

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

December 20, 2023

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Special-Called Board meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 for the purpose of conducting finalist interviews for the State Superintendent position. The location of the meeting was the offices of Butler Snow at 1020 Highland Colony Parkway, Ridgeland, MS 39157. Board members present included: Mr. Glen V. East, Mr. Bill Jacobs, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Mr. Matt Miller, Mr. Mike Pruitt, and Ms. Mary Werner. Board member absent: Dr. Wendi Barrett.

- I. Mr. Glen V. East called the Special-Called Board meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., after determining that a quorum of the Board existed for the purpose of conducting a meeting.
- II. Mr. East stated that this is a Special-Called meeting of the Board of Education being held today pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5. Mr. East stated that the notice was posted in accordance with state law and included the date, time, place, and purpose of the meeting and identified the location of the meeting available to the public. Mr. East stated that each Board member received a copy of the agenda. Mr. East stated that this is a Special-Called Board meeting and therefore the only business that can be transacted is that which has been specified in the call of this meeting.
- III. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as presented.
- IV. Consideration of Executive Session

Mr. Matt Miller moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session. Mr. Mike Pruitt seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Glen V. East asked for the room to be cleared.

Mr. Matt Miller then moved that the Board go into Executive Session in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(a) and (k) to discuss discrete personnel matters related to the State Superintendent search process for the Department of Education. Mr. Bill Jacobs 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, the Board conducted finalist interviews regarding the State Superintendent search and had discussions related to this process.

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


The public came back into the Board meeting and Mr. Glen V. East reported the action taken during the Executive Session.

On a motion by Mr. Bill Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved to appoint Dr. Lance Evans as the State Superintendent of Education pending confirmation by the Legislature.

The Executive Leadership Team (ELT) which consists of Dr. Donna H. Boone, Dr. Felicia Gavin, Mr. John Kraman, Mr. Michael D. Kent, Dr. Paula Vanderford, Mrs. Erin Meyer, Mrs. Jean Cook, Mrs. Holly Spivey and MDE staff which consists of Mrs. Sonya Amis, Ms. Donna Hales, and Mrs. Tamala Matthews came into the meeting room. They introduced themselves and explained their roles and responsibilities at MDE.

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 3:56 p.m.

Approved:



Glen V. East, Board Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Raymond C. Morgigno
Interim Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education