

## Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

September 18, 2014

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a work session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 18, 2014 in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present were: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Ms. Kami Bumgarner, Mr. Johnny Franklin, Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Dr. John R. Kelly, Mr. Charles McClelland, and Mr. Danny J. Spreitler. Board members absent were: Mr. William H. Jones and Mr. Richard Morrison.

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

Dr. Carey M. Wright gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:

- Dr. Wright stated that the first round of Regional Superintendent meetings has concluded and was well attended. The next round of meetings will be in October.
- Dr. Wright stated that she is working on forming a foundation with people from across the state who are interested in education.
- Dr. Wright reported that the Department is working on a preschool development federal grant application that is due by October 14, 2014. The funds can be used as follows: up to 35% can be used for infrastructure and at least 65% can be used for preschool seats and classrooms that must meet the definition for high-quality from Day 1 (copy attached). School districts will have to prepare competitive grant applications to receive funding if the Department is awarded the grant.
- Dr. Wright recognized Ms. Rachel Canter from Mississippi First, who is working with the committee on the Pre-K application and brings a wealth of experience to the table.
- Dr. Wright recognized Ms. Donna Hales who has been working on the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment with the Personal Service Contract Review Board (PSCRB). Dr. Wright stated that Ms. Hales has been faithful to keep the Department informed about the process and thanked her for her work.

There was discussion about the Pre-K application.

Dr. Kelly stated that he and Dr. Carey M. Wright attended the Quality Data Conference in Boston, MA. The conference dealt with data processing and usage. He was enlightened at how far some states were along with the process.

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair, School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee reported they met prior to today's work session with Mr. Pat Ross and discussed the revisions on the process used to declare a state of emergency in a district

and the penalty for the withdrawal of accreditation. A status update of the 2014 Accountability Results was given to the subcommittee.

Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Chair, Academic Achievement PreK-12 Subcommittee reported this subcommittee had a very productive meeting on the afternoon of September 17, 2014. Dr. Gann asked Mr. Danny Spreitler to report to the Board. Mr. Spreitler stated that on Item 9 on the agenda today the subcommittee agreed with the recommended scores to determine minimum readiness for kindergarten. On Item 13 on the agenda today, the Subcommittee recommended the item be postponed to October. Dr. Benton stated that the postponement of this item to October would not cause an impact on the districts this year. The Board discussed the number of universal screeners that are on the list and asked the Department to conduct a survey of the districts to see which universal screeners are being used and the success of each. The Department will bring the item and the results of the survey to the Board in October.

Dr. Wright gave a report on the development of the MDE 5-Year Strategic Plan based on the *Instructions for Preparing 5-Year Strategic Plans for the Fiscal Years 2016-2020*. The Board discussed the progress made so far on the Plan. Dr. Wright stated the Plan will come back to the Board in October to be approved (copy attached).

Mr. Pat Ross discussed initiating the process to reconstitute Scott County School District that is in conservatorship. Mr. Ross stated that the conservator reports satisfactory corrective action in the school district and recommended that the Board request the Governor to declare that the state of emergency no longer exists in the district. Mr. Ross thanked the Scott County School District for the work that has been done. He also thanked Dr. Mike Vinson, the former Conservator; Mr. Charles M. Boyles, the current Conservator; the Business Manager, Mr. Al Ladner; and the Financial Consultant, Ms. Suzanne Smith. These individuals were present to respond to any questions of the Board. Mr. Ross stated that Mr. Boyles will be the Conservator until the district is returned to the community. He recommended approval on Friday.

Mr. Ross discussed the proposed revision to the process to declare a State of Emergency in accordance with Section 37-17-6(12)(b) of the *Mississippi Code of 1972*, as amended (copy attached). The Board discussed the proposed revisions. This item will come back to the Board later for final approval.

Mr. Ross reported on the impact of the New Start School law for school year 2014-2015. The Board discussed the proposed regulations. Mr. Ross reported that the proposed regulations will be presented to the Board for approval in October.

Dr. Kim Benton discussed the methodology to award competitive grants to school districts to support kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade literacy instruction and intensive intervention (copy attached). The Board discussed the methodology. Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:30 am and reconvened at 12:22 pm.

Dr. Benton discussed establishing the *2014 Mississippi Library Monitoring Rubric*. The item has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments that were presented to the Board (copy attached). Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Benton discussed the recommended score to determine minimum readiness for kindergarten. The recommended scale score of 530 at the beginning of Kindergarten or a score of 498 at the end of pre-kindergarten on the Renaissance STAR Early Literacy Assessment as an indicator of kindergarten readiness. Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Benton discussed awarding competitive grants for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program. The Board discussed the competitive grants being awarded. Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Benton discussed the Title III reallocation methodology in accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The Board discussed the methodology. Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Benton discussed awarding a discretionary grant to Rankin County School District for the purpose of contracting with an Educator in Residence to provide consultative services and technical assistance. The Board discussed the Educator in Residence. Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Benton discussed the revised methodology to award discretionary grant funds to school districts to provide partial funding for a universal reading screener in grades 1-3 and/or progress monitoring resources in grades K-3 earlier in the work session.

