

## Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

November 9, 2023

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 9, 2023, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5 for the purpose of conducting a regularly scheduled Board meeting.

The public accessed this meeting via livestream or in-person at the Central High School Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members physically present included: Mr. Glen V. East, Dr. Wendi Barrett, Mr. Bill Jacobs, Mr. Matt Miller, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, and Mr. Mike Pruitt. Board member participating virtually: Ms. Mary Werner (Saltillo, Mississippi). Student Representatives present: Mr. Charlie Frugé and Ms. Kate Riddle. Dr. Raymond C. Morgigno, Interim State Superintendent, was also present.

- I. Mr. Glen V. East called the Board meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., after determining that a quorum of the Board existed for the purpose of conducting a meeting.
- II. Mr. Bill Jacobs led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Glen V. East gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Mr. Bill Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Mike Pruitt, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of October 19, 2023, Board meeting and minutes of November 2, 2023, Special-Called Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously adopted the Consent agenda.

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

- V. Recognition Ceremony

### **National Assessment Governing Board**

Dr. Darien Spann, Principal  
Starkville High School  
Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District

- VI. Dr. Raymond C. Morgigno gave the following report as the Interim State Superintendent of Education:
  - Dr. Morgigno stated the Principal Advisory Council met and discussed things that are going well in the districts and some of the challenges.
  - Dr. Morgigno brought greetings at the Mississippi Association of School Administrators Fall Leadership Conference.

- Dr. Morgigno stated the MDE Accreditation Department has been providing trainings for school districts across the state. Dr. Morgigno stated that around 600 people have attended the trainings in several locations. Dr. Morgigno thanked Dr. Courtney Van Cleave and Dr. Jo Ann Malone for all their hard work in putting this training together. Dr. Morgigno stated MDE has received a lot of positive feedback about the trainings.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he had the privilege to attend the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) State Leaders' Forum. Dr. Morgigno stated he was able to share some work the MDE is doing with other states. Dr. Morgigno stated that Senator Hobson was in attendance and some members from our Community College Board. Dr. Morgigno stated it was a good time for the Mississippi team to be together and plan things moving forward.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he attended the Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) meeting with the RESA directors on professional development opportunities for next year.
- Dr. Morgigno stated that MDE hosted about 50 aspiring teachers from Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi who are enrolled in the Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Program (METP). Dr. Morgigno stated that local superintendents came in and talked with these aspiring teachers.
- Dr. Morgigno stated that CTE leaders and the National Career Academy Coalition led some College and Career Academies training for MDE staff.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he attended a meeting with Representative Kevin Felsher and Robert Hynver, Chief of the 6<sup>th</sup> Brigade Southern Region JROTC, to look at ways we can strengthen our JROTC programs across the state. Dr. Morgigno stated there is a lot of research that shows those students in JROTC have better attendance, higher graduation rates, and less discipline problems.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he attended a literacy luncheon with Representative Sam Creekmore and House Education Vice Chair Kent McCarty on Monday of this week.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he visited Kosciusko Elementary School to see their pre-K classrooms and see the phenomenal work they are doing. Dr. Morgigno visited West Harrison High School Celebration since they were the number one rated high school in Mississippi for two consecutive years.
- Dr. Morgigno attended the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce Connections Breakfast where he shared things going on across our state and he learned of impressive things on the Coast.
- Dr. Morgigno brought greetings to the Mississippi Action for Progress/Head Start Early Childhood Annual Conference.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he was proud of the literacy team who were featured on *Good Morning America* on the role of literacy coaches in Mississippi's academic gains.



- Dr. Morgigno stated MDE had an initial meeting with Boston Consulting Group (BCG), which the Office of the State Auditor hired to conduct efficiency audits in 13 state agencies

VII. Mr. Glen V. East, Chair of the State Board, gave the following report:

- Mr. East stated he had a very prestigious honor this morning to read a Resolution for Dr. Margie B. Pulley, Interim Superintendent for Tunica County School District (copy attached).

VIII. Report from Student Representatives

Ms. Kate Riddle stated she attended the North East Power Youth Leadership Collective where she learned about electricity. Ms. Riddle reported on the College and Career Readiness course that is required of students.

Mr. Charlie Frugé gave an update on his college application process and his scholarship application process. Mr. Frugé spoke on the Portrait of a Graduate Senior Internship Program run by Dr. Duncan Gray that he is participating in at Oxford High School. Mr. Frugé stated this program focuses on eight skills for students to be life ready.

