

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

December 14, 2017

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:03 a.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2017, in the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Mr. Buddy Bailey, Dr. Jason S. Dean, Dr. Karen J. Elam, Mr. Johnny Franklin, Dr. John R. Kelly, Mr. Charles McClelland, and Mr. Sean Suggs. Board member absent: Ms. Kami Bumgarner. Dr. Carey M. Wright was also present.

- I. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair, called the Board meeting to order. Ms. Aultman noted the statement on the agenda that cellular telephones and pagers are not permitted during the meeting.

Ms. Aultman welcomed the new State Board member, Mr. Sean Suggs, President of Toyota Mississippi. Ms. Aultman stated that he brings to the Board a strong background in workforce development and workforce training. Ms. Aultman stated that the Speaker of the House appointed him to the Board.

- II. Dr. Jason S. Dean led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Buddy Bailey gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2017, Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.
- V. Recognition Ceremony

2017 AP District Honor Roll

DeSoto County Schools

2017 December Employee of the Month

Janice Grant

Education Specialist, Senior

Office of Safe and Orderly Schools

- VI. Dr. Carey M. Wright gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:

- Dr. Wright welcomed Mr. Sean Suggs to the Board. Dr. Wright stated that she had met Mr. Suggs several years ago when she visited the Toyota plant and learned of all the wonderful things they are doing for the children in the area. Dr. Wright stated she was glad the Speaker appointed Mr. Suggs to the Board.
- Dr. Wright stated she and Dr. John R. Kelly attended the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Annual Policy Forum. Dr. Wright stated that she was sworn in as the President of the Board of Directors and her platform for the year is going to be focusing on early childhood education. Dr. Wright stated we are going to be pressing hard nationally to advance early childhood education.
- Dr. Wright stated she attended the National Summit on Education Reform, Governor Jeb Bush's Annual Conference on Excellence in Education. Dr. Wright stated that 10 chiefs got an opportunity to meet with him to speak privately for about 45 minutes. Dr. Wright stated that he is an amazing listener and very interested in what is happening in education in each of our states. Dr. Wright stated he wanted to know the challenges we face and how The Foundation for Excellence in Education could continue to support us. Dr. Wright stated the Foundation has been an amazing partner with the Department and continues to be an amazing partner.
- Dr. Wright stated she is continuing the "Celebration of Excellence" tour to recognize all A-rated districts with visits. Dr. Wright stated that she has two more visits (Enterprise and Newton), but since the last Board meeting she has visited Booneville, Union, DeSoto, Oxford, Ocean Springs, Biloxi, Long Beach, Madison, Clinton, and Pearl. Dr. Wright stated it is exciting to see the community, legislators, mayors, board of supervisors, chief of police, fire chiefs, and parents come out with such pride in their communities. Dr. Wright stated that everybody was coming together to celebrate the wonderful achievement. Dr. Wright stated that Dr. Karen J. Elam attended in Oxford, Dr. Jason S. Dean attended in Madison, and Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman attended in Clinton, Mississippi.
- Dr. Wright stated there is a packet on the table with letters from the folks of Noxubee County and Humphreys County. Dr. Wright stated this will be discussed later in the meeting (copy attached).
- Dr. Wright stated she wanted to recognize some staff within the Department of Education:
 - Mr. Limuel Eubanks was nominated for Arts Educator of the Year by the Mississippi Art Education Association for the National Art Education Association's National Supervision/Administration Division Educator of the Year Award;
 - Dr. Marla Davis was named to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) mathematics framework revision team;
 - Dr. Nathan Oakley is a member of The Center on Innovations in Learning (CIL), League of Innovators Design Team and Southeast Comprehensive Center (SECC), Advisory Board;

