

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

August 19, 2021

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 19, 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: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman (Clinton, Mississippi), Dr. Wendi Barrett (Biloxi, Mississippi), Dr. Angela Bass (Jackson, Mississippi), Mr. Glen V. East (Gulfport, Mississippi), Mr. Bill Jacobs (Brookhaven, Mississippi), Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee (Madison, Mississippi), Mr. Matt Miller (Hattiesburg, Mississippi), and Ms. Mary Werner (Saltillo, Mississippi). Board member absent: Dr. Karen J. Elam. Student Representatives absent: Ms. Amy Zhang and Ms. Micah Hill. Dr. Carey M. Wright was present at Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

- I. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman called the Board meeting to order at 10:05 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. Mr. Bill Jacobs led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Matt Miller gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Mr. Bill Jacobs, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the July 15, 2021, Board meeting minutes and the August 3, 2021, Special-called Board meeting minutes.
- IV. On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, 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 for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), and the Reading Framework was approved, and it will be used for the 2026 NAEP assessment. Dr. Wright stated that MDE will make sure to distribute the Framework to our teachers.
 - Dr. Thomas Dobbs conducted a webinar on Friday with the superintendents and the local board members that could attend, and he gave them updated

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.

information on what is happening around the state with COVID and encouraged them to continue to adhere to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Department of Health Guidelines. Dr. Wright stated that he encouraged everyone that could to get vaccinated.

- Dr. Wright stated she met with the telehealth and teletherapy workgroup that she has been working with for a year now and they are getting very close to finalizing the equipment needs and then they will be putting that in as a pilot in 11 school districts this fall with the intent to scale up at a later date.
- Dr. Wright stated that she attended the Children's Health Council with agency heads and Dr. Dobbs sits on this Council also and this is a way to keep an eye on what is happening around the state and any policy issues that may need to be addressed.
- Dr. Wright stated that she and Dr. Paula Vanderford were invited to speak on a podcast with the Louisiana Pelican Public Policy Institute. Dr. Wright stated that Louisiana is getting ready to revise their accountability model and they wanted to know about Mississippi's model since Mississippi has continued to see success.
- Dr. Wright stated that she brought greetings to the next cohort of Teach Plus.
- Dr. Wright stated that Mr. Bill Jacobs invited her to the Brookhaven Splitterism Club, and she gave them some information and some great talking points about what is going on in Mississippi.
- Dr. Wright stated that she and Mr. Pete Smith were invited by the State Superintendent of Alaska to come to Alaska and speak to all his superintendents and speak to the joint Senate and House Education Committee. Dr. Wright stated they are looking at Mississippi's success and looking at our legislation since they are 51st in the Nation and they want to know about Mississippi's strategies and our legislation. Dr. Wright stated that at their expense, she and Mr. Smith flew to Alaska and spoke to all the superintendents one day and then met with the joint Senate and House Education Committee and we are continuing to assist in their efforts to draft legislation and their strategies that they are trying to imply to improve literacy in the state of Alaska.
- Dr. Wright stated that MDE advertised earlier in July for Interim Superintendents since the Interim Superintendent in Noxubee left to take a job in Detroit, and the agency is trying to get ahead of that and advertised for that position and Dr. Washington Cole is currently serving in this capacity on an interim basis. Dr. Wright stated that the Board hired Dr. Jennifer Wilson to assume the Interim Superintendent position in the Holmes County Consolidated School District.
- Dr. Wright stated MDE is getting ready to launch the Equipped Book List for All. Dr. Wright stated that this is a book list for teachers for grades 6-12 for all kinds of social issues, content issues, and they are using this as an opportunity for teachers to use books on this list to build children's content and background knowledge and as of this week MDE is launching grades K-