IX. Reports on State Board of Education Subcommittee meetings

Mr. Matt Miller, Chair of the Educator Quality, stated they met yesterday and discussed Tabs G and H on the Consent Agenda and both deal with changes in Pathways for licenses for individuals. Mr. Miller stated the changes went through the APA process and there were many comments from both sides and the importance of this is if when changed it does not work then tell us why. Mr. Miller stated the two things that come out of this is communication and collaboration.

Mr. Bill Jacobs, Chair of the Internal Accountability Subcommittee, stated they met this morning and discussed the internal audit for CTE Office of Student Organizations which is responsible for nine student organizations in school districts across the state and they deal with a funding mechanism that is not MDE money but their own money and they were audited and we have the authority to help them do procurement, accounting, taxes, banking services, and we have staff that handles and oversees these. Mr. Jacobs stated an internal audit was conducted for that department and reviewed with them legal compliance, internal control findings, audit recommendations, and corrective action. Mr. Jacobs stated there were some found and as a result there will be some quarterly updates on the corrective action plans and resolutions provided to the subcommittee until all the findings have been resolved.

Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Chair of the School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee, stated they met this morning regarding our accountability from

this past year and some of our results going forward and they will have a detailed report for the Board today presented in PowerPoint style. Dr. McGehee stated he was very impressed with where we are with accountability and our young people are doing a great job of performing along with our educators who are leading our young people to their brighter future.

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

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

Dr. Paula Vanderford and Mr. Alan Burrow presented the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) achievement gap results by subgroups.

02. Information: Spring 2023 ACT Results [Goals 1 and 2- MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

Dr. Vanderford and Mr. Burrow presented the Spring 2023 ACT Results.

03. Information: MSIS Modernization Progress Report [Goals 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)

Mr. John Kraman and Ms. Deborah Donovan gave a report on the MSIS Modernization Progress.

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

- 04.A. Action: Emergency contract with National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessments, Inc. (NCIEA) to provide the MDE with expertise in the purpose of facilitating and managing the Mississippi Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) [Goals 1, 2, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Ms. Mary Wener, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board unanimously approved item 04.A. (copy attached).

05. Action: Approval of the MDE grant awards [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

- 05.A. Action: Award competitive grants for the Nita M. Lowey 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)



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

06. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Donna Boone)
- B. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Donna Boone)
- C. Approval of certified personnel for the Mississippi School of the Arts, Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, and Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (Donna Boone)
- D. Approval of the Engagement Letter between the Mississippi School of the Arts and the Lowery, Payn, Leggett, and Bellipanni Accounting Firm for audit services (Donna Boone)
- E. Approval to award formula grants to school districts for the purpose of providing reimbursement for the Textbook Inventory Management System (TIMS) (Donna Boone)
- F. Approval to revise Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Framework Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) in Career and Technical Education (CTE)  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Donna Boone)
- G. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12*, to amend criteria regarding educator licensure preparation and other programs completed outside the state of Mississippi  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- H. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to establish Performance-Based Teacher License criteria as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)

- I. Information: Report on action of the Commission on School Accreditation concerning the assignment of district accreditation statuses (Paula Vanderford)
- J. Approval of a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To amend Miss. Admin. Code 7-2: Chapter 2 – Organization of the State Board, Rule 2.3 – Student Representatives of the Mississippi State Board of Education (Sonya Amis)
- K. Approval of a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To amend Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: Chapter 1 – Accountability, Rule 1.1 – Educational Accountability (Sonya Amis)

On a motion by Dr. Wendi Barrett, seconded by Mr. Mike Pruitt, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., F., G., H., J., and K. (copy attached).

XI. No Executive Session.

XII. State Board of Education

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

XIII. Other Business

Mr. East stated the recruitment period for the State Superintendent of Education began on August 14, 2023, and closed on October 19, 2023.

On September 5, 2023, the Communications Office released a Stakeholder Survey for public comments which closed on September 22, 2023. The survey results were released to the public on October 20, 2023.

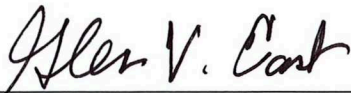
On November 2, 2023, the State Board met with the McPherson & Jacobson consultants to discuss the candidates who applied for the position, view applicant videos, and selected the semi-finalists for interviews to be held on December 11 and 12, 2023. Following the semi-finalist interviews, finalists will be selected for an interview on December 20, 2023. Those candidates selected for an interview will be announced through the MDE Public Relations Office. The State Superintendent will be appointed by the State Board on December 20, 2023, with a hire date of July 1, 2024, upon Senate confirmation.

November 9, 2023

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

Approved:

  
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Glen V. East, Board Chair  
Mississippi Board of Education

  
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Raymond C. Morgigno  
Interim Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Board of Education