

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

March 28, 2023

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Special-Called Teleconference Board meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 for the purpose of discussing personnel matters related to appointments within the MDE. The location of the meeting available to the public was in the Conference Room at the LifeShare House on the campus of the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, 1252 Eastover Drive, Jackson Mississippi. Board members present via Zoom were: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman (Clinton, Mississippi), Dr. Wendi Barrett (Biloxi, Mississippi), Mr. Glen V. East (Gulfport, Mississippi), Mr. Bill Jacobs (Brookhaven, Mississippi), Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee (traveling – I-55 South), Mr. Matt Miller (Hattiesburg, Mississippi), and Ms. Mary Werner (Saltillo, Mississippi).

- I. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman called the Special-Called Board meeting to order at 4:34 p.m., after determining that a quorum of the Board existed for the purpose of conducting a meeting through teleconference and video means in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5.

Ms. Aultman stated that this is a Special-Called meeting of the Board of Education being held today and 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. Ms. Aultman stated that each Board member received a copy of the agenda. Ms. Aultman 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.

- II. On a motion by Dr. Wendi Barrett, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as presented.
- III. Dr. Robert P. Taylor gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:
 - Dr. Taylor stated that MDE has had people on the ground, led by Mr. Brian McGairty, in all the districts impacted by the tornadoes and severe weather events. Dr. Taylor himself visited Humphries County and the South Delta District to survey the damage and assess what additional support was needed. In the Humphries County District, there has been one reported teacher fatality. There is no major damage to buildings, but there were extensive power outages. The schools resumed on March 27.
 - Dr. Taylor stated he spent a lot of time in Rolling Fork which was the area that sustained the most severe damage. They are working to get a count of student and staff fatalities. The school building suffered extensive damage to the roofs and HVAC systems. A middle school that had been previously closed will likely have to be reopened and used as a temporary building for school to continue. Over 50% of students and staff are without power. All but

3 or 4 buses out of their fleet were damaged. The superintendent is trying to contact displaced staff and she met with the insurance provider on March 28. School is closed until further notice, and they will probably be out for a considerable time. Surrounding districts have been offering to help with enrolling students and continuing education.

- In Amory there were no staff or student fatalities. The high school roof was damaged, but the other schools were not. The roads are full of debris and will likely not be cleared for at least 30 days, which means the buses cannot run, so district staff is considering virtual options. School will be closed until at least March 31.
- Carroll County had one teacher fatality and one student fatality. The schools were not damaged, and school resumed on March 28. Winona and Montgomery County had no reported teacher or student fatalities. The schools were not damaged, and school resumed on March 29. Newton County had no reported teacher or student fatalities and the schools were not damaged. There was some damage to the Sportsplex. School resumed on March 27.
- MDE has reached out to USDA to see about getting free lunches to feed the students the way they did during COVID. All districts will have the severe weather 10 day no makeup policy enacted. Since the Governor declared a state of emergency the staff will still get paid.
- Dr. Taylor also stated that he spoke with administrators at the MASA conference and that it was a good opportunity to engage with administrators about how to build their districts.

Ms. Aultman asked Dr. Taylor if South Delta had much support staff and Dr. Taylor stated that MDE is on the ground there. He stated the superintendent is in her first year, so they are giving her as much help as possible.

IV. 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. Mr. Matt Miller seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a vote of 6 to 0. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman asked for the room to be cleared.

Mr. Glen V. East, 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 appointments within the MDE. Ms. Mary Werner seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 6 to 0. Ms. Jennifer Nichols informed the public of the Board's vote to go into Executive Session for the above stated reason.

Minutes of the Executive Session

During the Executive Session, the Board discussed discrete personnel matters related to appointments within the MDE.

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

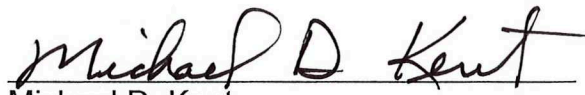
The public came back into the Board meeting and Ms. Aultman stated that the Board discussed discrete personnel matters related to appointments within MDE and no action was taken.

- V. On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Approved:


Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair

Mississippi Board of Education


Michael D. Kent

Interim Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education