

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

January 20, 2022

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 20, 2022, via video means pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5 for the purpose of conducting the Board meeting.

The Board made this meeting 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, Mississippi included: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Dr. Wendi Barrett (Biloxi, Mississippi), Dr. Angela Bass (Jackson, Mississippi), Mr. Glen V. East, Dr. Karen J. Elam (Oxford, Mississippi), Mr. Bill Jacobs, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Mr. Matt Miller, and Ms. Mary Werner (Saltillo, Mississippi). Student Representatives: Ms. Amy Zhang (Columbus, Mississippi) and Ms. Micah Hill. Dr. Carey M. Wright was also present at the 4th Floor Boardroom at the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

- I. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman called the Board meeting to order at 10:04 a.m., after determining that a quorum of the Board existed for the purpose of conducting a meeting through 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 December 16, 2021, Board meeting minutes.
- IV. On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.
- V. No Recognition Ceremony.
- VI. Dr. Carey M. Wright gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:
 - Dr. Wright stated she presented to the team from Alaska. Dr. Wright stated that the Alaska State Chief reached out asking MDE to meet with his team virtually and the Literacy team put together a presentation about MDE's work, what has been done, and it was well received and now they want MDE to come to Alaska at their expense and speak to principals,

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.

superintendents, central office staff, and legislators so the team is pulling that together and the MDE will probably go in late April.

- Dr. Wright stated that she presented at the Senate Education Hearing last week and Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Mr. Pete Smith, and Dr. Felicia Gavin also attended. Dr. Wright stated they had sent over a list of items that they wanted MDE to cover and at the end they had a questions and answers period. Dr. Wright stated that in the afternoon she met with the Senate Appropriations Committee and reviewed the Board's legislative priorities with them, and she and Dr. Gavin answered questions.
- Dr. Wright stated she held her first Superintendent's Advisory meeting of the 2022 school year, and she received a lot of good feedback from the superintendents.
- Dr. Wright stated that the State Early Childhood Committee is up and running under new leadership, so they have divided into several subcommittees to get the work done for a more coordinated effort across the state where early childhood is concerned.
- Dr. Wright stated that MDE does have an upcoming public hearing on the Social Studies Standards. Dr. Wright stated that MDE is in the process of revising some of those standards based on feedback that MDE has already received. Dr. Wright stated that she thinks it will be important to explain the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process. Dr. Wright stated that all the Board voted on in December was to send the standards out for review to receive public input. This is the first step. Dr. Wright stated that when MDE received a number of requests for a hearing – which MDE had never had before, but MDE did this time, then MDE is required to schedule a hearing and people can sign up to speak. Dr. Wright stated that MDE will get the input back and the Board will receive a summary of what was discussed and any recommendations that will be forthcoming. Dr. Wright stated that Mr. Mike Kent, former Superintendent of Madison County, will be the presiding officer at the hearing. Dr. Wright stated that all the input that is received from the hearing or that has come into the Department, the team will review, and the Board will receive at the March meeting. Dr. Wright stated the Board will receive all the comments that have come in one column, another column with what MDE is going to do in response to the comment, and then a column explaining the MDE's decision. Dr. Wright stated that if there are enough changes that come in and MDE concurs with them, and they are substantive in nature, the standards would go back out for additional APA comments, and then it would come back to the Board. Dr. Wright stated that in March the Board will have the first round of suggestions and recommendations and the Board will have a presentation. Dr. Wright stated that depending on the feedback received at that time depends on whether there is a request to vote to approve or a vote to go back out for APA. Dr. Wright stated that she thought the Board and the community at large should know the process.

- Dr. Wright recognized Ms. Corie Jones from the Communications Office who designed the graphics for the Annual Report that the Board has received. Dr. Wright stated the Communications Team collects the information for the Annual Report.
- VII. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair of the State Board, gave the following report.
- Ms. Aultman stated that she, Dr. Wright, Ms. Sonya Amis, and Dr. Robert Hull from the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) are looking at topics for the training in February. Ms. Aultman stated that Dr. Hull will be doing training on the roles of the Board and discuss things going on at the national level, and then the Board has topics that need to be covered. Ms. Aultman stated the Board Retreat will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 - Ms. Aultman stated that she attended the Senate Education Hearing that Dr. Wright presented at and she did an outstanding job. Ms. Aultman stated that she covered all the progress made and they are most pleased with the graduation rate and how Mississippi is now exceeding the national average with 87%. Ms. Aultman stated that the Board should be very proud of this since it has been one of the Board's focuses and the Board knows that if a student graduates from high school their chance of success is better. Ms. Aultman stated that during the questions, CRT came up and Dr. Wright made it emphatic and clear that each school district has a curriculum and there is a standard that each school district is teaching, and CRT is not a part of that – the end, period. Ms. Aultman stated that she does not know how to be any clearer or emphatic about it and the MDE is not aware of any school district in the state that has it in their curriculum, and it is certainly not in the standards.

