

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

July 27, 2023

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 27, 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, 4th Floor Boardroom, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members physically present included: Mr. Glen V. East, Mr. Bill Jacobs, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Mr. Matt Miller, and Mr. Mike Pruitt. Board members participating virtually: Dr. Wendi Barrett, (Ocean Springs, Mississippi – joined meeting at 11:00 a.m. and left the meeting at 11:03 a.m.) and Ms. Mary Werner (Saltillo, Mississippi – left meeting at 11:50 a.m.). Student Representative present: Ms. Kate Riddle. Student Representative absent: Mr. Charlie Frugé. 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. Matt Miller gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board voted 4 to 0 to approve the minutes of June 15, 2023 Board meeting and minutes of Special-Called Board meetings on June 15, 2023 and June 14, 2023 – Student Representative Interviews, and June 14, 2023 – Budget Work Session.

Members voting aye: Mr. Bill Jacobs
Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee
Mr. Matt Miller
Ms. Mary Werner

Members voting nay: None

Member abstaining: Mr. Mike Pruitt

Member absent: Dr. Wendi Barrett

- IV. On a motion by Mr. Mike Pruitt, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously adopted the Consent agenda.

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

V. Recognition Ceremony

Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind
2023 Cognia Values-Driven Award

VI. Dr. Raymond C. Morgigno gave the following report as the Interim State Superintendent of Education:

- Dr. Morgigno stated this was his first State Board meeting as interim superintendent and he wanted to share some highlights from his first month on the job.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he attended the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents (MASS) Summer Convention along with members of the MDE team. Dr. Morgigno stated the MDE team did a great job during their well-attended sessions providing updates on the agency's initiatives. Dr. Morgigno stated that the conference was the perfect opportunity for him to meet informally with district superintendents from across the state before the start of the school year.
- Dr. Morgigno stated that in addition to MASS, MDE has helped lead several educator conferences this month including:
 - Innovative Institute in partnership with Mississippi State University's Research and Curriculum Unit;
 - Mississippi Early Childhood Education Conference in partnership with the Mississippi Head Start Association, the Mississippi Department of Human Services, and the Mississippi Head Start Collaboration Office in the Governor's Office;
 - Elevate Teachers, which is a major MDE conference designed to inspire and celebrate teachers; and
 - Our team was able to reach hundreds of teachers and administrators through these professional learning opportunities.
- Dr. Morgigno stated that he was invited to participate in a session called "Coffee with the Superintendent" with 31 teachers who are this year's policy fellows for Teach Plus Mississippi. Teach Plus helps teachers learn how policy is made and how it impacts the classroom.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he had a great meeting with Dr. Margie Pulley, who has been the interim superintendent of the Tunica County School District since the district became a District of Transformation in 2015. The district will return to local control on January 1, 2024. Dr. Morgigno stated that under Dr. Pulley's leadership, the district's accountability grade improved to a C in 2016 after a four-year track record of D and F grades. He stated the district further improved its grade to a B in 2022.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he traveled to the Holmes County Consolidated School District to meet with interim superintendent Dr. Jennifer Wilson. Holmes County has been a District of Transformation since August 2021. Dr.

Morgigno stated district leaders are hopeful the district will retain its C grade that it earned last year.

- Dr. Morgigno stated he had an introductory meeting with the CEO of the Bower Foundation to discuss the ongoing partnership between the Foundation and MDE. Dr. Morgigno stated that currently the Bower Foundation funds the Move to Learn program, provides financial support to the Office of Healthy Schools, and is funding the development of a new School Nurse Database software application.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he and members of the MDE team met with the Legislative Budget Office's deputy director and MDE's budget analyst to provide an overview of Mississippi's Educable Child Program. Dr. Morgigno stated this program directs MDE to provide oversight in the placement and funding of students with disabilities in private schools and facilities.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he and MDE staff also attended the most recent meeting of the State Workforce Investment Board – which is known as SWIB. Dr. Morgigno stated he and MDE staff plan to remain engaged with SWIB to strengthen the connection between K-12 and the workforce. He stated another effort in the area of workforce development is an upcoming meeting that MDE has scheduled with Mississippi business leaders about what our state's public schools need to do to best to prepare graduates for the jobs of today and the future. Dr. Morgigno stated that meeting will be held on August 3.
- Dr. Morgigno stated this month he and members of the leadership team attended the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Summer Leadership Convening in Vermont. Dr. Morgigno stated this event was timely for him because it enabled him to meet state education chiefs from throughout the country and connect with CCSSO staff.
- Dr. Morgigno stated that Dr. Donna Boone joined Dr. Carey Wright at the Education Commission of the States (ECS) Annual Policy Forum to receive the 2023 Frank Newman Award for State Innovation. Dr. Morgigno stated Mississippi's successful work in improving literacy and student achievement was highlighted throughout the conference. He stated that ECS is shipping the trophy to MDE and he hopes to show it to the Board at next month's Board meeting.
- Dr. Morgigno stated that Dr. Donna Boone, Dr. Paula Vanderford, and members of their teams met virtually with representatives from the White House to talk about Mississippi's recovery efforts following the pandemic. Dr. Morgigno stated the White House had contacted MDE to learn about the strategies we used to help student achievement improve, especially after the pandemic. He stated the meeting provided a great opportunity for MDE to share Mississippi's work with national leaders.
- Dr. Morgigno stated that he wanted to say how much he appreciated and how impressed he was by the MDE team.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he has been getting to know staff during meetings and through informal visits to different offices.

