

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

March 9, 2023

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 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 Madison County School District Boardroom, Ridgeland, Mississippi. Board members physically present included: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Dr. Wendi Barrett, Mr. Glen V. East, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Mr. Matt Miller, and Ms. Mary Werner. Board member participating virtually: Mr. Bill Jacobs (Phoenix, Arizona). Student Representatives present: Ms. Micah Hill and Mr. Charlie Frugé. Dr. Robert P. Taylor, State Superintendent, was also present.

- I. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman 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. Ms. Micah Hill led the Pledge of Allegiance and Dr. Wendi Barrett gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the February 16, 2023, Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board unanimously adopted the agenda as presented.
- V. No Recognition Ceremony.
- VI. Dr. Robert P. Taylor gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:
 - Dr. Taylor stated he is continuing to meet with legislators to share his priorities and understand what is important to them.
 - Dr. Taylor stated the Accountability Taskforce met yesterday to discuss topics including growth, attendance, and potential indicators of school quality and student success. Dr. Taylor stated that Ms. Aultman and Mr. East attended the meeting as State Board representatives.
 - Dr. Taylor stated that he has visited all but one of the lowest performing school districts and will visit the remaining district soon. Dr. Taylor stated the visits have helped him to understand the challenges the districts face and ensure MDE is providing every possible means of support.
 - Dr. Taylor stated he met with the Principal Advisory Council and the Teacher Advisory Council. Dr. Taylor stated that the principals provided input about improving the orientation program for new school leaders and increasing student access to advanced coursework. Dr. Taylor stated the

teachers gave feedback about the new Mississippi Educator Career Continuum Archive (MECCA) licensure system. Dr. Taylor thanked Dr. Cory Murphy for his hard work.

- Dr. Taylor stated he delivered remarks at the Mississippi School Boards Association Annual Conference and spoke at the East Mississippi Center for Educational Development (EMCED) Special Education Conference. Dr. Taylor stated this gave him the opportunity to meet with district leaders from throughout the state.
- Dr. Taylor talked about his five priorities: Literacy and Mathematics, Low Performing Schools, Teacher Shortage, Career and Technical Education Certifications, and Early Childhood Education.

VII. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair of the State Board, gave the following report:

- Ms. Aultman stated she brought greetings and a welcome from the Board to the Mississippi School Boards Association.
- Ms. Aultman welcomed Ms. Jennifer Nichols as the Attorney for the Board.
- Ms. Aultman stated she has been working to prepare the Board Retreat with McPherson & Jacobson for April 19, 2023.
- Ms. Aultman thanked Dr. Cory Murphy for his hard work on the new licensure system.
- Ms. Aultman stated that she and Mr. East attended the Accountability Taskforce meeting to look at the accountability system.
- Ms. Aultman stated that she has monitored the legislation while the session is going on and thanked Ms. Holly Spivey for all the work she has done.

VIII. Report of Student Representatives

Mr. Charlie Frugé and Ms. Micah Hill gave a joint report on the Student Advisory Council (SAC) meeting that was held on February 10, 2023, at the State Capitol. Mr. Frugé thanked Ms. Minor for organizing the meeting. Mr. Frugé thanked the MDE staff for attending the meeting and providing their input to the students. Mr. Frugé stated that he and the SAC would like to thank the chair and the vice chair of the Mississippi House Committee on Education for attending the meeting. Mr. Frugé stated the SAC members chose a topic that interested them, divided into groups, and created solutions that will be presented to Dr. Taylor and other MDE officials at the end of the semester. Ms. Hill stated that this meeting gave she and Mr. Frugé an opportunity to hear different perspectives and solutions on issues affecting our students.

IX. Report on State Board of Education Subcommittee meetings

Mr. Glen V. East, Chair of the Academic Achievement PreK-12/Early Childhood Subcommittee, reported they met yesterday, and an update was given on the Math Coaches and three items are on the agenda to be approved today. Mr. East stated the items are the approval of the renewal of the District of Innovation

for Hinds County, revision to the McKinney Vento methodology, and approval of the Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards for the College and Career Readiness course.

Ms. Mary Werner, Chair of the Workforce/Career and Technical Education Subcommittee, reported they met yesterday, and it was her first time to chair the meeting. Ms. Werner stated she was impressed with the work that has been done in Career and Technical Education.

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Action: Renew one *District of Innovation* for 2023-2024 [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Wendy Clemons)

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 grant awards [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

- 02.A. Action: Award competitive grants to Early Learning Collaboratives to support pre-kindergarten programs [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Marla Davis)

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board unanimously approved item 02.A. (copy attached).

03. Consent Agenda (All consent items are action items which require vote, unless otherwise noted.)
- A. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Wendy Clemons)
 - B. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Wendy Clemons)
 - 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 (Wendy Clemons)
 - D. Approval of methodology to award McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act grants to support local school districts in providing supplemental services for homeless children and youth in accordance with Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 (Wendy Clemons)

- E. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise the 2020 Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards for the College and Career Readiness course (Wendy Clemons)
- F. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise the Work-Based Learning: Credit Bearing Course Guidelines to *Mississippi Work-Based Learning (WBL) Manual* (Wendy Clemons)
- G. Approval to establish Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 78.11, State Board Policy Chapter 78, Rule 78.11: Guidelines for Mississippi's Implementation of the Locally Selected Nationally Recognized, High School Assessment Provision of ESSA (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- H. Approval of Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) for Districts assigned a PROBATION or WITHDRAWN status in accordance with Accreditation Policy 2.8.1 (Paula Vanderford)
- I. Approval of recommendations on exceptions to pupil-teacher ratio requirements for grades 1-4 (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., F., G., H., and I. (copy attached).

XI. No Executive Session.

XII. State Board of Education

- 1. No report on meetings attended.
- 2. No request to attend a meeting.
- 3. Approval of a training session by McPherson & Jacobson on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at Butler Snow in Ridgeland, MS starting at 1:00 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved the training session by McPherson & Jacobson on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at Butler Snow in Ridgeland, MS starting at 1:00 p.m.

XIII. Other Business

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman stated the April Board meeting will be held on April 20, 2023, in Jackson, MS at the Central High School Building, 4th Floor Boardroom, 359 North West Street starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

Approved:


Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education


Michael D. Kent
Interim Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education