

OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Item
May 17-18, 2012

OFFICE OF SCHOOL FINANCIAL SERVICES

41. Approval to establish State Board Policy 6901-Licensure of School Business Administrator
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments)

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

Proposed new policy:

DESCRIPTOR TERM: Licensure Of School Business Administrator	CODE: 6901
ADOPTION DATE:	REVISION:

**STATE BOARD POLICY
LICENSURE OF
SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR**

In order to provide a financial management system which ensures the proper accountability for funds administered through the local school districts on a timely and accurate basis, to provide and interpret financial information by which the local school board makes educational decisions, and to promote professional growth, the State Department of Education is authorized to create a Licensed School Business Administrator position for the public school districts of this state beginning with the 2012 – 2013 school year. This license shall be issued by the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of School Licensure.

Accreditation Standard

The Commission on School Accreditation is directed to develop a PROCESS STANDARD that one such position shall be required to meet minimum accreditation standards beginning with the 2012 – 2013 school year. Although any individual who meets the minimum requirements may obtain the license, the district may only designate one individual as the Licensed School Business Administrator. This individual either must hold the School Business Administrator License or, if they do not meet the minimum requirements for obtaining the license, must have been employed as the Certified School Business Administrator/Officer in the district prior to July 1, 2012. Individuals in a school district holding the School Business Administrator license, but who are not the designated Licensed School Business Administrators and are not employed in a position in the district requiring any other license issued by the Mississippi Department of Education Office of School Licensure shall not be considered a licensed employee as that term is used in Mississippi Code, 1972 Annotated.

Any current School Business Administrator or Officer who has been satisfactorily performing in that position on or before June 30, 2012, and does not meet the minimum requirements for obtaining a School Business Administrator License will be required to maintain the School Business Administrator/Officer certificate issued by the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of School Financial Services by completing 18 hours of continuing training each fiscal year. One hour of credit will be given for each hour of training. Hours may be obtained by participating in local, state, regional, or national school business related conferences, courses or workshops. Districts that have a certified School Business Administrator or Officer in lieu of a Licensed School Business Administrator will be considered to be in compliance with the accreditation standard requiring a Licensed School Business Administrator. However, these individuals will not be considered a licensed employee as the term is used in Mississippi Code, 1972 Annotated.

Any individual newly hired or appointed as a school district's Licensed School Business Administrator after June 30, 2012, must meet the minimum requirements of the Licensed School Business Administrator and obtain the license from the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Teacher Licensure prior to being named as the school district's Licensed School Business Administrator.

Initial Licensure

The following minimum qualifications must be met for initial licensing:

A baccalaureate degree from an accredited four-year college or university with a concentration in business related curriculum (accounting, finance, or business administration, etc.) including a minimum of fifteen (15) specified semester hours successfully completed in accounting from the following list.

- Principles of Accounting I and II (6 semester hours)
- Intermediate Accounting I and II (6 semester hours)
- Advanced Accounting (3 semester hours)
- Governmental Accounting (3 semester hours)
- Managerial Accounting (3 semester hours)
- Auditing (3 semester hours)

State Department of Education, Office of School Financial Services, must approve all courses titled differently than those listed.

Administration

The administration of this process shall be administered jointly through the State Department of Education Office of School Financial Services and Office of Teacher Licensure. The administration of this process shall be through the State Department of Education, Bureau of School Support.

Rule and Regulation Authority

The State Department of Education is authorized to promulgate other rules and regulations necessary to implement and administer this matter.

April 12, 2012

Mr. Todd Ivey, Bureau Manager
Office of School Financial Services
Mississippi Department of Education
PO Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205-0771

Dear Todd:

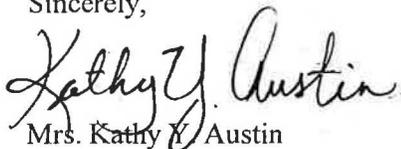
I am writing to comment on the proposed State Board of Education Policy 6901 for Licensure of School Business Administrators.

As a former Superintendent of Education, I realize how important it is to have qualified individuals handling the business operations of our school districts. I was, however, a little appalled at the proposed policy. I spoke with my former Finance Director, and I have read the proposed policy. I find it penalizing to those individuals who do not hold BS Degrees in Accounting. My former Finance Director brought our district fund balance up from \$535,000 to \$1,900,000 in 5 years. The audits we have had since she took over this position have all been free of findings. She currently holds an Associate Degree and not a BS Degree. If I, as a Superintendent, were given the choice of someone who just graduated with a BS Degree in Accounting or someone with the experience and track record of the Finance Director I had, I would take the experience hands down.

What other states require that their Finance Officer be licensed through the State Department of Education, Department of Licensure? I understand that ASBO International has a SFO Certification that takes into account "Seasoned Practitioner" language that states experience in a school district along with being accepted into the SFO program, plus passing the two part test certifies you just like someone with a BS Accounting degree. Were any of these options considered when this proposed policy was being put together? I retired in January of 2012, as the Superintendent at that time; I had not heard any talk whatsoever about trying to get a policy in place to license School Finance Officers. Did anyone consider the financial hardship this could impose on school districts? Smaller districts might not be able to afford the higher salary of someone with a BS Degree. Is there somewhere, or someone, who can show me all the research documentation that went into preparing this proposed state board policy? I would be very interested in reading all of this research.

I feel, at the very least, the implementation of this policy should be postponed to allow further study or the language be changed so that current business officials who are grandfathered in and are performing satisfactorily will be allowed to perform this duty in any school district in the state.

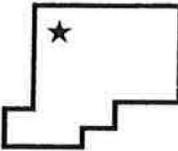
Sincerely,


Mrs. Kathy Y. Austin

Retired Superintendent of Education

Cc: Dr. O. Wayne Gann, State Board of Education





Chickasaw County Schools

DR. BETSY A. COLLUMS, SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

662-568-3333

FAX # 662-568-2993

P.O. BOX 480, 501 GRIFFIN AVENUE
HOULKA, MISSISSIPPI 38850

April 16, 2012

Mr. Todd Ivey, Bureau Manager
Office of School Financial Services
Mississippi Department of Education
P. O. Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205-0771

Dear Todd:

I am writing to comment on the proposed State Board Policy 6901 for Licensure of School Administrators.

As a new superintendent, I am learning more each day how important it is to have qualified individuals handling the business operations of our school districts. I am thankful each day that the School Business Officer of Chickasaw County School District, Connie Phillips, has experience in this area.

