



**Minutes of the  
Commission on School Accreditation  
Special-Called Meeting (Teleconference)  
Central High School Building  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom  
359 North West Street  
Jackson, Mississippi  
June 14, 2018  
11:00 a.m.**

A special-called meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation (CSA or Commission) took place at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 14, 2018 via teleconference. The Commission members present via teleconference included:

Heather Westerfield, Chair, Pearl, MS  
Kelle Barfield, Vicksburg, MS  
Ann Jones, Jackson, MS  
Roy Gill, Orange Beach, AL  
Michael Lindsey, Gulfport, MS  
Anthony Montgomery, Gulfport, MS  
Eddie Prather, Tupelo, MS  
Rob Tyner, Sumner, MS

The following members did not attend:

Sean Brewer  
Kenny Bush  
Sarah Foster  
Brian Harvey  
Dr. Valencia Martin  
Michael Miller  
John Mistilis

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), Office of Accreditation staff members present included: Dr. Paula Vanderford, Executive Secretary, Dr. Jo Ann Malone, Executive Director, and John Cartwright

Other MDE staff present included: Walt Drane, Patrice Guilfoyle, and Jean Cook

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, Pearl, MS  
Kelle Barfield, Vicksburg, MS  
Ann Jones, Jackson, MS  
Roy Gill, Orange Beach, Alabama  
Michael Lindsey, Gulfport, MS  
Anthony Montgomery, Gulfport, MS  
Eddie Prather, Tupelo, MS  
Rob Tyner, Sumner, MS

The following Commission members did not attend:

Sean Brewer  
Kenny Bush  
Sarah Foster  
Brian Harvey  
Dr. Valencia Martin  
Michael Miller  
John Mistilis

Ms. Westerfield announced that a quorum of the Commission existed and called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m.

## **II. Adoption of Agenda**

On a motion by Ann Jones, seconded by Kelle Barfield, the Commission unanimously approved the agenda.

Discussion: None

## **III. Discussion: Consideration of the proposed revisions to State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.4: Assessments Required for Graduation**

Walt Drane presented the proposed revisions to State Board Policy Chapter 6, Rule 36.4: Assessments Required for Graduation. On April 19, 2018, the State Board Education granted approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.4: Assessments Required for Graduation to phase in the implementation of the policy that required students' end of course assessments scores to be used as 25% of the students' final course grade. The public comment period was open through May 25, 2018, and the MDE received 14 comments. Based on the comments received, the MDE is recommending that the assessment scores not be used as 25% of the student's final grade.

Discussion: Commission member asked several questions. Mr. Drane explained how the current policy would remain in place. Dr. Vanderford explained that a new Assessment Task Force has been formed and will be considering any new recommendations for how assessments

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can be used, including graduation requirements. Mr. Drane explained that this policy change would be effective immediately upon State Board approval.

Patrice Guilfoyle said that they plan to have recommendations from the Task Force before the end of the year before the next legislative session.

**IV. Action: Approval to submit request to the State Board of Education for a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process to revise State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.4: Assessments Required for Graduation**

On a motion by Roy Gill, seconded by Ann Jones, the Commission unanimously approved the request to submit request to the State Board of Education for a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.4: Assessments Required for Graduation.

Discussion: None

**V. Adjournment**

On a motion by Rob Tyner, seconded by Eddie Prather, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

Discussion: None

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION:

9                      18                      2018  
(Month)                      (Day)                      (Year)

  
Chair of the Commission

  
Executive Secretary of the Commission