

**OFFICE OF STATE SUPERINTENDENT**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**September 18-19, 2014**

**OFFICE OF SCHOOL FINANCIAL SERVICES**

14. Approval of appointments for Standing Commission on School District Efficiency

MS Code Ann. § 37-7-1001 authorized the State Board of Education to establish a Standing Commission on School District Efficiency. The commission shall meet and study the operations, rules, policies and regulations in school districts on an ongoing basis for the purpose of identifying opportunities to increase efficiencies, and to determine appropriate efficiency standards that should be considered for accreditation standards. The commission shall report annually its findings and recommendations to the State Board of Education, and the State Board of Education may make its report and recommendations annually to the Legislature seeking legislative support to achieve efficiencies in school districts. In establishing the Standing Commission on School District Efficiency the State Board of Education shall provide that the membership not be less than six (6) members. The State Board of Education shall appoint school district employees proficient in the areas of fiscal management, procurement, data processing or other fields of school business, with at least one (1) member being appointed from each congressional district. The commission shall meet on a date designated by the State Superintendent of Education and organize by selecting a chairman and adopt rules for conducting business. Members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses from any available funds for attending official meetings of the commission. The State Department of Education shall provide necessary administrative and clerical support for the functions of the commission.”

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

**Approval of Appointments for Standing Commission on School District Efficiency  
Commission Members**

**Current Commission Members:**

**Term Expiration:**

Congressional District 1 Representative Stacey Graves – DeSoto County School District	<b>September, 2014</b>
Congressional District 2 Representative Earl Burke – Hinds County School District	September, 2015
Congressional District 3 Representative Rebecca Stevens – Meridian Public School District	September, 2016
Congressional District 4 Representative Dana Fleming – Gulfport School District	September, 2016
At Large/Local School District Superintendent Representative Scott Cantrell – Monroe County School District	September, 2015
At Large Representative Sandy Halliwell – Clinton Public School District	<b>September, 2014</b>

**Recommendation:**

Congressional District 1 Representative

Re-appoint:

**Stacey Graves**

Business Manager

DeSoto County School District

At Large Representative

Appoint:

**Melissa Barnes**

Director of Purchasing and Finance

Rankin County School District

## **Stacey H. Graves**

1818 Danas Cove - Hernando, MS 38632  
(662) 449-7110 (W) (901) 604-9748 (C)

Stacey Graves has over sixteen years' experience as a school business manager. She served as business manager for Coahoma County Schools from 1996 until 1999 when she accepted the position as business manager for DeSoto County Schools where she still continues to serve in that capacity.

Serving as business manager in both a small and large district has given her a broad range of experience. She understands the issues a small district faces with socioeconomic and financial struggles. With an annual budget of \$14 million to maintain seven schools, Coahoma County could not afford a large administrative staff, so as business manager she served in the financial director capacity for areas such as child nutrition, special education, vocational education, and federal programs. She implemented the fixed asset accountability program which became an accreditation requirement during that time. She served as administrator of 16<sup>th</sup> Section funds for participating surrounding districts as well.

She has also had to face the challenges of an explosively expanding district that grew into the largest school district in the state in a short time span. During her tenure, 17 schools have been added as well as countless additions and renovations. She oversees a bond program of more than \$200 million in limited tax notes, general obligation bonds, and certificates of participation. Under her financial management, DeSoto County Schools has achieved the highest bond rating of any school district in the state as well as the State of Mississippi. Her annual operating budget is over \$225 million with 40 school sites and has not requested a millage increase since 2007 for operating purposes.

Stacey is currently serving in the position of Past President for the Mississippi Association of School Business Officials after many years on the MASBO board. She also served on the legislative commission for efficiency and effectiveness out of which the recommendation for a standing committee with the State Board of Education was borne.

Stacey is a 1986 graduate of Washington School in Greenville, Mississippi. She graduated from Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee in 1990 with a degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting. She is married to Michael Graves and has a daughter, Alexis age 10.

**S. Melissa Barnes**

200 W E Franklin Road  
Morton, Mississippi 39117  
(W) 601-825-5590 ext. 216  
(C) 601-497-5271

Melissa Barnes is currently employed with the Rankin County School District as the Director of Purchasing and Finance. She was previously employed by MDE from August of 2006 until June of 2014. She began serving as Bureau Director of the Office of School Financial Services in January of 2010. Previous positions at MDE include Internal Auditor and Director of the Office of Internal Accountability. Melissa served as the Business Manager for the Scott County School District for five years and the Newton City School District for three years. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Mississippi State University, is a Certified Public Accountant, and is a licensed School Business Administrator. She is a member of the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO), MS Association of School Business Officials (MASBO), and the MS Society of CPA's. Melissa and her husband Chet reside in Rankin County. Their three children attend Pisgah High School. Erin and Emma are 16 and Davis is 14.