The district was in great shape financially when I took office in January. Recent audits have been free of findings. Most importantly, with her expertise, she is able to answer my many questions about school finance. She not only answers the questions, but she gives explanations and examples that allow me the opportunity to be much more informed before making decisions for our district.

Although I would not want Mrs. Phillips to leave our district to work in another district, it seems unfair that this might not be an option for her. With her associate degree and her experience, she is much more qualified than someone with a four year degree without the experience.

I propose that the implementation of this policy should be postponed until options are considered that will make the policy fair to all the current school business officers. I am sure there are other school business officers, like Mrs. Phillips, who are several years into a successful career. It seems unfair that they should have to consider the expense of completing a four-year degree when they have already demonstrated their expertise.

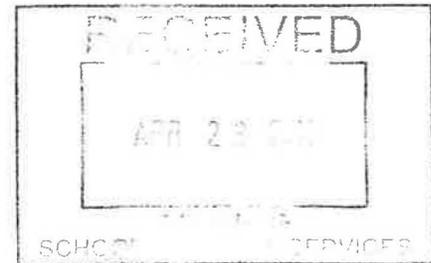
Sincerely,
Dr. Betsy Collums
Dr. Betsy Collums, Superintendent
Chickasaw County School District



Courage Technologies, Inc.

April 17, 2012

Mr. Todd Ivey, Bureau Manager
Office of School Financial Services
Mississippi Department of Education
PO Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205-0771



Dear Todd:

I am writing to comment on the proposed State Board Policy for Licensure of School Business Administrators.

As a former School Business Administrator, I realize how important it is to have qualified individuals handling the business operations of our school districts. However I have a few concerns about this proposed policy as listed below.

1. From what I understand, this idea was in the works for several years but was not presented to the school business officials until this past February. There was no input into the proposed requirements from the school business officials' state wide. With a July 1, 2012 effective date, this gave those wishing to complete the necessary requirements to obtain the license no time to do so prior to the effective date.
2. Current school business officials that do not meet the requirements can "keep their current job" but cannot go to work for another district as a school business official without a license. Based on my experience, some of the better business managers in the state are those that do not have a 4 year college degree or have taken the accounting courses mentioned in the proposed policy. **I would propose that if the current business official has been satisfactorily performing in that position for 4 or more years, they should be granted the license or at least be able to go from one district to another.**
3. Finally, experience in this business is more important than education. How many times have you seen a person with a 4 year college or accounting degree fail as a school business official!

I am hoping that implementation of this policy will be postponed to allow further study or at least the language changed so that current business officials that are satisfactorily performing and have been doing so will not be penalized.

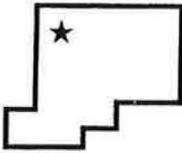
Courage Technologies, Inc.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David".

David Phillips, CPA
Courage Technologies, Inc.



Chickasaw County Schools

DR. BETSY A. COLLUMS, SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

662-568-3333

FAX # 662-568-2993

P.O. BOX 480, 501 GRIFFIN AVENUE
HOULKA, MISSISSIPPI 38850

April 18, 2012

Mr. Todd Ivey, Bureau Manager
Office of School Financial Services
Mississippi Department of Education
PO Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205-0771

Dear Todd:

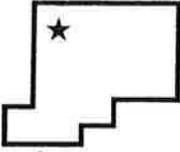
I am writing to comment on the proposed State Board of Education Policy 6901 for Licensure of School Business Administrators.

As a current School Business Officer, I know how important it is to have qualified people do this job. I have been a School Business Officer for the past 5 years and in school business for a total of 12 years. I currently hold an Associate Degree and not a BS Degree in Accounting. If this policy should pass as written, it is saying that I am "qualified" to hold the position of School Business Official in Chickasaw County, but not in any other district in the state. If I were not so frustrated by this, I would find it almost laughable.

I would like to propose that this State Board of Education Policy 6901 be postponed for the following reasons and for further study:

1. This policy was not given to us until February 2012 at the MASBO conference. This was the first time we were told of this policy. If it had been "in the works for several years" as is stated in the attached e-mail, then we should have been told about it several years ago and allowed to give some type of input before now.
2. How did you come up with these requirements for the State Department to issue this License in Mississippi? Is there somewhere on the State or MASBO website that shows all of the different scenarios that were researched and studied before coming up with this criteria? Are there other states that **License** their Finance officers? If so, how many? Do they require a BS Degree in Accounting? If not, what are their criteria? Are there any work papers for this policy that we could look at?
3. For those of us who do not have the BS Accounting degree, I think further study needs to be given. It seems that we are being treated unfairly. At the very least, we should be grandfathered in to perform this job in **any district** in the state and not just in our current district.
4. If the policy cannot be changed to include item 2, then why can't the state have a SFO Certification that is similar to ASBO (Association of School Business Officials International) which would allow those who do not currently meet the requirements to pass the part I and Part II test to then become licensed? The ASBO certification takes into account a stipulation for "**Seasoned Practitioner**" where your experience counts as something.





Chickasaw County Schools

DR. BETSY A. COLLUMS, SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

662-568-3333

FAX # 662-568-2993

P.O. BOX 480, 501 GRIFFIN AVENUE
HOULKA, MISSISSIPPI 38850

5. Working full time and trying to go back to school to obtain my BS degree would put a financial hardship on my family. In the previous grandfather clause, you only had to obtain 9 hours of accounting. Taking 9 hours of something is a lot less strenuous on your pocket book than trying to obtain a 4 year degree.

I am hoping that implementation of this policy will be postponed to allow further study or at least the language changed so that current business officials who are satisfactorily performing and have been doing so will not be penalized and restricted to only their current school district.

Thank you for all that you do to support all Finance Officer's of this great state.

Sincerely,

Connie M. Phillips

Finance Officer

Chickasaw County School District



Sheryle Coaker <sheryle.coaker@petalschools.com>

Support of School Business Officials License

1 message

Sheryle Coaker <sheryle.coaker@petalschools.com>

Thu, Apr 19, 2012 at 2:33 PM

To: Tlvey@mde.k12.ms.us

Dear Todd,

Please accept this as my whole hearted support for the licensure of school business officials. Having served as a school business administrator for over 30 years, I know the value that the license would bring to the position. Throughout these 30 years, I have served my district as well as had the opportunity to work closely in a mentoring role with other school districts. I have also had the honor of serving many years on the board of directors for the Mississippi Association of School Business Officials as well as the Southeastern Association of School Business Officials. This service places me in the unique position of having a very global view of the school business administrators role in a school district. I feel that I am very qualified to speak to the importance of this position being licensed. I believe that the license would not only help to ensure that highly qualified individuals are awarded these posts, but it would also recognize the importance of the school business administrator as a leadership voice in the district. I thank you for your efforts on this behalf of this very important issue!

