

## Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

March 26, 2020

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a special-called Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 26, 2020, via teleconference pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5 for the purpose of discussing any waivers/suspensions of statutes and/or rules and regulations as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

The location of the meeting available to the public was by live stream and audio recording. Board members present included: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman (Clinton, Mississippi), Mr. Buddy Bailey (Brandon, Mississippi), Senator Nancy Collins (Tupelo, Mississippi), Dr. Jason S. Dean (Madison, Mississippi), Dr. Karen J. Elam (Oxford, Mississippi), Dr. John R. Kelly (Gulfport, Mississippi), Ms. Brittney Rye (Starkville, Mississippi), Mr. Sean Suggs (Saltillo, Mississippi), Mr. Omar Jamil (Southaven, Mississippi) and Ms. Shelby Dean (Clinton, Mississippi). Dr. Carey M. Wright was also present at Madison, Mississippi to participate in this teleconference meeting.

- I. Dr. Jason S. Dean, Chair, called the special-called Board meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and stated that the meeting was being live streamed.

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

- II. Dr. Dean recognized the efforts by Dr. Carey M. Wright, the Executive Leadership Team, and the staff of the MDE working remotely for all their hard work for a whole new process of education that has not been done before. Dr. Dean stated he met with the task force to work with Governor Tate Reeves' request to keep education going either online or by other instructional methods. Dr. Dean stated they discussed Broadband and device availability, federal policies around E-rate, and some financial questions around dual enrollment and online classes, and shared ideas and thoughts from professionals that could be presented to the Governor in the future. Dr. Dean stated this would be a roadmap to the technical aspect of going online in the future.
- III. Dr. Carey M. Wright recognized the team at MDE for working non-stop to put together resources for districts. Dr. Wright stated hats off to the superintendents, principals, teachers, and support staff for working to make sure the students are fed and have the learning materials to continue their education. Dr. Wright stated she met with the Superintendent's Advisory Council yesterday via teleconference

and presented the information to them that the Board will review today and they were very appreciative of the materials to be presented. Dr. Wright stated that she assured them that the Board would come back together later if it is discovered that something needs to be addressed that is not covered today.

IV. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

V. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend specific policies and process standards in Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards 2019* and Miss. Admin. Code 7-163: *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2019* for the 2019 - 2020 school year following Governor Tate Reeves' Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts during the Spring of 2020 in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford and Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to approve item 01 (copy attached).

02. Action: Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-4: Part 4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 to modify the licensure requirements for obtaining and maintaining the *Special Non-Renewable License for Prospective Non-Traditional Teacher Preparation Program Completers*, to ensure alignment to current Federal guidelines for employing Special Education Teachers who hold a temporary license as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 612(a)(14)(c), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board voted unanimously to approve item 02 (copy attached).

03. Action: Approval to suspend specific policies in Miss. Admin. Code 7-4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* related to requirements for Traditional and Nontraditional Educator Preparation Program Entry Test Requirement; Administrator Licensure Test Requirement; Educator and Administrator Licensure Renewal; and Educator Licensure Reciprocity following Governor Tate Reeves' Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts during the Spring of

2020 in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to approve item 03 (copy attached).

04. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend specific policies outlined in Miss. Admin. Code 7-107: Administrative Process and Performance Review Title for spring 2020 licensure candidates following Governor Tate Reeves' Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts during Spring 2020 in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)


On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Senator Nancy Collins, the Board voted unanimously to approve item 4 (copy attached).


On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved to suspend applicable State Board policies in Miss. Admin. Code 7-3 tied to the suspensions acted on earlier today in Miss. Admin Code 7-4, 7-24, 7-107, and 7-163.

VI. Adjournment

On a motion by Senator Nancy Collins, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Approved:

  
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Jason S. Dean, Chair  
Mississippi Board of Education

  
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Carey M. Wright  
Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Board of Education