

## Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

December 19, 2019

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 19, 2019, 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, Dr. John R. Kelly (Gulfport, Mississippi), Ms. Brittney Rye, and Mr. Sean Suggs. Student Representatives present: Ms. Shelby Dean and Mr. Omar G. Jamil. Board member absent: Mr. Charles McClelland. Dr. Carey M. Wright was also present.

- I. Dr. Jason S. Dean called the Board meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Dr. Dean noted that cellular telephones and pagers are not permitted during the meeting. Dr. Dean stated that the meeting was being live streamed.
- II. Mr. Sean Suggs led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2019, Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.
- V. Recognition Ceremony

### **National Blue-Ribbon Schools**

Bayou View Elementary School  
Gulfport School District

Northshore Elementary School  
Rankin County School District

Pineville Elementary School  
Harrison County School District

### **December 2019 Employee of the Month**

LaShawna Fant  
Vision/Hearing Impairment Teacher IV, Dual Endorsed  
Mississippi School for the Deaf

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

- Dr. Wright stated that she attended the National Summit on Education Reform and it was well attended with some great breakout sessions. Dr. Wright stated that Governor Bush always opens the Summit with his remarks, and he gave a huge shout out to Mississippi about the progress made.
- Dr. Wright stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met and Dr. Chris Domaleski is working with the Accountability Task Force to determine the impact on the accountability system if the Board eliminates the U.S. History test. Dr. Wright stated this will come back to the Board in January or February.
- Dr. Wright stated that she appeared on the Paul Gallo Radio Show in November and in December. Dr. Wright stated that this is a good way to share all the good things about Mississippi.
- Dr. Wright stated that in the yellow folder at each Board members' seat includes the following:
  - Dr. Wright stated that in the packet there are some good articles: Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) put out an opinion page titled Four Ways Mississippi is Teaching More Children to Read Well that went to their listserv, an article from *Anchorage Daily News* recognizing Mississippi's hard work, an article from *The New York Times*, and a PowerPoint for the ACT Assessment Results.
- Dr. Wright stated that she started her morning with the Literacy Coaches, and this is a great group of people who are out there doing hard work each day in the schools that are struggling with teachers and students that are struggling. Dr. Wright stated there is a lot of success along with a lot of enthusiasm and a lot of hard work.
- Dr. Wright stated that she wanted to update the Board on the Wayne County issue. Dr. Wright stated that the Department had advanced our audit as well as the State Auditor's audit of Wayne County. Dr. Wright stated that the State Auditor had come in and discussed some real concerns around the financial status of Wayne County and the MDE had some concerns too. Dr. Wright stated that this was advanced to the Commission on School Accreditation last Monday to see if a state of emergency needed to be declared and the Commission did not determine that and now as per state law the Department has to assign a financial advisor to Wayne County. Dr. Wright stated that Wayne County is several years in the rear of audits that should have been done on a regular basis. Dr. Wright stated they have been late on five of the last five years and have been on probation each year for their finances. Dr. Wright stated that Dr. Felicia Gavin will be the temporary financial advisor until the Department can hire a financial advisor.
- Dr. Wright stated that she has been all over the state with the Celebration of Excellence Tours. Dr. Wright stated she has done her tour on the Coast

and loved every minute of it. Dr. Wright stated that she was in the northern parts of the state going to Alcorn, Tishomingo, Booneville, Lafayette, Oxford, and DeSoto. Dr. Wright stated that she has three more celebrations to do in January. Dr. Wright thanked Dr. Karen J. Elam for attending the celebrations in Lafayette and in Oxford. Dr. Wright stated that it is so neat to see how the communities and the superintendents puts these events together and it says a lot about the community itself and to see how the community always turns out for the events. Dr. Wright stated that if you get an opportunity to attend one of these celebrations please attend. Dr. Wright stated that Mr. Buddy Bailey attended all the celebrations for Rankin County Schools. Dr. Wright stated it is a great way to celebrate children, teachers, and leaders. Dr. Wright stated that this is a wonderful time to be in Mississippi and a wonderful time to be proud of our state, teachers, students, and leaders. Dr. Wright stated that Mississippi is in the nation's eye for all the hard work that is going on across the state.