--
Sheryle Coaker, Chief Financial Officer
Petal School District
P O Drawer 523
Petal Ms 39465
(601) 545-3002
(601) 584-4700 (fax)





April 20, 2012

Mr. Todd Ivey
Mississippi State Department of Education
P.O. Box
Jackson, MS

RE: Licensing of School Business Administrators

Dear Mr. Ivey:

As a long-time business manager and member of MASBO, I would like to express my full support for the pending licensing of School Business Administrators.

As you well know, the position of business manager of a school district has evolved into a position of unparalleled responsibility, trust, and professionalism. The many duties and responsibilities that are attached to this position now require more extensive education and experience in order to properly perform in this position of trust in school districts across the state.

Therefore, I wholeheartedly support this policy change as being in the best interest of all school districts in the state of Mississippi. This change will indeed improve the pool of applicants across the state.

Thank you for allowing all of us to respond to this most important policy change.

Sincerely,

Marsha Garziano
Business Manager

MG/vm





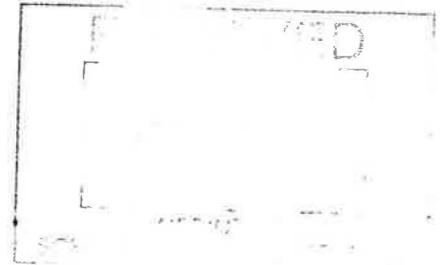
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
BERNARD STEPHEN CHANDLER, SUPERINTENDENT

TCS D BUSINESS OFFICE
YULANDA J. AUSTIN, SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER

744 School Street • P. O. Box 758 • Tunica, MS 38676 • Office: 662-363-2811, Ext. 224 • Fax: 662-363-3061

April 20, 2012

Mr. Todd Ivey, Bureau Director
Mississippi Department of Education
Office of School Financial Services
P. O. Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205-0771



Dear Mr. Ivey:

This letter is confirmation of my support of the proposed new **State Board Policy 6901 – Licensure of School Business Administrator**. My main goal as the School Business Manager is to always administer the financial affairs of the school district efficiently and to interpret financial information by which the School Board, Superintendent and other administrators can make educational decisions to the ultimate benefit of our students.

I concur that this licensure will help advance the perception of school business managers as professionals who work diligently daily to maximize resources and safeguard assets by utilizing the best business practices.

Again, I support this new policy without reservation. If additional information is needed, please do not hesitate to inform me.

Sincerely,

Yulanda J. Austin
School Business Manager



CHERYL JOINER
P O BOX 71
ETHEL, MS 39067
601 416 1007

April 22, 2012

Mississippi Board of Education
P O Box 771
Jackson, Ms 39205-0771

Ref: Request for Comments Administrative Procedures Act process
State Board Policy 6901

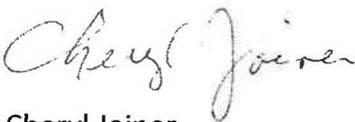
As a school business manager for a period of 14 years, I agree, because of the duties and responsibilities involved with this position, that school business managers should be considered on a professional level as high as a licensed school employee with the same rights. However I do not agree with the policy as it is written.

First of all, I believe experience is the best teacher. For those business managers who will be grandfathered in with a certificate that is only valid in their current district does not seem right. I believe that an experienced business manager is more qualified for this position than a person with a degree that has no experience. I would like to see the business managers that are grandfathered in, grandfathered in with a license or either with a certificate that is valid in any district. If the state department has doubts about the abilities and qualifications of current business managers why not require all business managers to be tested before issuing a license?

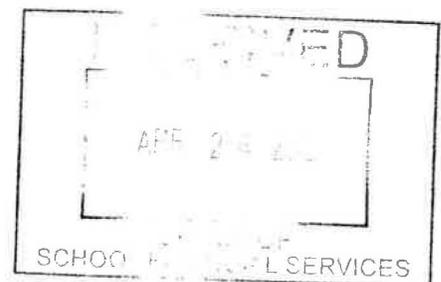
Second, this may put a financial hardship on small school districts that will be forced to hire a "4 year degree applicant" as opposed to a business manager who wants to transfer from another district in the state.

Please consider changing this policy or either conducting further study before approving.
Thank you.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Joiner
Business Manager
Attala County School District



UNION COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Ken Basil

Assistant Superintendent

Ronald Scott

Board of Trustees:

Mickey Basil

Terry Cook

Buddy Dixon

Johnny Rakestraw

Wayne Mahon

Telephone: 662-534-1960

Facsimile: 662-534-1961

<http://www.union.k12.ms.us>

basilk@union.k12.ms.us

rscott@union.k12.ms.us

March 22, 2012

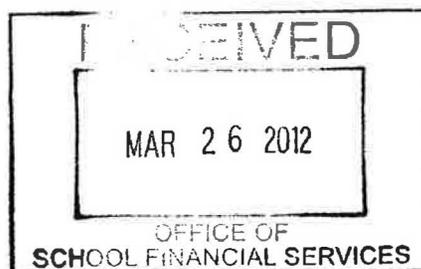
TO: Todd Ivey, Bureau Manager
Office of School Financial Services

FROM: Ken Basil, Superintendent *KBS*
Mellisa Broom, Business Manager *MB*
Lisa Strawn, Director of Accounting *LS*
Union County School District

RE: Comments on State Board Policy 6901

We have read and discussed the State Board Policy 6901 and have the following comments:

- We all agree that this policy to license School Business Administrators is a much needed policy.
- Both of our School District Business Administrators comply with the qualifications set forth in this proposed policy. Therefore, we would prefer to include both of our business officers as licensed employees since they have equal responsibilities within our district.
- We strongly believe that the policy should not be limited to only one designated Licensed School Business Administrator. This could be accomplished by allowing the local school board to make the decision as to how many to include in this licensed position.



cassie@nbsd.k12.ms.us

March 30, 2012

Dear Fellow MASBO Member:

On behalf of the MASBO Board of Directors, I am writing to express our full support for the pending licensing of School Business Administrators.

This policy change represents the culmination of a three year effort by the Board, to improve the perception and nature of the school business manager position in our state. Building on ground work laid many years ago with the original school business official/administrator policy, the MASBO Board sought the assistance of Mississippi Department of Education Office of School Financial Services personnel. With that technical guidance and support, the Board developed what we think is a policy that will put our position on par with the other administrative professionals in school district around our state.

