

## Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

December 17, 2020

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a regularly scheduled Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 17, 2020, via teleconference and video means pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5 for the purpose of conducting the Board meeting.

The meeting was available to the public by live stream.<sup>1</sup> Board members present: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman (Clinton, Mississippi), Dr. Jason S. Dean (Madison, Mississippi), Dr. Karen J. Elam (Oxford, Mississippi), Mr. Glen East (Gulfport, Mississippi), and Dr. Ronnie McGehee (Madison, Mississippi). Student Representatives: Mr. Omar G. Jamil (Hernando, Mississippi) and Ms. Amy Zhang (Starkville, Mississippi). Dr. Carey M. Wright was present at Central High School, Jackson, Mississippi.

I. Dr. Jason S. Dean called the Board meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Dr. Dean noted that the meeting of the Board of Education was being held via teleconference and video means pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5 and that the notice of this meeting included the date, time, place, and purpose of the meeting. Dr. Dean also stated that an audio recording was being made of the meeting, this meeting is being live streamed and that a quorum of the Board existed at the locations stated for the purpose of conducting a meeting through teleconference and video means.

II. Dr. Jason S. Dean led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Glen East gave the Invocation.

III. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Glen East, the Board voted unanimously to approve the October 15, 2020, Board meeting minutes.

IV. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

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

- Dr. Wright stated that she has been meeting with the Student Advisory Council and they will be working in small groups on issues that they would like to see addressed by the Department. Dr. Wright thanked the two Board

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<sup>1</sup> Due to the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) and the recommendations of the CDC and the Mississippi Department of Health, gatherings should be restricted to no more than 10 people. To protect the public health, the State Board of Education met via teleconference and video means and the meeting was available to the public via video means (live stream). The SBE exercised their authority granted by the Governor in his Proclamation of a State of Emergency. See Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-31.

representatives for stepping up in a wonderful way in a leadership role to guide this group.

- Dr. Wright stated that she went to DeSoto County School District to congratulate Center Hill High School for receiving the Blue Ribbon award. Dr. Wright stated that Mississippi (MS) had four schools that earned the status of national Blue Ribbon Schools.
- Dr. Wright stated that she attended two hearings in the Senate with one being on year-round schools, year-round school calendar, and the implementations of that, and the other one concerned dual credit/dual enrollment. Dr. Wright stated that she believes that this is going to be a topic of conversation for this Legislative session.
- Dr. Wright stated that she continues to meet with the medical field around the expansion of telehealth and teletherapy and hopes to launch this sometime in the spring.
- Dr. Wright stated that she did several national presentations over the web with one being the Aspen Institute on climate change and two presentations at the Excellence in Education virtual conference called EdPalooza where she presented on literacy and the work being done in Mississippi.
- Dr. Wright stated that the Stennis Capitol Press Conference was held with lots of questions around Mississippi Connects and lots of questions about what Mississippi is doing academically. Mississippi is trying to get as much information out about what is transpiring around the state where education is concerned.
- Dr. Wright stated that the National Assessment Governing Board met for two days, as did Chiefs for Change, at their annual meeting and she attended both.
- Dr. Wright stated that the Children's Health Council has been reinstated and we are trying to get that up and running to address and coordinate efforts.
- Dr. Wright stated that she had a meeting with agencies such as Medicaid, Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Mental Health, and Child Protective Services. Dr. Wright stated that these agencies are trying to come together to ensure that the services provided are not being replicated but complimentary. Dr. Wright stated that the group will continue to meet to help families.
- Dr. Wright stated that the Teacher Advisory Council met, and they are very good about letting MDE know what they need. Dr. Wright stated that MDE has set up a very big professional development team to provide professional development to our teachers virtually.
- Dr. Wright stated that she has been interviewed by WTBA, WLOV, Politico, McKenzie, WAPT, SuperTalk, Chalkbeat, and WJTV. Dr. Wright stated that they all had different aspects such as enrollment, Mississippi Connects, and this is a chance for us to tell our story in a big way.

