

## Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

December 21, 2023

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 21, 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, Mr. Bill Jacobs, Mr. Matt Miller, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Mr. Mike Pruitt, and Ms. Mary Werner. Board member absent: Dr. Wendi Barrett. 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. Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee 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. Mike Pruitt, the Board unanimously approved the revised minutes of September 29, 2023 Special-Called Board meeting (with motions from the Executive Session), minutes of November 9, 2023 Board meeting, minutes of December 11, 2023, December 12, 2023, and December 20, 2023 Special-Called Board meetings.
- IV. On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Mr. Mike Pruitt, the Board unanimously adopted the Consent agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Bill Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

- V. No Recognition Ceremony.
- VI. Dr. Raymond C. Morgigno gave the following report as the Interim State Superintendent of Education:
  - Dr. Morgigno welcomed the incoming State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Lance Evans and his wife, Brandy, to the meeting. Dr. Morgigno stated he has done an outstanding job in New Albany, and we are excited for his leadership moving Mississippi forward.
  - Dr. Morgigno stated that the College and Career Readiness business round table was held last week, and they discussed ways to increase opportunities for students in the area of internships.

- Dr. Morgigno stated he met with the Department of Labor to help the school districts with labor laws.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he met with deans from Mississippi State and the University of Mississippi and the Vice-Chair of the House Education Committee to work on strategies to address our teacher shortages that we have in our state.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he had the privilege to meet with Mr. Mike Ward, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Ambassador to discuss the 2024 NAEP administration.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he met with the Southeast Regional Administrator from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to talk about Child Nutrition summer feeding programs.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he and some of MDE senior leadership were able to attend the Chief State School Officers Annual Policy Forum and the Foundation for Excellence in Education National Summit.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he wanted to highlight the MDE Literacy Team for a tremendous job they are doing, and they held the Mississippi Literacy Association Conference on the Coast and they had about 750 educators in attendance. Dr. Morgigno stated that MDE has some more resources for our teachers when it comes to the adolescent reading program and some professional development opportunities for the districts, and we will have some more districts piloting this training over the next few months. Dr. Morgigno did a shout out to the Literacy Team for putting together a great conference.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he visited with East Tallahatchie Consolidated School District, West Bolivar Consolidated School District, Yazoo City Municipal School District, Humphreys County School District, and Columbia School District.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he visited Lewisburg Elementary School in DeSoto County where he got to take part in their National Blue Ribbon School celebration.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he toured the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (MSMS) and visited with Dr. Tedder, Interim Executive Director. Dr. Morgigno stated that some of our Legislative leadership, Dr. Donna H. Boone, and Ms. Holly Spivey also visited MSMS.
- Dr. Morgigno stated the Office of State Auditor has contracted with BCG Consulting to do some efficiency audits across 13 different state agencies and MDE received our draft recommendations about opportunities for cost efficiencies within districts in the areas of procurement, utilities, insurance, clerical support, and Career and Technical Education. Dr. Morgigno stated that BCG recommended school attendance officers be moved under the purview of local school districts which is also one of our legislative asked. Dr. Morgigno stated that it was nice to see an outside group also recognize that as a need.



December 21, 2023

- VII. Mr. Glen V. East, Chair of the State Board, gave the following report:
- Mr. East stated that the Board has been busy for the last few months, and he recognized and thanked Dr. Kim Benton, Mr. Mike Kent, and Dr. Ray Morgigno who have served as interim state superintendents that have come in and helped through this process and to let you know that Dr. Lance Evans will be the State Superintendent of Education beginning July 1, 2024.

VIII. Reports from Student Representatives

Ms. Kate Riddle spoke on the importance of being involved and this can help you learn soft skills such as responsibility, problem solving, and adaptability.

Mr. Charlie Frugé spoke on his appreciation for the military, individuals who have left Mississippi but give back to our state, and the importance of JROTC.

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

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Action: Modify contract for Interim Superintendent for Tunica County School District [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Michael D. Kent)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved item 01. (copy attached).

02. Action: Approval of the MDE Contract [Goals 1, 2, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

- 02.A. Action: Renew contract with Reading and Language Arts Center dba Brainspring for Fiscal Year 2024 to provide professional development training system based on Orton Gillingham reading methodology [Goals 1, 2, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

On a motion by Mr. Bill Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Mike Pruitt, the Board unanimously approved item 02.A. (copy attached).

03. Action: Approval of the MDE grant awards [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

- 03.A. Action: Modify Early Learning Collaborative Council grants to support pre-kindergarten programs with increased funding to serve additional children [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

On a motion by Ms. Mary Wener, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board unanimously approved item 03.A. (copy attached).