- Dr. Wright stated the Spotlight for this Board meeting is "Helping Future Teachers Prepare for the Classroom: Mississippi Teacher Residency and Performance-Based Licensure Programs." Dr. Wright stated the spotlight features two initiatives MDE launched this year to help get more teachers prepared for the classroom: the Mississippi Teacher Residency program and the Performance-Based Licensure Pilot program. Dr. Wright stated that both programs are funded by a \$4.1 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, which is a big supporter of our work and a great partner. Dr. Wright stated that the Teacher Residency program pays the tuition of teacher candidates and places them in the classroom with a National Board-Certified mentor for two years. Dr. Wright stated the Performance-Based Licensure Pilot works with teachers who have proven to be effective in the classroom but have not yet been able to become fully licensed. Dr. Wright stated in this video, you will hear more about how these programs work and the impact they have on the teacher candidates. Dr. Wright recognized the members of the MDE Team who lead this work: Dr. Cory Murphy, Executive Director of Teaching and Leading; Mr. Cortez Moss, Director of Educator Effectiveness and Talent Acquisition; Ms. Beth Loflin, Assistant Director of Educator Effectiveness; Ms. Courtney Van Cleve, Director of Innovative Programs; and Ms. Krystal Cormack, Director of Educator Licensure. Dr. Wright stated the first cohort of 35 Teacher Residents are working in four school districts (Jackson Public, Gulfport, Ocean Springs, and Sunflower County) and we have 73 Performance-Based Licensure candidates in eight districts (Clarksdale, Clarksdale Collegiate, Greenwood-Leflore, the Achievement School District, Quitman County, Sunflower County, Tunica, and Jackson Public). Dr. Wright stated that we are looking forward to seeing the long-term impact of these programs!

VII. Dr. Jason S. Dean, Chair of the State Board, gave the following report:

- Dr. Dean stated that in Dr. Wright's report she mentioned some of the accolades that the state is receiving, and hopes this is not getting old to the Board since the Board will be talking a lot more about it. Dr. Dean stated that the Board will be persistent in that messaging because it really is a paradigm shifting moment in the education culture not only for educators that are in the operations day in and day out but for parents, business leaders, and citizens at large that is the message that we intend to keep representing. Dr. Dean read a handwritten note that he had received from Ms. Joyce Rankin of the Colorado State Board of Education that he met last summer at a National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) meeting. Dr. Dean stated that Ms. Rankin was congratulating Mississippi on reading instruction in the state and stated that the leadership of the State Board and the Legislature deserve a great congratulations. Dr. Dean stated that this is one more example of how people are paying attention to the work that is being done in the state.
- Dr. Dean recognized Mr. Omar G. Jamil for being accepted to the Mississippi Governor's School for Summer 2020 and has been accepted to the Stanford Summer Program with a Silicon Valley internship.

#### VIII. Report of Student Representatives

Mr. Omar G. Jamil and Ms. Shelby Dean reported from the Student Advisory Council meeting that took place last month. Mr. Jamil and Ms. Dean both serve on the Student Advisory Council. The Council discussed many issues that were of interest to them and the issues that were of most concern to them included: local boards having student representatives; teacher shortage; more ACT preparation materials; more scholarships; and more student safety drills.

Dr. Dean stated that he would ask the MDE and staff to take these recommendations under advisement for the next Student Advisory Council meeting.

