

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

January 17, 2013

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a work session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 17, 2013 in the 4th Floor Boardroom of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present were: Ms. Kami Bumgarner, Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Mr. Hal Gage, Mr. William H. Jones, Dr. John R. Kelly, Mr. Charles McClelland, Ms. Martha Murphy, Mr. Richard Morrison, and Mr. Simon F. Weir, II.

The work session was called to order by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Chair. Dr. Gann noted the statement on the agenda that cellular telephones and pagers are not permitted during the work session.

Dr. Lynn House gave the following report from the State Superintendent of Education:

- Reported that the Legislature is currently in session and MDE staff is in the process of reviewing approximately 150 House and Senate bills.
- Stated that MDE staff will keep the Board updated on key legislative bills.
- Commended Pete Smith and Todd Ivey on their work with the Legislature.
- Noted that Kim Benton, Trecina Green, James Mason, and Nathan Oakley have been deeply imbedded in working on information related to the proposed reading gateway.
- Reported that MDE has a budget hearing scheduled for February 5 and Gracie Sanders will be the MDE key staff member on that session.
- Reported that the Annual Superintendent's Report for 2011-2012 required by state statute has been completed and can be accessed on the MDE website. Recognized Quentin Ransburg who coordinated the efforts of many to produce this report.
- Provided information from the Education Week Quality Counts Report that Mississippi received an "A" in standards, assessments and accountability and that Mississippi's overall grade is a C- and the national average is a C+. Noted that Mississippi is well on the road to addressing some areas that can help improve the grades in other areas through the work on Pre-K programming and the Accountability Task Force.
- Thanked Patrice Guilfoyle, our Communications Director, for her efforts toward improving our communication with the media, and for the new format for the former Monday Memo. Stated the new format (EdUpdate) is already getting positive reaction from districts.
- Reported that Jean Massey has compiled a new document entitled "Snapshot Comparison of Innovative High School Models" that was provided to the Board.
- Introduced our special guest, Mr. Claiborne Barksdale, the Executive Director of the Barksdale Reading Institute (BRI).

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Mr. Claiborne Barksdale spoke to the Board about the results of the Barksdale Reading Institute Principal Project which began in the 2010-11 school year by placing principals into the following low-performing schools: Crenshaw Elementary (North Panola – K-5; in conservatorship), Hazlehurst Middle (Pre-K; in conservatorship), Quitman County Elementary (Pre-K), and Williams-Sullivan Elementary (Holmes County – Pre-K-8). Mr. Barksdale stated that the principal is the key to an effective school. He reported on the Mississippi Building Blocks which is an early-childhood project that BRI has been spearheading over the past three years in Mississippi. Mr. Barksdale also spoke about the Third-Gate Literacy Initiative proposed by Governor Phil Bryant aimed at improving reading skills in the early grades.

Mr. Hal Gage read into the record and moved to adopt the attached resolution recognizing Jim and Claiborne Barksdale. Dr. Gann noted that the resolution was approved by unanimous consensus.

No reports were given from the subcommittees.

Dr. Paula Vanderford updated the Board on the work of the Accountability Task Force (copy attached).

Dr. Larry Drawdy and Dr. Earl Watkins, Conservator for Indianola School District, gave a report on Indianola School District (copy attached).

Dr. Drawdy and Mr. Charles Barron, Conservator for Sunflower County School District, gave a report on Sunflower County School District (copy attached).

Dr. Drawdy, Dr. Jayne Sargent, former Conservator for Oktibbeha County School District, and Dr. Margie Pulley, Conservator for Oktibbeha County School District, gave a report on Oktibbeha County School District (copy attached). Dr. House thanked Dr. Sargent for her leadership and the difference she made so Dr. Pulley could hit the ground running when she started January 1, 2013. Dr. House reported that she and Dr. Drawdy have talked with Mississippi State University regarding a partnership with the Oktibbeha County School District.

Dr. Kim Benton discussed awarding discretionary grants to school districts to implement the *Excellence for All* program (copy attached). Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Benton and Ms. Sonya Amis discussed modifying the contract with North Mississippi Education Consortium to coordinate and facilitate additional regional training sessions and procure related services for the Mississippi Department of Education for Fiscal Year 2013 pursuant to Section 37-7-345 of the Miss. Code (copy attached). Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.