04. 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 to revise the Regulations for Gifted Education Programs (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Donna Boone)
- E. Approval to revise methodology to award grants to local school districts to support high-quality early childhood programs under the Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG-B5) (Donna Boone)
- F. Approval of methodology to award grants to school districts, public institutions of higher learning, community colleges, and state agencies to participate in a Mississippi Department of Education Educators-in-Residence program (Donna Boone)
- G. Approval to revise State Board Policy Chapter 28, Rule 28.1 – Curriculum Guides (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Donna Boone)
- H. Approval to create State Board Policy Chapter 84, Rule 84.18 – Appeals Procedure for Career Technical Data Reporting (Has cleared the Administrative Procedure Act process without public comments) (Donna Boone)
- I. Approval to revise the following State Board policies related to Career and Technical Education (CTE) (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Donna Boone)
  - 1. Mississippi Admin. Code 7-3: Chapter 84, Rule 84.12 – New Program Approval for Career and Technical Ongoing Programs
  - 2. Mississippi Admin. Code 7-3: Chapter 84, Rule 84.17 – Statistical Data

3. Mississippi Admin. Code 7-3: Chapter 85, Rule 85.2 – Allocation of Career and Technical Education Plan Funds
  4. Mississippi Admin. Code 7-3: Chapter 85, Rule 85.4 – Maximum Reimbursement Salary Schedule
  5. Mississippi Admin. Code 7-3: Chapter 94, Rule 94.1 – Local Reimbursement Expense Items
- J. Approval to update Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy assessment list to include additional assessments from the previously approved vendors for use in determining student levels of language proficiency (Donna Boone)
- K. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to outline provisions for the teaching commitment within the Resident Teacher License (Paula Vanderford)
- L. Approval of Alcorn State University’s initial-level preparation programs as a result of state standards-based educator preparation program reviews and national accreditation decisions (Paula Vanderford)
- M. Approval of Mississippi State University’s initial-level preparation programs as a result of state standards-based educator preparation program reviews and national accreditation decisions (Paula Vanderford)
- N. Approval of University of Mississippi’s initial-level preparation programs as a result of state standards-based educator preparation program reviews and national accreditation decisions (Paula Vanderford)
- O. Approval of nonpublic school accreditation statuses for School Year 2023-2024 (Paula Vanderford)
- P. Approval of the methodology to award Farm to School Mini Grants to local educational agencies (Paula Vanderford)
- Q. Approval of the methodology to award Mississippi Community Oriented Policing in Schools (MCOPS) grant dollars to local and county law enforcement agencies or local education agencies with certified School Resource Officers (SROs) in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-321 (Paula Vanderford)



- R. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Mississippi Admin. Code 7-3:23.1, State Board Policy Chapter 23, Rule 23.1 Contracts (Felicia Gavin)
- S. Approval of final calculation of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program for Fiscal Year 2025 (Felicia Gavin)
- T. Approval of final calculation of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program Base Student Cost for Fiscal Year 2025 (Felicia Gavin)
- U. Approval of a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To amend Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: Chapter 1 – Accountability, Rule 1.3 – Bureaus of Internal Audit and Program Evaluation (Sonya Amis)

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Mr. Mike Pruitt, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., F., G., H., I., J., K., L., M., N., O., P., Q., R., S., T., and U. (copy attached).

XI. Consideration of Executive Session

Mr. Matt Miller 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 unanimous vote. Mr. Glen V. East asked for Legal Counsel to remain in the room.

Mr. Matt Miller, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(a) and (k), to discuss discrete personnel matters.

Ms. Mary Werner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Ms. Jennifer Nichols 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, in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(a) and (k), the Board discussed discrete personnel matters.

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Mr. Mike Pruitt, the Board voted 5 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

The public came back into the Board meeting and Mr. East stated the Board discussed the salary of the State Superintendent.

December 21, 2023

01. On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved to set the annual salary of the State Superintendent of Education at \$300,000.00 beginning July 1, 2024.

XII. State Board of Education

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

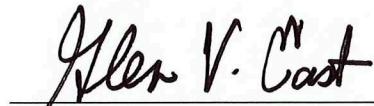
XIII. Other Business

Mr. East stated the January Board meeting will be held on January 18, 2024, in Jackson, MS at the Central High School Building in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

Approved:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Glen V. East, Board Chair  
Mississippi Board of Education



\_\_\_\_\_  
Raymond C. Morgigno  
Interim Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Board of Education