

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

April 11, 2019

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 11, 2019, in the Board Meeting Room, Jackson Public School District, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Mr. Buddy Bailey, Dr. Karen J. Elam, Dr. Jason S. Dean, Mr. Johnny Franklin, Dr. John R. Kelly, Mr. Charles McClelland, and Ms. Brittney Rye. Board member absent: Mr. Sean Suggs. Dr. Carey M. Wright was also present.

- I. Dr. Jason S. Dean, Chair, called the Board meeting to order at 11:29 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. Brittney Rye led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2019, Board meeting.
- IV. Mr. Johnny Franklin asked to add a Board item as item 04: Discussion of the accountability grade for the Mississippi Schools for the Blind and the Deaf.

On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board voted unanimously to add item 04 to the agenda. Dr. Dean stated the consent agenda would be item 05.

On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

- V. Recognition Ceremony

There was no Board recognition.

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

- Dr. Wright stated that the Board had a green folder and on the left-hand side is the report that came out of the Mississippi Grow Your Own Teacher Task Force and on the right-hand side is the Data Quality Campaign Bright Spot. Dr. Wright stated that the Data Quality Campaign produced a report around the ability to access data by states very easily from the state report cards that are on the web sites. Dr. Wright stated that Mississippi got a shout out for the online Mississippi Succeeds Report Card.

- Dr. Wright stated that she attended Touch a Truck in Jackson where the children can explore, climb, and touch trucks and heavy machinery. Dr. Wright stated the focus is on literacy and that she read to second graders in a tent. Dr. Wright stated this was a fun event.
- Dr. Wright stated that she attended the Administrator and Teacher of the Year Awards. Dr. Wright thanked Mr. Buddy Bailey and Mr. Johnny Franklin for attending the event.
- Dr. Wright stated that she finished the Regional Superintendents' Meetings and they were well attended. Dr. Wright stated there was a lot of great discussions in the meetings.
- Dr. Wright stated that she presented at the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Legislative Conference on our initiative, High-Quality Instructional Materials – Mississippi (HQIM – MS). Dr. Wright stated that Dr. Nathan Oakley, Dr. Paula Vanderford, and Mr. Pete Smith also attended. Dr. Wright stated that Mississippi is on the cutting edge. Dr. Wright stated that this initiative has a lot of potential for our teachers because the whole idea is to get teachers trained on how to look at a piece of material and be able to judge if it is quality and to see if it is aligned to our standards. Dr. Wright stated that she is proud of the work that Dr. Oakley is leading in that respect.
- Dr. Wright stated that she attended the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) Board of Governors meeting at the Westin with over 70 business leaders and it gave her an opportunity to talk about the great things that are happening with Career and Technical Education (CTE) and the new Perkins V grant. Dr. Wright stated they are very interested and want to be partners so she gave them Ms. Wendy Clemons' and Dr. Tom Wallace's contact information. Dr. Wright stated that the message is the Department wants to partner with them and to be sure the MDE is meeting the needs of all our businesses around the state.
- Dr. Wright asked Dr. Nathan Oakley and Dr. Felica Gavin to give a report on the United States Department of Education's (USDE) Risk Assessment visit to the Department. Dr. Wright stated USDE had conducted a risk assessment about two years ago and made recommendations and this was a follow up visit. Dr. Gavin stated that Ms. Jackson, from the USDE, Office of Risk Management and Grants Management met with staff two years ago and she provided the Department with several assessments and several recommendations around risk assessments. Dr. Gavin stated the purpose of this visit was to follow up on the recommendations to see where the Department was in terms of evaluating our corrective action plan and to assess our internal controls. Dr. Gavin stated that this was a two-day meeting and on the first day of the visit Ms. Jackson conducted opening meetings with the entire staff in the Office of Federal Programs and all operational departments. Dr. Gavin stated that Ms. Jackson wanted to gain a sense of progress the agency has made in areas of compliance, internal controls, MDE's written procedures, MDE's procurement practices, asset