- Dr. Wright introduced Mr. John Kraman to give an update on Mississippi Connects. Mr. Kraman stated that all devices were delivered by the November 20 deadline except for 100 devices that were delivered right after Thanksgiving. Mr. Kraman introduced Dr. Felicia Gavin to give an update on the reimbursement process. Dr. Gavin stated that December 15 was the deadline to finish processing the reimbursements and this has been completed. Dr. Gavin stated that this has been a collaborative effort between her office and Mr. Kraman's office. Dr. Gavin thanked her team for all their hard work. Dr. Gavin recognized Ms. Elisha Campbell, Director of Grants Management, Ms. Monique Corley, Procurement Director, and Ms. Shelia Franklin-Buie and her team for getting the reimbursements processed in MAGIC. Mr. Kraman thanked Mr. John Hartley and Mr. Joshua Huwe for all their hard work from the Office of Technology and Strategic Services (OTSS). Mr. Kraman stated that in addition to the conversations that Dr. Wright has had on the national level he has been involved with several international calls about what Mississippi has accomplished in a short amount of time. Mr. Kraman stated that the legislation passed on July 9, within six weeks MDE had contracts, within three months MDE had the devices delivered, and within one month the reimbursements processed. Mr. Kraman stated that there was great collaboration between Operations and OTSS. Mr. Kraman stated that now the shift is to phase two; MDE has to pivot to the next set of challenges which is to provide support and break-fix on all the devices for the next two-and one-half years until June 2023. Mr. Kraman stated that all districts would have spares and he stated that the break-fix will be up and running by January 4, 2021 and MDE will be receiving data back and forth between the vendors so MDE can understand how efficiently MDE is supporting the districts to ensure how the devices continue to work for the teachers and students because any down time is a loss of educational opportunity and MDE wants to minimize that as much as possible. Mr. Kraman stated that there are a lot of lines going forward with professional development--maximizing as much support and training to help ensure that the teachers, administrators, and counselors are able to leverage the technology. Mr. Kraman stated that connectivity will remain a focus for MDE as well as professional development. Mr. Kraman stated that MDE is working to hire coaches across the state to deploy them and intersect all the vendors that are providing services that are being paid for or offered as an in-kind contribution to the state or are available through the licenses that we have in place for the learning management systems. Mr. Kraman stated that data collection will be a part of the work that is being done so MDE can see and the schools can see how the devices are working, if they are able to connect, if the students are able to engage to log into the software and use the platforms and the schools can link that back to student performance. Mr. Kraman stated there will be more to come.

- Dr. Wright gave a shout out to the Lt. Governor and his office and to the Office of the State Auditor because MDE was able with the update from the U.S. Treasury to extend some timelines and MDE would not have been able to accomplish that if not for both of these offices working with the Department.
- Dr. Wright gave a shout out to Mr. Kraman's and Dr. Gavin's teams for all their hard work over the past few months. Dr. Wright stated that this is very exciting and that no other state in the Nation has done what Mississippi has done and Mississippi can be so proud of where we are right now with lots of great things to come.
- Dr. Wright introduced Dr. Gavin to give an update on the proposed FY22 budget that will be coming up during this Legislative session since there are some significant cuts that have been proposed for MDE and the Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP) calculations since they are different this year due to the status of where Mississippi is with free and reduced lunch. Dr. Gavin stated that the Legislative Budget Committee annually makes a recommendation to the Legislature as it relates to funding for the state agencies. Dr. Gavin stated that a large portion of the education budget is centered around MAEP and there is less than one percent of the total MDE budget that is included for the operation of MDE. Dr. Gavin stated that the recommendation is about a 35 percent cut to MDE because the largest portion of the Department's budget is for specified items or flow-through items. Dr. Gavin stated that just based on the recommendation that would be about \$7 million. Dr. Gavin stated that a large portion of the cut was for unfilled pins or vacancies that they saw, and they recommended that they cut those positions and it will be hard for MDE to absorb that much of a cut. Dr. Gavin stated that they did recommend level funding for MAEP based on FY21 level funding. Dr. Gavin stated that the recommendation is for level funding for Career and Technical Education (CTE), but that CTE has been cut over prior years and that is still a significant cut. Dr. Gavin stated that the recommendation for the Mississippi School for the Deaf and the Blind is a \$2 million cut. Dr. Gavin stated that the recommendation for Chickasaw is at the requested level. Dr. Gavin stated that MAEP was an item on the agenda today to be discussed later.
- Dr. Wright gave an update on enrollment from the districts where there was a significant decrease in the number of students coming in this year. Dr. Wright stated that over 23,000 students did not return this school year. Dr. Wright stated that she charged the School Attendance Officers with finding the students to make sure they were in a learning environment. Dr. Wright stated that Mississippi's compulsory school age starts at age six, so we had around 4,400 fewer kindergarteners this year than last year since it is not a compulsory age there is not too much we can do about that and this is a concern. Dr. Wright stated that our data continues to show that only one out of every three kindergarteners comes ready for kindergarten. Dr. Wright stated that as of yesterday the number has been reduced to just around 900

