



**Minutes of the  
Commission on School Accreditation  
Central High School Building  
Fourth Floor, Board Room  
359 North West Street  
Jackson, Mississippi  
September 18, 2018  
10:00 a.m.**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation (CSA or Commission) took place at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 18, 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  
Roy Gill  
Brian Harvey  
Michael Lindsey  
Michael Miller  
John Mistilis  
Anthony Montgomery  
Eddie Prather

Attending via teleconference:

Dr. Valencia Martin, Greenwood, MS

The following members did not attend:

Kenny Bush  
Sarah Foster  
Ann Jones  
Rob Tyner

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), Office of Accreditation staff members/representatives present included:

Erin Meyer, Special Assistant Attorney General  
Dr. Jo Ann Malone, Executive Director, Office of Accreditation  
Teresa Jones, Office of Accreditation  
Katrina McDowell, Office of Accreditation  
Ken Stamps, Office of Accreditation  
John Cartwright, Office of Accreditation

Alan Burrow, Jean Cook, and Dr. Nathan Oakley also attended.

**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.

Heather Westerfield, Chair  
Kelle Barfield  
Sean Brewer  
Roy Gill  
Brian Harvey  
Michael Lindsey  
Michael Miller  
John Mistilis  
Anthony Montgomery  
Eddie Prather

Attending via teleconference:

Dr. Valencia Martin, Greenwood, MS<sup>1</sup>

The following members did not attend:

Kenny Bush  
Sarah Foster  
Ann Jones  
Rob Tyner

Ms. Westerfield announced that a quorum of the Commission existed.

Ms. Westerfield called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Eddie Prather gave the invocation.

**II. Adoption of Agenda**

Ms. Westerfield asked the Commission members to review the agenda they received previously. On a motion by Brian Harvey seconded by Michael Miller, the Commission unanimously approved the agenda.

**III. Action: Approval of the minutes of the June 7, 2018 Meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation**

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Martin joined the meeting via teleconference at 10:15 a.m. during the discussion of Item X.

On a motion by Sean Brewer, seconded by Eddie Prather, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2018 meeting.

**IV. Action: Approval of the minutes of the June 14, 2018 Special-Called Meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation**

On a motion by Roy Gill, seconded by Kelle Barfield, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2018 special-called meeting.

**V. Action: Approval of the minutes of the July 18, 2018 Special-Called Meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation**

On a motion by Sean Brewer, seconded by Michael Lindsey, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2018 special-called meeting with the correction noted by Anthony Montgomery in reference to his name.

**VI. Action: Approval of the minutes of the August 14, 2018 Special-Called Meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation**

On a motion by Michael Miller, seconded by Kelle Barfield, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2018 special-called meeting.

**VII. Action: Approval of the minutes of the August 22, 2018 Special-Called Meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation**

On a motion by Brian Harvey, seconded by Michael Lindsey, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2018 special-called meeting.

**VIII. Information: Recommended Annual District Accreditation Statuses for School Year 2018-2019 and Districts with Deficiencies in accordance with Accreditation Policies 2.0, 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2018***

Dr. Malone presented the recommended accreditation statuses for the 2018-2019 School Year.

Discussion: Roy Gill expressed some concern regarding the number of districts in violation of Process Standard 2 (Personnel) and how districts are struggling to find qualified staff to meet the requirements. Erin Meyer explained that the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Licensure Commission) is aware of the impact of the shortage of teachers across the state and is working to address the issue.

**IX. Action: Approval of District Accreditation Statuses for 2018-2019**

On a motion by John Mistilis seconded by Roy Gill, the Commission unanimously approved the approval of the recommended District Accreditation Statuses for 2018-2019.

**X. Information: Report of the Internal Review of Preliminary Accountability Results in accordance with Accreditation Policy 3.1.3 of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2018**

Alan Burrow provided an overview of the results of the decisions of the Internal Review Committee's review of appeals of the preliminary accountability results. There were no changes that resulted from the decisions of the Internal Review Committee.

**XI. Discussion: District/School Performance Reports and District/School Performance Classifications for School Year 2017-2018**

Alan Burrow presented the results of the 2017-2018 Mississippi Statewide Accountability System for schools and districts.

Discussion: Roy Gill asked for clarity on how schools with "0" in some of their components were graded and expressed concerns about schools whose purpose is to serve students with exceptional needs being rated an "F". Mr. Burrow explained that all schools are required to get a grade by the state for performance pay for teachers and that ESSA doesn't allow for exceptions for subgroups such as students with significant cognitive disabilities (SCD).

Eddie Prather agrees that it is problematic to assign special schools an "F". Roy Gill stated that he would like to see the grades of these schools suppressed before they go to press and is concerned that "unofficial" doesn't mean much to the media.

Michael Lindsey and Anthony Montgomery asked if these schools could be given a "NG" or an "N/A" this year until we can find out another way to report them. Dr. Oakley explained that ESSA requires they received a grade but that it may be a topic for the Accountability Task Force to consider.

Anthony Montgomery stated that he believes we need an accountability model for special schools such as MSB/MSD.

Sean Brewer expressed a concern about the EL component stating that none of the schools increased with the inclusion of the EL component. Therefore, he is concerned that it will be a negative impact going forward. He also asked if this component is concrete or if it is still up for discussion. Mr. Burrow explained that the EL component is still up for review but that the agency hopes to avoid resubmitting the ESSA plan.

Ms. Westerfield asked the EL component required. Dr. Oakley responded that it is, but there is some flexibility on how MDE implements it in the model.

**XII. Action: Approval of District/School Performance Classifications for School Year 2018-2019 (based on School Year 2017-2018), with the Stipulation that the Information Continue to be Embargoed to the Public until September 20, 2018**

On a motion by Sean Brewer seconded by Brian Harvey, the Commission voted to approve the District/School Performance Classifications for School Year 2018-2019 (based on School Year

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2017-2018), with the stipulation that the information continue to be embargoed to the public until September 20, 2018.

The following members voted aye:

Heather Westerfield, Chair  
Kelle Barfield  
Sean Brewer  
Brian Harvey  
Michael Lindsey  
Dr. Valencia Martin  
Michael Miller  
John Mistilis  
Anthony Montgomery  
Eddie Prather

The following members voted nay:

Roy Gill

**XIII. Information: Update from K-12 Attendance Center Accountability Task Force**

Dr. Malone provided an update of the newly formed K-12 Attendance Center Task Force charged. The update included a list of members on the committee.

**XIV. Other business**

Dr. Malone reminded the Commission that the next meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2018.

**XV. Adjournment**

On a motion by Brian Harvey, seconded by Eddie Prather, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION:

10      04      2018  
(Month)      (Day)      (Year)

Heather Westerfield  
Chair of the Commission

[Signature]  
Executive Secretary of the Commission