

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

October 21, 2021

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 21, 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 via live stream.¹ Board members present in the 4th Floor Boardroom at the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, MS included: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Dr. Wendi Barrett, Dr. Angela Bass, Dr. Karen J. Elam, Mr. Bill Jacobs, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Mr. Matt Miller, and Ms. Mary Werner. Student Representatives: Ms. Amy Zhang and Ms. Micah Hill. Board member absent: Mr. Glen V. East. Dr. Carey M. Wright was also present.

- 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 teleconference and video means in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5.
- II. Ms. Amy Zhang led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Micah Hill gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board voted unanimously to approve the September 23, 2021, Board meeting minutes.
- IV. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, 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, Ms. Aultman, and Dr. Felicia Gavin attended the Legislative Budget Office Hearing to let them know what the Board's priorities are and the funds asked for in the budget.
 - Dr. Wright stated that she was asked by Chiefs for Change to meet with the future chiefs for a lesson in leadership meeting about how do you effectively partner with the state education agency.
 - Dr. Wright stated that she, Mr. Pete Smith, and Dr. Gavin met with the Legislative Black Caucus. They had questions around the Board's budget and priorities, and early childhood. Dr. Wright stated that it was a really good exchange.

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.

- Dr. Wright stated that she met virtually this month with her Principals Advisory, Teachers Advisory, and Superintendents Advisory. Dr. Wright stated that she had the first All Superintendents meeting virtually this week. Dr. Wright stated that she will have the Student Advisory meeting soon.
- Dr. Wright stated that she had a tour of the University of Mississippi Medical Center's Telehealth Center. Dr. Wright stated that she has been working with the medical community this past year about how we can expand telehealth and teletherapy around the state and this was a great visit, and the Department is going to see what they can do to work with them.
- Dr. Wright stated the Department has been working on a lot of resources such as Strong Leaders, Strong Readers, and the website has been updated. This is a great resource for teachers and parents. Dr. Wright stated Dates to Remember is for the administrators, so they have a month-by-month list of what is due to the state or federally and the Department has received positive feedback on this. Dr. Wright stated that What Every Instructional Leader Needs to Know is updated annually and has information about the Department, who to contact in the Department with names and numbers, and it has a list of the Department's initiatives.
- Dr. Wright stated the Spotlight is recognizing schools that the Department is calling Mississippi Emerging Science of Reading Schools. Dr. Wright stated these schools have trained all their teachers in the science of reading and has exemplified a change in instructional practices, and embodied school culture that focuses on building skillful strong readers and leaders in kindergarten through grade three. Dr. Wright stated that the Department has designated seven elementary schools as Mississippi Emerging Science of Reading Schools and the Foundation for Excellence in Education just recently spotlighted Mississippi for it being a national leader in the science of reading. Dr. Wright stated that the Leadership Team decided they wanted to travel to the inaugural Science of Reading Schools to celebrate their accomplishments and to present them with a banner. Dr. Wright stated the Department encourages more schools to apply to become Mississippi Emerging Science of Reading Schools. Dr. Wright stated the seven schools are: Faulkner Elementary School, Purvis Lower Elementary School, Henderson Ward Stewart Elementary School, Franklin Academy, Magnolia Park Elementary School, Poplarville Lower Elementary School, and East Tate Elementary School. Dr. Wright stated hats off to Dr. Oakley's Team for thinking of this celebration.
- Dr. Wright recognized Dr. Nathan Oakley since this is his last Board meeting for his leadership, friendship, his vision, the hard work he has put in each day with his team, the family man that he is, the Christian man that he is. Dr. Wright stated he leads with those values all the time and she has appreciated the opportunity to work with him, and he will be missed. But the beauty is that he will still be connected to the Department as the liaison between K-12 and community colleges with Workforce Development. Dr. Wright stated that Accelerate Mississippi is the new initiative of the

Governor and Dr. Oakley was chosen as the Deputy. Dr. Wright stated that Dr. Oakley has contributed to the work of this state and where Mississippi is. Dr. Wright stated that he has led, as well as his team, the literacy effort. Dr. Wright stated that Mississippi is recognized nationally because of the efforts, and it was started at the state with all the districts, teachers, and leaders supporting the work. Dr. Wright thanked Dr. Oakley and wished him the very best.

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

- Ms. Aultman stated that Dr. Oakley started out as a band director and has had a diverse journey through his career. Ms. Aultman stated that he brings so much energy and passion to his job. Ms. Aultman stated that one of the wonderful benefits of serving on this Board is crossing paths and getting to know people you probably would not get to meet. Ms. Aultman stated that Dr. Oakley is one of those people. Ms. Aultman stated that if one makes a difference in the life of a child, one has touched the future and Dr. Oakley has certainly touched the future with the work he has done, and the State Board of Education appreciates that.
- Ms. Aultman stated that she and Dr. Wright along with Dr. Gavin attended the Legislative Budget Office Hearing and Dr. Wright did an excellent job in presenting the accomplishments of the Department with the funds given and then telling where the Department wants to go and requesting funds for the upcoming activities.
- Ms. Aultman stated that the Board needs to have a Board retreat and are still working on getting a date set and will let members know soon.