and MDE will continue to validate where these children are located. Dr. Wright stated that we did see a significant number of children that are home schooled, and that number increased by over 6,700 children. Dr. Wright stated that our enrollment has been dropping over time by 5,000 to 5,500 per year, but not over 23,000. Dr. Wright stated that this produces a lot of problems for the districts which includes average daily attendance (ADA) because the MAEP formula has a portion of ADA in it and that is a concern of all of the districts around the drop in ADA and the impact on school funding.

- Dr. Wright introduced Dr. Nathan Oakley who gave an update on the districts on how they would return to school after the holidays. Dr. Oakley stated that in the fall when schools started, that 48 percent statewide were offering a classroom instruction option but were offering parents an option to go virtual. Dr. Oakley stated that about one fourth of districts ran a hybrid schedule. Dr. Oakley stated that a smaller amount started virtually and shifted to in-person or ran virtual only through the fall. Dr. Oakley stated that as the fall semester went on, MS started to see spikes in the number of COVID cases so the state observed a slight increase in the number of districts that went virtually only during this time period between Thanksgiving and Christmas break. Dr. Oakley stated that the districts were responsive to their local needs and their caseloads and worked with the local health departments to design the instructional approach that would work best for their community. Dr. Oakley stated that the other numbers remained steady and the virtual only increased from 12 percent when the semester started in the fall to 15 percent between Thanksgiving and Christmas break. Dr. Oakley stated that for the spring, some districts are returning to face-to-face instruction with only one to two percent of the districts this fall offered a classroom only solution for the students in their districts. Dr. Oakley stated that eight percent of the districts going into the spring that anticipated doing classroom only and there is a reduction in the number of districts doing virtual only. Dr. Oakley stated that during the transition period now with the 15 percent doing virtual down to only 8 percent doing virtual only through the spring semester. Dr. Oakley stated that 85 percent of the districts statewide in the spring are looking to offer classroom instruction with a parent option for virtual if they need it or a hybrid model where students are rotating in and out of the school building a couple days per week. Dr. Oakley stated that most of the districts that are looking at the hybrid model for students are getting most of their instruction in the classroom rather than a remote setting. Dr. Oakley stated that the final piece MDE asked the districts about was their spring contingency plan as the Nation is also in the midst of flu season and expects to see COVID numbers increase again with colder weather with people being indoors more. The Department is seeing 82 percent of districts looking at full virtual or a combination of full virtual and packets for their contingency solution in the spring. Dr. Oakley stated that this was encouraging for MDE where the

districts are weighing that virtual option as a solution to try to control the spread of the virus. Dr. Oakley stated that 13 percent of districts responded that they would use some other approach but when MDE dug in it was really districts doing virtual and maybe virtual and packets, or virtual with USB drives to address students who do not have connectivity for high speed Internet connection, or are doing virtual and will provide packets at said parents request. Dr. Oakley stated that only five percent of the districts have indicated that their intention for the spring is to go with a packet or assignment-based approach for their contingency plan. Dr. Oakley stated that MDE is pleased with what they saw as the semester shifted over the fall and as the districts looked at the spring, and are seeing some flexible responses to address their community needs.

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

- Dr. Dean stated that he participated in a panel at EdPalooza with Dr. Tenette Smith from MDE focusing on Third Grade Reading Gate and lessons learned. Dr. Dean stated that Dr. Smith is in Dr. Oakley's office and she did a fantastic job representing the challenges Mississippi went through and the success MS has been able to achieve. Dr. Dean stated hats off to Dr. Smith for being on that panel with him.
- Dr. Dean stated that he did the Starting at Zero panel hosted by Ole Miss a couple of weeks ago focusing on early childhood education.
- Dr. Dean stated that he joined a group called Mississippi Early Childhood Investment Council made up of mostly business leaders to focus on early childhood education policy with more to come on that.
- Dr. Dean stated that they have been meeting with Governor Reeves and his staff regularly concerning the questions about accountability and what we refer to as a decoupling of accountability with assessment. Dr. Dean stated that there is no support for not doing assessments but the overwhelming desire from parents and from political leadership is the State wants to see assessments to see where Mississippi is and that is different than accountability. Dr. Dean stated that we know that for practitioners and educators that this is top of mind issue for most folks. Dr. Dean stated that with the current change in administration and this could mean a change in the United States Department of Education (USDE) leadership to move before MS understands what that looks like is just a little premature but the Board recognizes the timeline that the districts are on to administer these tests are sensitive to that so it will probably be January. Dr. Dean stated that the Board and MDE are in constant conversation with the Governor and he has not weighed in yet on the decoupling, but he is very much for doing the assessments. Dr. Dean stated that more to come hopefully at the January Board meeting where the Board can bring this up and vote on it so it can give an indication to the leadership throughout the state as to what is going to happen.