#### IX. Report on State Board of Education Subcommittee Meetings.

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair of the Academic Achievement PreK-12 Subcommittee, stated the Subcommittee met yesterday afternoon and Dr. Nathan Oakley gave an update that the MDE is still receiving comments from other states about the NAEP score results. Ms. Aultman stated that the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is hosting a Literacy Summit in January and Dr. Wright will be featured sharing Mississippi's story. Ms. Aultman stated that Ms. Suzanne Hirsch gave an update on the Mississippi School of the Arts on where they are in the new organization and shared a draft of the Operations Policy Manual for the Subcommittee to review.

Dr. Karen J. Elam, Chair of the Educator Quality Subcommittee, stated the Subcommittee met yesterday afternoon and that Dr. Wright's Spotlight took care of what they reviewed. Dr. Elam stated that she would take this opportunity to say how much she and Ms. Brittney Rye enjoy and appreciate the opportunity to support the Office of Teaching and Learning and the Spotlight today showed you what all of their initiatives are for teacher shortage. Dr. Elam stated that she appreciated the fact that the students are concerned about the lack of teachers and this speaks highly of the students and that they recognize that this is probably not going to do anything for them but that they are looking to the future to be able to see more teachers, better teachers, and more Advanced Placement (AP) teachers. Dr. Elam stated that they reviewed the consent item that is on the agenda and will be presented later in the meeting.

Mr. Sean Suggs, Chair of the Workforce/Career and Technical Education Subcommittee stated the Subcommittee met yesterday afternoon and the hot topic was the Perkins State Plan and the allocations for secondary and postsecondary allotment. Mr. Suggs stated that the MDE is making progress with understanding the current situation with stakeholders and the public opinions on this topic. Mr. Suggs stated that MDE is still in the data collecting process and based on some of the primary data received, the MDE is coming up with some different scenarios and plans on how things could potentially work. Mr. Suggs stated that this is a work in progress, and the MDE knows this is a pretty hot topic right now. Mr. Suggs stated that the goal and objective is to share some more detailed information at the January meeting.

Dr. Dean, Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, stated the Subcommittee met this morning and discussed what the top priorities are going to be for this Legislative session: (1) the Mississippi Student Information System (MSIS) upgrade since this is vital to getting good data and is critical – \$3.5 million upgrade; (2) early childhood education program for \$9.9 million will get a lot of attention; (3) literacy based promotion act for a \$16 million request; (4) teacher recruitment and retention to include the teacher pay raise; (5) work with the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) to get some technical amendments around the critical teacher recruitment programs; and (6) promoting the Achievement School District progress but we do not know the results yet and as this begins to show results the Board will make this a big Legislative priority in the 2021 regular session.

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman was the Board representative on the Accountability Task Force meeting. Ms. Aultman stated that Mr. Alan Burrow did a great job on explaining the Accountability Task Force during the years and how it drives districts and district behavior and the fact that our proficiency rates indicate that the accountability system is working. Ms. Aultman stated that the big discussion concerned the U.S. History test and Dr. Chris Domaleski lead the discussion. Ms. Aultman stated the questions were what were the options and what are the

implementations of what happens to the base line and in the end they adopted that if the State Board decides to eliminate the U.S. History test then the 50 points would go to science. Ms. Aultman stated there was a lot of discussions and a lot of other decisions that would have to be made before we get there. Ms. Aultman stated there was some discussion about the growth expectations because some of the Task Force felt that they were too rigorous and too much required between 3A and 3B on the scale. Ms. Aultman stated she had to leave before a decision was made on this discussion.

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Dr. Paula Vanderford and Dr. Nathan Oakley gave the Spring 2019 ACT results [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).

02. Action: Approval of the MDE Contracts [Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Felicia Gavin recommended approval.