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Dr. Benton discussed the appointment of a School Finance Officer with the Office of Federal Programs (copy attached). Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Benton discussed the appointment of an Education Bureau Director II with the Office of Federal Programs (copy attached). Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Benton and Nathan Oakley discussed revisions to the *Regulations for the Gifted Education Programs in Mississippi*. After the Board's discussion, it was determined that this item would be pulled from Friday's agenda and presented to the Board at a later date.

Dr. Benton and Nathan Oakley discussed the textbooks as recommended by the 2012 State Textbook Rating Committee for adoption in the areas of Math K-2, Math 3-5, Math 6-8, Social Studies 4-8, and Social Studies 9-12 (copy attached). Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Benton and Mr. Nathan Oakley discussed the contract with vendors as recommended by the 2012 State Textbook Rating Committee for the adoption of textbooks in the areas of Math K-2, Math 3-5, Math 6-8, Social Studies 4-8, and Social Studies 9-12 (copy attached). Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Benton and Mr. James Mason discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise the *Mississippi Testing Accommodations Manual* (copy attached). Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.

[PULLED]

[PULLED]

Dr. Daphne Buckley discussed the seven changes to Alternate Route Programs and changes to the method of adding a supplemental endorsement in Mathematics 7-12 as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development to become effective September 1, 2014 (copy attached). The Board discussed:

- A. Seven changes to Alternate Route Programs outlined in the Licensure Guidelines as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development
- B. Changes to method of adding a supplemental endorsement in Mathematics 7-12 as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development

The item has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment. Dr. Buckley recommended approval on Friday.

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Dr. Buckley discussed modifying grant awards for the Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) Grant (copy attached). Dr. Buckley recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Buckley discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise State Board Policy 1706 - Commission, Hearings and Appeals (copy attached). Dr. Buckley recommended approval on Friday.

Mr. Mike Kent, Mr. Ben Collins from the Joint Legislature Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER), and Mr. Jeff Klingfuss, Kathy Boteler and Raina Lee from the Attorney General's Office discussed the criteria for the apportionment of the two (2) new school districts (North Bolivar Consolidated School District and West Bolivar Consolidated School District) into five (5) new board of trustee election districts for each new school district as per Senate Bill 2760, 2012 Legislative Session, Section 37-7-104.1 of the Mississippi Code (copy attached). Mr. Collins presented a power point presentation on legal requirements for appointment. Mr. Kent provided information to the Board on the following Town Hall Meetings conducted to obtain public comments from the affected school districts: West Bolivar Meeting (1/7/13), North Bolivar Meeting (1/8/13), Shaw Meeting (1/7/13), Benoit Meeting (1/10/13), and Mount Bayou Meeting (1/14/13). Board members were provided with copies of transcripts from all Town Hall Meetings. The Board discussed the Criteria for Appointment of School Board District Lines for the Bolivar Consolidation. Mr. Kent recommended approval on Friday of the five criteria required to be used in the appointment of the Bolivar County School Board District lines and sixteen (16) criteria based on public comments that may be used to the extent practical in the appointing process.

[PULLED]

Dr. Gann gave the Board an opportunity to discuss the following consent items:

- A. Discussion of monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits (Kim Benton)
- B. Discussion of Construction Plan for a Career and Technical Education Center at the Wellspring Toyota Plant in Tupelo, Mississippi, utilizing local funds (Kim Benton)
- C. Discussion to revise the *Mississippi Elementary and Middle School Curriculum Frameworks* for Contemporary Health (K-8) (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment) (Kim Benton)
- D. Discussion of critical shortage subject areas and geographical regions for the following programs: Federal Stafford Program, Federal Perkins Loan, Paul C. Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program, Teacher Education

Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program,
Critical Needs Teacher Scholarship Program, and the William Winter
Teacher Scholar Loan Program (Daphne Buckley)

E. Report on Personnel Actions (Cassandra Moore)

Mr. William H. Jones moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation, investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law and personnel issues in accordance with Mississippi Code Sections 25-41-7 (4)(a), (b), (d), and (k). The motion was seconded by Mr. Simon F. Weir, II, and the motion passed on a vote of 8 to 0.

Mr. William H. Jones then moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of a strategy session or negotiations with respect to litigation involving the Department of Education in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(b), discussion with respect to investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(d) and discussion of discrete personnel matters related to the job performance of persons holding specific positions in the Department of Education and discussion of the employment of persons in specific positions and transaction of business related thereto in accordance with Mississippi Code Sections 25-41-7 (a) and (k). Mr. Richard Morrison seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 8 to 0.

