

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

August 27, 2020

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a regularly scheduled Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 27, 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.¹ Board members present: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman (Central High School, 4th Floor Boardroom, Jackson, Mississippi), Senator Nancy Collins (Tupelo, Mississippi), Dr. Jason S. Dean (Central High School, 4th Floor Boardroom, Jackson, Mississippi), Dr. Karen J. Elam (Oxford, Mississippi), Dr. John R. Kelly (Gulfport, Mississippi), and Mr. Sean Suggs (Blue Springs, Mississippi). Student Representative: Mr. Omar G. Jamil (Hernando, Mississippi). Dr. Carey M. Wright was present at Central High School, 4th Floor Boardroom, Jackson, Mississippi.

I. Dr. Jason S. Dean called the Board meeting to order at 10:13 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 Ms. Rosemary G Aultman gave the Invocation.

III. On a motion by Mr. Sean Suggs, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board voted unanimously to approve the July 16, 2020, Board meeting minutes and the two August 6, 2020, Special-Called Teleconference Board meeting minutes.

IV. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, 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:

¹ 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.

- Dr. Wright recognized Mr. Joe Goff, Chief of Advocacy and Counsel, and welcomed him to the Department.
- Dr. Wright asked Dr. Nathan Oakley to provide an update to the Board on some resources prepared for teachers. Dr. Wright thanked Dr. Oakley and his team for all the hard work they have done on these resources and they have been pushed out to the Teacher Listserv. Dr. Oakley stated there are three new resources that have been developed and these specifically align with all the work that MDE does with the mission, vision, and goals of the Board. Dr. Oakley stated the first one is the Instructional Planning Guide and he wanted to thank the team that worked on the Guide. Dr. Oakley stated the Grades K-12 Instructional Planning Guides in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science provides suggested guidance for classroom teachers as they develop lesson plans. Dr. Oakley stated each Guide includes intentional grouping of standards by term and recommendations for resources. Dr. Oakley stated the second resource is Equipped: Mississippi Booklist for All which promotes literacy through a variety of high-quality, rigorous texts across various cultures, genres, and facets of the human experience. Dr. Oakley stated the third resource is Recommendations for PK-12 Arts Education represents a workable program student health and safety in all art classes as schools re-open.
- Dr. Wright asked Mr. John Kraman to give an update on the implementation of the Digital Learning Plan. Mr. Kraman stated the districts have some questions and the Department is working on information that will be provided to them and a webinar will be held to answer any questions. Mr. Kraman stated that the school districts need to get their plans turned in so they can be reviewed. Mr. Kraman stated that as of now the Department has reviewed 17 plans. Mr. Kraman stated that a new web page will be put up today with all the information, assurances, and the registration link for the webinar.

Dr. Dean and Mr. Kraman discussed the timeline for the Digital Technology Plan. Mr. Kraman stated the applications for the Digital Technology Plan are due to MDE by close of business on September 1, 2020. Dr. Dean stated he wanted an update on how many districts applied. Mr. Kraman stated the applications would be approved and the districts should place their orders by the close of business on September 11, 2020. Mr. Kraman stated that on November 20, 2020, the devices will be delivered to a central supply depot set up by CDW-G to be tested, packaged, and set up to be picked up by the districts on a first come, first served basis. Dr. Dean stated that the MDE is working diligently to get the applications approved so the devices can be ordered by the districts. Dr. Dean, Dr. Wright, and Mr. Kraman met with the legislative leadership, Chairs of the House and Senate, a Governor's Office representative, and other legislators to answer questions around the guidance provided by MDE. Dr. Dean stated that the school districts can purchase from CDW-G and Apple as approved by the

Board on August 6, 2020. Dr. Dean stated these companies were chosen by an outside committee in reference to the Equity in Distance Learning Act (SB 3044) process that was posted by MDE. Mr. Kraman stated that the funds not used can be reallocated by December 1, 2020. Dr. Dean stated that there was confusion about purchasing outside the Express Products List (EPL) and the MDE discussed this in a webinar that the districts can purchase from other companies as long as the delivery date is met, the price is lower, and the company meets or exceeds all the technical specifications stated in the application. Dr. Dean stated that MDE has communicated weekly with district superintendents about the application process and has conducted webinars to provide support to the districts. Dr. Dean stated that a district had purchased from a vendor other than CDW-G or Apple and the company contacted them to let the district know that they could not deliver the devices timely; therefore, the district would not be reimbursed their 80% match. Dr. Dean stated it is unfortunate the State Auditor, without confirming the facts about MDE's implementation process, sent letters to the Governor, the Lt. Governor, and the Speaker. This could have been taken care of if he would have contacted Dr. Wright with a phone call and she could have told him how MDE is executing the law. Dr. Dean stated that he is confident that this was just a miscommunication. Dr. Dean stated that MDE has been working for three months to employ 310,000 devices by November in a five-month timeframe from the time the law passed in July. Dr. Dean stated the superintendents have questions which are being answered and webinars are being conducted. Dr. Dean stated this is a major step forward for Mississippi from putting a computer in every classroom to putting a computer into every child's hands. Dr. Dean stated it would be nice for the political leadership and others to get behind MDE and there are issues to overcome, MDE and the Board recognize that, but the team is working to overcome them. Dr. Dean stated that he would be excited if people would get behind this and say by November 20 there will be 300,000 plus devices in student's hand. Dr. Dean stated that after November when the devices are delivered, MDE will provide professional development to the districts. Dr. Dean stated that after the professional development, then MDE will think about what the application is for students across the state who now have access to education on even ground. Dr. Dean stated this is going to be amazing for our state.

