

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

November 12, 2014

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a work session at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 in the 4th Floor Boardroom of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. The Board meeting immediately followed the work session. Board members present were: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Ms. Kami Bumgarner, Mr. Johnny Franklin, Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Dr. John R. Kelly, Mr. Richard Morrison, and Mr. Danny J. Spreitler. Board members absent were: Mr. William H. Jones and Mr. Charles McClelland. Ms. Kami Bumgarner did not return after lunch.

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.

01. Dr. Carey M. Wright gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:
 - Dr. Wright presented at the Mississippi Association of School Administrators (MASA) Conference and met with administrators from across the state.
 - Dr. Wright gathered a group of stakeholders to meet about education issues. It was a productive meeting that gave everyone an opportunity to learn about each other's priorities. Representatives from the Mississippi School Boards Association, the Mississippi Association of Educators, Mississippi Building Blocks, the Parents Campaign, the Special Education Task Force, IHLs, and Southern Echo were present.
 - Dr. Wright presented at the Mississippi Delta Strategic Compact's Conference on early childhood development. This conference included lawmakers, policy makers, service providers, and education and health advocates.
 - Dr. Wright held her monthly meeting with the Superintendent's Advisory Council. Dr. Wright updated the Council on the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for a state assessment to be implemented in 2015-16 and discussed the results of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and the implications for districts.
 - Dr. Wright reported that she presented at the Mississippi School Boards Association Conference.
02. Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Chair of the Academic Achievement PreK-12 Subcommittee, reported this subcommittee discussed the third grade gate screening and the proposed athletic track for the Mississippi School for the Blind and the Mississippi School for the Deaf.
03. Mr. Pat Ross and the Conservators gave a report on the accreditation status and accountability of each conservator district.

- A. Leflore County School District
Mr. Bob Strebeck, Conservator for Leflore County School District, reported a conservatorship had been established in the district about one year ago. The district was 18 months behind on their bank reconciliations and Ms. Suzanne Smith was hired as the Business Manager to get the district current. The district was out of compliance with 27 standards and as of now has cleared 25 standards. Mr. Strebeck thanked the Department for the Literacy Coach. Mr. Strebeck reported that having a Literacy Coach has been a very positive opportunity and progress was being made.

- B. Oktibbeha County School District
Dr. Margie Pulley, Conservator for Oktibbeha County School District, stated that they have cleared all 29 violations and the district will be Accredited when the upgrade is approved by the Commission on School Accreditation. Dr. Pulley stated they are beginning renovations on the two elementary schools in Oktibbeha County. Dr. Pulley also reported that she is working with the Starkville School District on the consolidation that will take place on July 1, 2015.

- C. Claiborne County School District
Dr. Jayne Sargent, Conservator for Claiborne County School District, stated they were in violation of 27 of the 37 standards at the time the conservatorship was established. All standards are now cleared. Dr. Sargent stated that the school buildings are old and are in need of repair. Dr. Sargent has put some cost saving practices in place, not only with the assistant teachers but also with the administrators and central office staff. Dr. Sargent stated that all Department offices have provided help to the district.

- D. Scott County School District
Mr. Charles Boyles, Conservator for Scott County School District, stated that when the conservatorship was established the district was in violation of 27 standards. They have cleared 24 standards as of now and are working on clearing the remaining violations. Mr. Boyles stated the district had some issues with special education and with the help of the Department, all the issues have been corrected. Mr. Boyles stated that there was no strategic plan. Mr. Boyles noted there was no curriculum department in the district and nothing had been done with College and Career-Ready Standards. The College and Career-Ready Standards have been implemented and the teachers and parents have accepted the curriculum.

- E. Aberdeen School District
Mr. John M. Curlee, III, Conservator for Aberdeen School District, stated that when the state established a conservatorship, the district was out of compliance with 31 of 37 standards. Mr. Curlee stated that all standards

have been cleared and the district will be Accredited when the upgrade is approved by the Commission on School Accreditation. Mr. Curlee credited Mr. Strebeck for his hard work as the first Conservator when the district was placed in conservatorship. Mr. Curlee has put some cost saving measures into place such as using Kelly Services for substitute teachers and has approved only required travel.

