

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

January 16, 2020

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2020, in the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Mr. Buddy Bailey, Senator Nancy Collins, Dr. Jason S. Dean, Dr. Karen J. Elam, Dr. John R. Kelly, and Mr. Sean Suggs. Student Representatives present: Ms. Shelby Dean and Mr. Omar G. Jamil. Board member absent: Ms. Brittney Rye. 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. Dr. Jason S. Dean led the Pledge of Allegiance and Dr. John R. Kelly gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2019, Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Dr. Jason S. Dean welcomed the new State Board member, Senator Nancy Collins. Dr. Dean stated that Senator Collins is replacing Mr. Charles McClelland and was appointed to the Board by Lieutenant Governor Tate Reeves. Dr. Dean stated that Senator Collins brings a lot of experience to the Board and he is looking forward to working with her.

- V. Recognition Ceremony

National Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Distinguished Schools

Oxford Elementary School
Oxford School District

Pass Christian Elementary School
Pass Christian School District

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

- Dr. Wright stated that she has been all over the state with the Celebration of Excellence Tours. Dr. Wright stated that she finished the celebrations last week with Union, Enterprise, and Hancock. Dr. Wright stated that the Spotlight is a compilation of all the 31 Celebrations.
- Dr. Wright stated that she spoke at the quarterly meeting of the Mississippi Alliance of Nonprofits and Philanthropy about Mississippi's advancements in education and opportunities for the philanthropic community to support our efforts.
- Dr. Wright stated that yesterday MDE hosted a team from Winston-Salem, North Carolina who came to the Department to see what we are doing. Dr. Wright stated that their superintendent was a Broad Academy cohort member with her. Dr. Wright thanked the Elementary Education and Reading Office for meeting with them and sharing all our resources. Dr. Wright stated the good news is MDE was able to share what we have accomplished and our resources with others around the nation.
- Dr. Wright stated that she wanted to recognize Ms. Corie Jones and Ms. Melissa Banks for their work on the Superintendent's Annual Report. Dr. Wright stated that it is our story in this report with lots of data, lots of amazing graphs, and if anyone wants to know anything that is happening in Mississippi it is in this Annual Report. Dr. Wright thanked Ms. Jones for her additional gifts that she is bringing to this job every day.
- Dr. Wright stated that in the blue folder at each Board members' seat includes the following:
 - Dr. Wright stated that there is a PowerPoint for Tab 01, a PowerPoint about the graduation rates, and graduation rates by district and by school that was not in the Board's back-up materials.
- Dr. Wright stated the Spotlight for this Board meeting is "2019 Celebration of Excellence Tour" of all school districts that earned an A. Dr. Wright stated the number of A-rated school districts jumped from 18 in 2018 to 31 in 2019 so our tour had to start much earlier this year. Dr. Wright stated she started in October and visited the final three districts last week. Dr. Wright stated that it was a thrill to visit each district and take part in their different Celebrations. Dr. Wright stated that they saw bands, choirs, dancers, cheerleaders, school mascots, confetti explosions, and we even had a drone capture footage at our first outdoor event. Dr. Wright stated that some districts used the occasion to recognize individual student achievements with awards. Dr. Wright stated that she was interviewed by students on her first podcast at one of the events. Dr. Wright stated that there is so much talent in these districts. Dr. Wright stated along with great teachers, leaders, and students, the common trait among all of the districts visited was incredible community support. Dr. Wright stated she is already planning for the 2020 Celebration of Excellence Tour because every district is expecting us back next year. Dr. Wright stated we are looking forward to

visiting these districts and many more in 2020. Dr. Wright recognized the Communications Office for putting together the Spotlight Video of all the Celebrations!

- VII. Dr. Jason S. Dean, Chair of the State Board, gave the following report:
- Dr. Dean stated during the Executive Session the Board will get an update on our Strategic Plan and in front of the Board is a full timeline of the evaluation process that will start tomorrow. Dr. Dean stated that in the years past this evaluation has been an anonymous evaluation and this year and moving forward he would like to make the evaluation not anonymous and the Board can all talk about our concerns, what the Board is proud of, and what needs work. Dr. Dean stated that the Board members will be receiving the evaluation tomorrow from the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). Dr. Dean stated that the evaluation results will be discussed on February 20, 2020, at the Board meeting.
 - Dr. Dean stated that the Governor is considering the replacement for the 1st Supreme Court District that was held by Mr. Johnny Franklin. Dr. Dean stated that after the Legislative session that the Board have a retreat with our student representatives and Board members so just keep that in mind as the Board's schedules start to fill up.