Mr. Todd Ivey discussed the appointments for Standing Commission on School District Efficiency. Mr. Ivey recommended the re-appointment of Ms. Stacey Graves for the Congressional District 1 representative and Ms. Melissa Barnes as the appointment for the At Large Representative. Mr. Ivey recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Kelly gave the Board an opportunity to discuss the following consent agenda item:

- A. Discussion of monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits (Todd Ivey)

The Board discussed the consent agenda item.

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session with respect to litigation, prospective litigation, personnel issues and investigative proceedings in accordance

with Mississippi Code Sections 25-41-7 (4)(a), (b), (d), and (k). The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, and the motion passed on a vote of 6 to 0.

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, 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 and prospective litigation regarding a contractual issue in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(b), discussion with respect to investigative proceedings of school districts regarding allegations of misconduct or violations of law in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(d), discussion of discrete personnel matters concerning the operation of the Department, including but not limited to, the reorganization of staff in specific offices and positions within the Department of Education in accordance with Sections 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k). Dr. O. Wayne Gann, seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 6 to 0.

Dr. Kelly stated the following to remain in the Executive Session: Dr. Carey M. Wright, Executive Leadership Team, Ms. Kathy Boteler, Mr. Joel Jones, Mr. Mike Kent, Ms. Sonya Amis, Ms. Gretchen Cagle, and Ms. Heather Deaton. Ms. Boteler informed the public of the Board's vote to go into Executive Session for the above-stated reasons.

### **Minutes of the Executive Session**

The Board discussed a strategy session and negotiations with respect to litigation involving the Department and prospective litigation regarding a contractual issue in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(b), discussion with respect to investigative proceedings of school districts regarding allegations of misconduct or violations of law in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(d), discussion of discrete personnel matters concerning the operation of the Department, including but not limited to, the reorganization of staff in specific offices and positions within the Department of Education in accordance with Sections 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k)

The Board took action on the following items during the Executive Session:

1. On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board unanimously approved on a 6 to 0 vote a non-monetary Settlement Agreement in the *E.H., et al. v. Mississippi Department of Education* case.
2. Dr. O. Wayne Gann made a motion to approve the Yazoo City Municipal School District Sustainability Plan with a provision that the accreditation of the district will be returned to the status that existed at the time that the district entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Education.
  - Mr. Johnny Franklin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, to amend the motion to add "that the school district will notify

the public and students.” The Board voted unanimously to amend the motion.

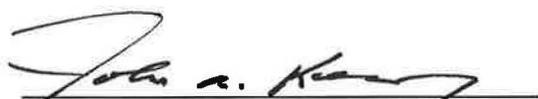
- On a motion by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board voted to approve the Sustainability Plan with the following two provisions added: The district will be returned to the status that existed at the time the district entered into the Memorandum of Understanding and that the school district will notify the public/students of the Sustainability Plan. The Board voted 6 to 0 to approve the Yazoo City Municipal School District Sustainability Plan.
3. On a motion by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved on a 6 to 0 vote to amend the May 16, 2014 approval of the contract with NCS Pearson, Inc. to administer the Partnership for Assessments of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments to change the method of award from sole source to an emergency procurement for a period of no longer than one year.

On motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the motion passed on a vote 6 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

The Board discussed procedures of the Board for amendments to the agenda and orientation of new Board members.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

Approved:

  
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Dr. John R. Kelly, Chair  
Mississippi Board of Education

  
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Dr. Carey M. Wright  
Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Board of Education

## Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

September 19, 2014

The regular meeting of the Mississippi Board of Education was held at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, September 19, 2014, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present were: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Ms. Kami Bumgarner, Mr. Johnny Franklin, Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Dr. John R. Kelly, Mr. Charles McClelland, and Mr. Danny J. Spreitler. Board members absent were: Mr. William H. Jones and Mr. Richard Morrison.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. John R. Kelly, Chair. Dr. Kelly noted the statement on the agenda that cellular telephones and pagers are not permitted during the Board meeting.

- I. Mr. Charles McClelland led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Dr. O. Wayne Gann gave the Invocation.
- II. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the August 14-15, 2014 Board meeting.

Dr. Kelly stated that Item 04 was reworded to read as follows: Approval to initiate the process to reconstitute Scott County School District that is in conservatorship and approve the resolution from the State Board of Education by finding that satisfactory corrective action has taken place and by requesting that the Governor declare that the emergency no longer exists in the district.