The Board had questions for each conservator about budgets, taxes, buildings, and accreditation.

04. Mr. Ross discussed the contract with Dr. Bob Thompson to facilitate the Mississippi Superintendents Academy. The Board discussed contracting with Dr. Thompson and building capacity with the Department. Mr. Ross recommended approval.
05. Mr. Ross discussed modifying contracts for the following conservators. Mr. Ross recommended approval.
 - A. Discussion to modify contract for Conservator for Aberdeen School District
 - B. Discussion to modify contract for Conservator for Oktibbeha County School District
 - C. Discussion to modify contract for Conservator for Claiborne County School District
 - D. Discussion to modify contract for Conservator for Leflore County School District
 - E. Discussion of modify contract for Conservator for Scott County School District
06. Mr. Ross discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish the New Start School Program Regulations as per Section 37-167-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended. The Board discussed the New Start School Comprehensive Plan of Improvement that would have to completed by each school. Mr. Ross recommended approval.
07. Mr. Ross, Mr. Todd Ivey, and Ms. Donna Nester discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Process Standards 4 and 5 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2014*. Mr. Ross recommended approval.
08. Mr. Ross discussed establishing the accreditation audit procedures that may lead to the declaration of a State of Emergency in accordance with Sections 37-17-6 (12)(a) and 37-17-6 (12)(b) of the *Mississippi Code of 1972*, as amended. The item has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment. The Board discussed the procedures. Mr. Ross recommended approval.

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09. Mr. Ross and Mr. Mike Kent discussed revising Accreditation Policy 2.9.2, *Penalty for the Withdrawal of Accreditation*, of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2014*. The item has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment. Mr. Ross recommended approval.
10. Dr. Kim Benton discussed the Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) hosting a summer arts camp and participating in the summer meals program. Dr. Benton recommended approval.
11. Mr. Todd Ivey discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise State Board Policy 3400 – Rules and Regulations Regarding the Administration of Funds Appropriated for Education Enhancement Funds for Classroom Supplies and Materials. Mr. Ivey recommended approval.
12. Mr. Ivey and Mr. Scott Clements discussed modifying the contract with Communication Arts Company to provide consultative services to the Office of Child Nutrition relating to the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. Mr. Ivey recommended approval.
13. Mr. Ivey and Mr. Bo Surrell, Financial Advisor for Carroll County School District, discussed removing the financial advisor from the Carroll County School District. Mr. Ivey recommended approval.
14. Dr. Benton, Ms. Jo Ann Malone, and Ms. Suzanne Edwards discussed beginning preliminary work for the construction of a track and field facility at the Mississippi School for the Blind and the Mississippi School for the Deaf. Dr. Benton recommended approval.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:15 a.m. and reconvened at 12:00 noon. Ms. Kami Bumgarner did not return after lunch.

15. Dr. Benton and Mr. Vincent Segalini discussed modifying the contract with Renaissance Learning, Inc. for the Mississippi K-3 Assessment Support System (MKAS²). Dr. Benton recommended approval.
16. 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)
 - B. Discussion to revise State Board Policy 1710 - Reporting Infractions (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment) (Todd Ivey)

There was no discussion on the consent agenda.

17. Consideration of Executive Session

Mr. Richard Morrison moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session with respect to litigation, prospective litigation, and personnel issues in accordance with Mississippi Code Sections 25-41-7 (4)(a), (b), and (k). The motion was seconded by Mr. Danny J. Spreitler, and the motion passed on a vote of 5 to 0.

Mr. Richard Morrison 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), 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 Session 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k). Mr. Danny J. Spreitler, seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 5 to 0.

Dr. Kelly stated the following to remain in the Executive Session: Dr. Carey M. Wright, Executive Leadership Team, Ms. Kathy Boteler, Ms. Heather Deaton, Mr. Joel Jones, Ms. Sonya Amis, Ms. Gretchen Cagle, Ms. Cerissa Neal, and Ms. Donna Hales. 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 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), 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 Session 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. Danny J. Spreitler, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved on a 5 to 0 vote to appoint Mr. Brian B. Dickerson as Bureau Director II, to serve as Program Evaluator at a salary of \$84,000.00.

