

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

September 28, 2023

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 28, 2023, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5 for the purpose of conducting a regularly scheduled Board meeting.

The public accessed this meeting via livestream or in-person at the Central High School Building, 4th Floor Boardroom, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members physically present included: Mr. Glen V. East, Dr. Wendi Barrett, Mr. Bill Jacobs, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, and Ms. Mary Werner. Board members participating virtually: Mr. Matt Miller (Hattiesburg, Mississippi) and Mr. Mike Pruitt (Hattiesburg, Mississippi). Student Representatives present: Ms. Kate Riddle and Mr. Charlie Frugé. Dr. Raymond C. Morgigno, Interim State Superintendent, was also present.

- I. Mr. Glen V. East called the Board meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., after determining that a quorum of the Board existed for the purpose of conducting a meeting.
- II. Dr. Wendi Barrett led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Mary Werner gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of August 17, 2023, Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Dr. Wendi Barrett, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously adopted the Consent agenda.

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

- V. Recognition Ceremony

Milken Educator Award

Tyler Shows

Petal Upper Elementary School

Petal School District

- VI. Dr. Raymond C. Morgigno gave the following report as the Interim State Superintendent of Education:
 - Dr. Morgigno stated the Regional Superintendents meetings were held at all six of the RESAs. Dr. Morgigno stated that Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee joined in Meridian and Dr. Wendi Barrett joined on the Coast for dinner.
 - Dr. Morgigno stated the Teacher Advisory Council meetings were held in three locations across the state.

- Dr. Morgigno stated he has met with the following legislators:
 - Senate Education Chairman Dennis DeBar and Vice-Chair David Blount about various topics;
 - House Education Chairman Richard Bennett and Representative Jason White about various topics;
 - Representative Kevin Felsher talked about benefits of JROTC and strategies to expand the program;
 - Senator Sollie Norwood discussed absenteeism and School Attendance Officers;
 - Senator Lydia Chassaniol discussed concerns about Greenwood-Leflore School Board;
 - Representative Donnie Bell about CTE;
 - Senator Nicole Boyd and Representative Clay Deweese joined school tour of Lafayette Elementary School.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he visited the following schools:
 - Lafayette Elementary School;
 - Noxubee County School District;
 - Columbia High School vs Petal High School football game; and
 - Pearl High School vs Ridgeland High School football game.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he met with other partner and stakeholder group meetings including:
 - Mississippi Department of Homeland Security Director Baxter Kruger;
 - PREPS CEO Leadership Academy dinner (over 40 administrators from across the state);
 - U.S. Department of Education/U.S. Department of Labor Unlocking Pathways Summit in Biloxi (event supported K-12, higher education, and workforce systems including Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Alabama);
 - Mississippi Community College Board Executive Director Kell Smith and Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) Associate Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Casey Prestwood;
 - Northeast Mississippi Principals meeting (over 100 principals and Dr. McGehee also attended);
 - Mississippi Economic Council Executive Director Scott Waller and Jean Massey from Ascent to 55 talked about the Accountability model;
 - Nancy Loome, Parents Campaign (supporting school districts);
 - College Board (AP participation and performance rates continued -to-rise in 2022-23);
 - Regional Educational Laboratory (REL)-Southeast meeting (discussed Mississippi initiatives);
 - Center for Assessment Reidy Interactive Lecture Series (Reflecting on and Improving Accountability Systems); and
 - MDE's Technical Advisory Committee.

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- Dr. Morgigno stated that Mississippi's trophy for the 2023 Frank Newman Award for State Innovation arrived from the Education Commission of the States.
- Dr. Morgigno stated the U.S. Department of Education recognized the MDE Special Education Team for its June 2023 conference that impacted over 600 educators across the state.
- Dr. Morgigno recognized the MDE Communication Team who won two awards from the Southern Public Relations Federation for the 2022 Accountability Communication Toolkit and the 2021-2022 Superintendent's Annual Report. Dr. Morgigno stated the awards recognize top work produced by communication professionals in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

VII. Mr. Glen V. East, Chair of the State Board, gave the following report:

- Mr. East stated that the Mississippi Grade Level Campaign is a great thing in Literacy across the state.

VIII. Reports from Student Representatives

Ms. Kate Riddle reported on the effects a school counselor has on the lives of their students.