5 so all teachers grade K-12 will have this amazing list of books from which to choose. Dr. Wright stated that the books are noted if they are award winning books, noted by Lexile, noted by length, and there is a summary of each book. Dr. Wright gave a shout out to the many people that have been working on this project: Dr. Nathan Oakley, Dr. Marla Davis, Dr. Tenette Smith, Dr. Kristen Wynn, Ms. LeighAnne Cheeseman, Ms. Elizabeth Simmons, Ms. Melissa Banks, Ms. Wendy Clemons, Ms. Tammy Crosetti, Ms. Natalie Crowder, Dr. Lea Johnson, Dr. Kristina Livingston, Ms. Jasmine Bell, Ms. Jen Cornett, Ms. Sandy Elliott, Mr. Limuel Eubanks, Dr. Kevin Gaylor, Ms. Melanie Watkins, Ms. Amy Baker, Ms. Natalie Breithaupt, Ms. Coretta Doss, Ms. Aimee Hawkins, Ms. Molly Henderson, Ms. Nicole Hunter, Ms. Stephanie Mollett, Ms. Tiffany Nickleberry, Ms. Kimberly Peterman, Ms. Kasey Rather, Ms. LaTondra Robinson, Ms. Christine Spell, Ms. Missaha Thompson, and Ms. Delphony Williams. Dr. Wright stated that she would also like to extend thanks to public school counselors who helped with the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) review and the selection of titles to support SEL. Dr. Wright thanked parents, including foster parents, who reviewed for appropriateness and who suggested additional titles for consideration. Dr. Wright thanked the various groups of Mississippi public school teachers, librarians, and administrators who assisted MDE in both rating and identifying the titles chosen for this list and for providing feedback throughout the development process.

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

- Ms. Aultman stated that since there is a full Board now, she has assigned Board members to the Board Subcommittees (copy attached). Ms. Aultman stated that the Academic Achievement PreK-12/Early Childhood Subcommittee Chair is Mr. Glen V. East and the members are Dr. Karen J. Elam and Mr. Matt Miller with the MDE Advisory being Dr. Nathan Oakley and Dr. Jill Dent; Educator Quality Subcommittee Chair is Dr. Karen J. Elam and the members are Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee and Dr. Angela Bass with the MDE Advisory being Dr. Cory Murphy and Dr. Paula Vanderford; Legislative Subcommittee Chair is herself and the members are Dr. Karen J. Elam and Mr. Glen V. East with the MDE Advisory being Mr. Pete Smith; School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee Chair is Dr. Angela Bass and the members are Dr. Wendi Barrett and Mr. Bill Jacobs with the MDE Advisory being Ms. Sonya Amis and Dr. Paula Vanderford; and the Workforce/Career and Technical Education Chair is Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee and the members are Mr. Glen V. East and Ms. Mary Werner with the MDE Advisory being Ms. Wendy Clemons and Dr. Nathan Oakley. Ms. Aultman stated the subcommittees will meet on an as needed basis to discuss upcoming Board items.

VII. No reports from the Student Representatives.

VIII. No reports on State Board of Education Subcommittee meetings.

IX. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Action: 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]
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Nathan Oakley)

The Board discussed concerns and asked questions, which MDE staff answered. On a motion by Dr. Angela Bass, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board voted 4 to 2 to approve item 01 (copy attached).

Members voting aye: Dr. Wendi Barrett
Dr. Angela Bass
Mr. Bill Jacobs
Mr. Glen V. East

Members voting nay: Mr. Matt Miller
Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee

Member abstain: Ms. Mary Werner

Member absent: Dr. Karen J. Elam

02. Action: Begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: 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 Services [Goals 1, 2, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

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

03. Action: Approval of a temporary rule and to begin the Administration Procedures Act process: 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 [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board unanimously approved item 03 with the amendment that the Board review the rule in October at their regular Board meeting (copy attached).

04. Action: Approval of a temporary rule and to begin the Administration Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 9.2, State Board Policy Chapter 9, Rule 9.2: Reporting Attendance for Virtual Learning [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board unanimously approved item 04 (copy attached).

05. Action: Approval of the recommended cut scores on the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) for the U.S. History assessment [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board unanimously approved item 05 (copy attached).

06. Action: Approval of the recommended cut scores on the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program - Alternate (MAAP-A) for science assessments in Grades 5, 8, and Alternate Biology [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board unanimously approved item 06 (copy attached).

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

- 07.A. Action: Approval of emergency contract with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) for the Fiscal Year 2022 to administer the LAS Links, English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board unanimously approved item 07.A. (copy attached).