02.A. Action: Contract with SeeWriteHear, LLC for the services related to new braille textbook and instructional material production [Goals 1, 2, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

02.B. Action: Contract with T-Base Communications, USA, Inc. for the services related to new braille textbook and instructional material production [Goals 1, 2, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

02.C. Action: Modify contract with Guidesoft Inc., d/b/a Knowledge Services to provide Information Technology Consulting Services to the MDE [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)

02.D. Action: Renew contract with Guidesoft Inc., d/b/a Knowledge Services to provide Information Technology Consulting Services to the MDE [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)

02.E. Action: Approval of the extension of employment agreement to serve as Interim Superintendent for the Noxubee County School District [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Washington Cole)

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved items 02.A., 02.B., 02.C., 02.D., and 02.E. (copy attached).

03. Action: Approval of the MDE grant awards [Goals 1, 2, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Gavin recommended approval.

- 03.A. Action: Modify the funding amount of the Educator-in-Residence (EIR) grants to school districts for literacy coaches [Goals 1, 2, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)
- 03.B. Action: Award competitive grants for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)
- 03.C. Action: Award competitive grants for the Mississippi Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) grant program [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board unanimously approved items 03.A., 03.B., and 03.C. (copy attached).

- 04. Action: Approval of appointment of a Financial Advisor for the Wayne County School District [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of a Financial Advisor for the Wayne County School District.

05. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval to revise selected Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks in Career and Technical Education
  - 1. Business, Marketing, and Finance
  - 2. Metal Fabrication
  - 3. Precision Machining(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Nathan Oakley)
- B. Approval to establish Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Framework for Fire Science in Career and Technical Education  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Nathan Oakley)
- C. Approval to adopt English Language Development (ELD) Standards, as created by WIDA  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Nathan Oakley)
- D. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish State Board Policy, Part 3, Chapter 30, Rule 30.8 – Educational Stability for Students in Foster Care (Nathan Oakley)

- E. Approval of the Campus Emergency Response Plan (CERP) for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (MSDB) (Nathan Oakley)
- F. Approval of methodology to award grant dollars appropriated from the Mississippi Legislature for agricultural programs, computer science, engineering or robotic engineering programs equipment upgrades and Mississippi Elementary STEM and STEAM program to local educational agencies (Nathan Oakley)
- G. [PULLED]
- H. Approval of nonpublic school accreditation statuses for School Year 2019-2020 (Paula Vanderford)
- I. Approval of two new school sites for the Harrison County School District (Paula Vanderford)
  - A. New middle school on the east side of Harrison County School District
  - B. New middle school on the west side of Harrison County School District
- J. [PULLED]
- K. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-4: Part 4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 to modify the number of coursework credit hours required for adding a supplemental endorsement to a three-year or five-year license from twenty-one (21) coursework credit hours to eighteen (18) coursework credit hours (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- L. Approval of final calculation of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program Base Student Cost for Fiscal Year 2021 (Felicia Gavin)
- M. Approval of final calculation of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program for Fiscal Year 2021 (Felicia Gavin)
- N. Information: Report on action of the Commission on School Accreditation concerning the assignment of district accreditation statuses (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., F., H., I., K., L., and M. (copy attached).



X. There was no Executive Session.

XII. State Board of Education

1. There was no report on meetings attended.
2. There was no request to attend a meeting.

XIII. Other Business

1. Action: Approval of the regularly scheduled budget meeting of the State Board of Education on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, be changed to Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board unanimously approved the regularly scheduled budget meeting of the State Board on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, be changed to Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

2. Action: Approval of the regularly scheduled State Board of Education meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2020, be changed to Thursday, June 11, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Ms. Brittney Rye, the Board unanimously approved the regularly scheduled State Board of Education meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2020, be changed to Thursday, June 11, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.

3. Action: Approval of a work session of the State Board of Education on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. for the purpose of interviewing the Student Representative finalists

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved the work session of the State Board of Education on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. for the purpose of interviewing the Student Representative finalists.


The January Board meeting will be held on January 16, 2020, in Jackson, Mississippi at the Central High School Building starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:31 a.m.

Approved:

  
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Jason S. Deas, Chair  
Mississippi Board of Education

  
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Carey M. Wright  
Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Board of Education