

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

September 2, 2021

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Special-Called Teleconference meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 2, 2021 via teleconference and audio means pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5 for the purpose of the State Board of Education to consider approval for emergency procurements for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds, American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds, and Mississippi Student Information Systems (MSIS) state funds to deliver systems and supports to school districts in response to COVID-19 and to grant authority for the State Superintendent of Education to request Information Technology Services (ITS) and Public Procurement Review Board (PPRB) approval for the term of such emergency contracts for a period up to three years. The meeting is available to the public via livestream.¹ Board members present: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman (4th Floor Boardroom, Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi), Dr. Wendi Barrett (Ocean Springs, Mississippi), Dr. Angela Bass (Jackson, Mississippi), Mr. Glen V. East (Gulfport, Mississippi), Dr. Karen J. Elam (traveling via phone), Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee (Madison, Mississippi), Mr. Matt Miller (Hattiesburg, Mississippi), and Ms. Mary Werner (Saltillo, Mississippi). Board member absent: Mr. Bill Jacobs. Student Representatives absent: Ms. Amy Zhang and Ms. Micah Hill. Dr. Carey M. Wright, State Superintendent, was present at the 4th Floor Boardroom, Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

Ms. Aultman noted that the meeting of the Board of Education was being held via teleconference and audio means pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5 and that the notice of this meeting included the date, time, place, and purpose of the meeting and identified the location of the meeting available to the public. Ms. Aultman announced that a quorum of the board exists at the locations stated for the purpose of conducting a meeting through teleconference means.

- I. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman called the Special-Called teleconference meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.
- II. Dr. Carey M. Wright, State Superintendent, did not have any comments but stated that Dr. Felicia Gavin and Mr. Joe Goff would present the item.
- III. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board unanimously approved the agenda.
- IV. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Item

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.

01. Action: Approve a declaration by the State Superintendent of Education that an emergency exists in the procurement of technology products and other professional services because undertaking a competitive procurement would cause a delay that will threaten the health or safety of any person, or the preservation or protection of property pursuant to Mississippi Code Ann. § 31-7-13 (j), Rule 207.6:013-060 of the Information Technology Services (ITS) Procurement Handbook, and 3-207 of the Public Procurement Review Board (PPRB) OPSCR Rules and Regulations, and to use emergency purchasing procedures to solicit and award contracts with various contractors for ESSER II, ARP, and MSIS 2.0 state funded (\$7.6 million) procurements. Also, grant authority for the State Superintendent of Education to request Information Technology Services (ITS) and Public Procurement Review Board (PPRB) approval for the term of such emergency contracts for a period up to three years [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

The Board had questions that were answered by Dr. Felicia Gavin and Mr. Joe Goff. On a motion by Dr. Angela Bass, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board approved item 01 (copy attached).

Members voting aye: Dr. Wendi Barrett
 Dr. Angela Bass
 Mr. Glen V. East
 Dr. Karen J. Elam
 Mr. Matt Miller
 Ms. Mary Werner

Member voting nay: Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee

Member absent: Mr. Bill Jacobs

V. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Glen V. East, the Board unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

Approved:



Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education