- III. On a motion by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved the revised agenda as presented.
- IV. Report of the Chair

Dr. Kelly reported that Dr. Carey M. Wright, Mr. Pete Smith, and the Chairman of the House Education Committee, and he attended the Data Conference in Boston, MA. Dr. Kelly reported that it was an excellent conference and the Board has work to do on managing data at the Department of Education. A plan of work will be completed and brought to the Board.

Dr. Kelly reported that Dr. Wright presented to the Gulf Coast Business Council and discussed Common Core. This Council is made up of the largest companies on the Coast that focus on policies and issues on the Coast.

Dr. Kelly reported that the Board voted yesterday in Executive Session on the following:

1. The Board approved to amend the May 16, 2014 approval of the contract with NCS Pearson, Inc. to administer the PARCC Assessments to change the method of award from sole source to an emergency procurement for a period of no longer than one year.
2. The Board approved a Sustainability Plan with Yazoo City Municipal School District.

Also, Dr. Kelly reported that at the Thursday work session, the Board discussed having a Finance Subcommittee. As stated in State Board Policy 1407, the Chairman shall appoint all committee members. Dr. Kelly stated that he will name the members of this committee and will send out the information to the Board members.

VI. Approval of Action Items

*(Items below are numbered to correspond to the items as discussed on Thursday, September 18, 2014.)*

04. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board unanimously approved to initiate the process to reconstitute Scott County School District that is in conservatorship and approve the resolution from the State Board of Education by finding that satisfactory corrective action has taken place and by requesting that the Governor declare that the emergency no longer exists in the district (copy attached).

**(Office of Chief School Performance Officer)**

07. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board approved of methodology to award competitive grants to school districts to support kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade literacy instruction and intensive intervention (copy attached).

**(Office of Chief Academic Officer)**

Members voting aye:

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman  
Ms. Kami Bumgarner  
Mr. Johnny Franklin  
Dr. O. Wayne Gann  
Mr. Charles McClelland

Members voting no:

Mr. Danny J. Spreitler

Member absent:

Mr. William H. Jones  
Mr. Richard Morrison

08. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved to establish the *2014 Mississippi Library Monitoring Rubric*. The item has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments that were presented to the Board (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief Academic Officer)**
09. On a motion by Mr. Danny J. Spreitler, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously approved the recommended score to determine minimum readiness for kindergarten (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief Academic Officer)**
10. On a motion by Mr. Danny J. Spreitler, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board unanimously approved to award competitive grants for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief Academic Officer)**
11. On a motion by Mr. Danny J. Spreitler, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the Title III reallocation methodology in accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief Academic Officer)**
12. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Ms. Kami Bumgarner, the Board unanimously approved to award a discretionary grant to Rankin County School District for the purpose of contracting with an Educator in Residence to provide consultative services and technical assistance (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief Academic Officer)**
13. On a motion by Mr. Danny J. Spreitler to postpone the revised methodology to award discretionary grant funds to school districts to provide partial funding for a universal reading screener in grades 1-3 and/or progress monitoring resources in grades K-3 until the October Board meeting, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved to postpone the item (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief Academic Officer)**
14. On a motion by Mr. Danny J. Spreitler, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board unanimously approved the appointments for Standing Commission on School District Efficiency (copy attached).  
**(Office of Chief Operations Officer)**
15. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board approved the following consent item on the following vote (copy attached):

- A. Approval of monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits

**(Office of Chief Operations Officer)**

Members voting aye: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman  
Ms. Kami Bumgarner  
Mr. Johnny Franklin  
Dr. O. Wayne Gann  
Mr. Charles McClelland

Members voting no: Mr. Danny J. Spreitler

Member absent: Mr. William H. Jones  
Mr. Richard Morrison

VII. Recognition Ceremony

**2014 Mississippi Parent of the Year Congressional District Finalists**

Pammie Davidson, Houlika, MS

1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District Parent of the Year

Alison McMullen, Madison, MS

2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District Parent of the Year

Arcola Wilson-Sullivan, Natchez, MS

3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District Parent of the Year

**2014 Mississippi Parent of the Year**

Jane Moore, Ocean Springs

**2014 September Employee of the Month**

Monique Corley

Office of Procurement

Educ-Specialist, Senior

VIII. State Board of Education

01. There was no report on meetings attended.

02. There was no request to attend a meeting.

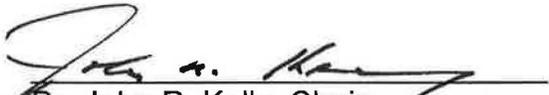
IX. Other Business

There was no other business.

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 a.m.

Approved:

  
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Dr. John R. Kelly, Chair  
Mississippi Board of Education

  
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Dr. Carey M. Wright  
Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Board of Education