VIII. Report of Student Representatives

Mr. Omar G. Jamil and Ms. Shelby Dean reported on the U.S. History test that the Board will consider later in the meeting today. Ms. Dean stated she had talked with her peers and teachers about the U.S. History test. Ms. Dean stated that she personally does not think that the test should be a requirement for graduation because of its make up; the exam is not a typical history test. Ms. Dean stated that the test is very reading comprehension based and a student who has trouble reading and picking out parts of a paragraph would be at a disadvantage. Mr. Jamil stated that personally taking everything into consideration that he believes that the U.S. History exam should continue. Mr. Jamil stated that all processes for state exams proves tedious and exhausting to students and teachers alike, the temporary negative outlooks on state testing do not justify the consequences of removing a single state exam. Mr. Jamil stated without the exam he feels that students, teachers, and what our entire education system stands for will suffer from unpermissible damages.

IX. Report on State Board of Education Subcommittee Meetings.

Dr. Dean, Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, stated that he asked Mr. Pete Smith to give an update on the Legislative session. Mr. Smith stated that the Legislative session is getting into full swing. Mr. Smith stated that Lieutenant Governor Delbert Hosemann has made his committee chair appointments. Mr. Smith stated that yesterday in the Appropriations Committee meeting they took

up House Bill 1 which was the teacher pay raise and it passed unanimously and it will be sent to the full Senate. Mr. Smith stated that he wanted to reiterate what Chairman Dennis DeBar, Jr. said this morning in the Senate Education Committee: he talked about the willingness to be open and transparent, talked about the willingness to accepting ideas and views from both sides of the aisle, and he also picked up the Mississippi Department of Education's Annual Report and talked about MDE needed to do a better job talking to his committee about the great things going on in public education. Mr. Smith stated that he told them they needed to go out and talk about all the good things going on in public education. Mr. Smith stated that MDE has been getting requests from the Legislative Budget Office regarding a new teacher count since a bill was dropped for a new teacher pay raise. Mr. Smith explained that MDE will be going through the same process as last year to get the accuracy of the teacher count because the Mississippi Student Information System (MSIS) has not been fixed and MDE has been asking for money to upgrade the system. Mr. Smith stated that it would be a couple of weeks before MDE can get an accurate teacher count to give to them to include in the teacher pay raise. Mr. Smith stated that the MSIS system is over 20 years old and MDE has just been patching it up.

Dr. John R. Kelly, Chair of the School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee, met this morning and he stated there was no action items but there were three information items. Dr. Kelly stated the first one was a report from the internal auditing team on the \$6 million grant received from Kellogg to evaluate the infrastructure development grant that looks at preschool programs and the Subcommittee got a good report. Dr. Kelly stated that the Subcommittee feels like the data gathered from this study will help the MDE make the case with the Legislature to get more funding for coaches for preschool students. Dr. Kelly stated that the second item was the 2020 graduation rate and the Board will hear more about this during the Board meeting. Dr. Kelly stated that the graduation rate is up, and the dropout rate is down. Dr. Kelly stated that the third item was whether or not the Board is going to offer U.S. History in our high schools and this was put out for the Administrative Procedures Act process (APA) and the comments came back and it was mixed as to how many people wanted to continue U.S. History and those that wanted to drop it. Dr. Kelly stated he wanted to remind the Board that they had challenged the Department to be able to tell us if we were to drop U.S. History would that require another change in cut scores. Dr. Kelly stated that the 50 points that were allocated to U.S. History would go to science and the Board would not have to make a change in the cut scores.

Mr. Sean Suggs, Chair of the Workforce/Career and Technical Education Subcommittee, stated there is a hot topic the Board will talk about shortly in the meeting with Dr. Nathan Oakley about the Perkins state funds. Mr. Suggs stated that as the MDE is working on developing our strategic plan for career and technical education over the next three to five years we had our second road tour

that happened at the Toyota plant with about 70 administrators, community college presidents, and business leaders in attendance to talk about some of the needs in northwest Mississippi, a needs assessment was completed, a student assessment was completed, and local businesses were there to talk about their needs. Mr. Suggs stated there are several more road tours to be held in the state and once they are finished, MDE will report back to the Board.

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Action: Approval of the *Carl D. Perkins V State Plan* [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

Dr. Nathan Oakley discussed the funding for the *Carl D. Perkins V State Plan*. The Board discussed in length the outcome of the budget split.

Mr. Sean Suggs made a recommendation to the Board to set aside 7 percent reserve for secondary career academy programs and of the remaining funds in the local distribution formula move from 53 percent to 47 percent split that is the current split that we have been using to a 57 percent to 43 percent split.

