



**Minutes of the
Commission on School Accreditation
Teleconference Meeting
359 North West Street
Jackson, Mississippi
October 1, 2020
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, October 1, 2020 via teleconference.

Attending via teleconference:

Roy Gill, Chair – Gulfport, MS
Kelle Barfield – Vicksburg, MS
Lori Brechtel – Brandon, MS
Jefferson Hughes – Collins, MS
Candace James – Brandon, MS
Pamela Manners – Biloxi, MS
Dr. Valencia Martin – Greenwood, MS
Aisha Maxwell – Olive Branch, MS
John Mistilis – Oxford, MS
Brad Stevens – Amory, MS¹
Jan Vaughn, Greenville, MS
Ingrid Williams – Clinton, MS

The following members did not attend:

Brian Harvey
Anthony Montgomery
Brett Robinson

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

Dr. Jo Ann Malone, Executive Secretary
Angela Kitchens, Office of Accreditation
Wendy Clemons, Office of Secondary Education

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

I. Call to Order

¹ Mr. Stevens joined the meeting at approximately 10:20 a.m. during Item VI.

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Roy Gill, Chair of the CSA, opened the Commission meeting and conducted a roll-call of the Commission members.

Mr. Gill announced that a quorum of the Commission existed.

Mr. Gill called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

On a motion by Jefferson Hughes, seconded by Dr. Valencia Martin, the Commission unanimously approved the agenda.

III. MDE Updates

Dr. Malone welcomed the four (4) new Commission members and allowed them to introduce themselves:

- Lori Brechtel, Non-Educator, Brandon, MS
- Candace James, Teacher, Rankin County School District
- Aisha Maxwell, Principal, DeSoto County School District
- Pamela Manners, Non-Educator, Biloxi, MS

IV. Action: Approval of the minutes of the August 6, 2020 Meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation

On a motion by John Mistilis seconded by Jefferson Hughes, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2020 meeting.

V. Action: Approval to Upgrade the Accreditation Status of the Mississippi Achievement School District – Yazoo City from PROBATION to ACCREDITED

On a motion by Candace James, seconded by Jan Vaughn, the Commission unanimously voted to upgrade the Accreditation Status of the Mississippi Achievement School District – Yazoo City from PROBATION to ACCREDITED.

VI. Action: Approval to Upgrade the Accreditation Status of the Okolona Separate School District from PROBATION to ACCREDITED

On a motion by Pamela Manners, seconded by Jefferson Hughes, the Commission unanimously voted to upgrade the Accreditation Status of the Okolona Separate School District from PROBATION to ACCREDITED.

VII. Action: Approval to Upgrade the Accreditation Status of the East Tallahatchie School District from PROBATION to ACCREDITED

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On a motion by Jefferson Hughes, seconded by Dr. Valencia Martin, the Commission unanimously voted to upgrade the Accreditation Status of the East Tallahatchie School District from PROBATION to ACCREDITED.

VIII. Action: Approval to Upgrade the Accreditation Status of the Picayune School District from PROBATION to ACCREDITED

On a motion by Pamela Manners, seconded by Kelle Barfield, the Commission unanimously voted to upgrade the Accreditation Status of the Picayune School District from PROBATION to ACCREDITED.

IX. Discussion: Consideration of request to revise Process Standard 24 in Miss. Admin. Code: 7-24, Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020.

Dr. Malone explained that the purpose of the proposed revision is to clarify the intent of the standard.

X. Action: Approval to submit request to the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process to revise Process Standard 24 in Miss. Admin. Code: 7-24, Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020.

On a motion by Jefferson Hughes, seconded by Jan Vaughn, the Commission unanimously voted to submit a request to the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process to revise Process Standard 24 in Miss. Admin. Code: 7-24, *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020*.²

XI. Action: Approval to use hearing officers designated and authorized as such by the Mississippi Attorney General's Office for Commission on School Accreditation hearings conducted until Policy 6.0 of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020

Dr. Malone and Attorney Meyer explained the need for designated and authorized hearing officer for hearings conducted under Policy 6.0 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020*.

On a motion by Lori Brechtel, seconded by Dr. Valencia Martin, the Commission unanimously voted to use hearing officers designated and authorized as such by the Mississippi Attorney General's Office for Commission on School Accreditation hearings conducted under Policy 6.0 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020*.

XII. Other Business

² Prior to voting on this item Mr. Mistilis took a moment of privilege to thank our teachers who are voluntarily giving up their planning time to cover for other teachers who are out due to COVID.

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Roy Gill reminded the Commission that the next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, December 3, 2020 and the Commission will assign annual accreditation statuses for the 2020-2021 school year during this meeting.

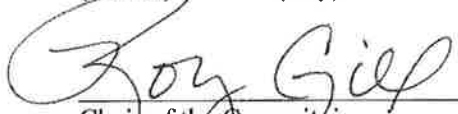
Brad Stevens asked if COVID-19 had impacted schools in any way that results in any suspensions or waivers of any policies or rules. Dr. Malone explained how the Governor's Executive Orders in the Spring, 2020 authorized the State Board of Education to suspend any statutes or policies needed. As a result, the State Board of Education has suspended/waived strict compliance with numerous statutes and policies. The MDE has published a chart containing the statutes and policies that have been suspended. Dr. Malone said that she would provide the Commission members with a copy of the chart.

XIII. Adjournment

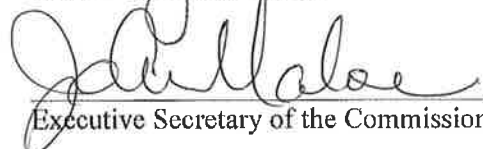
On a motion by Brad Stevens, seconded by Jan Vaughn, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION:

12 10 2020
(Month) (Day) (Year)



Chair of the Commission



Executive Secretary of the Commission