2. On a motion by Mr. Danny J. Spreitler, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved on a 5 to 0 vote to appoint Dr. Charles Secolsky as Bureau Director II, to serve as Program Evaluator at a salary of \$84,000.00.
3. On a motion by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved on a 5 to 0 vote to appoint Mr. Nathan Oakley as Education Associate Superintendent to serve in the Office of Elementary Education and Reading at a salary of \$113,964.00.
4. On a motion by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved on a 5 to 0 vote to appoint Dr. Cerissa Neal as Education Associate Superintendent to serve in the Office of Educator Quality at a salary of \$113,964.00.
5. On a motion by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved on a 5 to 0 vote to appoint Dr. Paula Vanderford as Education Associate Superintendent to serve in the Office of Accreditation and Accountability at a salary of \$113,964.00.
6. On a motion by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, seconded by Mr. Danny J. Spreitler, the Board unanimously approved on a 5 to 0 vote to approve a joint motion to consolidate the desegregation cases in Oktibbeha County School District and the Starkville Municipal School District.

On a motion by Mr. Richard Morrison, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the motion passed on a vote 5 to 0 to come out of Executive Session. Ms. Kathy Boteler informed the public of the Board's decision to come out of Executive Session.

Immediately following the work session

- I. The meeting was called to order by Dr. John R. Kelly.
- II. Dr. O. Wayne Gann led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman gave the Innovation.
- III. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the October 16-17, 2014 Board meeting.

- IV. Dr. John R. Kelly recognized Mr. Danny J. Spreitler who suggested the wording on the contracts for the conservators, items 5.A. – 5.E., be amended as follows:

- Review the district's total financial obligations and operations and implement cost savings (instead of recommendations to the district for cost savings)
- Report quarterly to the State Board of Education (instead of reporting periodically)

On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. Danny J. Spreitler, the Board unanimously approved the additions to the Board agenda.

On a motion by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, seconded by Mr. Danny J. Spreitler, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

- V. Report of the Chair

Dr. Kelly reported that in the Executive Session, the Board approved the following:

1. Appointment of Mr. Brian B. Dickerson as Bureau Director II, to serve as Program Evaluator.
2. Appointment of Dr. Charles Secolsky as Bureau Director II, to serve as Program Evaluator.
3. Appointment of Mr. Nathan Oakley as Education Associate Superintendent to serve in the Office of Elementary Education and Reading.
4. Appointment of Dr. Cerissa Neal as Education Associate Superintendent to serve in the Office of Educator Quality.
5. Appointment of Dr. Paula Vanderford as Education Associate Superintendent to serve in the Office of Accreditation and Accountability.
6. Approved a joint motion to consolidate the desegregation cases in Oktibbeha County School District and the Starkville Municipal School District.

- VI. Approval of Action Items

(Items below are numbered to correspond to the items as discussed earlier today.)

04. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board unanimously approved to contract with Dr. Bob Thompson to facilitate the Mississippi Superintendents Academy (copy attached).
(Office of Chief School Performance Officer)

05. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board unanimously approved to modify contracts with the amended language for the following conservators (copy attached):
 - A. Approval to modify contract for Conservator for Aberdeen School District
 - B. Approval to modify contract for Conservator for Oktibbeha County School District
 - C. Approval to modify contract for Conservator for Claiborne County School District
 - D. Approval to modify contract for Conservator for Leflore County School District
 - E. Approval of modify contract for Conservator for Scott County School District**(Office of Chief School Performance Officer)**

06. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish the New Start School Program Regulations as per Section 37-167-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended (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 unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Process Standards 4 and 5 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2014* (copy attached).
(Office of Chief School Performance Officer)

08. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board unanimously approved to establish the accreditation audit procedures that may lead to the declaration of a State of Emergency in accordance with Sections 37-17-6 (12)(a) and 37-17-6 (12)(b) of the *Mississippi Code of 1972*, as amended. The item cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment (copy attached).
(Office of Chief School Performance Officer)

