



**Minutes of the  
Commission on School Accreditation  
Central High School Building  
Fourth Floor, Board Room  
359 North West Street  
Jackson, Mississippi  
April 4, 2019  
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 Thursday, April 4, 2019. Commission members participated in person or via teleconference.

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

Heather Westerfield, Chair  
Brian Harvey

Attending via teleconference:

Kelle Barfield, Vicksburg, MS  
Sean Brewer, Madison, MS  
Sarah Foster, Brookhaven, MS  
Roy Gill, Gulfport, MS  
Ann Jones, Jackson, MS  
Michael Lindsey, Gulfport, MS  
Dr. Valencia Martin, Greenwood, MS<sup>1</sup>  
Anthony Montgomery, Gulfport, MS  
Eddie Prather, Biloxi, MS

The following members did not attend:

Kenny Bush  
Michael Miller  
John Mistilis

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

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

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<sup>1</sup> Valencia Martin joined the meeting at 10:15 a.m., and did not vote on items III through IX.

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Melissa Biggs, Office of Accreditation  
Angela Kitchens, Office of Accreditation

Also in attendance: Wendy Clemons and Dr. Dana Bullard, Office of Secondary Education and Quentin Ransburg, Office of Federal Programs

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 conducted a roll-call of the Commission members.

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

Ms. Westerfield called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**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 Ann Jones, the Commission unanimously approved the agenda.

**III. Action: Approval of the minutes of the February 7, 2019 Meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation**

On a motion by Roy Gill, seconded by Sean Brewer, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2019 meeting.

**IV. Action: Approval of the minutes of the special-called March 7, 2019 Meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation**

On a motion by Sarah Foster, seconded by Ann Jones, the Commission voted to approve the minutes of the special-called March 7, 2019 meeting.

**V. Action: Approval of the minutes of the special-called March 21, 2019 Meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation**

On a motion by Brian Harvey, seconded by Eddie Prather, the Commission voted to approve the minutes of the special-called March 21, 2019 meeting.

**VI. Action: Approval to Upgrade the Accreditation Status of the Pearl River County School District from PROBATION to ACCREDITED**

Dr. Malone explained that the Pearl River County School District corrected the deficiencies on record and the Office of Accreditation was recommending an update in the District's

accreditation status from PROBATION to ACCREDITED.

On a motion by Roy Gill, seconded by Anthony Montgomery, the Commission unanimously voted to upgrade the Accreditation Status of the Pearl River County School District from PROBATION to ACCREDITED.

**VII. Action: Consideration of waiver request from Chickasaw County School District for Process Standard 28.4 (Student-Teacher Ratios for Grades 5-12) of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, 2018* for School Year 2018-2019**

Dr. Malone explained that the Chickasaw County School District is requesting a waiver from Process Standard 28.4 for one classroom that had a student enroll late in the school year.

On a motion by Sean Brewer, seconded by Brian Harvey, the Commission unanimously voted to grant a waiver request to Chickasaw County School District for Process Standard 28.4 (Student-Teacher Ratios for Grades 5-12) of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, 2018* for School Year 2018-2019.

**VIII. Action: Consideration of waiver request from Pearl Public School District for Process Standard 25 (Individual Teacher Course Preparation Limits) of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, 2018* for School Year 2018-2019**

Dr. Malone explained that the Pearl Public School District is requesting a waiver for one teacher for Process Standard 25 (Individual Teacher Course Preparation Limits) of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, 2018* for School Year 2018-2019.

On a motion by Anthony Montgomery, seconded by Sarah Foster, the Commission unanimously<sup>2</sup> voted to grant a waiver request to Pearl Public School District for Process Standard 25 (Individual Teacher Course Preparation Limits) of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, 2018* for School Year 2018-2019.

**IX. Discussion: Recommendation to revise State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 36, Rule 36.5: Additional Assessment Options for Meeting End-of-Course Assessment Graduation Requirements and Appendices A-5 of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, 2018*.**

Dr. Dana Bullard and Wendy Clemons from the Office of Secondary Education explained that the current policy and appendix requires College Biology I without the specific requirement of a lab and how this has had an adverse impact on students who attend college later and are required by the college/university to take a 1-hour lab to satisfy the college/university's science requirement. Based on conversations with representatives from the Institutions of Higher Learning, students taking the lab later in their course sequence (rather than along the accompanying course) have shown lower success rates. The proposed revisions will add a biology lab requirement for students that are taking dual credit/dual enrollment College Biology

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<sup>2</sup> Heather Westerfield recused herself from the discussion and vote on Item VIII due to her employment with the Pearl Public School District.

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I for the purpose of satisfying the end of course (EOC) Biology I assessment requirement in lieu of passing the EOC assessment. Heather Morrison from the Institutions of Higher Learning also provided clarification and answered questions from Commission members.

Additional proposed revisions provide clarity and consistency in the language across multiple documents. Dual credit/dual enrollment U.S. History II was previously approved by the Commission and the State Board of Education as result of the 2018 College- and Career-Ready Social Studies Framework revision and as such, DC U.S. History II is the dual credit course for meeting graduation requirements in lieu of the End-of-Course assessment requirement for U.S. History.

- X. Action: Consideration of recommendation 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 36.5: Additional Assessment Options for Meeting End-of-Course Assessment Graduation Requirements and Appendices A-5 of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, 2018*.**

On a motion by Michael Lindsey, seconded by Brian Harvey, the Commission unanimously voted to submit a request to the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process to revise to revise State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 36, Rule 36.5: Additional Assessment Options for Meeting End-of-Course Assessment Graduation Requirements and Appendices A-5 of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, 2018*.

- XI. Discussion: Recommendation of a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to establish State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 36, Rule 36.6: Optional Graduation Requirements for Students Displaced by a Federally or Nationally Declared Disaster**

Quentin Ransburg, Director of Federal Programs explained the need for a State Board Policy to remove barriers to graduation for displaced students.

- XII. Action: Consideration of recommendation to submit request to the State Board of Education for a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process to establish State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 36, Rule 36.6: Optional Graduation Requirements for Students Displaced by a Federally or Nationally Declared Disaster**

On a motion by Brian Harvey, seconded by Michael Lindsey, the Commission voted 9-1 to submit a request to the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process to establish State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 36, Rule 36.6: Optional Graduation Requirements for Students Displaced by a Federally or Nationally Declared Disaster.

The following Commission members voted aye:

Kelle Barfield  
Sean Brewer  
Sarah Foster  
Brian Harvey  
Ann Jones

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Michael Lindsey  
Dr. Valencia Martin  
Anthony Montgomery  
Eddie Prather

The following Commission members voted nay:  
Roy Gill

**XIII. Other business**

Dr. Malone reminded Commission members that the next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 6, 2019 and that Commission members will need to elect new officers at that time.

**XIV. Adjournment**

On a motion by Brian Harvey, seconded by Roy Gill, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION:

6                      6                      2019  
(Month)                      (Day)                      (Year)

  
Chair of the Commission

  
Executive Secretary of the Commission