management, how the agency tracks MDE's grants electronically, and MDE's federal risk assessment tool. Dr. Gavin stated she also wanted to see how the staff had done in training in these areas. Dr. Gavin stated that Ms. Jackson was extremely complementary on the work that had been done here and the progress the agency had made in the areas that she had addressed a couple of years ago. Dr. Gavin stated that Ms. Jackson stated the Department had not only met her expectations but had highly exceeded her expectations. Dr. Gavin stated that the Department had created a culture of compliance at the agency and she recognized that the Department had hired a compliance director and she thought this was a big step in making sure the agency stayed compliant in all the areas that she had concerns about. Dr. Gavin stated she was very complementary and stated that the Department had made significance progress in the areas of compliance and internal control and she stated the model that MDE has created at the agency could be taken on the road to show other states how MDE has done it. Dr. Oakley thanked staff across all program offices and extended appreciation to Mr. Quentin Ransburg in the Office of Federal Programs and Ms. Elisha Campbell in the Office of Grants Management for spearheading and planning the return visit. Dr. Wright thanked Dr. Gavin for her leadership in this area and thanked Mr. Ransburg and Ms. Campbell.

- Dr. Wright stated the Spotlight for this Board meeting is "State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Builds Teachers' Capacity to Teach Reading to Students with Disabilities." Dr. Wright stated the spotlight features Tylertown Primary School in the Walthall County School District and the school's participation in the State Systemic Improvement Plan known as "SSIP." Dr. Wright stated that SSIP is a comprehensive, multi-year plan to improve educational and functional outcomes for students with disabilities. Dr. Wright stated that SSIP focuses on building the capacity of districts to implement evidence-based practices in reading with a focus on improving third grade reading proficiency. Dr. Wright stated that SSIP increases expectations for students with disabilities and provides professional development and coaching to targeted districts. Dr. Wright stated that SSIP supports special education and general education teachers, who participate side-by-side in professional development. Dr. Wright stated that SSIP districts raised their third grade English Language Arts (ELA) proficiency rate among students with disabilities to 29.2%, which is closing the achievement gap between the overall statewide third grade ELA proficiency rate of 44.7%. Dr. Wright stated the video will show you how SSIP works and the impact it has on students and teachers. Dr. Wright acknowledged the people who are here from Walthall County Schools, and the MDE Office of Special Education: Mr. Andy Brock, Assistant Superintendent and Federal Programs Director; Ms. Julie Etheridge, Director of Special Services; Ms. Robin Duncan, Tylertown Primary School Principal; Ms. Angela Moore, SSIP Literacy Coach; Ms. Edryce Thompson, MDE SSIP Support Specialist; Ms. Gidget Mansell, MDE SSIP Literacy Coach

Supervisor; and Ms. Teresa Laney, MDE Statewide Coordinator of Phonics First. Dr. Wright congratulated Tylertown Primary School and Walthall County Schools. Dr. Wright stated that you have embraced the SSIP approach and it is paying off.

VII. Dr. Jason S. Dean, Chair of the State Board, stated that the Board toured his alma mater, Wingfield High School, and had a great reception from about 20 of their student leaders. Dr. Dean stated that they talked to some of the students to see what it was like to attend the school. Dr. Dean stated that they made a pledge to them that this is not a one and done conversation. Dr. Dean stated that they wanted to continue to hear from the students as we move along. Dr. Dean stated that on March 28, 2019, he attended the JROTC Cadet Review Ceremony at Hughes Field. Dr. Dean stated it was an amazing experience. Dr. Dean stated that he and Dr. Kelly were at the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) last week. Dr. Dean stated that Dr. Kelly is the past president of NASBE and he is the New Member Representative on the Board of Directors. Dr. Dean stated that they were honored to be asked to present. Dr. Dean stated that Dr. Kelly talked about our efforts of adding the student representatives to the Board and there was a lot of discussion about that process. Dr. Dean stated he presented on rural equality and 93% of our school districts in Mississippi are considered rural. Dr. Dean stated they met with representatives on Capitol Hill and had great conversations. Dr. Dean stated as a Board we volunteered all of us to be sounding boards for their staff as they work through Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Perkins. Dr. Dean stated that in talking with colleagues at NASBE, other states do not have all the paper for the meetings that the State Board has, and they use iPads. Dr. Dean asked by next meeting if the agency could develop a path forward in which the Board could have everything in electronic format. Dr. Dean acknowledged though that he understands everyone's individual needs to prepare for the Board are different.

VIII. There were no reports of Subcommittee meetings.

IX. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Action: Selection of the district(s) that will comprise the Mississippi Achievement School District [Goals 1, 2, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted 6 to 1 to approve Option A: Humphreys County School District and Yazoo City Municipal School District for the Achievement School District (copy attached).

