

## Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

February 21, 2019

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 21, 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, Mr. Johnny Franklin, Dr. John R. Kelly, Mr. Charles McClelland, Ms. Brittney Rye, and Mr. Sean Suggs. Board member absent: Dr. Karen J. Elam. Dr. Carey M. Wright was also present.

- I. Dr. Jason S. Dean, Chair, called the Board meeting to order at 10:01 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. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Brittney Rye gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2019, Board meeting.
- IV. Mr. Johnny Franklin asked to discuss Consent Agenda items F. and I.

On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board voted unanimously to discuss Consent Agenda item F. Dr. Dean stated this would be item 03.

On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board voted unanimously to discuss Consent Agenda item I. Dr. Dean stated this would be item 04 and the consent agenda would move to item 05.

On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

- V. Recognition Ceremony

### **2018 Students Who Earned Perfect ACT Score of 36**

#### **Clinton Public Schools, Clinton High School**

Isaac Martinolich

Kevin Zhang

Clark Hensley

**DeSoto County Schools**

Sebastian Askew, Center Hill High School  
John Barch, DeSoto Central High School  
Sydney Boone, Lewisburg High School  
Caleb Owens, Lewisburg High School  
Bailey Terrell, Hernando High School

**Hancock County School District, Hancock High School**

Ethan Harriel

**Harrison County School District, D'Iberville High School**

Michael Stiel

**Lamar County School District, Oak Grove High School**

Carly Grace Kendrick

**Long Beach School District, Long Beach High School**

Michael Homun Chan  
Gracie Anne Bush  
Alexis Jaleen LaRosa

**Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science**

Maria Kaltchenko

**Ocean Springs School District, Ocean Springs High School**

Drake Descher

**Oxford Public School District, Oxford High School**

Bozidar-Brannan (Brannan) Kovachev  
John Allen (Jack) Ligon  
Gillian Meyers

**West Point Consolidated School District, West Point High School**

Jimmy Bateman

**2019 February Employee of the Month**

Yolanda Bacon  
School Food Service, Supervisor III  
Office of Child Nutrition

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, as a matter of personal privilege, requested that next time we have a recognition to have the students tell us what their plans are for the future.

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

- Dr. Wright stated that the Department has been going through a process with the School Improvement schools with interviews, including their board chair, superintendent, principal, teacher, and parents to hear what their plans are, what their processes are, and how are they going to be using their vendors for support. Dr. Wright stated this took a lot of people to conduct 100 interviews with 100 schools. Dr. Wright recognized and thanked all the Department staff that helped with the interviews. Dr. Wright stated that the Executive Leadership Team conducted 12 of the interviews and it gave us an opportunity to hear ways that we could support our lowest performing schools. Dr. Wright stated that the Department will meet in a large group with program offices to talk about how we can better support these schools. Dr. Wright stated that the Department will be bringing to the Board quarterly updates on how these schools are doing. Dr. Wright stated the Leadership Team will be closely monitoring these schools.
- Dr. Wright stated that she was invited to attend a Commission on Equality and Opportunity in Connecticut. Dr. Wright stated that the Commission advises the Connecticut legislature. Dr. Wright stated they reached out to us because of all the progress we are making about early literacy and our K-3 plan and strategy. Dr. Wright stated that Mississippi was asked to testify before the Commission and there were several legislators in attendance. Dr. Wright stated that Mr. Pete Smith and Dr. Kelly Butler went with her to the meeting. Dr. Wright stated this was a great way to layout our strategies. Dr. Wright stated that Louisiana has invited Mississippi to come down and layout our K-3 strategies to see what we have done to receive the results we have received since they are revising their K-3 strategies. Dr. Wright stated this was good news to help our colleagues without having to reinvent the wheel.
- Dr. Wright stated that she attended the Broad Academy and this time they focused on low performing schools. Dr. Wright stated it was interesting to see how different people around the nation are dealing with low performing schools. Dr. Wright stated there were several highly successful superintendents from urban schools around the nation that spoke, and she was able to come back with a lot of ideas.
- Dr. Wright stated that Mr. Pete Smith, Dr. Washington Cole, and she met with Mr. Scott Waller from Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) and the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) is forming a partnership with them around career and technical education. Dr. Wright stated that this is to ensure that MDE is meeting the needs of all our businesses around the state. Dr. Wright stated that she would attend their board meeting at the end of the month, so they will know what MDE is doing, and MDE can see what they still need from us in terms of programming around the state.
- Dr. Wright stated that she attended The School Superintendents Association (AASA) Conference and was on a panel about women who

lead. Dr. Wright stated they wanted to know about women in leadership and strategies we had employed and how we got to where we were.