Ms. Kathy Boteler informed the public of the Board's decision to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of a strategy session or negotiations with respect to litigation involving the Department of Education in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(b), discussion with respect to investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(d) and discussion of discrete personnel matters related to the job performance of persons holding specific positions in the Department of Education and discussion of the employment of persons in specific positions and transaction of business related thereto in accordance with Mississippi Code Sections 25-41-7 (a) and (k).

Dr. O. Wayne Gann stated the following to remain in the Executive Session: Dr. Lynn House and Ms. Kathy Boteler.

Minutes of the Executive Session

During the Executive Session, the Board discussed a strategy session or negotiations with respect to litigation involving the Department of Education in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(b), discussed investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(d) and discussed discrete personnel matters related to the job performance of persons holding specific positions in the Department of Education and

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discussed the employment of persons in specific positions and transaction of business related thereto in accordance with Mississippi Code Sections 25-41-7 (a) and (k).

Mr. Morrison left the meeting prior to the adjournment of the Executive Session.

Dr. House recused herself from the meeting for the discussion of the search for a State Superintendent of Education.

Mr. Charles McClelland moved that the Board adjourn from Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. William H. Jones and the motion passed on a vote of 7 to 0.

Upon returning to regular session, Dr. O. Wayne Gann announced that no action was taken in the Executive Session. No other business was discussed.

On a motion by Mr. Simon F. Weir, II, seconded by Ms. Martha Murphy, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Approved:



Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Lynn J. House, Ph.D.
Interim Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

January 18, 2013

The regular meeting of the Mississippi Board of Education was held at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, January 18, 2013, in the 4th Floor Boardroom of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present were: Ms. Kami Bumgarner, Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Mr. William H. Jones, Dr. John R. Kelly, Mr. Charles McClelland, Ms. Martha Murphy, and Mr. Richard Morrison. Board members absent were: Mr. Hal Gage and Mr. Simon F. Weir, II.

- I. The meeting was called to order by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Chair. Dr. Gann noted the statement on the agenda that cellular telephones and pagers are not permitted during the Board meeting.
- II. Mr. Charles McClelland led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Ms. Martha Murphy gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting of December 20, 2012.
- IV. On a motion by Mr. William H. Jones, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to amend the agenda to add the following items:
 23. Approval to modify contract with Joseph Fisher to serve as the Administrator of the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) and the Memorandum of Agreement for the Jackson Public School District
 24. Approval to modify contract with Robert L. Greer to serve as the Assistant Administrator of the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) and the Memorandum of Agreement for the Jackson Public School District
 25. Approval of revised Corrective Action Plan for Jackson Public School District

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as amended.

As requested by the Board, item 11 was pulled from the agenda.

- V. Report of the Chair
 - Stated that Mr. Hal Gage and he met with the Lt. Governor and his staff during the week of January 14-18, 2013. Noted that the Board and MDE will be working to keep the lines of communication open with the Legislature during this session.

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- Reported he had a good meeting with the Governor and his staff to review the education agenda.

VI. Approval of Action Items

(Items below are numbered to correspond to the items as discussed on Thursday, January 17, 2013.)

07. On a motion by Ms. Martha Murphy, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved to award discretionary grants to school districts to implement the *Excellence for All* program (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Enhancement & Internal Operations)
08. On a motion by Ms. Martha Murphy, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved to modify the contract with North Mississippi Education Consortium to coordinate and facilitate additional regional training sessions and procure related services for the Mississippi Department of Education for Fiscal Year 2013 (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Enhancement & Internal Operations)
09. On a motion by Ms. Martha Murphy, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Melanie Diggs as a School Finance Officer with the Office of Federal Programs at an annual salary of \$69,670.57 (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Enhancement & Internal Operations)
10. On a motion by Ms. Martha Murphy, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Marcus E. Cheeks as an Education Bureau Director II with the Office of Federal Programs at an annual salary of \$84,000.00 (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Enhancement & Internal Operations)
11. [PULLED]
12. On a motion by Ms. Martha Murphy, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved the textbooks as recommended by the 2012 State Textbook Rating Committee for adoption in the areas of Math K-2, Math 3-5, Math 6-8, Social Studies 4-8, and Social Studies 9-12 (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Enhancement & Internal Operations)
13. On a motion by Ms. Martha Murphy, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved the contract with vendors as recommended by the 2012 State Textbook Rating Committee for the adoption of textbooks in the areas of Math K-2, Math 3-5, Math 6-8, Social Studies 4-8, and Social Studies 9-12 (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Enhancement & Internal Operations)