VI. Dr. Jason S. Dean, Chair of the State Board, did not give a report.

VII. Report of Student Representative

Mr. Omar G. Jamil stated that the DeSoto County School District started back to school last Monday. Mr. Jamil stated the District is doing a good job with the policies of protecting the students, teachers, and administrators making sure they are safe with the mask guidelines and the social distancing policies. Mr. Jamil

stated that the virtual and on site school is helpful. Mr. Jamil stated that he is staying at home. Mr. Jamil stated that he is excited about the student representative interviews this afternoon for the junior representative. Mr. Jamil stated he hopes he can take the representative under his wing and they work with the Student Advisory Council and discuss COVID-19. Mr. Jamil stated he hopes they can meet soon and have some dialogue about what is different and what is happening in other counties.

VIII. Report on State Board of Education Subcommittee meetings

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman stated that the Mississippi Technical Advisory Committee for Statewide Assessment and Accountability (TAC) met in a Teams meeting with an update on the WorkKeys program and the implementation of WorkKeys into the Accountability Model. Ms. Aultman stated they came away with the recommendation that WorkKeys would be given in the 2020-2021 school year as a pilot program so they could gather data since there is no data out there now. Ms. Aultman stated that when monies are assured for testing then it would be incorporated into the Accountability Model. Ms. Aultman stated the next step would be to determine how it would be incorporated into the Accountability Model. Ms. Aultman stated they are making progress.

Ms. Rosmary G. Aultman, Chair of the Academic Achievement PreK-12 Subcommittee, met this morning in a Teams meeting with Dr. Nathan Oakley giving an update on the resources that are being developed for teachers. Ms. Aultman stated that most of the time was spent on the State Schools and their restart plans for the year. Ms. Aultman stated that residential schools such as Mississippi School of the Arts, Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, and the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and Blind all have to have different restart plans because they are dealing with residential students. Ms. Aultman stated they have to be very thorough in their plans with all the protocols, health, sanitation, feeding, and they have been in constant contact with parents. Ms. Aultman stated those plans were approved in the Subcommittee this morning.

Dr. Dean, Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, stated that the Subcommittee met via Teams yesterday afternoon led by Mr. Pete Smith and they discussed the current affairs of the Legislature's approval of the school recognition program. Dr. Dean stated the school recognition program that is awarded for achievement and the \$28 million was for the 2018-2019 school year and MS did not take tests last year so this will not be a program that will be considered by the Legislature this coming year. Dr. Dean stated that anyone who is an advocate for this program should be watchful of this program if they want it to continue in the next Legislative session. Dr. Dean stated they talked about the budget situation which is now fully in order and the Legislative budget recommendation process. Dr. Dean stated they covered Senate Bill 3044 and House Bill 1788.

Dr. Karen J. Elam, Chair of the School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee, stated she is the only member of this Subcommittee at this time but she wanted to thank Dr. Cory Murphy and Dr. Debra Burson for meeting with her and going over the two consent items that will be discussed this morning from the Office of Teaching and Learning. Dr. Elam stated they updated each other on all that was going on in their respective fields.

IX. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Action: Approval by the SBE to allow specific school districts to operate for less than 180 days as required in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-63(1) following Governor Tate Reeves' Proclamation of a State of Emergency and Executive Order 1517 as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts during the 2020-2021 school year in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-65 and § 37-13-63(2) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved item 01 to provide the ten (10) day waiver option to all local school districts, for COVID-19 related alterations; however, it does not permit districts to reduce the number of school days later in the school year (copy attached).

02. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes and State Board of Education Policy for the 2020 – 2021 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 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)

On a motion by Mr. Sean Suggs, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved item 02 (copy attached).

03. Action: Establish Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 9.2, State Board Policy Chapter 9, Rule 9.2: Reporting Attendance for Virtual Learning [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – 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 Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved item 03 (copy attached).

04. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 35.1, State Board Policy Chapter 35, Rule 35.1 for the

2020 - 2021 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 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

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

05. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-21-11(2), 37-177-1(3), 37-177-11, 37-177-17 and SBE Policy 41.1 for the 2020 - 2021 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 [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved item 05 (copy attached).

06. Action: Approval of a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 99.2, State Board Policy Chapter 99, Rule 99.2 – School Calendar Approval and Modification [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board unanimously approved item 06 (copy attached).

07. Action: Approval of the MDE Contracts [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
- 07.A. [PULLED]
- 07.B. Action: Modify contract with Teachstone to provide training and commodities to the Mississippi Department of Education relative to the Office of Early Childhood Pre-K to third grade Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) training program [Goals 3 and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)
- 07.C. Action: Contract with Management Services for Education Data (MS/EdD) to provide consultative services that includes a complete system for collecting, storing, and reporting all data required for the management of the Mississippi Migrant Student Program [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

07.D. Action: Award contracts to various Application Service Providers to provide licensing for a Learning Management System to local school districts in the State [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)

07.E. Action: Approval of the extension of employment agreement to serve as Interim Superintendent for the Noxubee County School District [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE strategic Plan] (Washington Cole)

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved items 07.B., 07.C., 07.D., and 07.E. (copy attached).

08. Action: Approval of the MDE grant awards [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

08.A. Action: Modify Early Learning Collaborative Council grants to support pre-kindergarten programs with increased per-pupil rate [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Mr. Sean Suggs, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved item 08.A. (copy attached).

09. Action: Approval to integrate \$4 million of ESSER Funds to support Distance Learning and mitigate against higher than anticipated cost of windows devices [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved item 09 (copy attached).

10. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the Methods of Administration (MOA) Plan (Nathan Oakley)

B. Approval to revise Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Framework for Culinary Arts (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Nathan Oakley)

C. Approval of the revised school calendars for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, Mississippi School of the Arts, and Mississippi school for Mathematics and Science for 2020-2021 school year (Nathan Oakley)

- D. Approval of monthly expenditures for Mississippi School of the Arts (Nathan Oakley)
- E. Approval to repeal Miss. Admin. Code: 7-139, *Accreditation Audit Procedures*
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- F. Approval to revise Career Pathway licensure option, 971 Teacher Academy; to revise Career and Technical Education supplemental licensure options, 309 Special Populations; and 917 Career Pathway Experience; to establish one new Career Pathway in the endorsement area of Shipbuilding; and to establish one new Computer endorsement in the area of Exploring Computer Science
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- G. Approval of educator preparation programs as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development (Paula Vanderford)
- H. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 76.4, State Board Policy Chapter 76, Rules 76.4 – Housing Teacher Program (Felicia Gavin)
- I. Approval of Technology Equipment and Acceptable Use Policy for state schools (Nathan Oakley)
- J. Approval to appoint a certificated public school administrator to the State and School Employees' Health Insurance Advisory Council (Carey Wright)

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., F., G., H., I., and J., (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. Sean Suggs seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a vote of 5 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 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 as the Director of Internal Audit within the Office of Educational Accountability; (2) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as the Principal at the Mississippi School for the Blind; (3) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as MCAPS Administrator within the Office of Grants Management; (4) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as the Director of Infrastructure within the Office of Technology and Strategic Services; and (5) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Manager to serve as the Director of Federal Programs. Dr. Karen J. Elam seconded the motion which passed on a vote of 5 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 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 as the Director of Internal Audit within the Office of Educational Accountability; (2) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as the Principal at the Mississippi School for the Blind; (3) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as MCAPS Administrator within the Office of Grants Management; (4) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as the Director of Infrastructure within the Office of Technology and Strategic Services; and (5) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Manager to serve as the Director of Federal Programs.

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board voted 5 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 Mr. Sean Suggs, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Katherine S. Landrum as Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as Director of Internal Audit within the Office of Educational Accountability at a salary of \$84,000.00.
2. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Eddie Spann as Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as the Principal at the Mississippi School for the Blind at a salary of \$74,110.09.
3. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Mariea B. Jackson as

Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as MCAPS Administrator within the Office of Grants Management at a salary of \$84,000.00.

4. On a motion by Mr. Sean Suggs, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. John D. Hartley as Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as the Director of Infrastructure within the Office of Technology and Strategic Services at a salary of \$84,000.00.
5. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Judy K. Nelson as Educ-Bureau Manager to serve as the Director of Federal Programs at a salary of \$104,746.80.

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 September Board meeting will be held on September 24, 2020, at the Central High School Building starting at 10:00 a.m.


XI. State Board of Education

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

XII. Other Business

- XIII. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Approved:



Jason S. Dean, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education