

## Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

July 15, 2021

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 15, 2021, in the Biloxi Performing Arts Center on the campus of the Biloxi High School in Biloxi, Mississippi.

The meeting was available to the public via live stream.<sup>1</sup> Board members present at the Biloxi Performing Arts Center on the campus of the Biloxi High School in Biloxi, Mississippi included: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Dr. Wendi Barrett, Dr. Angela Bass, Mr. Glen V. East, Dr. Karen J. Elam, Mr. Bill Jacobs, Mr. Matt Miller, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, and Ms. Mary Werner. Student Representatives: Ms. Amy Zhang and Ms. Micah Hill (arrived at 10:21 a.m.). Dr. Carey M. Wright was present at the Biloxi Performing Arts Center on the campus of the Biloxi High School in Biloxi, Mississippi.

I. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman called the Board meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Ms. Aultman thanked Mr. Marcus Boudreaux, Superintendent of the Biloxi School District, for allowing the State Board to use the Biloxi Performing Arts Center today for our meeting. Ms. Aultman thanked the Biloxi team for their assistance with getting everything ready for the meeting. Ms. Aultman welcomed Ms. Mary Werner to her first Board meeting.

II. Mr. Matt Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Glen V. East gave the Invocation.

III. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the junior student representative final interview of June 16, 2021, minutes of the budget meeting of June 16, 2021, and the minutes of June 17, 2021, Board meeting.

IV. On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, 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 she has been interviewed by Y'all Politics and the JT Talk Show. Dr. Wright stated that she shared all the good news that is going on in Mississippi.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

- Dr. Wright stated that she has conducted two presentations. Dr. Wright stated the Achievement School District had a leadership retreat and she presented the kickoff for the retreat. Dr. Wright stated that she and Dr. Dobbs were invited as a team to a national meeting of the public health and school leaders and the whole focus was on reopening schools and how to keep schools open safely.
- Dr. Wright stated that the telehealth and teletherapy work group is still working and are getting closer to finalizing this work.
- Dr. Wright stated the National Assessment Governing Board Chair, former Governor Haley Barbour, assembled a subcommittee to work on the reading framework which will be used to guide the development of the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAPE) in reading starting in 2026.
- Dr. Wright stated that the State Chief from Alaska called and asked if she would come and speak to all the superintendents and then meet with the Senate and the House since they are working on legislation. Dr. Wright stated that she and Mr. Pete Smith will be going to Alaska, and they will pay for the trip. Dr. Wright stated that she will also meet with the Governor if his schedule permits. Dr. Wright stated that she talked to two Mississippi legislators, and they are excited that other states are reaching out to Mississippi for information. Dr. Wright stated that she will report back to the Board about the trip at the August Board meeting.

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

- Ms. Aultman stated that she had several small meetings with different people who had questions or needed information.
- Ms. Aultman stated that on Tuesday morning she spoke to the state superintendents and brought greetings from the Department and this Board. Ms. Aultman stated that she presented information about what is going on in the Department and highlighted what the Department did in ordering, loading, and distributing the devices in the fall across the state. Ms. Aultman stated that she wanted them to know what effort went into getting them their devices in a three-month period and then they discussed the restart of school and what that will look like.

VII. Report of Student Representatives

Ms. Amy Zhang talked about her commitments over the summer. Ms. Zhang stated that she has been working on humanities outreach at MSMS. Ms. Zhang stated they have an outreach program run by both students and teachers which is aimed at getting more students from across the state to be aware of MSMS's well-rounded system. Ms. Zhang stated that they support stem interest and also support humanities interests through classes, clubs, and extra curricula. Ms. Zhang stated that she has been working in a group that is focusing on economic outreach and at the last meeting they finalized the lesson timelines for middle school and high school classes that they want to hold and they have been

creating lesson plans and worksheets. Ms. Zhang stated that other groups have been targeting such things as creative writing, English, art, and history. Ms. Zhang stated that she is excited to be teaching lessons and doing outreach once school begins and she thinks this is a really great opportunity for students all across the state. Ms. Zhang stated that she has been continuing her internship with the Institute for Youth and Policy and this week she submitted an article on the Economics of Climate Change and it should be published within a week and she is looking forward to writing another article for next month. Ms. Zhang stated that she is grateful to be here in person and have the opportunity to speak to everyone face to face and she is really happy to be serving in this position during this upcoming year.

Ms. Micah Hill stated that COVID-19 has pointed out the needs of students in our state specifically what is not as efficient anymore. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic students could no longer meet in person because it was not as efficient concerning our health and safety at the time. Ms. Hill stated that education was a big question – how do we function as a school, how will teachers keep teaching, and how do we reach our students. Ms. Hill stated her brother, Samuel, went to MSMS just like Ms. Amy Zhang and he graduated this year and will be attending the University of Southern Mississippi to major in applied computer science. Ms. Hill stated here is a student that went through the pandemic and experienced it and she was wondering how the technology was in his school. Ms. Hill stated that she was wondering if he got his technology because of COVID-19 just like she did and he explained that they already had their technology issued out to them at the beginning of the school year and they already had their technology at the beginning of the pandemic. Ms. Hill stated that she wishes she could say the same. Ms. Hill stated that she will be discussing technology in her school district – pre-COVID, during COVID, and post-COVID. Ms. Hill stated that before the pandemic came the technology at her school district was not a big topic basically because there was nothing holding them back from pursuing their education. Ms. Hill stated they would come to school and receive their in person instruction. Ms. Hill stated that in early March schools shut down around the state as administrators, teachers, and local board members would have to find creative ways to continue the education. Ms. Hill stated that on April 2020, they used packets to finish the school year and sometimes the lines would be long to pick up the packets. Ms. Hill stated there were some school districts where the students did not have Internet and they could not finish out their school year. Ms. Hill stated that she was grateful that her district found a way to continue the education because they were not able to provide the virtual learning option at that time. Ms. Hill stated that in November 2020, they received Chromebooks and this was the first time that the school district was able to have Chromebooks accessible to every student in grades one through 12. Ms. Hill stated that she was excited to have a device that was designated for school since she had not had that before and they were advised to bring it with them any day that they were scheduled to come to school. Ms.

