

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

February 25, 2021

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a rescheduled Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 25, 2021, via teleconference and 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 by live stream.¹ Board members present: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman (Clinton, Mississippi), Dr. Angela Bass (Jackson, Mississippi), Dr. Jason S. Dean (Madison, Mississippi), Mr. Glen East (Gulfport, Mississippi), Dr. Karen J. Elam (Oxford, Mississippi), and Dr. Ronnie McGehee (Madison, Mississippi). Student Representatives: Mr. Omar G. Jamil (Hernando, Mississippi) and Ms. Amy Zhang (Starkville, Mississippi). Dr. Carey M. Wright was present at Madison, Mississippi.

- I. Dr. Jason S. Dean called the Board meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., after determining that a quorum of the Board existed at the locations stated for the purpose of conducting a meeting through teleconference and video means in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5.
- II. Dr. Jason S. Dean led the Pledge of Allegiance and Dr. Angela Bass gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the January 21, 2021, Board meeting minutes.
- IV. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Glen 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 that she had done several speaking engagements. Dr. Wright stated she presented at the Aspen Institute on chronic absenteeism. Dr. Wright stated MDE is convening a multistate initiative around teacher education prep programs and the need for some reform work. Dr. Wright stated this initiative is being led by the Hunt Institute and the Barksdale Reading Institute and MDE is one of six states that will be working with this initiative. Dr. Wright stated that the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) held another National Summit entitled State Actions to Improve

¹ Due to the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) and the recommendations of the CDC and the Mississippi Department of Health, gatherings should be restricted to no more than 10 people. 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.

Literacy and she was a keynote speaker presenting on literacy in Mississippi. Dr. Wright stated that she and Dr. Kymyona Burk, former state literacy director, delivered two presentations at the Center for Development and Learning's 2021 Plain Talk about Literacy and Learning Institute about MDE's work with literacy.

- Dr. Wright stated that she is still working with the medical community on telehealth and teletherapy and there will be more information to come later.
- Dr. Wright stated that she continues to meet with the Superintendent's Advisory Council to get their input on issues we have been facing.
- Dr. Wright stated that she held the first Principal's Advisory Council, and this was very refreshing since they are all excited about having a voice on the state level.
- Dr. Wright stated that she had a long conference call with three senators from North Carolina and their state education chair to learn more about MDE's work. Dr. Wright stated she invited them to come and bring a team since they are interested in the work being done at MDE.
- Dr. Wright read a statement from a student on the Student Advisory Council thanking the Board for a voice on the Council. Dr. Wright stated the Council would meet this afternoon and they will present to her what they have been working on to get her input and actions that they want the State Department to consider.
- Dr. Wright stated that she would like to recognize Mr. Henry Vaughn, Director of Information Security and Data Privacy. Dr. Wright stated that Mr. Vaughn has worked on the network security and Internet security for MDE and he is leaving to return to Tennessee. Dr. Wright thanked him for his work.

VI. Dr. Jason S. Dean, Chair of the State Board, gave the following report.

- Dr. Dean stated this would be his last Board meeting as a member of the Board of Education. Dr. Dean stated that he has changed jobs and it could present some conflicts, so he was resigning from the Board effective immediately after the Board meeting today. Dr. Dean thanked the Board members for their commitment. Dr. Dean thanked Mr. Omar Jamil and Ms. Amy Zhang for bringing fresh thoughts and ideas to the Board. Dr. Dean stated that he wanted to see how Mr. Jamil and Ms. Zhang grow professionally. Dr. Dean thanked Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman for taking on the role of leadership again and agreeing to assume the duties of Chair, due to his resignation.² Dr. Dean thanked the Executive Leadership Team for all their work. Dr. Dean thanked Ms. Sonya Amis for always being available and being a fantastic support team. Dr. Dean thanked Dr. Wright for being an amazing friend and he described her as smart, diligent, determined, caring, but the term moving forward would be tough, tenacious, and determined and it has been fantastic to work by your side. Dr. Dean

² See Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 12.7, State Board Policy Chapter 12, Rule 12.7

thanked the 40,000 licensed educators serving all the students in Mississippi for all their hard work and we support all that you do. Dr. Dean stated that this last year has been the hardest year in education in the last 50 years. Dr. Dean stated that Mississippi is at the beginning of another challenging time for educators, but he stated he will continue to support the work and progress that has taken place so far but just in another capacity. Dr. Dean stated that he looks forward to a continued relationship but in a different way.