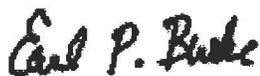
We understand that there exists concern about some of the provisions of the license. We also understand that the communication of those provisions with the general membership may have been lacking and could have been handled better. However, I invite each of you compare the proposed policy, which is presently open for public comment, to the original policy. We think that if you do so you will discover that the policies are fairly similar, and that in spite of the perceived hardships of the policy and lack of communication of the potential policy effects, that the Board has acted in the best interest of the members who would be directly affected by pushing this potential policy change forward.

We urge you if you have not done so to consider the importance of this policy to all MASBO member school districts and to throw your full and unwavering support behind the policy.

As president, I stand ready to receive and respond to any comments about the board's position and will make every effort to improve communications with the general membership in the future.

I am looking forward to your response.

Best regards,



Earl P. Burke
MASBO President

Officers:

Earl P. Burke – President
Kathy Roberson – President-Elect
Shane Switzer – Vice-President
Jenna Grenn – Treasurer

Connie Phillips

From: Earl Burke [eburke@hinds.k12.ms.us]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2012 11:49 AM
To: Connie Phillips
Subject: MASBO Supports School Business Administrator License



MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS

CPHILLIPS@CHICKASAW.K12.MS.US

March 30, 2012

Dear Fellow MASBO Member:

On behalf of the MASBO Board of Directors, I am writing to express our full support for the pending licensing of School Business Administrators.

This policy change represents the culmination of a three year effort by the Board, to improve the perception and nature of the school business manager position in our state. Building on ground work laid many years ago with the original school business official/administrator policy, the MASBO Board sought the assistance of Mississippi Department of Education Office of School Financial Services personnel. With that technical guidance and support, the Board developed what we think is a policy that will put our position on par with the other administrative professionals in school district around our state.

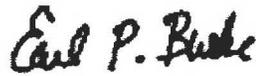
We understand that there exists concern about some of the provisions of the license. We also understand that the communication of those provisions with the general membership may have been lacking and could have been handled better. However, I invite each of you compare the proposed policy, which is presently open for public comment, to the original policy. We think that if you do so you will discover that the policies are fairly similar, and that in spite of the perceived hardships of the policy and lack of communication of the potential policy effects, that the Board has acted in the best interest of the members who would be directly affected by pushing this potential policy change forward.

We urge you if you have not done so to consider the importance of this policy to all MASBO member school districts and to throw your full and unwavering support behind the policy.

As president, I stand ready to receive and respond to any comments about the board's position and will make every effort to improve communications with the general membership in the future.

I am looking forward to your response.

Best regards,



Earl P. Burke
MASBO President

Officers:

Earl P. Burke – President
Kathy Roberson – President-Elect
Shane Switzer – Vice-President
Jenna Grenn – Treasurer
David Rubenstein – Secretary
Kenneth Hughes -- Director
Sharolyn Miller – Director
Stacey Graves – Past President
Sandy Halliwell – MSBA Director
Sheryle Coaker – SASBO Director
Charles Webb – MASA Director

This email is confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient, be advised that you have received this email in error, and that any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing, or copying of this email is prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please contact the sender.

Corinth School District

1204 North Harper Road
Corinth, Mississippi 38834

Telephone (662) 287-2425
Fax (662) 286-1885

EDWARD LEE CHILDRESS, Ed.D.
Superintendent

April 2, 2012

Mr. Todd Ivey
Bureau Manager
Mississippi Department of Education
Post Office Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Mr. Ivey:

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to comment on the establishment of State Board Policy 6901 establishing licensure for a School Business Administrator. The Corinth School District is in support of this proposal as presented. It is our hope that the policy will be adopted as presented with no additional requirements imposed.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Edward Lee Childress

ELC/mm



Todd Ivey

From: Gonzales, Sissy [sgonzales@pc.k12.ms.us]
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 4:37 PM
To: Todd Ivey; mbarnes@mde.k12.ms.us
Subject: FW: MASBO Supports School Business Administrator License

Importance: Low

Having a degree in Accounting from MS State University with the required coursework as written in the policy, I am in favor of an accounting degree being a requirement for future School Business Administrators. However, I would like to have the continuing education hours tracked for "Non-certified" but qualified License holders since that could be used as a way to compile a list of qualified individuals. Those lists could be utilized by school districts who need to hire Business managers when vacancies occur.

Subject: [***WARNING*** Possible SPAM] FW: MASBO Supports School Business Administrator License
Importance: Low

Members:

Please submit supporting emails or letters to Todd and Melissa.

Thanks,

From: Earl Burke
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 2:16 PM
To: Earl Burke; 'cassie@nbsd.k12.ms.us'; Billie Arnold; cwebb (cwebb@oxford.k12.ms.us); David Rubenstein; Graves, Stacey; Halliwell, Sandy (SHalliwell@clinton.k12.ms.us); Hughes, Kenneth (hughesk@columbus.k12.ms.us); Jana Grenn; Kathy Roberson; Miller, Sharolyn (smiller@jackson.k12.ms.us); Shane Switzer; Sheryle Coaker (sheryle.coaker@petalschools.com); White, Stu (whites@george.k12.ms.us)
Cc: Todd Ivey
Subject: RE: MASBO Supports School Business Administrator License

Please send supporting comments to todd and Melissa!

From: Earl Burke
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2012 11:50 AM
To: cassie@nbsd.k12.ms.us
Subject: MASBO Supports School Business Administrator License



MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS

Melissa Barnes

From: Donna Martin [dmartin@marionk12.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 4:30 PM
To: Melissa Barnes; Todd Ivey
Subject: Business Mangers

I strongly support Business Managers with the required certification being given a License through the State. I believe it is time that Business Mangers are recognized as true Administrators and receive a License. I have been in this position since 1986 and the responsibilities are so much greater than they were even five years ago much less in the 1980's when it was called a bookkeeping job. The Business Manager's position needs to also have someone who either has a college degree in accounting or has a degree in another business field and has taken several additional classes in accounting (i.e. Auditing and Governmental).

Thank you,
Donna

*Donna J. Martin
Director of Finance
Marion County Schools
1010 Highway 13 North, Suite 2
Columbia, MS 39429*

*Telephone: 601-736-7193
Cell Phone: 601-310-6226
Fax: 601-731-2093*

Melissa Barnes

From: Rebecca Stevens [rstevens@mpsd.k12.ms.us]
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 4:41 PM
To: Melissa Barnes; Todd Ivey
Subject: Re: Request For Public Comment - Proposed Mississippi State Board of Education Policy - Licensing of School Business Administrators

I am in support of this proposal.