As a matter of personal privilege, Ms. Aultman stated that the Board does not always recognize the difference that teachers make in the lives of students every day. Ms. Aultman stated that she read an article recently about Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee about when he served as a Principal at Madison Central and a student was facing a lot of difficulties in her life and thought she was going to have to drop out of school and he encouraged her and worked with her and now she is very successful and lives in Oklahoma. Ms. Aultman stated that he ran into her over the Christmas holiday, and she posted a wonderful story about the difference he made in her life by going the extra mile. Ms. Aultman stated that in Tupelo this morning a memorial is being held for a friend of hers, Mr. James "Booty" Sloan, who has been a coach across the state and the tributes that have come in about the difference he made in young men's lives outside the classroom and off the football field have been heartwarming. Ms. Aultman stated that the Board needs to remember that it is important about subject matter, curriculum, or graduation rates, but it is also important to recognize the people in the field that are working with their students to try to make them be successful sometimes coming from very difficult family situations, big challenges that would be daunting to any of us. These people step up to help these students. Ms. Aultman stated that the

Board needs to remember these people, be grateful for them, and support them in any way.

VIII. Report of Student Representatives

Ms. Amy Zhang informed the Board that she will be writing a student voice column for an upcoming NASBE Journal for their state education standard, and she will be writing about STEM education. Ms. Zhang reported that seniors have a lot of decisions to make about the next four years of their life, such as applying for college, choosing where to attend, figuring out how to pay, figuring out a major, learning about clubs, and about campus life. Ms. Zhang stated that she has a better understanding of this now that she has gone through it. Ms. Zhang stated that students have to pay for college and there are several ways to go about paying for college from college aid, scholarships, and student loans. Ms. Zhang stated that a student can stay in state or go out-of-state for college and a lot of her classmates are excited to stay in state to give back to Mississippi after the state has invested so much in their education, and especially because MSMS has given students so many opportunities to thrive. Ms. Zhang stated they had experienced some problems firsthand that they want to help future generations in Mississippi with such as funding, classes, information on careers, and the best way is to stay in state and work on these things throughout college. Ms. Zhang stated there is the consideration of staying close to family in Mississippi and getting better financial aid or scholarships by staying in state. Ms. Zhang stated that some students are following majors, programs, specific professors, or just the experience that is only available at an out-of-state college. Ms. Zhang stated that some people would like the independence of going out-of-state so either way there is a lot to consider when deciding where to go to college. Ms. Zhang stated that for those that want it college is a great way to continue your education even if a lot of us may not know exactly where we are going yet. Ms. Zhang stated that it was an accomplishment to have finished most of the college application process, and it is very exciting to anticipate what the next four years are going to look like.

Ms. Micah Hill reported that she participated in a scholarship program called Distinguished Young Women, formally known as Junior Miss, and it is where juniors and high school girls are provided scholarship opportunities and she is proud to say she is the 2023 Distinguished Young Women of Jones County. Ms. Hill presented a PowerPoint titled "Middle College Interview" which included her, Ms. Gabrielle Peters, Ms. Mikayla McMillan, and Ms. Aubreney Stenson. During the presentation they stated the middle college program was different than dual credit since the middle college program lets high school juniors obtain their associates degree and their high school diploma simultaneously. They stated that it takes a lot of hard work, and a student has to be committed to succeed. They stated that a student can do anything they put their mind to. Ms. Hill stated

that she wanted to give a shout out to the videographer, Mr. Brad Smith, and to her friends for being in the interview.

IX. Mr. Glen V. East, Chair of the Academic Achievement PreK-12/Early Childhood Subcommittee, stated that the subcommittee met yesterday afternoon via Teams. Mr. East stated they had a great report from the Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) about their strategic plan that they are working on and the great things going on at MSA. Mr. East stated that today during the meeting, the Board will get an overview of the Mathematics Instructional Coaches. Mr. East stated that it was a good meeting and there are great things going on in that office.

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Information: Progress on the Mississippi State Board of Education's (SBE) Strategic Plan [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Carey Wright)

Dr. Carey Wright presented the progress on the *Mississippi Board of Education's Five-Year Strategic Plan 2018-2022* (copy attached).