Hill stated that in the middle school and in the high school they used different platforms to continue their education. Ms. Hill stated that although they had resources at the time, there were a lot of failures with teachers that did not have as much exposure to the technology world. Therefore, they could not pursue the virtual learning option which hindered students education which came up because of lack of instruction. Ms. Hill stated that this was mostly visible for teachers who had been teaching for 20 plus years because there has not been that training in place. Ms. Hill stated that although with all the ups and downs the pandemic brought us even with the technology she would have to say along with other students that we really appreciated the virtual learning option because it was self-paced. Ms. Hill stated that during this past year they were wondering what if they could take it a step further and they could get an extra class or two out of the way so they could get extra credit or what if they wanted to go further and take a class that was unavailable in their school district and all the opportunities that the online classes brought to them have really opened up doors and she is grateful for that. Ms. Hill stated that this would not be mandatory if it was available because some students work better in the competitive environment with a teacher in front and classmates around and she understands that because she is a visual learner. Ms. Hill stated that when you have the opportunity to go beyond the traditional learning path and expand your knowledge in learning she thinks it would be ultimately beneficial for students in Mississippi. Ms. Hill stated that she is happy with where her school district is now with technology and she is grateful for the local Board members, meetings, etc., so they can get the funding for the Chromebooks because now they can take the education to another level. Ms. Hill stated that they now have the chance to give more students opportunities in education and they should capitalize on this advantage.

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

IX. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Action: Begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 74.8, State Board Policy 74, Chapter 74, Rule 74.8 – University Based Program [Goals 1, 2, and 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved item 01 (copy attached).

02. Action: Establish Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 9.3, State Board Policy Chapter 9, Rule 9.3: School-Wide and District-Wide Virtual Learning Days [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)

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

03. Action: Establish Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 56.2, State Board Policy Chapter 56, Rule 56.2: Virtual Students [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved item 03 (copy attached).

04. [PULLED]

05. Information: Report on *American Rescue Plan* state plan [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

Dr. Nathan Oakley gave a report on the American Rescue Plan.

06. Action: Approval of MDE contracts [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

06.A. Action: Execute an emergency contract with Cambium dba Voyager Sopris Learning, Inc. for the 2022 fiscal year to provide a statewide Pre-K through Grade 3 Literacy Professional Development Training System for Mississippi Educators [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved item 06.A. (copy attached).

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

07.A. Action: Award grants for the Mississippi Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools Grant (MCOPS) FY22 (2021-2022) [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved item 07.A. (copy attached).

08. Action: Approval of the preliminary recalculation of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program Base Student Cost for Fiscal Year 2023 (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board unanimously approved item 08 (copy attached).

09. Action: Approval of preliminary calculation of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program for Fiscal Year 2023 (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Dr. Angela Bass, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board unanimously approved item 09 (copy attached).

10. Action: Approval of Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Request [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board unanimously approved item 10 (copy attached).

11. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Nathan Oakley)
- B. Approval of the 2021-2022 Crisis Management Plans for the State Schools (Nathan Oakley)
- C. Approval of contract with North Atlantic Security for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Nathan Oakley)
- D. Approval to revise the methodology to reimburse costs incurred by school districts and charter schools related to Advanced Placement, dual credit, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge, diploma endorsements, and WorkKeys (Nathan Oakley)
- E. Approval of the appointments to the Commission on School Accreditation (Paula Vanderford)
- F. [PULLED]
- G. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code: 7-24, *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020*, specifically Process Standard 14.3 and Appendices A-10 and A-11 and Miss. Admin. Code: 7-163, *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2020*, specifically Process Standard 12.2 and Appendices A-10 and A-11 (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paul Vanderford)

- H. Approval of FY22 budget for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Nathan Oakley)
- I. Approval of FY22 budget for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Nathan Oakley)
- J. Approval of 2021-2022 educator contracts for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., G., H., I., and J. (copy attached).

X. Consideration of Executive Session

Mr. Glen V. East 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 vote of 8 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. Glen V. East, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss discrete strategy session or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation, litigation, or issuance of appealable order involving with MDE in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(b). Dr. Angela Bass seconded the motion, which passed on a motion of 8 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 strategy session or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation, litigation, or issuance of appealable order involving with MDE in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(b).

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board voted 8 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

The public came back into the Board meeting and Ms. Aultman reported that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

XI. State Board of Education

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

3. Mr. Glen V. East moved to nominate Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman to serve as Board Chair from July 2021 to July 2022. The Board unanimously approved Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman to serve as Board Chair from July 2021 to July 2022.

Dr. Karen J. Elam moved to nominate Mr. Glen V. East to serve as Board Vice-Chair from July 2021 to July 2022. The Board unanimously approved Mr. Glen V. East to serve as Board Vice-Chair from July 2021 to July 2022.

XII. Other Business

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman stated that the August Board meeting will be held on August 19, 2021, at the Central High School Building in Jackson, Mississippi starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIII. Adjournment


On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

Approved:



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Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair  
Mississippi Board of Education



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Carey M. Wright  
Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Board of Education