- Dr. Dean stated that he wanted to welcome Dr. Ronnie McGehee our latest Board member appointed by the Lt. Governor as an At-Large member. Dr. Dean gave Dr. McGehee an opportunity to introduce himself to the Board. Dr. McGehee stated that he was appreciative to serve with you and looked forward to working with the Board for our young people and our educators in the state of Mississippi. Dr. McGehee stated that he was a 41-year educator with 21 years in Madison County basically been involved with every position in a school that one could have. Dr. McGehee stated that Dr. Rucker in Rankin County years ago talked him into being a transportation supervisor and he drove a bus, cleaned the bus, and everything else inside of it. Dr. McGehee stated that from the comments earlier from the news to the tech roll out, listening to superintendents and tech directors across the state are to be applauded for your actions and the way you performed your activities across the state. Dr. McGehee stated he looked forward to solutions because we are in the people business and we need to take care of our people in the state of Mississippi so they can be prosperous in the future. Dr. McGehee stated that he looked forward to working with you.

## VII. Report of Student Representatives

Mr. Omar G. Jamil stated that he was going to discuss the Student Advisory Council and what they have done so far to discuss issues in the school realm. Mr. Jamil stated that they polled the topics from the first Student Advisory Council meeting and found that improving virtual learning for students is still a major issue among students as well as mental and emotional health resources. Mr. Jamil stated that they found several other key issues that the Student Advisory Council would like to talk about in the next two to three months and poll some potential solutions for teachers and students alike. Mr. Jamil stated they are planning their next two meetings for January and February as well as some smaller student led meetings in between those times to discuss these issues and find some potential solutions for them. Mr. Jamil stated that he thinks the Student Advisory Council has really grown since the first year in understanding their responsibilities and how they can talk to the Student Representatives about how to resolve these issues and how the State Board of Education is responsible for some issues and how their local boards are also responsible for other issues so I think that understanding has really helped everybody all students alike in understanding what we are capable of helping with. Mr. Jamil stated that he was looking forward to talking to the Student Advisory Council and admending some of these issues we see fit to solve as of current.

Ms. Amy Zhang stated that she would like to go off of what Mr. Jamil said and to elaborate on the virtual learning and the mental and emotional health. Ms. Zhang stated that for virtual learning they talked about Mississippi Connects at the beginning of the meeting and most people agreed that it was really important that everyone had the necessary technology to learn virtual. Ms. Zhang stated

that some students did bring up the concerns that at their districts or at their schools virtual instruction was not as good as in-person instruction so most of the proposed solutions were to make lessons and things covered around the syllabus consistent regardless of if learning was virtual or in-person or hybrid. Ms. Zhang stated that they had discussions as to how teachers could improve virtual instruction by giving students the necessary materials in support for virtual learning and by keeping pace with in-person lessons at school. Ms. Zhang stated there was also a lot of discussion about mental and emotional health. Ms. Zhang stated that Dr. Wright mentioned telehealth and telemedicine and in January there will be a special meeting about mental and emotional health with Dr. David Elkins who is a child and adolescent psychologist and he will be discussing strategies on how to deal with stress. Ms Zhang stated that there were discussions after several students brought up concern about the limitations of their counselors since not everyone feels close enough with them to fully discuss their mental health and it is especially noticeable this year because of COVID and a lot of students are feeling more stressed. Ms. Zhang stated that overall the meeting went very well and as Mr. Jamil stated earlier that they are currently organizing work groups to discuss the topics that the Council wanted to discuss further and she is looking forward to our meeting next year.