- Dr. Morgigno stated this is a hardworking team who is committed to the common mission of improving opportunities and outcomes for all students.

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

- Mr. East read a Resolution for Mr. Michael D. Kent who served as Interim State Superintendent for three months and he thanked Mr. Kent for his service.
- Mr. East stated that at your seat there is a new Subcommittee Roster.

VIII. Report from Student Representative

Ms. Kate Riddle reported on a non-profit Commodore Cares, that started in their school district and what it has developed into to help the students in the district.

IX. Reports on State Board of Education Subcommittee meetings

Mr. Matt Miller, Chair of the Educator Quality Subcommittee, stated they met and had a very good and robust discussion yesterday about several different issues. Mr. Miller stated there are several items on the consent agenda that we went through and there are several that are not on the agenda anymore because we realized they needed to be reviewed again. Mr. Miller stated the public comments are read by MDE, the Board members, and if anybody from the community approaches me the process works. Mr. Miller stated that if the community has questions about the Board or about MDE please comment because we pay attention to the comments. Mr. Miller stated they strategized about the backlog of teacher licensure cases that have to do with breach of contract and we roundtable different ideas and strategies of how to fix those as well as how to make this process more efficient in the future. Mr. Miller stated they are going to have some ideas to make this process run more smoothly.

Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Chair of the School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee, stated the subcommittee met on June 26 to discuss the State Board Policies related to the Office of Educational Accountability, the bureaus of Program of Evaluation and Public Reporting, and the School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee. Dr. McGehee stated the subcommittee also met on July 18 and discussed the consent agenda items and the School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee and the Internal Accountability Subcommittee. Dr. McGehee stated they will have some items in Executive Session today.

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Information: Spring 2023 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment results [Goals 1, 2, and 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

Dr. Paula Vanderford and Ms. Melissa Beck presented the results of the Spring 2023 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. The results showed students made

gains during the past year, coming closer to reaching pre-pandemic achievement levels.

02. Action: Approval of the MDE Contract [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

02.A. Action: Modify contract with Quadient, Inc. to provide mailing equipment to the Mississippi Department of Education [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved item 02.A. (copy attached).

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

03.A. Action: Award competitive grants for the K-4 Literacy Support High Dosage Tutoring [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

03.B. Action: Award competitive grants for the Mississippi Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools Grant (MCOPS) FY24 (2023-2024) [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

03.C. Action: Award grants for special projects appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature to the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) with a World Class Teacher Program (WCTP) site in House Bill 1613, 2023 Legislative Session [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

03.D. Action: Award competitive grants for the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Mike Pruitt, the Board unanimously approved items 03.A., 03.B., 03.C., and 03.D. (copy attached).

04. Action: Approval of Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Mr. Bill Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved item 04. (copy attached).

05. Information: Review of the amendment to Mississippi's Consolidated State Plan, also referred to as the Mississippi Succeeds Plan [Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

Mr. Alan Burrow and Dr. Sonja Robertson gave a review of the Mississippi Succeeds Plan that will go out for public comments.

06. Action: Consideration of iteach Mississippi as an approved Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) to offer a non-traditional pathway to teacher licensure [Goal 4 – MDE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved item 06. (copy attached).