Mr. Charlie Frugé reported on the importance of Early Childhood Literacy.

IX. Reports on State Board of Education Subcommittee meetings

Dr. Wendi Barrett, Chair of the Academic Achievement PreK-12/Early Childhood Subcommittee, stated Dr. Jill Dent gave an update on the State Invested Pre-Kindergarten Program grants that will be presented to the Board today. Dr. Barrett stated the grants are for \$6.7 million for nine (9) districts and three (3) of the districts will be working with Head Start. Dr. Barrett stated the remaining \$7 million will be used to expand the existing programs for the districts that are currently in the cohort. Dr. Barrett stated a new RFA will be released soon for the Early Learning Collaborative Act for districts to apply for \$2.5 million. Dr. Barrett stated Dr. Sonja Robertson stated there were 22 comments received and only three were related to the exit criteria for ATSI and CSI that will be presented to the Board today. Dr. Barrett stated the identification for school improvement schools is tentatively set for October 9, 2023. Dr. Barrett stated the cycle for identification of schools in school improvement will begin this year as an every three year cycle and they are continuing to work toward setting a cut score for ATSI schools so it will stay the same as when they entered. Dr. Barrett stated that Dr. Donna H. Boone stated there is a deficit in the middle school in grades 5-8 in literacy and after looking at the data MDE is working on a pilot with Title II funds to help teachers with this issue. Dr. Barrett stated they will also look at math in grades 5-8.

Mr. Bill Jacobs, Chair of the Internal Accountability Subcommittee, stated their last meeting was Monday afternoon and they had a discussion about the LITE report and the Paper on Demand Tutoring Program. Mr. Jacobs stated the biggest thing was the discussion about the compliance office and duplication of internal audits. Mr. Jacobs stated that Dr. Morgigno made some excellent suggestions that they must define the duties of the compliance office and of internal audit. Mr. Jacobs stated they have to clarify what each one's supposed to do but more importantly we have moved the fraud, waste and abuse hotline from the compliance office to the internal audit office. Personnel matters and complaints will be handled by HR.

Ms. Mary Werner, Chair of the Workforce/Career and Technical Education Subcommittee stated she wanted to let everyone know the good work being done in CTE and she showed a copy of the *Connections* magazine. Ms. Werner gave the Board the web site they could go online and look at the current and previous editions.

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Information: Review the amendment to Mississippi's Consolidated State Plan, also referred to as Mississippi Succeeds [Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone and Paula Vanderford)

Dr. Sonja Robertson and Mr. Alan Burrow presented the comments received and stated there were no changes to the amendment (copy attached).

02. Action: Approval of the 2022-2023 Mississippi Statewide Accountability Results [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved item 02 (copy attached).

03. Information: Overview of the Mississippi Succeeds Report Card [Goals 1, 2, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)

Mr. John Kraman and Ms. Deborah Donovan gave an overview of the Mississippi Succeeds Report Card. The Board asked if the ACT scores and WorkKeys could be included in the Report Card.

04. Action: Approval of the MDE contract [Goals 4 and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

- 04.A. Action: Contract with Michael D. Kent to perform the administrative duties for the Office of Academic Education, work with school districts to consolidate, work with districts in Districts of Transformation, work as liaison with superintendent of the Mississippi Achievement School District, mentor existing and potential future school district superintendents and principals in Mississippi, and special assignments [Goals 4 and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved item 04.A. (copy attached).

05. Action: Approval of the MDE grant awards [Goals 1, 2, and 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

- 05.A. Action: Award competitive grants for the State Invested Pre-Kindergarten Program [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

- 05.B. Action: Award competitive grants for the Migrant Education Program (Title I, Part C) [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

On a motion by Mr. Bill Jacobs, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board unanimously approved items 05.A. and 05.B. (copy attached).

06. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Donna Boone)
- B. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Donna Boone)
- C. Approval of certified personnel for the Mississippi School of the Arts, Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, and Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (Donna Boone)
- D. Approval of the 2023-2024 Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science and the Mississippi University for Women Memorandum of Agreement (Donna Boone)
- E. Approval of the 2023-2024 Memorandum of Understanding between the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science and the

Columbus Municipal School District for the use of their track and field facilities (Donna Boone)

- F. Approval to adopt policies required by state statute for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind to be placed on the District Policy Service website established by the Mississippi School Boards Association (Donna Boone)
 - 1. Section: J; Policy Code: JGCDA
Policy: Self-Administration of Medication of Asthma/Anaphylaxis Medications
 - 2. Section: D; Policy Code: DJED
Policy: Bids and Quotations
 - 3. Section: J; Policy Code: JGCB
Policy: Student Health Services Inoculations
 - 4. Section: J; Policy Code: JGEB
Policy: Concussion Management and Return to Play Policy
 - 5. Section: E; Policy Code: EBBABB
Policy: Prohibition Against Aiding and Abetting Sex Offenders in Obtaining Employment
 - 6. Section: E; Policy Code: EDDAA
Policy: Transporting Students to Events in Vehicles Other than School Buses
- G. Approval of industry certifications that will calculate in the Acceleration component of the Accountability Model for the 2023-2024 School Year (Donna Boone)
- H. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Framework Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) in Career and Technical Education (CTE) (Donna Boone)
- I. Approval of a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12*, to amend criteria regarding educator licensure preparation and other programs completed outside the state of Mississippi (Paula Vanderford)

- J. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-142: Career and Technical Education Licensure Guidelines to amend licensure Career Pathway, 961, Healthcare and Clinical Services and 989 Polymer Science (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- K. Approval to revise Mississippi Administrative Code 37-1-3 State Policy Chapter 3, Rule 27.1 – Criminal Records Background Checks on Applicants for Employment, State Department of Education Staff, Mississippi School for the Deaf and the Blind, Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, and Mississippi School of the Arts (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Felicia Gavin)
- L. Approval to revise Mississippi Administrative Code 37-61-9(4) State Board Policy Chapter 3, Rule 31.1 – Drug Testing, State Department of Education Staff (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Felicia Gavin)
- M. Approval to revise Mississippi Administrative Code 37-61-9(4) State Board Policy Chapter 3, Rule 3.1 – Administrative Expense Reduction (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Felicia Gavin)
- N. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: Chapter 1 – Accountability, Rule 1.2 – School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee and Internal Accountability Subcommittee (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Sonya Amis)
- O. Approval to proceed with a grant request to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Community Heritage Project Grant (Donna Boone)

On a motion by Ms. Mary Wener, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., F., G., H., I., J., K., L., M., N., and O. (copy attached).

XI. Consideration of Executive Session

Mr. Matt Miller moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session. Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a unanimous vote. Mr. Glen V. East asked for

Legal Counsel, Ms. Sonya Amis, and Ms. Jean Cook to remain in the room.

Mr. Matt Miller, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(a) and (k), to discuss discrete personnel matters relating to the appointment of a State Superintendent and the candidate profile that will be used for the State Superintendent search.

Ms. Mary Werner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Ms. Jennifer Nichols 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, in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(a) and (k), the Board discussed discrete personnel matters relating to the appointment of a State Superintendent and the candidate profile that will be used for the State Superintendent.

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board voted 5 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

The public came back into the Board meeting and Mr. East stated the Board discussed the State Superintendent search process.

Mr. East stated the recruitment period for the State Superintendent of Education began on August 14, 2023, and will close on October 19, 2023. The position announcement is posted on the MDE website, the McPherson & Jacobson website, and it has been shared nationally by the search firm.

On September 5, 2023, the Communications Office released a Stakeholder Survey for public comments which closed on September 19, 2023.

On November 2, 2023, the State Board will meet with McPherson & Jacobson consultants to discuss the candidates who applied for the position, view applicant videos, and select the semi-finalists for interviews on December 11 and 12, 2023. Following the semi-finalist interviews, finalist(s) will be selected for interview on December 20, 2023. The State Superintendent will be appointed by the State Board on December 20, 2023, with a hire date of July 1, 2024, upon Senate confirmation.

XII. State Board of Education

1. No report on meetings attended.
2. No request to attend a meeting.

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XIII. Other Business

Mr. East stated the October Board meeting will be held on October 19, 2023, in Jackson, MS at the Central High School Building in the 4th floor Boardroom starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Wendi Barrett, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

Approved:



Glen V. East, Board Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Raymond C. Morgigno
Interim Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education