Members voting aye:

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman

Mr. Buddy Bailey
Dr. Karen J. Elam
Mr. Johnny Franklin
Dr. John R. Kelly
Ms. Brittney Rye

Member voting nay: Mr. Charles McClelland

Member absent: Mr. Sean Suggs

02. Action: Approval of a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 36, Rule 36.6: Optional Graduation Requirements for Students Displaced by a Federally or Nationally Declared Natural Disaster [Goals 2 and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously voted to approve the temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 36, Rule 36.6: Optional Graduation Requirements for Students Displaced by a Federally or Nationally Declared Natural Disaster (copy attached).

03. Action: Approval of the Mississippi Department of Education contracts [Goals 1, 2, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Felicia Gavin recommended approval.
- 03.A. Action: Monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
- 03.B. Action: Renew contract with Voyager Sopris Learning, Inc. for Fiscal Year 2020 for the operation of the Mississippi K-3 Literacy Professional Development Training System [Goals 1 and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)
- 03.C. Action: Renew contract with Research and Curriculum Unit, Mississippi State University for Fiscal Year 2020 for the operation of the Mississippi Career and Planning and Assessment System, Third Edition (MS-CPAS3) [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)
- 03.D. Action: Renew the contract with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) for Fiscal Year 2020 to administer the LAS Links, English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

- 03.E. Action: Renew the contract with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) for fiscal Year 2020 to administer the 5th and 8th Grade Science assessment, and End-of-Course assessments in Biology and U.S. History [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)
- 03.F. Action: Renew the contract with Renaissance Learning, Inc. (RL) for Fiscal Year 2020 to provide a Kindergarten Readiness Assessment tool using Renaissance Data Integration (RDI) services [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)
- 03.I. Action: Renew contract with ACT, Inc. for Fiscal Year 2020 to administer the ACT to all 11th grade students in the state [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously voted to approve items 03.A., 03.B., 03.C., 03.D., 03.E., 03.F., and 03.I. (copy attached).

- 03.G. Action: Renew the contract with Questar Assessment, Inc. (QAI) for Fiscal Year 2020 to administer alternate assessments for the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program - Alternate (MAAP-A) for English Language Arts and Mathematics in Grades 3-8; Science Grades 5 and 8; and High School Algebra I, English II, and Biology I Alternate Assessments for students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (SCD) [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)
- 03.H. Action: Renew the contract with Questar Assessment, Inc. (QAI) for Fiscal Year 2020 to administer assessments for the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) for English Language Arts and Mathematics in Grades 3-8, End-of-Course in Algebra I, English II, and options for Geometry and Algebra II [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board voted 6 to 1 to approve items 03.G. and 03.H. (copy attached).

Members voting aye:

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman
Mr. Buddy Bailey
Dr. Karen J. Elam
Mr. Johnny Franklin
Dr. John R. Kelly
Ms. Brittney Rye

Member voting nay: Mr. Charles McClelland

Member absent: Mr. Sean Suggs

04. Discussion of the accountability grade for the Mississippi Schools for the Blind and the Deaf [Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Johnny Franklin)

The Board discussed the visit to the Schools for the Blind and the Deaf and the possibility of sending the scores back to the home schools. After much discussion the following motion was presented directing that:

MDE Staff come to the Board, no later than June, having looked at what other models exist in other states for blind and deaf schools, how these states are responding to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) accountability requirements of the law in getting tested, if there is a code requirement to fix since it is in fact a “school” in law unlike the other schools that are designated a school by MDE, and provide the State Board some options to consider.

On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously voted to approve item 04.

05. Consent Agenda

A. [PULLED]

B. Approval 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 (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)

C. Approval of recommendations on exceptions to pupil-teacher ratio requirements for grades 1-4 (Paula Vanderford)

D. Approval to revise 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” (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)

- E. Approval of textbooks, as recommended by the 2019 State Textbook Rating Committee for the adoption of textbooks in the areas of Social Studies (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12), and Mathematics (K-5, 6-8)
(Nathan Oakley)

- F. Approval of vendors, as recommended by the 2019 State Textbook Rating Committee for the adoption of textbooks in the areas of Social Studies (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12), and Mathematics (K-5, 6-8)
(Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously voted to approve consent agenda items B., C., D., E., and F. (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. Dr. Karen J. Elam 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 a School Finance Officer to serve within the Office of School Financial Services in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k); discuss personnel matters related to the appointment of a School Finance Officer to serve within the Office of School Financial Services in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k); discuss personnel matters related to the appointment of the Superintendent for the Achievement School District in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k); discuss personnel matters related to the State Board of Education's annual evaluation of the State Superintendent of Public Education in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k); and investigative proceedings by a public body regarding allegations of misconduct or violations of law in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(d) and Strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation, litigation or issuance of an appealable order: Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(b), specifically involving the appeal of Randy Stokes, MS Educator's License No. 182024. Dr. John R. Kelly 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 reason.