VII. Report of Student Representatives

Mr. Omar G. Jamil stated that for the past two months the Student Advisory Council and MS directors have been meeting concerning how to improve virtual learning and traditional learning. Mr. Jamil stated that he has been discussing a number of issues with students both in the regional area and at the state level and the final Student Advisory Council will meet this afternoon. Mr. Jamil stated they would be presenting information and solutions related to Internet accessibility, digital technology, motivating the education sector, decreasing disparities between traditional and virtual learning, teacher engagement and hiring, district online learning, and virtual physiological improvements. Mr. Jamil stated that he has noticed over the past year that many of the issues discussed at the state level profoundly reflect the conflicts within his own regional area and as well as the nationwide discourse over social media networks. Mr. Jamil stated that it is imperative that the Mississippi Student Advisory Council create solutions that will impact not only the state or region but the nation as a whole in setting a presidency for some of these examples of how we can lead and improve student, teacher, and administrator learning and the work environment. Mr. Jamil stated that he was excited for the meeting this afternoon so they could get some solutions to Dr. Wright and can really create solutions for this generation where learning is just as important as ever in the time of the pandemic.

Ms. Amy Zhang stated the Student Advisory Council will meet this afternoon and it is a great opportunity to connect with students from across the state. Ms. Zhang stated that she and Mr. Jamil were the student representatives but it is always great to hear perspectives from more people. Ms. Zhang gave an overview of what the workgroups will be presenting this afternoon: ACT and SAT resources and support workgroup their main problem that they are focusing on is on how to improve ACT scores and their solutions are implementing more ACT prep classes in curriculum; for improving virtual learning workgroup is broader and we talked about struggles with motivations for students, district online learning disparities, expanding our Mississippi Connects for more software in the future, and communication connections; for the mental and emotional health resources support group they talked about the prevalence among youth and how schools can serve as a better line of defense besides a students family, and they talked about mental health counselors, mental checks and support groups and

incorporating electronics and apps into mental health treatment; for social justice awareness mainly focused on minority studies, podcasts or newsletters, social justice week or social justice club, and opinions on the patriotic education fund in Mississippi and they are focusing on a wide variety of cultural issues; and for teacher training for improved virtual instruction they talked about problems such as having teachers who are unfamiliar with technology, disparities between online and in-person learning, how for some teachers if you teach virtual and in-person classes their workload has doubled, and the lack of Internet service that some teachers have at home. Ms. Zhang stated that the Council members are passionate and involved and bring a lot of great ideas to the table. Ms. Zhang stated that she has learned a lot and is thankful that we have taken the time to organize and listen to these student voices.

VIII. There were no reports on State Board of Education Subcommittee meetings.

IX. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Action: Revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020* specifically the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System, Section 25, *College- and Career-Readiness*, regarding the inclusion of ACT WorkKeys in performance measures [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)

After discussion on this matter and a suggested change to the recommendation proposed, on a motion by Mr. Glen East, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to change the Accountability Model to include ACT WorkKeys Gold OR Platinum OR ACT WorkKeys Silver plus industry recognized certification or career pathway all under College and Career Readiness of the Accountability Model.

02. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes, and State Board of Education policies and manuals for the 2020 – 2021 and 2021 - 2022 school years, as appropriate, following Governor Tate Reeves' Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

02.A. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes, State Board of Education policies and manuals for the 2021 – 2022 school year as it relates to Educator and Administrator Licensure Renewal, following Governor Tate

Reeves' Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Mr. Glen East, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved item 0.2A. (copy attached).

02.B. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes, State Board of Education policies and manuals for the 2021 – 2022 school year as it relates to Qualifications for Prospective District Superintendent of Education and a one-time one-year extension to a three (3) year initial alternative District Superintendent License, following Governor Tate Reeves' Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved item 02.B. (copy attached).

02.C. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes for the 2020 – 2021 school year as it relates to the submission of required National Board Certification documentation, following Governor Tate Reeves' Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board unanimously approved item 02.C. (copy attached).

03. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes, State Board of Education policies, manuals, and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 school year following Governor Tate Reeves' Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford and Nathan Oakley)

03.A. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes, State Board of Education policies, manuals, and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 school year as it relates

to Third Grade English Language Arts/Reading Assessment, following Governor Tate Reeves' Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford and Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved item 03.A. (copy attached).

03.B. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes, State Board of Education policies, manuals, and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 school year as it relates to the Early Learning Collaborative Act, Miss. Code Ann. § 37-21-51 (3)(c)(iv) following Governor Tate Reeves' Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goals 3 and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford and Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board voted to approve item 03.B. (copy attached). Dr. Angela Bass recused herself from voting.