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman thanked Mr. Jamil and Ms. Zhang for the work with the Student Advisory Council and this is what the Board visualized when Dr. Kelly led the effort to get student representatives on the Board. Ms. Aultman stated they are moving it in the right direction and providing good feedback to Dr. Wright and the Board as to what the issues are and what the feelings are among the students.

Dr. Wright stated that she wanted to echo that because it was their feedback and it was universal around social and emotional health that MDE reached out to Dr. Elkins who is coming to their next meeting in January to give them strategies that they in turn can share with their friends. Dr. Wright stated they are a dynamic group of young people and they are very helpful in giving us feedback and letting us know what we can be doing to help them. Dr. Wright stated hats off to Mr. Jamil, Ms. Zhang, and to the group as a whole for doing a good job.

VIII. There were no reports on State Board of Education Subcommittee meetings.

IX. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Action: Begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020* specifically the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System, Section 25, *College – and Career – Readiness*, regarding the inclusion of ACT WorkKeys in performance measures [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)



On a motion by Mr. Glen East, seconded by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, the Board unanimously approved item 01 (copy attached).

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

02.A. Action: Renew contract with various contractors 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 Guidesoft Inc., d/b/a Knowledge Services under the terms of the Master Consulting Services Agreement to provide for the acquisition of Network and Technical Support IT Professionals for local school districts [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)

02.C. 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)

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

03. Action: Approval of the MDE grant awards [Goals 1 and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

03.A. Action: Award an Educator-in-Residence (EIR) competitive grant for the State Systemic Improvement Plan Literacy Coordinator (K-8) [Goals 1 and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

03.B. Action: Approval of methodology to modify grant awards to three (3) Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) to support participants in the teacher residency programs in Mississippi [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

03.C. Action: Modify grant awards to three (3) Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) for the Mississippi Teacher Residency Program (MTRP) [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, the Board unanimously approved items 03.A., 03.B., and 03.C. (copy attached). Mr. Glen East recused himself from voting.

Members voting aye: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman  
Dr. Karen J. Elam

Dr. Ronnie McGehee

Member voting no: None

Member absent: None

04. Information: Discussion of the MDE telework policy for staff [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Joe Goff)

Mr. Goff discussed the MDE telework policy for staff.

05. Action: Approval of final calculation of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program Base Student Cost for Fiscal Year 2022 [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

06. Action: Approval of final calculation of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program for Fiscal Year 2022 [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Glen East, the Board unanimously approved items 05 and 06 (copy attached).

07. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Nathan Oakley)
- B. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Framework for Advanced Manufacturing in Career and Technical Education (Nathan Oakley)
- C. Approval of methodology to award grants to state agencies to facilitate the broadcast of instructional content via a statewide television network available to Mississippi students and teachers (Nathan Oakley)
- D. Approval to modify contract for Interim Superintendent for Tunica County School District (Washington Cole)
- E. Approval to contract with Mid-South Rehab Services, Inc. to provide independent contractual services for occupational therapy services to meet the individualized and unique needs of students determined in MSDB students' Individualized Education Programs and required by Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 74.19, State Board Policy 74, Chapter 74, Rule 74.19 (Nathan Oakley)

- F. Approval to award competitive contracts to various manufacturers to provide food products to contracted distributors in the Statewide Food Purchasing Program (All 7 Regions in the State) (Felicia Gavin)
- G. Approval of emergency contract with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) for the Fiscal Year 2021 to administer the LAS Links, English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) (Paula Vanderford)
- H. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise selected Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks in Career and Technical Education (Nathan Oakley)
  - 1. Forestry (Miss. Admin. Code 7-120)
  - 2. Horticulture (Miss. Admin. Code 7-156)
  - 3. Food Products (Meats) (Miss. Admin. Code 7-119)
  - 4. Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) (Miss. Admin. Code 7-157)
  - 5. Industrial Maintenance (Miss. Admin. Code 7-158)
  - 6. Television Broadcasting and Production (Miss. Admin. Code 7-79)
  - 7. Keystone (Miss. Admin. Code 7-141)
- I. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish library standards in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-1-3 (Nathan Oakley)
- J. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish State Board Policy Rule 95.2 to align to The Mississippi Learn to Earn Act (Nathan Oakley)
- K. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 74.21, State Board Policy 74, Chapter 74, Rule 74.21 – Education Scholarship Account (ESA) (Nathan Oakley)
- L. Approval to revise Process Standard 24 in Miss. Admin Code: 7-24, *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020* and Process Standard 20 in Miss. Admin Code: 7-163, *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2020* (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- M. Approval of nonpublic school accreditation statuses for School Year 2020-2021 (Paula Vanderford)

