

**Minutes of the  
Commission on School Accreditation  
Special-Called Meeting (Teleconference)  
Central High School Building  
Room 311  
359 North West Street  
Jackson, Mississippi  
April 12, 2018  
9:00 a.m.**

A special-called meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation (CSA or Commission) took place at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 12, 2018 via teleconference. The Commission members present in Room 311 of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi included:

Heather Westerfield, Chair  
Roy Gill  
Michael Miller  
John Mistilis

Attending via teleconference:

Sean Brewer, Madison, MS  
Sarah Foster, Brookhaven, MS  
Brian Harvey, Clinton, MS  
Ann Jones, Jackson, MS  
Michael Lindsey, Gulfport, MS  
Anthony Montgomery, Gulfport, MS  
Eddie Prather, Tupelo, MS

The following members did not attend:

Kelle Barfield  
Kenny Bush  
Dr. Valencia Martin  
Rob Tyner

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), Office of Accreditation staff members present included: Dr. Jo Ann Malone, Executive Director, John Cartwright, Teresa Jones, Michael Martin, Katrina McDowell, Ken Stamps.

Other MDE staff present included: Dr. Nathan Oakley, Walt Drane, Alan Burrow, and Anna Furniss

Also in attendance: Erin Meyer, Special Assistant Attorney General.

**I. Announcement of Quorum and Call to Order**

Heather Westerfield, Chair of the CSA, opened the Commission meeting and conducted a roll-call of the Commission members.

The following Commission members attended the meeting:

Heather Westerfield, Chair  
Sean Brewer  
Sarah Foster  
Roy Gill  
Brian Harvey<sup>1</sup>  
Ann Jones  
Michael Lindsey  
Michael Miller  
John Mistilis  
Anthony Montgomery  
Eddie Prather

The following Commission members did not attend:

Kelle Barfield  
Kenny Bush  
Dr. Valencia Martin  
Rob Tyner

Ms. Westerfield announced that a quorum of the Commission existed and called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

John Mistilis gave the invocation.

## **II. Adoption of Agenda**

Ms. Westerfield asked the Commission members to review the agenda they received previously. On a motion by Roy Gill, seconded by Anthony Montgomery, the Commission unanimously approved the agenda.

Members voting aye: Sean Brewer  
Sarah Foster  
Roy Gill  
Ann Jones  
Michael Lindsey  
Michael Miller  
John Mistilis  
Anthony Montgomery

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<sup>1</sup> Brian Harvey had technical difficulties with his phone and did not become audible until 9:23 a.m. He did not vote in agenda items II and III.

Eddie Prather

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Kelle Barfield  
Kenny Bush  
Dr. Valencia Martin  
Rob Tyner  
Brian Harvey

Discussion: None

**III. Approval of the minutes of the February 1, 2018, Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation**

On a motion by Michael Miller, seconded by John Mistilis, the Commission unanimously approved the approval of the minutes of the February 1, 2018 meeting.

Members voting aye: Sean Brewer  
Sarah Foster  
Roy Gill  
Ann Jones  
Michael Lindsey  
Michael Miller  
John Mistilis  
Anthony Montgomery  
Eddie Prather

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Kelle Barfield  
Kenny Bush  
Dr. Valencia Martin  
Rob Tyner  
Brian Harvey

Discussion: None

**IV. Discussion: Proposed revisions to the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2017 specifically, the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System (Walt Drane, Dr. Nathan Oakley, Anna Furniss and Alan Burrow)**

- A. Section 9, *Acceleration*  
Elimination of the Significant Cognitive Disabilities (SCD) exclusion in Section 9.4.2 to comply with ESSA
- B. Section 15, *English Learners (EL)*  
Modification of Section 15 English Learners (EL) to include a measure of progress toward proficiency, beginning school year 2018-2019 (Sections 15.2, 15.3 and 15.4 were added.)
- C. Section 25, *College & Career Readiness*  
Elimination of the Significant Cognitive Disabilities (SCD) exclusion in Section 25.9 and 25.10 to comply with ESSA
- D. Establishment of Section 28, *Attendance Centers*

Discussion: Dr. Oakley explained the ESSA requirements of the EL component for SY 18-19. Michael Lindsey expressed concern about the lack of time students entering into high school have to become proficient compared to younger students in the proposed revisions to Section 15, *English Learners*.