Rebecca Stevens

Chief Fiscal Officer
Meridian Public School District
601-484-4904

>>> Todd Ivey <Tivey@mde.k12.ms.us> 3/21/2012 2:55 PM >>>

Attached is the proposed State Board of Education Policy 6901 – Licensing of School Business Administrators. This proposed policy is being sent in order to solicit public comments according to the Administrative Procedures Act.

Todd Ivey
Mississippi Department of Education
601-359-3294
Fax 601-359-3414
tivey@mde.k12.ms.us

Todd Ivey

From: stacey.graves [stacey.graves@desotocountyschools.org]
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2012 8:17 AM
To: Todd Ivey
Cc: 'Earl Burke'
Subject: School Business Administrator

Dear Todd,

I wanted to send my comments to you regarding the School Business Administrator license proposal being considered. This is a critical step in moving Mississippi schools forward. Although most consider the classroom the most important aspect of school business, everything that is in that classroom or supports that classroom touches finance. Without proper money management, the children of Mississippi will not get everything that they deserve for a quality education.

I have been fortunate enough to have been the business manager for one of the poorest districts in the state and now one of the most affluent in the state. In Coahoma County, my budget was so tight that I budgeted down to each specific employee in the district. It could be critical to have to replace a teacher with very few years and a bachelor's degree with a teacher with her masters and 25 years. There was no room for error. Because we were on academic probation, had we been financially in trouble, the state would have had no choice but to take over our district. Now I am in DeSoto County. Although I have the funds to budget more in generalities, I have to budget for 40 schools and additional facilities. We do have funds, but that is because I have had to be a highly skilled business manager. We have had to absorb over \$60 million in state funding loss over the last few years. That is not an easy thing to do. Also, we have the highest bond rating in the state of Mississippi, and we intend to do everything we can to keep that. The ratings are not given out lightly.

Budgeting and managing our funds is only one part of our jobs. Our responsibilities for internal controls and financial reporting increased ten fold since ENRON and even the federal ARRA funding. Unless you are on the business managing side, it is hard to comprehend what this entails. This is often the case with superintendents. We are just viewed as bookkeepers to many. Even in my district, directors that hold a teacher or administrative certification are held in a higher regard even if they just deal with one small aspect of school business.

We are way behind many other states in this endeavor. Our sister state of Alabama currently has college level certification and is even working on a Master's version of this. This should not be yet another area in which Mississippi is on the bottom.

If we do not do this now, when will there ever be a time? There will never be a time when this will not affect someone at some point, but we have to step up to the plate and do what is best for the children and taxpayers. We need to insure that we have the best, most qualified individuals to help manage the finances of our schools. We also deserve the title and respect for the enormous tasks we face and accomplish every day.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Stacey Graves
Business Manager
DeSoto County Schools
662-449-7110

Todd Ivey

From: Sandy Halliwell [SHalliwell@clinton.k12.ms.us]
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 2:38 PM
To: Todd Ivey
Subject: Re: Request For Public Comment - Proposed Mississippi State Board of Education Policy - Licensing of School Business Administrators

I would like to personally thank the Mississippi Department of Education for their development and support for licensing of school business administrators.

Being a 20 year veteran in this position, I understand the importance of hiring well qualified individuals and requiring continued professional development.

My hope is that licensed school business administrators will be viewed as part of the administrative team of every school district in Mississippi. School finances and academic success work hand in hand. Your support is recognized and appreciated.

Sandy Halliwell, CPA, Finance Director
Clinton Public School District
P. O. Box 300, Clinton, MS 39060-0300
Phone 601-924-7533 Fax 601-924-6345



>>> Todd Ivey <TIvey@mde.k12.ms.us> 3/21/2012 2:55 PM >>>

Attached is the proposed State Board of Education Policy 6901 - Licensing of School Business Administrators. This proposed policy is being sent in order to solicit public comments according to the Administrative Procedures Act.

Todd Ivey
Mississippi Department of Education
601-359-3294
Fax 601-359-3414
tivey@mde.k12.ms.us

Todd Ivey

From: Kenneth Hughes [HughesK@columbus.k12.ms.us]
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 4:02 PM
To: mbarnes@mde.k12.ms.us; Todd Ivey
Subject: School Business Administrator License

I am in support of school business administrators being required to be licensed.

Kenneth Hughes
Business Manager
Columbus Municipal School District
P. O. Box 1308
Columbus, MS 39703
Phone 662-241-7408
Fax 662-241-7439

Todd Ivey

From: Nancy McGee [mcgeen@stippah.k12.ms.us]
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2012 9:42 AM
To: Melissa Barnes; Todd Ivey
Subject: Licensing of School Business Administrators

I am writing to express my full support for the pending licensing of School Business Administrators. I appreciate all you do to support us. Thank you. Nancy McGee

Debbie Guice

From: Yulanda Austin [austiny@tunicak12.org]
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2012 9:16 PM
To: Todd Ivey
Subject: TCSD Business Manager - Support of New State Board Policy 6901
Attachments: TCSD Business Manager - Support of New State Board Policy6901.pdf

Hi Todd,

Attached you will find a copy of my letter confirming support of the new State Board Policy 6901 - Licensure of School Business Administrator. I have mailed the original copy.

If additional information is needed, please do not hesitate to inform me.

Thanks,

Yulanda J. Austin, Business Manager
Tunica County School District
744 School Street
P.O. Box 758
Tunica, MS 38676
(662) 363-2811, Ext. 224

Debbie Guice

From: Elisa Mayo [emayo@qsd.k12.ms.us]
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2012 7:41 AM
To: Todd Ivey
Subject: Fwd: READ!!! - Proposed Mississippi State Board of Education Policy - Licensing of School Business Administrators
Attachments: Licensing Of School BusinessAdministrators - APA Comment Request.pdf

The position of school district business manager is a crucial position that requires knowledge of accounting theories and practices. A foundation in higher-level accounting, as well as, business practices is a requirement to understand the financial environment of public financing. In just the past five years, the business managers of Mississippi schools have had to act in a defensive manner to protect their school districts from budget cuts and the downturn of the American economy. This type of successful financial scrutiny requires professionals who are able to lead the charge in creating a safe haven for their districts among financial turmoil. While experience is a great teacher, Mississippi school districts do not have time to train business managers who have no accounting knowledge. The financial future of the school districts in Mississippi is too important to not hire trained professionals to steer the helm of the educational process. Without sound finances a school district can do nothing to improve it's product--the education of Mississippi students.