07. 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 contract with Aladdin Food Management Services, LLC to provide food services to the students and staff at the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Donna Boone)
- E. Approval of FY24 budget for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Donna Boone)
- F. Approval of FY24 budget for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Donna Boone)
- G. Approval of the *Textbook and Instructional Materials Administration Handbook: Rules and Regulations for the Adoption, Distribution, Care and Use of Textbooks and Instructional Materials in Mississippi* in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-43-1, Miss. Code Ann. § 37-43-19, and Miss. Code Ann. § 37-43-25 (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Donna Boone)

- H. Approval of industry certifications that will calculate in the Acceleration component of the Accountability Model for the 2023-2024 School Year (Donna Boone)
- I. [PULLED]
- J. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 81.3, State Board Policy Chapter 81, Rule 81.3: Driver Training/Motor Vehicle Record Check (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- K. Approval of the appointments to the Commission on School Accreditation (Paula Vanderford)
- L. Approval to establish Miss. Admin. Code 7-240: Mississippi Minimum Specifications for School Buses (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- M. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code: 7-24, *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2022*, specifically Appendix H (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- N. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 to amend supplemental endorsement licensure options, 405 Business Management; and 411 Business Technology (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- O. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7- 142: Career and Technical Education Licensure Guidelines to amend licensure Career Pathway, 965 Transportation Logistics; establish two (2) new licensure Career Pathways in the areas of Barbering and Software Development; and amend the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) supplemental endorsement requirements (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- P. Approval to establish a qualifying score for the newly revised version of Praxis Subject Assessment: Special Education Foundational Knowledge (Test Code 5355) as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Paula Vanderford)

- Q. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-142: Career and Technical Education Licensure Guidelines to amend licensure Career Pathway, 961 Healthcare and Clinical Services and 989 Polymer Science (Paula Vanderford)
- R. PULLED]
- S. Approval of the *Mississippi Critical Teacher Shortage Act of 1998*: Designation of 2023-2024 Critical Shortage Subject Areas and Critical Shortage Geographical Areas (Mississippi School Districts) (Paula Vanderford)
- T. Approval of preliminary calculation of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program Base Student Cost for Fiscal Year 2025 (Felicia Gavin)
- U. Approval of preliminary calculation of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program for Fiscal Year 2025 (Felicia Gavin)
- V. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To amend Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: Chapter 1 – Accountability, Rule 1.2 – School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee and Internal Accountability Subcommittee (Sonya Amis)
- W. Approval of the 2023-2024 Crisis Management Plans for the State Schools (Donna Boone)
- X. Approval to adopt policies required by state statute for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind to be placed on the District Policy Service website established by the Mississippi School Boards Association (Donna Boone)

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

XI. State Board of Education

Dr. Wendi Barrett joined the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

1. Mr. Matt Miller moved to nominate Mr. Glen V. East to serve as Board Chair from July 2023 to July 2024. Ms. Mary Werner seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved Mr. Glen V. East to serve as Board Chair from July 2023 to July 2024.

Dr. Wendi Barrett moved to nominate Mr. Matt Miller to serve as Board Vice-Chair from July 2023 to July 2024. Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved Mr. Matt Miller to serve as Board Vice-Chair from July 2023 to July 2024.

Dr. Wendi Barrett left the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

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

XII. 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, Ms. Sonya Amis, and Dr. Raymond C. Morgigno to remain in the room.

Mr. Matt Miller, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss discrete personnel matters in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(a) and (k); to discuss strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation, litigation, or issuance of an appealable order in accordance to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(b); and to discuss investigative proceedings by any public body regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(d).

Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee 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 discussed discrete personnel matters in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(a) and (k); discussed strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation, litigation, or issuance of an appealable order in accordance to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(b); and discussed investigative proceedings by any public body regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(d).

Ms. Mary Werner left the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board voted 3 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

The public came back into the Board meeting and Mr. East stated the Board took action on two items during the Executive Session.

01. On a motion by Mr. Bill Jacobs, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board voted unanimously to approve for the Interim State Superintendent to reserve contractual funding needed by the Deputy Superintendent of Educational Accountability to outsource internal audits and program evaluation approved by the Accountability Subcommittee.
02. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board voted unanimously to approve for the Interim State Superintendent in consultation with the Deputy State Superintendent of Educational Accountability to reorganize/restructure MDE program offices as needed, to facilitate the internal audits and special projects approved by the School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee.

XIII. Other Business

Mr. Glen V. East stated on December 11-12, 2023, the Board will have a Special-Called Board meeting to conduct superintendent semi-finalist interviews and a Special-Called Board meeting on December 20, 2023, to conduct superintendent finalist interviews. Mr. East stated the August Board meeting will be held on August 17, 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 Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Approved:



Glen V. East, Vice-Chair/Acting Board Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Raymond C. Morgigno
Interim Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education