Walt Drane explained the concerns that the administrators of K-12 attendance centers have regarding how their grade configurations yield different accountability results than they would if they were calculated as two separate schools rather than one. Dr. Vanderford explained how local boards have the authority to reconfigure schools and districts but that splitting a school can be a financial hardship due to accreditation standards.

V. **Approval to submit request to the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2017* specifically, the business rules of the *Mississippi Statewide Accountability System***

- A. Section 9, *Acceleration*  
Elimination of the Significant Cognitive Disabilities (SCD) exclusion in Section 9.4.2 to comply with ESSA
- B. Section 15, *English Learners (EL)*  
Modification of Section 15 English Learners (EL) to include a measure of progress toward proficiency, beginning school year 2018-2019 (Sections 15.2, 15.3 and 15.4 were added.)
- C. Section 25, *College & Career Readiness*  
Elimination of the Significant Cognitive Disabilities (SCD) exclusion in Section 25.9 and 25.10 to comply with ESSA
- D. Establishment of Section 28, *Attendance Centers*

On a motion by John Mistilis, seconded by Michael Miller, the Commission unanimously

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approved the request to submit request to the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2017* to eliminate Section 9.4.2, *Acceleration* and Sections 25.9 and 25.10, *College & Career Readiness* of the business rules of the *Mississippi Statewide Accountability System*.

Members voting aye: Sean Brewer  
Sarah Foster  
Roy Gill  
Brian Harvey  
Ann Jones  
Michael Lindsey  
Michael Miller  
John Mistilis  
Anthony Montgomery  
Eddie Prather

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Kelle Barfield  
Kenny Bush  
Dr. Valencia Martin  
Rob Tyner

Discussion: None

On a motion by Roy Gill, seconded by John Mistilis, the Commission unanimously approved the request to submit request to the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2017* to revise Section 15, English Learners, of the business rules of the *Mississippi Statewide Accountability System*.

Members voting aye: Sean Brewer  
Sarah Foster  
Roy Gill  
Brian Harvey  
Ann Jones  
Michael Lindsey  
Michael Miller  
John Mistilis  
Anthony Montgomery  
Eddie Prather

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Kelle Barfield  
Kenny Bush  
Dr. Valencia Martin  
Rob Tyner

Discussion: None

Roy Gill made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Accountability Task Force but to apply the District's scale scores to districts that are comprised only of a single K-12 attendance Center. After discussion to clarify the motion, no one seconded the motion and Mr. Gill withdrew his motion. The recommendation died.

On a motion by Brian Harvey, seconded by Ann Jones, the Commission unanimously agreed to table the discussion regarding the request to submit request to the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2017* to establish Section 28, *Attendance Centers*, in the business rules of the *Mississippi Statewide Accountability System*.

Members voting aye: Sean Brewer  
Sarah Foster  
Roy Gill  
Brian Harvey  
Ann Jones  
Michael Lindsey  
Michael Miller  
John Mistilis  
Anthony Montgomery  
Eddie Prather

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Kelle Barfield  
Kenny Bush  
Dr. Valencia Martin  
Rob Tyner

Discussion: None

## **VI. Other Business**

Dr. Vanderford informed the Commission that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission is June 7, 2018.

## **VII. Adjournment**

On a motion by Roy Gill, seconded by Michael Miller, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

Members voting aye: Sean Brewer  
Sarah Foster  
Roy Gill  
Brian Harvey  
Ann Jones  
Michael Lindsey  
Michael Miller  
John Mistilis  
Anthony Montgomery  
Eddie Prather

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Kelle Barfield  
Kenny Bush  
Dr. Valencia Martin  
Rob Tyner

Discussion: None

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION:

6      7      2018  
(Month)      (Day)      (Year)

  
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Chair of the Commission

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Secretary of the Commission