



**Minutes of the
Commission on School Accreditation
Regular Meeting (Teleconference)
Central High School Building
Fourth Floor Board Room
359 North West Street
Jackson, Mississippi
June 7, 2018
10:00 a.m.**

A regular scheduled meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation (CSA or Commission) took place at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 7, 2018. The Commission members present in the Fourth Floor Board Room of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi included:

Heather Westerfield, Chair
Kelle Barfield
Sean Brewer
Sarah Foster
Roy Gill
Michael Lindsey
Michael Miller
Eddie Prather

Attending via teleconference:

Brian Harvey, Oxford, MS
Dr. Valencia Martin, Greenwood, MS
Rob Tyner, Sumner, MS

The following members did not attend:

Kenny Bush
Ann Jones
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), Office of Accreditation staff members present included: Dr. Paula Vanderford, Executive Secretary, Dr. Jo Ann Malone, Teresa Jones, Michael Martin, Ken Stamps.

Other MDE staff present included: Jean Massey, Walt Drane and Alan Burrow

Also in attendance: Erin Meyer, Special Assistant Attorney General

I. Announcement of Quorum and Call to Order

Commission on School Accreditation-MINUTES
June 7, 2018

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
Kelle Barfield
Sean Brewer
Sarah Foster
Roy Gill
Brian Harvey
Michael Lindsey
Dr. Valencia Martin
Michael Miller
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner

The following Commission members did not attend:

Kenny Bush
Ann Jones
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery

Ms. Westerfield announced that a quorum of the Commission existed and called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

On a motion by Sean Brewer, seconded by Eddie Prather, the Commission unanimously approved the agenda.

III. Approval of the minutes of the April 12, 2018, Meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation

On a motion by Sean Brewer, seconded by Roy Gill, the Commission unanimously approved the approval of the minutes of the April 12, 2018 meeting.

Discussion: None

IV. Information: Revisions to Requirements for Admission to Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) Public Universities in Mississippi and College Preparatory Recommended Curriculum for Admission to IHL Public Universities in Mississippi (Appendices C-1 and C-2 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2018* and the *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2018*)

Jean Massey provided an update on the requirements for admission to Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) Public Universities in Mississippi and College Preparatory Recommended Curriculum for Admissions to IHL Public Universities in Mississippi.

Discussion: None

V. Information: Innovation Lab Network (ILN) Schools

Jean Massey provided an update on the Innovation Lab Network schools.

Discussion: None

VI. Discussion: Consideration of the proposed revisions to State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 36, Rule 36.3: Policies for Carnegie Unit Credit and Chapter 56, Rule 56.1: Distance Learning/Online Courses

Jean Massey presented the proposed revisions to State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 36, Rule 36.3: Policies for Carnegie Unit Credit and Chapter 56, Rule 56.1: Distance Learning/Online Courses. She explained that the proposed revision has always been a practice at MDE but there was a need to incorporate the practice into a State Board Policy.

Discussion: Sean Brewer asked if there was a seat time requirement for online courses. Mrs. Massey indicated that online courses do not have a specific seat time requirement because they are competency based.

VII. Action: Approval to submit request to the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process to revise State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 36, Rule 36.3: Policies for Carnegie Unit Credit and Chapter 56, Rule 56.1: Distance Learning/Online Courses

A. On a motion by Roy Gill, seconded by Michael Lindsey, the Commission unanimously approved the request to submit request to the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 36, Rule 36.3: Policies for Carnegie Unit Credit.

B. On a motion by Sarah Foster, seconded by Kelle Barfield, the Commission unanimously approved the request to submit request to the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 56, Rule 56.1: Distance Learning/Online Courses.

VIII. Action: Consideration of the request from Tunica County School District for an exception to the pupil-teacher ratio requirement (Process Standard 28.4 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2018*)

Discussion: Dr. Paula Vanderford explained how the District was in compliance until a student transferred into the District in April, 2018.

On a motion by Sean Brewer, seconded by Roy Gill, the Commission unanimously approved the request for an exemption to the pupil-teacher ratio requirement (Process Standard 28.4 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2018*) for Tunica County School District for the 2017-2018 school year.

IX. Information: K-12 Attendance Centers (Item tabled from April 12, 2018 meeting)

Walt Drane and Alan Burrow presented the information requested by the Commission from the April 12, 2018 meeting regarding K-12 Attendance Centers. Dr. Vanderford explained that the agency is not advocating for or against the recommendations of the Accountability Task Force and cautioned the Commission to be careful with any recommendations they make. She reminded the Commission that although school/district reconfigurations are a local district decision, reconfigurations cannot be made as an attempt to circumvent the accountability system.

Discussions included concerns of the MDE's Technical Advisory Committee and potential unintended consequences (i.e., federal designations, funding implications (grants, etc.), potential to result in some K-12 schools have lower accountability ratings, other grade configurations asking for their own scale).

Heather Westerfield, Chair of the Commission, granted permission for representatives of the K-12 attendance centers present in the audience to speak.

On a motion by Sarah Foster, seconded by Eddie Prather, the Commission unanimously voted to create a Task Force to study the issue further before making a recommendation to the State Board.

Kelle Barfield, Sean Brewer and Heather Weatherfield volunteered to serve on the Task Force.

X. Action: Approval of meeting dates for the 2018-2019 school year

On a motion by Kelle Barfield, seconded by Roy Gill, the Commission unanimously approved the following meeting dates for the 2018-2019 school year:

August 2, 2018
September 18, 2018*
October 4, 2018
December 6, 2018
February 7, 2019
April 4, 2019
June 6, 2019

* Meeting to approve the 2018 Mississippi Statewide Accountability Results

XI. Other Business

None.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Roy Gill, seconded by Dr. Valencia Martin, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION:

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


Chair of the Commission


Executive Secretary of the Commission