



**Minutes of the
Commission on School Accreditation
Central High School Building
Fourth Floor, Board Room
359 North West Street
Jackson, Mississippi
January 10, 2019
10:00 a.m.**

A special-called meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation (CSA or Commission) took place at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 10, 2019. Commission members participated in person.

Attending in the Fourth Floor Board Room of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi:

Heather Westerfield, Chair
Kelle Barfield
Kenny Bush
Sarah Foster
Brian Harvey
Michael Lindsey
Dr. Valencia Martin
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Eddie Prather

The following members did not attend:

Sean Brewer
Ann Jones
Michael Miller

Commission member, Roy Gill, recused himself from any participation in the meeting due to the nature of the agenda items. However, Mr. Gill attended the meeting in his capacity as Superintendent of Harrison County Schools.

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

Dr. Jo Ann Malone, Executive Secretary
Ken Stamps, Office of Accreditation

Also in attendance: Dr. Nathan Oakley, Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Paula Vanderford, Chief Accountability Officer, Alan Burrow, Director of School and District Performance, and Joseph Runnels, Special Assistant Attorney General.

Erin Meyer, Special Assistant Attorney General, served as legal counsel to the Commission.

I. Announcement of Quorum and Call to Order

Heather Westerfield, Chair of the CSA, opened the Commission meeting and announced that a quorum of the Commission existed.

Ms. Westerfield called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Eddie Prather gave the invocation.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Westerfield asked the Commission members to review the agenda they received previously.

Dr. Lee Childress, Superintendent of Corinth School District, asked to address the Commission for two (2) purposes. The Commission granted Dr. Childress five (5) minutes to address the Commission. Dr. Childress explained his concerns regarding the Commission's allowance of only 15 minutes for his presentation along with his objection to Erin Meyer providing counsel to the Commission and asked that the Commission consider independent counsel alleging that Attorney Meyer had advised the MDE on the matters to be discussed.

After discussion, Anthony Montgomery made a motion to allow Erin Meyer to remain on as counsel to the Commission. Kenny Bush seconded the motion. The Commission voted 7-2 to allow Erin Meyer to remain as counsel to the Commission.

The following members voted in favor:

Kenny Bush
Brian Harvey
Michael Lindsey
Dr. Valencia Martin
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Eddie Prather

The following members voted against:

Kelle Barfield
Sarah Foster

Anthony Montgomery moved to allow the three (3) district superintendents each 30 minutes to present, rather than 15 minutes as agreed and voted upon in the December 6, 2018 regularly scheduled meeting, and Kelle Barfield seconded the motion. After discussion, Mr. Montgomery amended the motion to allow the superintendents 45 minutes each to present. Kelle Barfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by Anthony Montgomery, seconded by Brian Harvey, the Commission unanimously approved the agenda.

III. Information: Report of the Internal Review Committee's decision of Final Accountability Results in accordance with Accreditation Policy 3.1.4 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2018*

- a. Corinth School District
- b. Harrison County School District
- c. Pascagoula-Gautier School District

Alan Burrow, Director of District and School Performance, presented the results of the Internal Review Committee's decision on the final accountability results in accordance with Accreditation Policy 3.1.4 of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, 2018*.

IV. Discussion: Appeals of Final Accountability Results under Accreditation Policy 3.1.4 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2018*

- a. Corinth School District
- b. Harrison County School District
- c. Pascagoula-Gautier School District

Before the presentations began, Heather Westerfield, Chair of the Commission, entertained a motion to determine the amount of time MDE would be allowed to address the Commission since the districts were allowed additional time in a previous motion. On a motion by Anthony Montgomery, seconded by Brian Harvey, the Commission unanimously voted to allow MDE 45 minutes to present after the superintendents' presentations.

Dr. Lee Childress, Superintendent of Corinth School District, presented the Corinth District's appeal.

Commission members asked questions of Dr. Childress.

Mr. Roy Gill, Superintendent of Harrison County School District, presented the Harrison County School District's appeal.

Commission members asked questions of Mr. Gill.

Mr. Wayne Rodolfich, Superintendent of the Pascagoula-Gautier School District, presented the Pascagoula-Gautier School District's appeal.

Commission members asked questions of Mr. Rodolfich.

Dr. Nathan Oakley, Chief Academic Officer, presented on behalf of the MDE.

Commission members asked questions of MDE as well as the three superintendents.

V. Action: Consideration of Appeals of Final Accountability Results under Accreditation Policy 3.1.4 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2018*

a. Corinth School District

On a motion by Brian Harvey, seconded by Michael Lindsey, the Commission voted 6-2¹ to uphold the Internal Review Committee's decision to deny the Corinth School District's appeal.

Members voting in favor:

Kelle Barfield
Kenny Bush
Brian Harvey
Michael Lindsey
Dr. Valencia Martin
Anthony Montgomery

The following members voting against:

John Mistilis
Eddie Prather

b. Harrison County School District

On a motion by Brian Harvey, seconded by Kelle Barfield, the Commission voted unanimously to grant the appeal to the Harrison County School District.

c. Pascagoula-Gautier School District

On a motion by Brian Harvey, seconded by Anthony Montgomery, the Commission voted unanimously to grant the appeal to the Pascagoula-Gautier School District.

VI. Adjournment

On a motion by John Mistilis, seconded by Eddie Prather, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:09 p.m.

¹ Sara Foster left the meeting at approximately 1:55 p.m. before voting took place.

Commission on School Accreditation-MINUTES
January 10, 2019

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION:

Feb 7 2019
(Month) (Day) (Year)

Eddo A. Brack
Chair of the Commission (vice chair)

Paula Loe
Executive Secretary of the Commission