- Dr. Wright stated that she brought greetings to the Mississippi School Boards Association (MSBA) Conference. Dr. Wright stated this was a way to let the board members and superintendents know all the great news about what is happening around Mississippi.
- Dr. Wright stated this was the first time that she sent letters and certificates to the schools across Mississippi that improved their letter grade. Dr. Wright stated that there were 26 districts and 281 schools that received letters and certificates.
- Dr. Wright stated that last month the Board was talking about the child development centers. Dr. Wright stated that a recommendation will be taken to the Accountability Task Force so the scores of the children in the development centers go back to their home schools. Dr. Wright stated that not all the children in the centers are from either the Harrison County School District or the Pascagoula-Gautier School District. Dr. Wright stated that if the Task Force approves then the recommendation will go to the Commission on School Accreditation on March 8, 2019, and then to the State Board at their next meeting.
- Dr. Wright stated that Dr. Lisa Karmacharya is now the Executive Director of the Charter Authorizer Board.
- Dr. Wright stated that Mr. Quentin Ransburg has been named Chair of the Charter Authorizer Board.
- Dr. Wright stated the Spotlight for this Board meeting is “Next Level Up” social media challenge, which has gone viral. Dr. Wright stated our Literacy Team created a video challenging schools around the state to show they are preparing their third-grade students to go the “next level up” on this year’s third grade reading assessment. Dr. Wright stated that students will now have to score at level three or higher on the reading portion of the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) English Language Arts test to qualify for promotion to fourth grade. Dr. Wright stated we raised the passing score from level two to level three to get students closer to demonstrating reading proficiency. Dr. Wright stated that our “Next Level Up Challenge” video has reached close to 43,000 people in less than a month. Dr. Wright stated 14 schools have accepted the challenge and created their own videos to share on Facebook and Congressman Bennie Thompson has created a video promoting the challenge. Dr. Wright stated that WJTV, WLBT, and WLOX featured stories about the “Next Level Up Challenge.” Dr. Wright stated our Literacy Team came up with this idea because they wanted to create excitement about all the work schools are doing to help their students and to raise awareness about the higher bar for the third-grade reading test. Dr. Wright stated that after the Department’s “challenge” video you will see videos from Nora Davis Magnet School in Laurel and Henderson Ward Stuart Elementary School in Starkville, which is one of our literacy support schools. Dr. Wright recognized Dr. Kymyona

Burk, State Literacy Director for K-12; Ms. LeighAnne Cheeseman, Assistant State Literacy Coordinator for K-3; Ms. Jill Hoda, Assistant State Literacy Coordinator for K-3; Ms. Casey Sullivan, Assistant State Literacy Coordinator for K-3; and Ms. Kristen Wells, Assistant State Literacy Coordinator for K-3. Dr. Wright stated hats off to our Literacy Team and all the schools that are going the Next Level Up for Literacy.