VII. Report of Student Representatives

Ms. Amy Zhang stated that earlier this month she served as a panelist at the National Association of State Boards of Education's Annual Conference where she discussed a National Academy of Sciences report about a Call to Action for Science Education. Ms. Zhang stated first she would like to share a story. Ms. Zhang stated that Mr. Dane Peagler was her first teacher for science AP class, and she learned AP Physics C Mechanics and Electricity and Magnetism from him. Ms. Zhang stated that she had no prior real experience or even an interest in science, but he truly was dedicated to helping students understand not just what AP was going to test, but also the math and the physics foundation needed to understand in more complex physics concepts. Ms. Zhang stated that Mr. Peagler is an amazing teacher who got her interested in science and physics, and in case his name sounds familiar, he was recently recognized as one of Mississippi's Finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching. Ms. Zhang stated that she would not be passionate about physics or even science if she had not taken his class and got a good science education. Ms. Zhang stated that since different fields are becoming more and more interdisciplinary, it is critical that students receive a science education that

provides them with proper knowledge, but also engages them. Ms. Zhang stated the National Academies of Sciences report found that only one in four high school seniors score proficient in science, especially at a time when misinformation about the pandemic is so widespread, science education and science literacy are things that schools need to continue teaching to students. Ms. Zhang stated that the report emphasized the importance of science education, recognized barriers to improvement, related science to other STEM fields or humanities fields, described and recommended effective approaches to improving science education, and identified areas where more information is needed. Ms. Zhang stated that during the panel, audience members were interested in what boards of education could do to work toward this goal. Ms. Zhang stated the biggest first steps to take that were discussed were listening to students on what would engage them, making sure teachers are doing a good job and following the state's standards for science, and making sure states have a plan to increase the quality of science education and have accountability standards. Ms. Zhang stated that she has had the opportunity to get a great science education and hopes that the information in the Academies of Sciences report can help other students get those same opportunities as well.

Ms. Aultman thanked Ms. Zhang for her report and stated that she knew that she represented the state well on the panel and that it was a good experience for her.

Ms. Micah Hill stated that she was going to be speaking on Laurel High School's College and Career Fair that was held last week. Ms. Hill stated that this fair is held annually and provides students with information about community colleges and universities in Mississippi. Ms. Hill stated that having a College and Career Day provides students with an up-close and personal view of the different opportunities that are available. Ms. Hill stated that they were able to learn more about Jones College, the University of Southern Mississippi, Jackson State, William Carey, and many more that participated in the fair. Ms. Hill stated that local industries such as the Laurel Fire Department and Laurel Police Department were also there. Ms. Hill stated the fair was set up in the gym where you could walk around and pick up pamphlets from the different colleges and career booths. Ms. Hill stated this is a great opportunity for students to not only learn about schools in Mississippi but college itself. Ms. Hill stated that students were given pamphlets and brochures about how to apply for college and had people from the schools telling them more about the institutions that they represented. Ms. Hill stated that she could not attend since she is a dual credit student and she had mid-terms. Ms. Hill stated that she is a part of the Middle College Program, and they are taking the classes virtually at Jones now and she will provide more information once they transition to the campus. Ms. Hill stated that this month her school is focusing on the importance of college and trying to expose us to the different opportunities regarding our education. Ms. Hill stated that her school is successful in doing this and students can gain the knowledge of how to be successful and the opportunities. Ms. Hill stated that she wanted to

give a huge shout out to the 44 students that were accepted into the Student Advisory Council from about 100 applications, and she is looking forward to everyone's input on how we can better Mississippi's education.

Ms. Aultman thanked Ms. Hill for her report and stated that Ms. Hill is taking six dual credit courses.

VIII. Dr. Karen J. Elam, Chair of the Educator Quality Subcommittee, stated that she, Dr. Bass, and Dr. McGehee met with Dr. Cory Murphy and Dr. Debra Burson, and they discussed the Consent Agenda items K through O that are on the agenda today.

IX. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items (All action items require vote)

01. Information: Report of the available indicators of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System for the 2020-2021 School Year [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

Dr. Paula Vanderford and Mr. Alan Burrow reported on the indicators of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System for 2020-2021 School Year (copy attached).

02. Information: Report on the 2020-2021 Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) achievement gap results by subgroup [Goals 1, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

Dr. Vanderford and Mr. Burrow reported on the 2020-2021 Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) achievement gap results by subgroup (copy attached). The Board had a lot of discussion on this item.

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

03.A. Action: Modify contract for Interim Superintendent for Tunica County School District [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Carey Wright)

03.B. Action: Modify contract with North Mississippi Education Consortium to coordinate and facilitate regional training sessions and procure related services for Mississippi Department of Education for 2021-2022 [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

03.C. Action: Renew contract with The National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment, Inc. for Fiscal Year 2022 for the Mississippi Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for

Statewide Assessment and Accountability [Goals 1, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

- 03.D. Action: Modify contract with North Mississippi Education Consortium to provide a variety of education-related services to support the MDE’s Digital Learning program [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved items 03.A., 03.B., 03.C., and 03.D. (copy attached).