- Dr. Sonja Robertson will present at the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) in February 2018 in Washington, DC;
 - Dr. Kymyona Burk presented to the National Reading League in New York on Mississippi Literacy Initiative;
 - Mr. Mike Mulvihill and Ms. Jean Massey are Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Leadership Conference presenters on Mississippi's Computer Science work;
 - Ms. Gretchen Cagle presented at the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) Conference in Nevada on mentorship program for new Special Education directors;
 - Ms. Robin Lemonis presented at the International Dyslexia Association Conference; and
 - Dr. Kim Benton gave a Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Federal Funding presentation in St. Louis, Missouri and was named Chair of the CCSSO Deputies Leadership Committee for 2018.
- Dr. Wright recognized Department staff that have received their doctorate degrees: Dr. Lisa White, Educator in Residence, Dr. Jo Ann Malone, Director of Accreditation, and Dr. Washington Cole, Chief of Staff. Dr. Wright congratulated them on their accomplishment.
 - Dr. Wright stated the Spotlight for this Board meeting is "Mississippi School of the Arts." Dr. Wright stated it is known as MSA located in Brookhaven, Mississippi and is one of four state special schools that is a residential school that you as a Board oversee. Dr. Wright stated they provide a very challenging arts education for gifted students in Mississippi in the 11th and 12th grade. Dr. Wright stated that MSA enables students to develop and grow as artists as they prepare for the demands of college. Dr. Wright stated we are fortunate to have this specialized program because not all states do and they really are nurturing the future of our students where art and performance are concerned. Dr. Wright stated that MSA has been awarded the Exemplary School Distinction and is one of 17 schools across the country to be awarded this honor. Dr. Wright recognized Ms. Suzanne Hirsch, Executive Director of Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA), Mr. Bill Sones, Foundation Chair, and Foundation members, Ms. Danita Hobbs and Ms. Amy Jacobs. Dr. Wright congratulated them on educating the whole child and how arts has such a powerful place. Dr. Wright stated you have done an amazing job as Executive Director to set that tone and we are proud of the work you are doing.
- VII. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman as the Chair of the State Board gave the following report:
- Ms. Aultman stated she spoke at the Hinds County Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma which is an educational organization for mostly retired educators. Ms. Aultman stated they are still interested in what is going on in schools

across the state. Ms. Aultman stated that it is good to know there is a support group that is still engaged in what is going on in the classrooms across the state.

- Ms. Aultman stated that Dr. Wright mentioned the Excellence Tour in Clinton that was held at Clinton High School. Ms. Aultman stated that Clinton is very proud of their school. Ms. Aultman stated that there are so many good things in classrooms across the state and teachers are doing so many good things for our students. Ms. Aultman stated we need to celebrate the ones that are getting it right.

VIII. Dr. Karen J. Elam, Chair of the Academic Achievement PreK-12 Subcommittee, stated they spent a short time celebrating the accomplishments of many of the staff members from the Office of Academic Education and their national recognition which Dr. Wright just stated. Dr. Elam stated she would like to further enforce how proud the Board is of the staff in Academic Education for what they are doing and giving Mississippi national recognition in education. Dr. Elam stated that the Principals Advisory Panel met this week and the principals attending were given an opportunity to express their observations of what is needed in their respective schools and what their successes have been. Dr. Elam stated there was a great sharing situation and that everybody was excited, both the staff at MDE in attendance, and the principals. Dr. Elam stated there was a lengthy discussion and report from what is happening in the Office of School Improvement. Dr. Elam stated the meetings that are being held with all “F” schools individually with representation from those schools to include superintendents, principals, a community member, and school board member. Dr. Elam stated the staff at MDE has worked with them to develop an improvement plan for what they are going to do to help them become hopefully “C” schools in the future. Dr. Elam stated that this has been a heavy lift for all MDE staff because of all the intensity of these meetings and we need to thank all the staff for what they have done. Dr. Elam stated the Kindergarten Readiness Results will be presented by Dr. Benton later in the Board meeting.

IX. Discussion of Board Items

01. Dr. Felicia Gavin discussed the Mississippi Department of Education Contracts [Goal 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Gavin recommended approval.

1.A. Monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits (Felicia Gavin)

- 1.B. Action: Contract with Mr. Chris Domaleski to provide consultative services relative to serving as the Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee [Goals 1, 2, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)
02. Dr. Gavin introduced Dr. Paula Vanderford to discuss the Mississippi Department of Education grant awards [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]. The Board had questions that Dr. Bill Welch answered. Dr. Vanderford recommended approval.
 - 2.A. Action: Award competitive grants for the Mississippi Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) grant program [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)
03. Dr. Wright introduced Dr. Bonita Coleman, Chair of the Achievement School District Planning Committee, to discuss Recommendation #1 and Recommendation #2 from the Achievement School District Planning Committee for the Mississippi Achievement School District [Goals 1, 2, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]. The Board had comments and questions that were answered. Dr. Wright recommended approval.
04. Dr. Vanderford and Dr. Kim Benton discussed the Fall 2017 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment results [Goals 1 and 3 – MBE Strategic Plan].

