalculation of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program Base Student Cost for Fiscal Year 2023 (Felicia Gavin)
- R. Approval of the final calculation of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program for Fiscal Year 2023 (Felicia Gavin)

- S. Approval of recommendation of Standing Commission on School District Efficiency Members (Felicia Gavin)
- T. Approval of methodology to award American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund Grant dollars to eligible Mississippi Juvenile Detention Centers (Kim Benton)
- U. Information: Annual Report of Findings and Recommendations from the Standing Commission on School District Efficiency (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., F., G., H., I., J., K., L., M., N., O., P., Q., R., S., and T. (copy attached).

XI. No Executive Session.

XII. State Board of Education

- 1. No report on meetings attended.
- 2. No request to attend a meeting.
- 3. On a motion by Mr. Bill Jacobs, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved a training session by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) on Friday, February 25, 2022, at Butler Snow in Ridgeland, Mississippi starting at 9:00 a.m.

XIII. Other Business

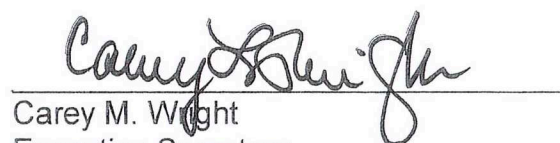
Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman stated that the January Board meeting will be held on January 20, 2022, at the Central High School Building starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Angela Bass, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Approved:


Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education


Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education