- N. Approval to modify existing policy regarding criteria for the admittance of candidates into Mississippi licensure programs (Paula Vanderford)
- O. Approval to amend the application process to include verification of an applicant's Lawful Presence in the United States of America (Paula Vanderford)
- P. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish Licensure Guidelines for Licensure Preparation and Other Programs Completed Outside the State of Mississippi (Paula Vanderford)
- Q. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to amend the Mississippi Alternate Path to Quality School Leadership Business Track and remove all references to the Mississippi Alternate Path to Quality Teachers (MAPQT) and Mississippi Alternate Path to Quality School Leadership (MAPQSL) Education Track nontraditional licensure pathways from the Licensure Guidelines as appropriate (Paula Vanderford)
- R. Approval of the appointments to the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Paula Vanderford)
- S. Information: Report on action of the Commission on School Accreditation concerning the assignment of district accreditation statuses (Paula Vanderford)
- T. Report of monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits (Felicia Gavin)
- U. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 14.6, 14.6.1, and 14.6.2, State Board Policy Chapter 14, Rules 14.6, 14.6.1, and 14.6.2 and establish Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 14.6.3 and 14.6.4, State Board Policy Chapter 14, Rules 14.6.3 and 14.6.4 related to Licensure Commission, Discipline Procedures, Hearings and Appeals (Paula Vanderford)

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., G., H., I., J., K., L., M., N., O., P., Q., R., and U. (copy attached).

X. Consideration of Executive Session

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session. Mr. Glen East seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a vote of 4 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.

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss discrete personnel matters in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(a) and (k) related to: (1) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve within the Office of Federal Programs; (2) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve in the role of Director of Fiscal Operations within the Office of Special Education; (3) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve in the role of Director of Internal Audit within the Office of Educational Accountability; (4) the approval of the appointment of a School Finance Officer to serve within the Office of School Financial Services; (5) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve in the role of Director of Assessment at the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind; (6) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve in the role of Director of Logistics and Support within the Office of Accountability; and (7) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve in the role of Director of Digital Learning within the Office of Technology and Strategic Services. Mr. Glen East seconded the motion, which passed on a motion of 4 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 discrete personnel matters in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(a) and (k) related to: (1) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve within the Office of Federal Programs; (2) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve in the role of Director of Fiscal Operations within the Office of Special Education; (3) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve in the role of Director of Internal Audit within the Office of Educational Accountability; (4) the approval of the appointment of a School Finance Officer to serve within the Office of School Financial Services; (5) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve in the role of Director of Assessment at the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind; (6) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve in the role of Director of Logistics and Support within the Office of Accountability; and (7) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve in the role of Director of Digital Learning within the Office of Technology and Strategic Services.

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted 4 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

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

1. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Chad Daniels as an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve in the Office of Federal Programs at a salary of \$84,000.00.
2. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. LaKenya D. Moore as an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve in the role of Director of Fiscal Operations within the Office of Special Education at a salary of \$84,000.00.
3. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Tracie Riggan as an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as Director of Internal Audit within the Office of Educational Accountability at a salary of \$84,000.00.
4. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Cora Fuller as an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve within the Office of School Financial Services at a salary of \$74,764.62.
5. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. LaQuandra K. Jones as an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve in the role of Director of Assessment at the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind at a salary of \$74,119.09.
6. On a motion by Mr. Glen East, seconded by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Kenyata Stamps as an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve in the role of Director of Logistics and Support within the Office of Accountability at a salary of \$84,000.00.
7. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Melissa Banks as an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve in the role of Director of Digital Learning within the Office of Technology and Strategic Services at a salary of \$84,000.00.

XI. State Board of Education

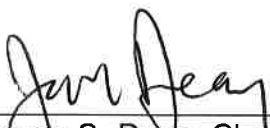
1. No report on meetings attended.
2. No request to attend a meeting.

XII. Other Business

Dr. Dean stated that the January Board meeting will be held on January 21, 2021, at the Central High School Building starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIII. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

Approved:

  
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Jason S. Dean, Chair  
Mississippi Board of Education

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