Dr. Jason S. Dean stated job well done. Dr. Dean stated as a parent the letter that was received was easy to understand.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:47 a.m. and reconvened at 12:34 p.m.

Dr. Wright reminded the Board members to speak into the microphones so the people outside the Boardroom could hear what is being said.

05. Dr. Vanderford reported on Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) achievement gap results by subgroup [Goals 1, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan].
06. Dr. Vanderford discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish Alternative Qualifications for Non-Education Prospective Local Superintendents of Education as authorized and directed under subsection three (3) of Mississippi Senate Bill No. 2398 and recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic

Plan]. The Board discussed the proposed changes. Dr. Vanderford recommended approval.

07. Dr. Gavin and Ms. Donna Nester discussed the final estimate of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program Base Student Cost for Fiscal Year 2019 [Goals 4 and 5 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Ms. Nester introduced Mr. Scott Hodges of Tann, Brown & Russ Co., PLLC, that performed the calculation of the 2019 Mississippi Adequate Education Program. Dr. Gavin recommended approval.
08. Dr. Gavin and Ms. Nester discussed the final estimate of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program for Fiscal Year 2019 [Goals 4 and 5 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Gavin recommended approval.
09. Ms. Aultman gave the Board an opportunity to discuss the following consent agenda items (item A is information only).
 - A. Information: Final Report from the Commission on Perry-Richton Consolidated School District Structure as stated in Senate Bill 2461 (Kim Benton)
 - B. Approve methodology for reallocation of Title V – Rural and Low-Income Schools (RLIS) program funds in accordance with Section 5221 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) (Kim Benton)
 - C. Approve Accredited Nonpublic-Status for Millcreek School – Newton (Paula Vanderford)
 - D. Approve annual Nonpublic School Accreditation Statuses for School Year 2017-2018 (Paula Vanderford)
 - E. Revise State Board policies Chapter 14, Rules 14.6, 14.6.1, and 14.10 (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comment) (Paula Vanderford)
 - F. Establish a qualifying passing score for the Praxis Subject Assessment, *English to Speakers of Other Languages* to be added to the list of Mississippi-approved assessments in the Mississippi Educator Licensure Assessment Program as recommended by the

Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Paula Vanderford)

- G. Begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish criteria for a Discontinued Test and/or Adjusted Score Policy for Mississippi-approved assessments in the Mississippi Educator Licensure Assessment Program as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Paula Vanderford)
- H. Designate Elisha Campbell, Director of Grants Management, Accounting and Budget, as the Applicant's Agent for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from the Mississippi Department of Education (Felicia Gavin)

X. Approval of Action Items

01. Action: Approval of the Mississippi Department of Education Contracts [Goal 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]
(Office of Chief Operations Officer)

- 1.A. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board voted to approve the monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits [Goal 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).
(Office of Chief Operations Officer)

Members voting aye:

Mr. Buddy Bailey
Dr. Karen J. Elam
Dr. Jason S. Dean
Dr. John R. Kelly
Mr. Charles McClelland
Mr. Sean Suggs

Member voting nay:

Mr. Johnny Franklin

Member abstaining:

None

Member absent:

Ms. Kami Bumgarner

- 1.B. On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board voted to approve the contract with Dr. Chris Domaleski to provide consultative services relative to serving as the Chair of the

Technical Advisory Committee [Goals 1, 2, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).

(Office of Chief Accountability Officer)

Members voting aye: Mr. Buddy Bailey
Dr. Karen J. Elam
Dr. Jason S. Dean
Dr. John R. Kelly
Mr. Sean Suggs

Members voting nay: Mr. Johnny Franklin
Mr. Charles McClelland

Member abstaining: None

Member absent: Ms. Kami Bumgarner

02. Action: Approval of the Mississippi Department of Education grant awards [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]
(Office of Chief Operations Officer)

2.A. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board unanimously approved to award the competitive grants for the Mississippi Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) grant program [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).