09. On a motion by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board voted to revise Accreditation Policy 2.9.2, *Penalty for the Withdrawal of Accreditation*, of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2014*. The item cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment (copy attached).
(Office of Chief School Performance Officer)

Members voting aye: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman
Dr. O. Wayne Gann
Mr. Richard Morrison
Mr. Danny J. Spreitler
Dr. John R. Kelly

Members voting no: Mr. Johnny Franklin

Member absent: Ms. Kami Bumgarner
Mr. William H. Jones
Mr. Charles McClelland

10. On a motion by Mr. Danny J. Spreitler, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously approved the Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) to host a summer arts camp and participate in the summer meals program.
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)
11. On a motion by Mr. Danny J. Spreitler, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise State Board Policy 3400 – Rules and Regulations Regarding the Administration of Funds Appropriated for Education Enhancement Funds for Classroom Supplies and Materials (copy attached).
(Office of Chief Operations Officer)
12. On a motion by Mr. Danny J. Spreitler, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to modify contract with Communication Arts Company to provide consultative services to the Office of Child Nutrition relating to the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs (copy attached).
(Office of Chief Operations Officer)
13. On a motion by Mr. Danny J. Spreitler, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to remove the financial advisor from the Carroll County School District.
(Office of Chief Operations Officer)
14. On a motion by Mr. Danny J. Spreitler, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board unanimously approved for the Mississippi School for the Blind and the Mississippi School for the Deaf to begin preliminary work for the construction of a track and field facility (copy attached).
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)

Dr. John R. Kelly recused himself from the Board meeting and Mr. Richard Morrison served as Chair during voting on item 15.

15. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. Danny J. Spreitler, the Board unanimously approved to modify contract with Renaissance Learning, Inc. for the Mississippi K-3 Assessment Support System (MKAS²).
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)

Dr. Kelly returned to the meeting.

16. On a motion by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously approved the following consent agenda items (copy attached).
 - A. Approval of monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits
(Office of Chief Operations Officer)
 - B. Approval to revise State Board Policy 1710 - Reporting Infractions (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment)
(Office of Chief Operations Officer)

VII. State Board of Education

01. Mr. Johnny Franklin reported that on October 30, 2014, he toured the Coahoma Agricultural High School in Clarksdale, Mississippi with Ms. Jean Massey and Ms. Julie Jordan. The agricultural strand in the school curriculum prepares for jobs or careers in the community.
02. Dr. John R. Kelly stated that he would need approval for a trip to The Foundation for Excellence in Education in Washington, D.C. He would be attending the summit along with Dr. Carey M. Wright, Mr. Pete Smith, and Senator Gray Tollison.

On a motion by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved for Dr. Kelly to attend The Foundation for Excellence in Education in Washington, D.C.

VIII. Other Business

Dr. John R. Kelly reminded the Board members of the November 17, 2014 Special-Called Board meeting to review the Mississippi Department of Education's Strategic Plan. The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. in Suite 311.

Dr. Kelly stated that the Finance Subcommittee would meet immediately following the Board meeting.

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Dr. Kelly stated there would be an orientation session in January 2015 from the Mississippi Department of Education staff. Ms. Sonya Amis has sent out a form for Board members to complete and return to her to prepare the agenda for the meeting.

Dr. Kelly stated that the training held last Wednesday from the Executive Director of National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) provided information on how high performing boards go about their work. Seven of the nine Board members attended the training.

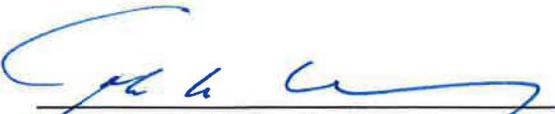
Dr. Kelly informed the Board that the December Board meeting will be held December 18-19, 2014.

Dr. Kelly stated that the Board would join the Mississippi Department of Education in collecting funds for The Salvation Army Angel Tree. This program helps provide Christmas to children ages 12 and under. This is to help children in the state who are less fortunate.

IX. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 1:26 p.m.

Approved:



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



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