03.C. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes, State Board of Education policies, manuals, and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 school year as it relates to the administration of a Cursive Writing assessment, following Governor Tate Reeves' Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford and Nathan Oakley)

03.D. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes, State Board of Education policies, manuals, and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 school year as it relates to the Mississippi Speech-Language Therapy Scholarship for Students with Speech-Language Impairment Program (Nate Rogers Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program), following Governor Tate Reeves' Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford and Nathan Oakley)

- 03.E. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes, State Board of Education policies, manuals, and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 school year as it relates to the Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship for Students with Dyslexia Program following Governor Tate Reeves' Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford and Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Mr. Glen East, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved items 03.C., 03.D., and 03.E. (copy attached).

04. [PULLED]

05. Action: Approval of the MDE grant awards [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

- 05.A. Action: Award competitive grants for K-8 STEM Initiative Enhancement Project [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved item 05.A. (copy attached).

06. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Nathan Oakley)
- B. Approval to establish Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Framework for Advanced Manufacturing in Career and Technical Education (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Nathan Oakley)
- C. Approval to revise selected Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks in Career and Technical Education (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Nathan Oakley)
1. Forestry (Miss. Admin. Code 7-120)
 2. Horticulture (Miss. Admin. Code 7-156)
 3. Food Products (Meats) (Miss. Admin. Code 7-119)
 4. Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) (Miss. Admin. Code 7-157)
 5. Industrial Maintenance (Miss. Admin. Code 7-158)

6. Television Broadcasting and Production (Miss. Admin. Code 7-79)
 7. Keystone (Miss. Admin. Code 7-141)
- D. Approval to establish library standards in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-1-3
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Nathan Oakley)
 - E. Approval to establish State Board Policy Rule 95.2 to align to The Mississippi Learn to Earn Act
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Nathan Oakley)
 - F. Approval to revise Miss. Admin Code 7-3: 74.21, State Board Policy 74, Chapter 74, Rule 74.21 – Education Scholarship Account (ESA)
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Nathan Oakley)
 - G. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish the Advanced Technical Mathematics course
(Nathan Oakley)
 - H. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise licensure guidelines for certain Career and Technical Education Career Pathways; to revise Career and Technical Education 309 Special Populations supplemental endorsement licensure guidelines; to establish one new Career Pathway in the endorsement area of Advanced Manufacturing (Paula Vanderford)
 - I. Information: Annual School Board Meeting Attendance Report in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-6-13 (Paula Vanderford)
 - J. Approval of methodology to award grants to school districts for associated with the COVID-19 pandemic impact on Pre-K classrooms
(Nathan Oakley)
 - K. Approval of methodology to award grant funds to local school districts for the Career and Technical Education ESSER Grant (Nathan Oakley)
 - L. Approval of methodology to award Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Grant Funds to Mississippi Juvenile Detention Centers in accordance with the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (Joe Goff)

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Glen East, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., F., G., H., J., K., and L. (copy attached).

X. No Executive Session.

XI. State Board of Education

1. No report on meetings attended.

2. No request to attend a meeting.

XII. Other Business

01. Action: Approval of the regularly scheduled State Board of Education meeting on Thursday, March 18, 2021 be changed to Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, the Board unanimously approved to change the date of the March 18, 2021, Board meeting to March 11, 2021.

Dr. Jason S. Dean stated that the March Board meeting will be held on March 11, 2021, at the Central High School Building starting at 10:00 a.m.

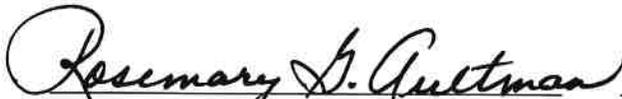
Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman thanked Dr. Dean for all his work as Board Chair during the pandemic. Ms. Aultman stated that he has done a great job and no one else could have done it better. Ms. Aultman stated that he has been creative, passionate, and understood the process.

Dr. Carey M. Wright thanked Dr. Dean stating that she appreciated his leadership, being her thought partner, his availability, and the knowledge that he has brought to the Board. Dr. Wright stated that it has been an honor to serve with him.

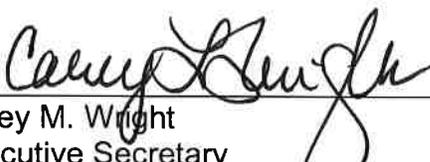
XIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

Approved:



Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education