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14. On a motion by Ms. Martha Murphy, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise the *Mississippi Testing Accommodations Manual* (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Enhancement & Internal Operations)
15. [PULLED]
16. [PULLED]
17. On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved the seven changes to Alternate Route Programs and changes to the method of adding a supplemental endorsement in Mathematics 7-12 as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development to become effective September 1, 2014 (copy attached). The items have cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment.
(Office of Quality Professionals & Special Schools)
 - A. Approval of seven changes to Alternate Route Programs outlined in the Licensure Guidelines as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development
 - B. Approval of changes to method of adding a supplemental endorsement in Mathematics 7-12 as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development
18. On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to modify grant awards for the Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) Grant (copy attached)
(Office of Quality Professionals & Special Schools)
19. On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise State Board Policy 1706 - Commission, Hearings and Appeals (copy attached).
(Office of Quality Professionals & Special Schools)
20. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved the five (5) legal criteria that *will be used* for apportionment of the territory of the North Bolivar Consolidated School District and the West Bolivar Consolidated School District into five new board of trustee election districts for each district as set out in the document entitled "Criteria for Apportionment for School Board District Lines Bolivar County Consolidation" and that the Board approved the sixteen (16) criteria provided from public comments

as set out in the same document that *may be used* for the apportionment of the new board of trustee election districts for the North Bolivar Consolidated School District and the West Bolivar Consolidated School District to the extent practical in the apportioning process (copy attached).

(Office of State Superintendent)

21. [PULLED]
22. On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Ms. Kami Bumgarner, the Board unanimously approved the following consent items (copy attached):
 - A. Approval of monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits
(Office of Instructional Enhancement & Internal Operations)
 - B. Approval of Construction Plan for a Career and Technical Education Center at the Wellspring Toyota Plant in Tupelo, Mississippi, utilizing local funds
(Office of Instructional Enhancement & Internal Operations)
 - C. Approval to revise the *Mississippi Elementary and Middle School Curriculum Frameworks* for Contemporary Health (K-8)
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment)
(Office of Instructional Enhancement & Internal Operations)
 - D. Approval of critical shortage subject areas and geographical regions for the following programs: Federal Stafford Program, Federal Perkins Loan, Paul C. Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program, Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program, Critical Needs Teacher Scholarship Program, and the William Winter Teacher Scholar Loan Program
(Office of Quality Professionals & Special Schools)
23. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to modify the contract with Joseph Fisher to serve as the Administrator of the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) and the Memorandum of Agreement for the Jackson Public School District (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Enhancement & Internal Operations)
24. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to modify the contract with Robert L. Greer to serve as the Assistant Administrator of the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) and the Memorandum of Agreement for the Jackson Public School District (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Enhancement & Internal Operations)

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25. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved the revised Corrective Action Plan for Jackson Public School District (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Enhancement & Internal Operations)

VII. Recognition Ceremony

School Districts with “A” Performance Classification

Clinton Public School District

Dr. Phillip Burchfield, Superintendent

Enterprise School District

Ms. Rita Windham, Superintendent

Pass Christian Public School District

Mrs. Beth John, Superintendent

2012 December Employee of the Month

Judy Edmonds

Office of Educator Licensure

Education Specialist, Senior

2013 January Employee of the Month

Tiffany Jones

Mississippi Teacher Center

Teacher Recruiter

Dr. Lynn House recognized Ms. Rhea Bishop, Executive Director, Mississippi Center for Education Innovation (MCEI). The MCEI provided the funds for the banners that were presented to the school districts with an “A” performance classification.

VIII. State Board of Education

01. Mr. William H. Jones reported that he and Mr. Claude Hartley, a former Board member, attended a non-state funded meeting in New York City.

02. There were no requests for approval of attendance at meetings.

IX. There was no other business.

- X. On a motion by Mr. William H. Jones, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

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Approved:



Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Lynn J. House, Ph.D.
Interim Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education