02. Information: Overview of the Mathematics Instructional Coaching Services [Goals 1, 2, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)

Dr. Kim Benton and Dr. Marla Davis gave an overview of the Mathematics Instructional Coaching Services.

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

03.A. Action: Contract with Teaching Lab to provide mathematics instructional coaching services [Goals 1, 2, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)

03.B. Action: Contract with Mythics, Inc. to provide Oracle Licensing Support [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board unanimously approved items 03.A. and 03.B. (copy attached).

04. Action: Approval of MDE grant awards [Goals 2 and 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

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

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board unanimously approved item 04.A. (copy attached).

04.B. Action: Award competitive grants to Early Learning Collaborative Councils to support pre-kindergarten programs [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)

Dr. Angela Bass recused herself from discussion and voting on agenda item 04.B. Dr. Bass left the room during discussion and voting.

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously (with exception of Dr. Bass) approved item 04.B. (copy attached).

05. 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 and Kim Benton)²

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board approved item 05. (copy attached).

Members voting <u>aye</u> :	Dr. Wendi Barrett Dr. Angela Bass Mr. Glen V. East Dr. Karen J. Elam Mr. Bill Jacobs Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee Mr. Matt Miller
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Member voting <u>nay</u> :	Ms. Mary Werner
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Member abstain:	None
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Member absent:	None
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06. Consent Agenda

² This matter is reconsidered later in the board meeting.

- A. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Kim Benton)
- B. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Kim Benton)
- C. Approval to establish Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Framework for Natural Hair Care and Braiding in Career and Technical Education (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Kim Benton)
- D. Approval to revise selected Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks in Career and Technical Education (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Kim Benton)
 - 01. Principles of Agriscience (Miss. Admin. Code 7-180)
 - 02. Diversified Agriculture Mechanization Core (Miss. Admin. Code 7-171)
 - 03. Diversified Agriculture Plants Core (Miss. Admin. Code 7-177)
 - 04. Diversified Agriculture Animals Core (Miss. Admin. Code 7-173)
 - 05. Diversified Agriculture Environment Core (Miss. Admin. Code 7-175)
 - 06. Diversified Agriculture Agribusiness Core (Miss. Admin. Code 7-179)
 - 07. Early Childhood Education (Miss. Admin. Code 7-166)
 - 08. Cosmetology (Miss. Admin. Code 7-80)
 - 09. Architecture and Drafting (Miss. Admin. Code 7-151)
 - 10. Furniture Design and Manufacturing (Miss. Admin. Code 7-155)
 - 11. Automotive Service Technician (Miss. Admin. Code 7-128)
- E. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code: 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2021* (Appendix A-9: Distinguished Academic Endorsement) and Miss. Admin. Code 7-163: *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2021* (Appendix A-9: Distinguished Academic Endorsement) (Paula Vanderford)
- F. Approval of a 2021-2022 teacher contract for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Kim Benton)
- G. Approval of the Return to School Guides for Mississippi School of the Arts, Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, and Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (Kim Benton)

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., F., and G. (copy attached).

XI. 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 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 State Board and/or the MDE. Mr. Matt Miller 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 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 State Board and/or the MDE.

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board voted 8 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. Wendi Barrett, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Sandra Whiton as an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as the Director of Accountability Services at a salary of \$92,500.00.

The Board took up the following motions to reconsider agenda item 05:

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board voted unanimously to reconsider item 05.

On a motion by Mr. Bill Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board voted unanimously to approve item 05.

XII. State Board of Education

1. Mr. Matt Miller stated that he attended the meeting of the Area Development Partnership (ADP) for Greater Hattiesburg, Mississippi recently and the keynote speaker was Mr. Noah Harris. Mr. Miller stated that Mr. Harris is a third-year student at Harvard and is the first African American to be elected as Student Body President. Mr. Miller stated that Mr. Harris is a graduate of Oak Grove High School, and he has already been accepted into Harvard Law School. Mr. Miller stated that Mr. Harris has authored a children's book. Mr. Miller stated that he talked about his life, how education was important to him, and how his family was very important to him during the education process. Mr. Miller stated this is a testimony that anyone can go do anything and go anywhere with a Mississippi education.
2. No request to attend a meeting.

XIII. Other Business


Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman stated that the February Board meeting will be held on February 17, 2022, at the Central High School Building starting at 10:00 a.m.

Ms. Aultman stated the State Board of Education will attend the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Training and conduct the SBE Work Session on February 25, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Butler Snow Building in Ridgeland, Mississippi.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Angela Bass, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Approved:


Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education


Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education