On a motion by Mr. Sean Suggs, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board unanimously approved the split of 57/43 percent and holding 7 percent in reserve.

02. Dr. Paula Vanderford and Mr. Alan Burrow gave a report on the 2020 graduation rates for the state, district, and school levels [Goal 2 - MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:49 a.m. and reconvened at 12:43 p.m.

03. Action: Revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 36.4, State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.4: Assessments Required for Graduation [Goals 1, 2, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act Process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)

Dr. John R. Kelly made the motion to accept the staff's recommendation to deny removing the U.S. History test.

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously denied removing the U.S. History test (copy attached).

04. Action: Approval of the MDE Contracts [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Felicia Gavin recommended approval.

- 04.A. Action: Renew contract with S&S Management Group LLC d/b/a Security Solutions of America/Avert Group, USA to provide security services on the campus of the Mississippi Schools for the Blind and Deaf for the 2020-2021 school year [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Mr. Sean Suggs, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved item 04.A. (copy attached).

- 04.B. Action: Approval of Pupil Transportation Equipment Bids [Goals 1, 2, and 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved item 04.B. (copy attached).

05. Action: Establish State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 74, Rule 74.21 – Education Scholarship Account (ESA) [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Nathan Oakley)

The Board discussed Rule 74.21 – Education Scholarship Account. The Board requested to add language for the districts to have 30 days to respond to the parents and for this policy to be effective for the 2020-2021 school year.

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board unanimously approved item 05 with the language added for the districts to have 30 days to respond to the parents and for this policy to be effective for the 2020-2021 school year (copy attached).

06. Action: Revise selected Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks in Career and Technical Education [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]
1. Agricultural Power and Machinery
 2. Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems
 3. Contemporary Health
 4. Cyber Foundations I
 5. Cyber Foundations II
 6. Family and Consumer Sciences
 7. Health Care and Clinical Services
 8. Health Science Core
 9. Information Technology
 10. Polymer Science
 11. Simulation and Animation Design
 12. Sports Medicine
- (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved to revise selected Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks in Career and Technical Education (copy attached).

07. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval to establish Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Framework in Career and Technical Education – Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, Shipbuilding Academy
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Nathan Oakley)
- B. Approval to revise methodology to award competitive grants to school districts to support kindergarten through 3rd grade literacy instruction and intensive intervention during Summer Reading Camps
(Nathan Oakley)
- C. Approval of a new school site for the Petal School District
(Paula Vanderford)
- D. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act Process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to adopt and establish a passing score for the *Praxis Subject Assessments*, Algebra I and Geometry and New Endorsement Codes, as recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Paula Vanderford)
- E. Approval of Jackson State University's request to modify its existing Specialist (Ed.S.) and Doctorate (Ph.D.) in Educational Administration Programs by removing 18-hours prerequisite for students who do not hold a master's/specialist degree in Educational Administration and modifying several courses in the curriculum (Paula Vanderford)
- F. Approval of appointments for Standing Commission on School District Efficiency (Felicia Gavin)
- G. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3:55.1, State Board Policy Chapter 55, Rule 55.1 (John Kraman)

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

X. 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 6 to 0. Dr. Jason S. Dean asked Dr. Carey M. Wright, Mr. Joseph Runnels, Ms. Leah Kathryn Anzenberger, 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 in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(a) and (k) related to: (1) the approval of the appointment of a Superintendent for the Mississippi Schools for the Blind and Deaf and (2) personnel matters related to the State Superintendent of Public Education. Mr. Sean Suggs seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 6 to 0. Ms. Leah Kathryn Anzenberger 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 in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(a) and (k) related to: (1) the approval of the appointment of a Superintendent for the Mississippi Schools for the Blind and Deaf and (2) personnel matters related to the State Superintendent of Public Education.

On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted 6 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

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. Donna E. Sorensen to serve as Superintendent for the Mississippi Schools for the Blind and Deaf at a salary of \$120,000.00.

02. There was no action taken on the personnel matters related to the State Superintendent of Public Education.

XII. State Board of Education

1. There was no report on meetings attended.

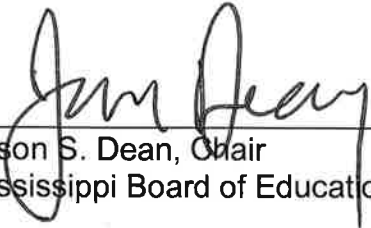
2. There was no request to attend a meeting.

XIII. There was no other business.

XIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:31 p.m.

Approved:



Jason S. Dean, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education