- VII. Dr. Jason S. Dean as the Chair of the State Board stated that this is a great way to get the message out. Dr. Dean stated that being invited to go to Connecticut to tell about the good things we are doing, and this was on top of Alabama recently coming to the Department to hear about what we are doing, these things do not get reported on. Dr. Dean stated that Mr. Sean Suggs was recognized recently as one of Mississippi's Top 50 Most Influential by Y'all Politics. Dr. Dean stated that he was encouraged to hear that the Department is going to handle the child development centers through the administrative process. Dr. Dean stated that the Workforce/Career and Technical Education Subcommittee has been finalized with Mr. Suggs serving as Chair and the members are Mr. Buddy Bailey and me. Dr. Dean stated the focus of the Subcommittee will be sufficient workforce development pathways and ensuring State Board policy aligns with other workforce focused state entities including but not limited to State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB), Mississippi Board for Community Colleges (MCCB), and Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES). Dr. Dean stated that if the Board votes to move the March Board meeting to March 28 then the tour of the Mississippi Schools for the Blind and the Deaf will be held on March 27, 2019.
- VIII. Ms. Brittney Rye, Chair of the Early Childhood Subcommittee, stated they met this morning and it was the first meeting of this Subcommittee. Ms. Rye stated they got updates on the different grants that are going on with one of them being the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) grant and the trainings that were taking place. Ms. Rye stated that with the Kellogg grant, the Department has all their coaches in place and the training for them has taken place so they can get into the classrooms and do active coaching. Ms. Rye stated the Governor's grant will be used to enhance work the Department is already doing with resources in professional development and family engagement. Dr. Dean stated that we all agreed that we have a really unique opportunity with an election year coming up since we have state leaders running for office and talking about early education. Dr. Dean stated that we want to use this opportunity through Ms. Rye's leadership of the Subcommittee to develop policy that those in power will consider and take advantage of.

Dr. John R. Kelly, Chair of the School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee, stated they met today and they had three items to discuss for information. Dr. Kelly stated they authorized the Internal Accountability Office to do an internal audit on the Office of Career and Technical Education and this

does not have to come to the Board. Dr. Kelly stated they received the audit from the school districts, colleges, and universities and today's report focused on secondary schools. Dr. Kelly stated that seven schools did not report at all and the reports were due March 31, 2018. Dr. Kelly stated that two schools have not reported in two years and the discussion of the ramifications of not receiving reports over a two-year period. Dr. Kelly stated that some of the findings in the audits are not acted on for a four-year period since the State Auditor's Office was backed up and could not accommodate the information. Dr. Kelly stated that the Department would make a recommendation and talk with the State Auditor's Office to see what could be done. Dr. Kelly stated they discussed the student representation on the Board and the Board had 52 students across the state that applied with 37 completing the two-part process of a written application and a video. Dr. Kelly stated that the next step will be for the applications to go to the Subcommittee to look at over and then the recommendations will be coming to the Board soon.

Dr. Jason S. Dean, Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, asked Mr. Pete Smith to come give an update from the meeting. Mr. Smith gave an update on some of the bills stating that the bills just crossed over into the other house. Mr. Smith stated that all the appropriations bills for all the state agencies will be taken up. Mr. Smith gave an update on House Bill 1643 and House Bill 688.

IX. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items (All action items require vote)

01. Dr. Carey M. Wright presented the progress on the Mississippi Department of Education's 5-year Strategic Plan for 2016-2020 [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).

The Board stated this was a tremendous report and discussed ways to get the information out to the public such as talking points and social media.

02. Dr. Felicia Gavin discussed approval of the Mississippi Department of Education Contracts [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Gavin recommended approval.

- 02.A. Action: Renew contract with S&S Management Group, LLC d/b/a Security of America/Avert Group, USA to provide security services on the campus of the Mississippi Schools for the Blind and the Deaf for Fiscal Year 2020 [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

- 02.B. Action: Renew contract with Valley Services, Inc. to provide food services to the Mississippi Schools for the Blind and the Deaf for Fiscal Year 2020 [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

02.C. Action: Renew contract with Reading Language Arts Centers, Inc. d/b/a Brainspring for Fiscal Year 2020 to provide professional development training system based on Orton Gillingham reading methodology [Goals 2 and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

02.D. Action: Renew contract with The Riverside Publishing Company d/b/a HM Receivables, LLC for Fiscal Year 2020 to provide an assessment system as required by the State Performance Plan [Goals 1 and 3 - MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved the Mississippi Department of Education Contracts (items 02.A., 02.B., 02.C. and 02.D.) (copy attached).

03. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 28, Rule 28.7 – Districts of Innovation and Schools of Innovation [Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley and Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 28, Rule 28.7 – Districts of Innovation and Schools of Innovation.

04. Approval to modify certain licensure assessment guidelines for Instructional Support and Administrator Endorsement Areas [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board unanimously approved to modify certain licensure assessment guidelines for Instructional Support and Administrator Endorsement Areas.

05. Consent Agenda

A. Approval to revise State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 41, Rule 41.1 - Intervention  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Nathan Oakley)

B. Approval of methodology to award grants to local school districts to support the State Systemic Improvement Plan literacy coaches under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (Nathan Oakley)

- C. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 84, Rule 84.7 – Designation of Agents for the Delivery of Career and Technical Education Services (Nathan Oakley)
- D. Approval of methodology to award grant dollars to state educational agencies and organizations within Mississippi for technical support across Mississippi Department of Education offices (Nathan Oakley)
- E. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise appendices A-1, A-2, A-3, A-6, A-7, A-8, and A-9, social studies footnotes in the Appendix section of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2018* and *Mississippi Nonpublic Schools Accountability Standards, 2018* effective beginning 2018-2019 school year upon final approval (Nathan Oakley and Paula Vanderford)
- G. Approval of Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) for Districts assigned a PROBATION or WITHDRAWN status in accordance with Accreditation Policy 2.8.1 (Paula Vanderford)
- H. Approval to revise Process Standard 3: Personnel Appraisal System of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, 2018* (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- J. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act Process: To revise Career Pathway licensure option 912 Law and Public Safety and to add a definition to Special Notes and Definitions page to clarify reference to “related field” (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board unanimously approved the consent agenda items A., B., C., D., E., G., H., and J. (copy attached).

#### XI. Consideration of Executive Session

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

Mr. Buddy Bailey, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters related to the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Manager to serve as



the Manager within the Office of School Financial Services in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k) and to discuss personnel matters related to the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as the Director of School Financial Services within the Office of School Financial Services in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k). Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 7 to 0. Ms. Erin Meyer 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 personnel matters related to the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Manager to serve as the Manager within the Office of School Financial Services in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k) and discussed personnel matters related to the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as the Director of School Financial Services within the Office of School Financial Services in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k).

On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board voted 7 to 0 to come out of Executive Session at 11:59 a.m.

The public came back into the Board meeting and Dr. Dean reported the actions taken during the Executive Session.

01. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Sheila Franklin-Buie as Educ-Bureau Manager to serve as the Manager within the Office of School Financial Services at a salary of \$105,000.00.

02. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Letitia Johnson as Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as the Director of School Financial Services within the Office of School Financial Services at a salary of \$84,000.00.

#### **XII. State Board of Education**

1. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman stated she went to Columbia, Mississippi for a meeting to hear their comments and the group was very complimentary of what is going on.
2. Dr. John R. Kelly requested approval to attend the National Association of State Boards of Education's (NASBE) Board of Directors' Meeting and Legislative Conference on April 6-10, 2019, in Washington, D.C.

On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board approved for Dr. Kelly to attend NASBE's Board of Director's Meeting and Legislative Conference on April 6-10, 2019, in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Brittney Rye requested approval to attend the National Association of State Boards of Education's (NASBE) Early Childhood Education Networking meeting on April 8-10, 2019, in Washington, D.C.

On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board approved for Ms. Rye to attend the NASBE's Early Childhood Education Networking meeting on April 8-10, 2019, in Washington, D.C.

3. The Board discussed changing the previously approved State Board of Education meeting date of March 21, 2018 to March 28, 2019.

On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved the March meeting date of March 28, 2019.

4. The Board discussed changing the previously approved State Board of Education Budget meeting date of June 19, 2019 to June 12, 2019.

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board unanimously approved the State Board of Education Budget meeting date of June 12, 2019.

5. The Board discussed changing the previously approved State Board of Education meeting date of June 20, 2019 to June 13, 2019.

On a motion by Mr. Sean Suggs, seconded by Ms. Brittney Rye, the Board unanimously approved the June State Board of Education meeting date of June 13, 2019.


### XIII. Other Business

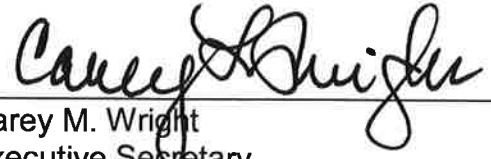
The March Board meeting will be held March 28, 2019, in Jackson, Mississippi at the Central High School Building starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Approved:

  
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Jason S. Dean, Chair  
Mississippi Board of Education

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carey M. Wright  
Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Board of Education