Elisa Mayo
Finance Coordinator
Quitman School District
(601) 776-2186 Ext. 14

>>> Earl Burke <eburke@hinds.k12.ms.us> 04/20/2012 6:07 PM >>>
Fellow MASBO Member:

We often sit and complain that the school business people in districts aren't important. We complain that MASBO ought to do more to improve the perception of what each of you does every day to support Mississippi's educational mission.

We have an opportunity to stand together and make a great first step toward improving that perception, but I need your help.

On March 21, 2012, Todd Ivey sent out information about the Request for Public Comment on a new State Board Policy that will raise the professional requirements for school business managers in the State of Mississippi. This is an important policy and has the support of MASBO because it will help to improve the perception of all school business professionals.

Attached to this email is a copy of the policy for your review and comments. I request and encourage that each of you submit an email of support for this policy to Todd by 5 :00 p.m., May 2, 2012.

The comments will be compiled and provided to the Mississippi Board of Education at its meeting on May 17, 2012.

Please mail written comments to the address below:
Todd Ivey, Bureau Director, Office of School Financial
Services, P. O. Box 771, Jackson, MS 39205-0771.

Please click [here](mailto:tivey@mde.k12.ms.us) to send email comments to Todd. tivey@mde.k12.ms.us

Please fax written comments to (601) 359-3414 (fax).

We can do it together.

Debbie Guice

From: Todd Ivey
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 10:59 AM
To: Debbie Guice
Subject: FW: Proposed MS State BOE Policy

From: dana fleming [<mailto:dana.fleming@gulfportschools.org>]
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 10:57 AM
To: Todd Ivey
Subject: Proposed MS State BOE Policy

Todd,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Licensing of School Business Administrator Policy. I believe that raising the professional requirements for school business managers is a positive step. Millions of taxpayer dollars flow through local school districts and the taxpayers have a right to expect that these should be overseen by individuals properly qualified to manage them and an efficient and effective manner to best serve the needs of the students of the State of Mississippi.

Sincerely,

Dana Fleming, CPA
Gulfport School District
2001 Pass Road
PO Box 0220
Gulfport, MS 39502-0220

Phone: 228-865-4606

Debbie Guice

From: Todd Ivey
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 12:53 PM
To: Debbie Guice
Subject: FW: Business Adm. Lic

-----Original Message-----

From: debra@northtippahschooldistrict.com [<mailto:debra@northtippahschooldistrict.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 12:45 PM
To: Melissa Barnes; Todd Ivey
Subject: Business Adm. Lic.

I am concerned being a business office licensure requirements. I have been in school business for 32 years and currently have a school business officer certificate. Our district is a small district and it would put a hardship financially to hire someone with a 4 yr degree. We would also have a hard time finding someone who met the requirements.

Debbie Guice

From: Todd Ivey
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 9:14 AM
To: Debbie Guice
Subject: FW: Re:School Business Officer Licensure

-----Original Message-----

From: Cheryl Shelby [<mailto:cshelby@lincoln.k12.ms.us>]
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 9:12 AM
To: Todd Ivey
Subject: Re:School Business Officer Licensure

I am in total support of the proposal to officially license the School Business Officer position through the State Department of Education. As a School Business Officer it is imperative that the school district have a qualified person in this position. I handle a budget in excess of \$29 million and the challenges of this position continue to grow daily. I have an accounting degree and over 28 years of experience in state government (over 11 years as a school business officer) and am still overwhelmed at times with the requirements that this job entails. In addition, I think it is imperative that there be some type of protection for this position. I have been blessed to have a wonderful superintendent that understands that when I say "that is not a good idea" there is usually a legal or ethical reason why and he knows that I my goal is to make sure we are in full compliance with the law. From what I understand, the person in the job before me (who by the way was escorted out by the State Auditors Office), was not that fortunate. Not only did she not have the academic background or the experience for the job but she also bowed to the will of the superintendent whether what he wanted was legal or not. As a result, Lincoln County Schools ended up in conservatorship. It took years to straighten out all the problems created by this scenario. It is imperative that the School Business Officer position be someone with high qualifications and that this person be afforded, at the very least, an appeals process in the event of termination. It is for these reasons that I am in full support of the licensure requirement that is being proposed.

Debbie Guice

From: Melissa Barnes
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 8:07 AM
To: Debbie Guice
Subject: FW: Comments on state board policy for licensed business administrator

S. Melissa Barnes, CPA, Director
Office of School Financial Services
Mississippi Department of Education
601-359-3294
601-359-3414 fax

-----Original Message-----

From: Lotis Johnson [<mailto:lotjohnson@gville.k12.ms.us>]
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2012 8:42 AM
To: Todd Ivey
Cc: Melissa Barnes
Subject: Comments on state board policy for licensed business administrator

Thank you for this opportunity to be able to express my thoughts about this proposed policy. I think the proposed policy was well thought out and a very necessary step to securing the best business managers across the state. People have to realize that the business manager position is not a clerk/bookkeeper position. We are the chief financial officers of our districts. And for any company to be successful in their business operations, they must have a well knowledgeable CFO. Requiring a business degree to become licensed is the first step towards that goal. That person will now have the fundamentals of how to handle business and accounting functions. And through MASBO Academy, they will gain the specifics on how to handle school district business.

I appreciate the policy as is, but two things would have made me love the policy. I wish the policy included the requirement for our position's name to be changed from Business Manager to Chief Financial Officer. This too would help gain the respect that we need. Everyone knows the term CFO, that they are at the top level of management and understands that position is very important and respected. But the title business manager could be befitting for the bookkeeper of a small business or office manager of a small firm. So the level of responsibility is often confused when we too say we are business managers. Now I know the local school boards have the autonomy to change the name of their business manager, but a little encouragement couldn't hurt.

The second item I wish was included is in regards to the salary of the "CFO." I think this would help attract more qualified individuals if the salary was within a percentage range of the Superintendent's salary. No matter what size a district is or how much revenue they collect, the Superintendent makes a fairly decent salary. So if the board knows that they will have to pay, for example, 75% of \$100,000 (\$75,000), I'm sure they would attract more qualified candidates and be more selective in who they choose.

All in all, I pray much success in the approval of this policy.

Thanks,

Sent from my iPad

Debbie Guice

From: Todd Ivey
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 10:18 AM
To: Debbie Guice
Subject: FW: Request For Public Comment - Proposed Mississippi State Board of Education Policy - Licensing of School Business Administrators

From: J Braswell [<mailto:jbraswell@cleveland.k12.ms.us>]
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 9:36 AM
To: Todd Ivey
Subject: RE: Request For Public Comment - Proposed Mississippi State Board of Education Policy - Licensing of School Business Administrators

I support the licensing of school business administrators as presented in the proposed State Board Policy 6901. It will be a major step in improving school business systems around the state.