- 07.B. Action: Contract with Guidesoft Inc., d/b/a Knowledge Services under the terms of the Master Consulting Services Agreement to provide for the acquisition of Information Technology Professionals [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved item 07.B. (copy attached).

- 07.C. Action: Contract with Guidesoft Inc., d/b/a Knowledge Services under the terms of the Master Consulting Services Agreement to provide for the acquisition of Network and Technical Support IT

Professionals for local school districts [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan]
(John Kraman)

On a motion by Dr. Angela Bass, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved item 07.C. (copy attached).

07.D. Action: Contract with Carousel Industries of North America, Inc. under the terms of the Master Purchase Agreement to provide for the acquisition of an Interactive Voice Response System [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Angela Bass, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved item 07.D. (copy attached).

08. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of expenditures for the Mississippi School of the Arts, to include end-of-year expenditures from Fiscal Year 2021 and monthly expenditures from July 2021 (Nathan Oakley)
 - B. Approval of monthly expenditures of the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Nathan Oakley)
 - C. Approval of 2021-2022 educator contracts for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Nathan Oakley)
 - D. Approval of two (2) addenda to the MSDB Operations Manual: To establish a Donation of Leave Policy and add a bereavement leave clause to Appendix D (Nathan Oakley)
 - E. Approval to participate in the Mississippi Deferred Compensation Plan for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Nathan Oakley)
 - F. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To adopt English Language Proficiency Standards for the 21st Century (ELPA 21) in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-1-3 [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)
01. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To adopt Mississippi English Language Proficiency (MS-ELP) Standards
 02. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To adopt Mississippi Alternate English Language Proficiency (MS Alt-ELP) Standards

- G. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: 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 (Paula Vanderford)
- H. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to add Middle School Math grades 7-8 (Endorsement Code 901) to the list of approved supplemental endorsements that may be added to a valid three (3) year or valid five (5) year license with eighteen (18) hours of acceptable coursework bearing the MAT subject area prefix and to remove any references to the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) approved Math and Science Partnerships initiative (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- I. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to establish new supplemental endorsements for Master Teacher of Personal Finance and Master Teacher of College and Career Readiness (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- J. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code: 7-4, Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to revise certain Project Lead the Way (PLTW) licensure options (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- K. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To repeal State Board Policies in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-3.114 (Sonya Amis)
 - 01. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: 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
 - 02. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To repeal Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 38.3, State Board Policy Chapter 38, Rule 38.3 – Beverage Regulations

03. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To repeal Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 38.4, State Board Policy Chapter 38, Rule 38.4 – Snack Regulations
 04. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To repeal Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 59 and 59.1, State Board Policy Chapter 59 – Paperwork Reduction, Rule 59.1 – Paperwork Reduction
 05. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To repeal Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 76.10, State Board Policy Chapter 76, Rule 76.10 – West Tallahatchie Rental Housing
 06. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To repeal Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 77 and 77.1, State Board Policy Chapter 77 – Technology Plan (Monitoring), Rule 77.1 – Technology Plan
- L. Approval of the *Mississippi Critical Teacher Shortage Act of 1998* Designation of 2021-2022 Critical Shortage Subject Areas and Critical Shortage Geographical Areas (Mississippi School Districts) (Paula Vanderford)
 - M. Approval to establish a qualifying score for the newly revised version of Evaluation Systems Group of Pearson, Foundations of Reading Assessment (Test Code 190) as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Paula Vanderford)
 - N. Approval of methodology to award discretionary grants for special projects appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature to Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) with a World Class Teacher Program (WCTP) site (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., F., G., H., I., J., K., L., M., and N. (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 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. Glen V. East, 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. Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee 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 approval of the appointment of a School Finance Officer to serve within the Office of School Financial Services.

On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Mr. Glen V. East, 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 Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Brittany McWillie as a School Finance Officer to serve within the Office of School Financial Services at a salary of \$71,204.49.

XI. State Board of Education

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

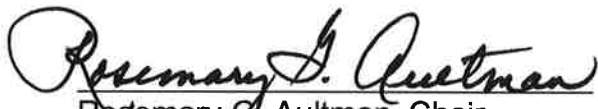
XII. Other Business

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman stated that the September Board meeting will be held on September 23, 2021, at the Central High School Building starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Angela Bass, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Approved:



Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education