(Office of Chief Accountability Officer)

03. On a motion by Dr. Jason S. Dean, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved to reject Recommendation #2 (Humphreys County School District, Jackson Public School District, and Noxubee County School District) in light of the Governor's decision and efforts around the Jackson Public School District (JPSD) pertaining to the Better Together Commission to enhance the support for JPSD [Goals 1, 2, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan].

(Office of State Superintendent)

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board voted to defer action on Recommendation #1 (Humphreys County School District and Noxubee County School District) until a new superintendent of the Achievement School District is named [Goals 1, 2, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan].

(Office of State Superintendent)

Members voting aye: Mr. Buddy Bailey
Mr. Johnny Franklin
Dr. Jason S. Dean
Dr. John R. Kelly
Mr. Charles McClelland
Mr. Sean Suggs

Member voting nay: Dr. Karen J. Elam

Member abstaining: None

Member absent: Ms. Kami Bumgarner

06. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish Alternative Qualifications for Non-Education Prospective Local Superintendents of Education as authorized and directed under subsection three (3) of Mississippi Senate Bill No. 2398 and recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).
(Office of Chief Accountability Officer)
07. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the final estimate of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program Base Student Cost for Fiscal Year 2019 [Goals 4 and 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).
(Office of Chief Operations Officer)
08. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the final estimate of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program for Fiscal Year 2019 [Goals 4 and 5 – MBE Strategic Plan].
(Office of Chief Operations Officer)
09. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved consent agenda items B., C., D., E., F., G., and H. (copy attached).

- B. Approve methodology for reallocation of Title V – Rural and Low-Income Schools (RLIS) program funds in accordance with Section 5221 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)

- C. Approve Accredited Nonpublic-Status for Millcreek School – Newton
(Office of Chief Accountability Officer)

- D. Approve annual Nonpublic School Accreditation Statuses for School Year 2017-2018
(Office of Chief Accountability Officer)

- E. Revise State Board policies Chapter 14, Rules 14.6, 14.6.1, and 14.10 (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comment)
(Office of Chief Accountability Officer)

- F. Establish a qualifying passing score for the Praxis Subject Assessment, *English to Speakers of Other Languages* to be added to the list of Mississippi-approved assessments in the Mississippi Educator Licensure Assessment Program as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development
(Office of Chief Accountability Officer)

- G. Begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish criteria for a Discontinued Test and/or Adjusted Score Policy for Mississippi-approved assessments in the Mississippi Educator Licensure Assessment Program as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development
(Office of Chief Accountability Officer)

- H. Designate Elisha Campbell, Director of Grants Management, Accounting and Budget, as the Applicant’s Agent for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from the Mississippi Department of Education
(Office of Chief Operations Officer)

XI. Consideration of Executive Session

Dr. Jason S. Dean moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session. Mr. Buddy Bailey seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a vote of 7 to 0. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman asked Dr. Carey M. Wright, Ms. Raina Lee, Ms. Erin Meyer, and the Executive Leadership Team to remain in the Executive Session.

Dr. Jason S. Dean, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss discrete personnel matters related to the job performance of persons holding specific positions in the Department of Education in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k), discussion of a strategy session or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation involving the Department and the issuance of an appealable order in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(b), and discussion with respect to investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(d). Mr. Buddy Bailey seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 7 to 0. Ms. Raina Lee 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 related to the job performance of persons holding specific positions in the Department of Education in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k), discussed a strategy session or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation involving the Department and the issuance of an appealable order in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(b), and discussed with respect to investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(d).

On a motion by Dr. Jason S. Dean, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board voted 7 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

The public came back into the Board meeting and Ms. Aultman reported the action taken during the Executive Session.

01. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Ms. Sharon O. Rosell as Education - Bureau Director II in the Office of Budget at a salary of \$95,040.00.

XII. State Board of Education

1. There were no meetings attended.

2. There was no request to attend a meeting.

XIII. Other Business

The January Board meeting will be held January 18, 2018 in Jackson, Mississippi at the Central High School Building starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 1:36 p.m.

Approved:


Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education


Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education