J R Braswell
Chief Financial Officer
Cleveland School District

From: Todd Ivey [<mailto:TIvey@mde.k12.ms.us>]
Subject: Request For Public Comment - Proposed Mississippi State Board of Education Policy - Licensing of School Business Administrators

Attached is the proposed State Board of Education Policy 6901 – Licensing of School Business Administrators. This proposed policy is being sent in order to solicit public comments according to the Administrative Procedures Act.

Todd Ivey
Mississippi Department of Education
601-359-3294
Fax 601-359-3414
tivey@mde.k12.ms.us

Debbie Guice

From: Todd Ivey
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2012 8:49 AM
To: Debbie Guice
Subject: FW: New Policy for Bus. Admin.

From: Natalie Turnage [<mailto:nturnage@marionk12.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2012 8:38 AM
To: Todd Ivey
Subject: New Policy for Bus. Admin.

Dear Mr. Ivey,

I am the Human Resources Coordinator for the Marion County School District and have been since July 1997. In 2002, I applied for and received the School Business Administrator Certificate from the State Department of Education. Each year I complete the required number of hours to keep this certificate current. I have read the updated rules and regulations for the new policy regarding the license requirement for Business Administrators. I fully support the implementation of this policy; however, I have one major concern.

I am requesting the allowance to keep my certificate for the next 3-5 years in order to have time to take the required courses. I have looked at the Fall 2012 schedule for both USM and William Carey, which are the two local universities. The courses I need to take are not offered at William Carey and USM only offers the courses during the day. Unfortunately, none of the courses I need are offered online by these schools. This would make it impossible for me to take the courses and still work full time. According to the new licensing requirements, I only need to take six more hours, but it would be impossible to fulfill this requirement before July 1, 2013. I want to keep my certificate because I would like to be in the position of Business Administrator one day. If the new licensing requirement is approved, I do plan to take these courses as soon as possible.

I would like to thank you in advance for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Natalie Turnage
Human Resources Coordinator

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
"TEACH, INSPIRE, & CHALLENGE"
1010 Hwy 13 N., Ste. 2
Columbia, MS 39429
601-736-7193 - Office
601-736-2051 - Fax

Debbie Guice

From: Todd Ivey
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2012 8:00 AM
To: Debbie Guice
Subject: FW: comment

From: Lisa Bell [<mailto:lbell@coahoma.k12.ms.us>]
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 3:13 PM
To: Todd Ivey
Subject: comment

I believe in having an accountability to a profession but the standards that have been set are really high and they are sudden. I have worked for a wonderful business manager for the past 4 years as the accounting clerk and the unofficial assistant to my business manager. I always imagined becoming a business manager one day and I have taken great stride to finish my degree. I found out about the new standard recently but everything has to be done by June, so this gives me little time to get everything I need together. My major is Interdisciplinary Studies, my concentrations are general business and elementary education, so I will still need to get another degree to even qualify. I have a lot of the accounting classes but I cannot see myself getting the rest by June. I am trying to understand why this restrictions is being enforced but I am just thinking that you will lose people like me, people who know how to do the job but cannot meet the requirements. Becoming a business manager is not an easy job even with an accounting degree.

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord..." – Colossians 3:23

Debbie Guice

From: Todd Ivey
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2012 7:58 AM
To: Debbie Guice
Subject: FW: Licensure of School Business Administrators

From: Doug Everitt [<mailto:everittd@wcsdms.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 3:01 PM
To: Todd Ivey
Subject: Licensure of School Business Administrators

Todd,

At Earl Burke's request, I am writing to express my support for the proposed legislation to license qualified school business administrators. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of those of us who will be effected by this legislation.

Doug Everitt

Wayne County School District

Debbie Guice

From: Dennis Cochran [dcochran@greene.k12.ms.us]
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2012 2:43 PM
To: Todd Ivey
Subject: Policy Proposal Comments
Attachments: Text.htm

Todd,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed State Board Policy to increase the qualifications of School Business Administrators. I am pleased to see the state board addressing this issue.

In an era where school district finances are under ever-increasing scrutiny, it is imperative that the role of School Business Administrator be filled by individuals with knowledge, skills and integrity in order to maintain the trust of our school boards, legislators, and other public officials who rely on the financial information to make sound public policy decisions. The increased educational and on-going training requirements in this proposal will help to ensure that the state's School Business Administrators are competent and capable of fulfilling the responsibilities of our profession.

I'm thankful for members of the State Board of Education for considering this recommendation and hope that each member will vote in favor of the proposal.

Dennis Cochran
Business Administrator
Greene County School District
P O Box 1329 Leakesville MS 39451
Office Phone 601-394-2364
Mobile Phone 769-475-0510

Debbie Guice

From: Todd Ivey
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2012 2:32 PM
To: Debbie Guice
Subject: FW: licensing of school business administrators

From: Susan Cothren [<mailto:scothren@westpoint.k12.ms.us>]
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2012 1:55 PM
To: Todd Ivey
Subject: licensing of school business administrators

Todd:

As someone who has been a School Business Administrator in the State of Mississippi for 18 years, I truly appreciate the efforts by you and the Mississippi Department of Education to provide a license for this position. Even though I will benefit from this policy personally, I would support it whole heartedly if I did not. The school business officials in this state, as well as everywhere, are as important and supportive of the educational process and system as are building administrators and teachers. I am constantly amazed and impressed by the things business administrators across the state are able to do with dwindling funds and greater educational needs to help make sure the students of our state receive the best education possible. I hope the State Board of Education will agree and approve this policy.

Thank you, your staff, MDE, MASBO and all involved with making this dream a possibility.

Susan

Susan Cothren
Business Manager
West Point School District
P.O. Box 656
West Point, MS 39773
Phone# 662-494-4242
Fax# 662-494-8605

Debbie Guice

From: Thomas J. Burleson [tjburleson@prc.k12.ms.us]
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2012 3:29 PM
To: Todd Ivey
Subject: Support for Licensing of School Business Administrators

Mr. Ivey,

I am writing to express my support for licensing of School Business Administrators. As you know, the School Business Administrator is essentially the CFO of the School District. This person is responsible for millions of taxpayer dollars and needs to be well trained and educated to make the correct decisions and recommendations to the Superintendent and Board of Trustees.

By requiring the School Business Administrator to be licensed by the Department of Education, the state can make sure all districts have competent fiscal agents.

Thank you for all of your time and efforts to get this important issue approved.