04. Action: Approval of MDE grant awards [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

- 04.A. Action: Modify Early Learning Collaborative Council grants to support pre-kindergarten programs with increased funding to serve additional children [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board unanimously approved item 04.A. (copy attached). Dr. Angela Bass recused herself from discussion and voting.

Members voting aye:
Dr. Wendi Barrett
Dr. Karen J. Elam
Mr. Bill Jacobs
Dr. Ronnie McGehee
Mr. Matt Miller
Ms. Mary Werner

Member voting nay: None

Member recused: Dr. Angela Bass

Member absent: Mr. Glen V. East

05. 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 (Nathan Oakley)

B. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Nathan Oakley)

- C. Approval to adopt English Language Proficiency Standards for the 21st Century (ELPA 21) in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-1-3 (Nathan Oakley)
 - 01. Approval to adopt Mississippi English Language Proficiency (MS-ELP) Standards
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments)
 - 02. Approval to adopt Mississippi Alternate English Language Proficiency (MS Alt-ELP) Standards
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments)
- D. Approval of methodology to award Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Grant funds to support services that address learning loss to students enrolled in Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) (Nathan Oakley)
- E. Approval to revise methodology to award grants to school districts, public institutions of higher learning, community colleges, and state agencies to participate in a Mississippi Department of Education Educators-in-Residence program (Nathan Oakley)
- F. Approval of industry certifications that will calculate in the Acceleration component of the Accountability Model for the 2021-2022 School Year (Nathan Oakley)
- G. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 9.2, State Board Policy Chapter 9, Rule 9.2: Reporting Attendance for Virtual Learning
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- H. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 9.3, State Board Policy Chapter 9, Rule 9.3: School-Wide and District-Wide Virtual Learning Days
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- I. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2021*, specifically Process Standard 2.4 – Student Support Services, and Miss. Admin. Code 7-163: *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2021*, specifically Process Standard 2.4 – Student Support

(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)

- J. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2021*, specifically Process Standard 14 – Graduation Requirements, and Appendices A, B, and C and Miss. Admin. Code 7-163, *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2021*, specifically Appendices A, B, and C
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- K. Approval of a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: 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 (Paula Vanderford)
- L. Approval of educator preparation programs as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development (Paula Vanderford)
- M. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 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 (Paula Vanderford)
- N. Approval to modify the existing K-12 Reading endorsement as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development (Paula Vanderford)
- O. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 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 (Paula Vanderford)

- P. Approval to repeal State Board Policies in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-3.114 (Sonya Amis)
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment)
 - 01. Approval to repeal Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 5 and 5.1, State Board Policy Chapter 5 – Agenda, State Board of Education, Rule 5.1 – Agenda, State Board of Education
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment)
 - 02. Approval to repeal Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 38.3, State Board Policy Chapter 38, Rule 38.3 – Beverage Regulations
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment)
 - 03. Approval to repeal Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 38.4, State Board Policy Chapter 38, Rule 38.4 – Snack Regulations
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment)
 - 04. Approval to repeal Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 59 and 59.1, State Board Policy Chapter 59 – Paperwork Reduction, Rule 59.1 – Paperwork Reduction
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment)
 - 05. Approval to repeal Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 76.10, State Board Policy Chapter 76, Rule 76.10 – West Tallahatchie Rental Housing
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment)
 - 06. Approval to repeal Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 77 and 77.1, State Board Policy Chapter 77 – Technology Plan (Monitoring), Rule 77.1 – Technology Plan
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment)
- Q. Approval of methodology to award grants to school districts for costs associated with the purchase of High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) and professional learning associated with Reading Foundational Skills, English Language Arts (ELA), and Mathematics HQIM to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic
(Nathan Oakley)

- R. Information: Report on action of the Commission on School Accreditation concerning the annual assignment of district accreditation statuses (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., F., G., H., I., J., K., L., M., N., O., P., and Q. (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. Karen J. Elam seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a vote of 7 to 0. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman asked Dr. Carey M. Wright, Ms. Erin Meyer, and the Executive Leadership Team to remain in the Executive Session.

Mr. Matt Miller, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss discrete personnel matters in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(a) and (k) related to the appointment of certain positions within the Department of Education. Additionally, in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(b) the Board moved to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy session or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation, litigation or issuance of an appealable order involving the MDE. Dr. Karen J. Elam seconded the motion, which passed on a motion of 7 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 in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(a) and (k) related to the appointment of certain positions within the Department of Education and in accordance with Miss Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(b) the Board discussed strategy session or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation, litigation or issuance of an appealable order involving the MDE.

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board voted 7 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.

1. On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Arma M. Marquez as a Bureau Director II to serve as the Stakeholder Engagement Director within the Office of Technology and Strategic Services at a salary of \$84,000.00.

XII. State Board of Education

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

XIII. Other Business

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman stated that the November Board meeting will be held on November 12, 2021, at the Central High School Building starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:49 a.m.

Approved:



Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Carey M Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education