Minutes of the Executive Session

During the Executive Session, the Board discussed personnel matters related to the appointment of a School Finance Officer to serve within the Office of School Financial Services in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k); discussed personnel matters related to the appointment of a School Finance Officer to serve within

the Office of School Financial Services in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k); discussed personnel matters related to the appointment of the Superintendent for the Achievement School District in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k); discussed personnel matters related to the State Board of Education's annual evaluation of the State Superintendent of Public Education in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k); and investigated proceedings by a public body regarding allegations of misconduct or violations of law in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(d) and Strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation, litigation or issuance of an appealable order: Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(b), specifically involving the appeal of Randy Stokes, MS Educator's License No. 182024.

On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board voted 7 to 0 to come out of Executive Session at 1:36 p.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 Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Cherron Collins-Woodard as School Finance Officer to serve within the Office of School Financial Services at a salary of \$69,670.57.
02. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Courtney L. Austin as School Finance Officer to serve within the Office of School Financial Services at a salary of \$69,670.57.
03. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board voted to approve the appointment of Dr. Jermall D. Wright as Superintendent for the Achievement School District at a salary of \$175,000.00.

Members voting aye:

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman
Mr. Buddy Bailey
Dr. Karen J. Elam
Dr. John R. Kelly
Ms. Brittney Rye

Member voting nay:

Mr. Charles McClelland

Member abstaining:

Mr. Johnny Franklin

Member absent:

Mr. Sean Suggs

04. No action taken – feedback on State Board of Education's Annual Evaluation of the State Superintendent of Education.

05. No action taken – Dr. Dean stated that Mr. Randy Stokes, MS Educator's License No. 182024 withdrew his appeal.

XII. State Board of Education

1. Ms. Brittney Rye stated she attended the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Early Childhood Education State Network Meeting in Washington, D.C. Ms. Rye stated that Dr. Nathan Oakley and Dr. Paula Vanderford also attended. Ms. Rye stated that Mississippi was recognized for a state doing it right as to what to do to get the quality early childhood education on a roll. Ms. Rye stated there were a lot of topics discussed as to how Mississippi is doing it correctly. Ms. Rye stated that Mississippi and three other states were used to show the map that was laid out and how we were doing things. Ms. Rye stated this was a very informative meeting.
2. There were no requests to attend a meeting.

XIII. Other Business

1. Action: Approval of a work session of the State Board of Education on Wednesday, June 12, 2019, 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 to start the work session on Wednesday, June 12, 2019, at 8:30 a.m. for the purpose of interviewing the Student Representative finalists.

2. Action: Approval for the State Board of Education to tour the Clinton High School, located at 401 Arrow Drive, Clinton, MS as a public body on May 9, 2019, at 9:00 a.m., prior to the May 9, 2019, Board meeting.

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously approved to tour the Clinton High School, located at 401 Arrow Drive, Clinton, MS as a public body on May 9, 2019, at 9:00 a.m., prior to the May 9, 2019, Board meeting.

3. Action: Approval to move the May 9, 2019, Board meeting off site to Clinton School District Central Office located at 201 Easthaven Drive, Clinton, MS with a start time of 10:45 a.m.

April 11, 2019

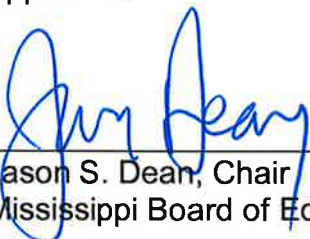
On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously approved to move the May 9, 2019, Board meeting off site to Clinton District Central Office located at 201 Easthaven Drive, Clinton, MS with a start time of 10:45 a.m.

The May Board meeting will be held May 9, 2019, in Clinton, Mississippi at the Clinton School District Central Office, 201 Easthaven Drive, Clinton, Mississippi starting at 10:45 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 1:41 p.m.

Approved:



Jason S. Dean, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education