T. J. Burleson
Business Administrator
Pearl River County School District
7441 Highway 11
Carriere, MS 39426
Office: (601) 798-7744 ext. 29
Fax: (601) 798-3527
Cell: (228) 216-1242

Debbie Guice

From: Dorothy McInnis [dmcinnis@vwsd.k12.ms.us]
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2012 3:22 PM
To: Todd Ivey
Subject: Support Of StateBoardPolicy6901

I am in full support of raising the professional requirements for school business managers in Mississippi through the establishment of State Board Policy 6901.

Dorothy McInnis
Director of Accounting
Vicksburg Warren School District
1500 Mission 66
Vicksburg, MS 39180
Phone: 601-638-5122
Fax: 601-638-4139

Debbie Guice

From: Todd Ivey
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 3:20 PM
To: Debbie Guice
Subject: FW: support of policy

From: CO - Nester, Donna [<mailto:dnester@ossdms.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 2:27 PM
To: Todd Ivey
Subject: support of policy

Todd,

Please know that I support the new policy for Licensure of School Business Administrators. I believe that this will help ensure the standards of our positions are maintained at high levels. It will also encourage other professionals who desire to become School Business Administrators to pursue the license prior to seeking the position.

After holding the position for many years, I have long felt that the lack of a license has given the perception that the Business Administrator position was somehow less responsible than other administrator positions. This could not be further from the truth. The position, as you know, is one of the most responsible in a school district. There are too many laws, policies, and standards that must be followed within our educational environment for the position not to be held by someone with a high degree of education, training, and accountability.

I am completely prepared and eligible to obtain this license and I believe that the State should pursue holding all Business Administrators accountable for receiving this license to hold the position.

Donna C. Nester

School Business Administrator
Ocean Springs School District
(228)875-8239



ACADEMICS - ARTS - ATHLETICS

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:

This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). The information contained in this message may be private and confidential. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

Debbie Guice

From: Todd Ivey
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2012 8:27 AM
To: Debbie Guice
Subject: FW: Policy #6901

From: Phil Burchfield [<mailto:PBurchfield@clinton.k12.ms.us>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2012 4:55 PM
To: Todd Ivey
Subject: Policy #6901

I send this e-mail in response to Request for Public Comment on a new State Board Policy #6901 that will raise the professional requirements for school business managers in the State of Mississippi.

I fully support the policy that will require a license for all business managers in the state. The minimum requirements are a necessity for district to employ qualified individuals to manage the finances and multi-million dollar budgets of the local districts. Financial problems can be reduced if minimum standards are mandated and districts realize the importance of this position.

Phil Burchfield
Superintendent
Clinton Public School District

Debbie Guice

From: Michael Miller [mmiller4111@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2012 3:16 PM
To: Todd Ivey
Subject: School Business Administrator License

Mr. Ivey,

As a retired Administrator for Mississippi schools and a current School Board Member, I understand the importance of qualified and competent School Business Managers, especially now when more is required of our schools with less dollars to do it with. I appreciate Mississippi Department of Education's willingness to address this issue.

I have looked at the proposed policy and I believe that this policy doesn't properly address the qualified personnel who are now holding the position as a business manager/officer in a school district and are capable of doing the job but do not have a degree. I think if you are going to grandfather in business managers, then you should grandfather in all business managers and require all to take a Praxis type test to gauge their knowledge and ability.

Thank You,

Michael Miller
Monroe County School District

May 2, 2012

To: Mr. L. Todd Ivey

From: Shelia Miller

Re: Request for Comments Administrative Procedures Act Process

Mr. Ivey,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my comments and opinions regarding establishment of State Board Policy 6901.

While I appreciate the idea of recognizing the important role school business personnel play in supporting Mississippi's educational mission, I disagree with many aspects of this policy.

I do not think MASBO members at large were given important information in a timely manner regarding this policy. If I had know three years ago, when the MASBO Board of Directors began working on this policy, that business managers would be required to have a four year degree in order to be licensed, I would have had time to complete my degree without the real hardship – which is not a perceived hardship as Mr. Burke, MASABO President, believes this to be. Finding out in February about a policy that will be in effect in July, did not give adequate time and is not fair to those of us who will be working full time and going back to college part time to satisfy this requirement. Regardless of MASBO's promises to improve communication with the general membership in the future, this does not remedy this problem now.

I do not believe that having a degree will make me a better business manager. I have talked to many business managers who meet the requirement for licensing and they tell me that having Accounting I and II was important, but the degree did not prepare them for what is required of a school business manager. I worked as a business manager for twenty five years before coming to Nettleton School District, and I know that school business accounting is very different from regular accounting. I have met very qualified school business managers who do not have a degree, and I know some very inept business managers who have the degree necessary to be licensed under this policy. I believe that a more relevant policy would have been one that required *all* business managers to pass a proficiency test in order to determine their knowledge and understanding of their job.

Regardless of the years experience I might have, the hard work and long hours I have put into my district, or the improvements I have made to the financial stability of Nettleton School District, this policy says I am not qualified after June 30th to go to another district as business manager. If I am able to do this job at June 30th in Nettleton, I should be able to do this job July 1st at any other school in the state.

Thank you again for giving me this opportunity to express my opinion. I appreciate your consideration

Shelia Miller

Business Manager

Nettleton School District

Debbie Guice

From: Todd Ivey
Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2012 12:58 PM
To: Debbie Guice
Subject: FW: licensing of School Business Administrator

From: Beth White [<mailto:sbwhite@tishomingo.k12.ms.us>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2012 12:12 PM
To: Todd Ivey
Subject: licensing of School Business Administrator

I am writing to show my support of the proposed policy to begin licensing School Business Administrators.

Beth White
Finance Director
Tishomingo County Schools
662-423-3206

Debbie Guice

From: Todd Ivey
Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2012 7:57 AM
To: Debbie Guice
Subject: FW: School Business Administration Licensing

-----Original Message-----

From: Dharalson@leakesd [<mailto:dharalson@leakesd.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 6:58 PM
To: Todd Ivey
Subject: School Business Administration Licensing

Todd,

I am writing to show my support for this initiative with some concerns. I believe that consideration should be taken for those who have worked in the capacity of business managers for numerous years but do not meet the qualifications required. There are a few that lack the hours or have degrees in other areas. Some type of funding should be made available to these persons to pay for these courses since it is a state mandate. Means have been provided for teachers in the past and it is only fair to do the same for those in need. College courses are not cheap and the financial burden should not be placed upon the individual in need. If monetary assistance can not be granted I believe those in these positions should be grandfathered in under the current requirements and those who come in after the policy is in place should have to meet those requirements.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone