

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

December 17, 2015

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 17, 2015, in the Board Room at South Pointe Building, 500 Clinton Center Drive, Clinton, Mississippi. Board members present were: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Mr. Buddy Bailey, Dr. Jason S. Dean, Dr. Karen J. Elam, Mr. Johnny Franklin, Mr. William H. Jones, Dr. John R. Kelly, and Mr. Charles McClelland. Board member absent was: Ms. Kami Bumgarner.

- I. The Board 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 meeting.
- II. Mr. Buddy Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Charles McClelland gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of November 19, 2015.
- IV. On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as presented.
- V. Recognition Ceremony

2015 National Blue Ribbon School

Casey Elementary School
Jackson Public School District

2015 December Employee of the Month

Keith Robinson
School Attendance Officer
Compulsory School Attendance

State Board Member

Richard Morrison

Mr. Richard Morrison was recognized for serving on the State Board of Education for three years. He was appointed to the Board by Governor Phil Bryant. Mr. Morrison has served as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, and assistant superintendent in various districts across Mississippi. Dr. Kim Benton read a Resolution from the State Board thanking Mr. Richard Morrison for his

service on the State Board and for his service to all children in Mississippi (copy attached).

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

- Dr. Wright stated she spoke at several speaking engagements with the focus on the State Board's strategic plan and initiatives. The engagements included:
 - Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Annual Policy Forum in Charlotte, North Carolina about the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the future accountability systems;
 - Education Commission of the States (ECS) Winter Commissioners' Meeting in Austin, Texas where Mississippi was only one of six states invited to participate in a dual enrollment initiative; and
 - Stop the Drop Summit which was sponsored by Mississippi Public Broadcasting where the focus areas were increasing graduation rate and cradle to career education.
- Dr. Wright stated she attended the Charter Authorizer Board meeting where one charter, Joel E. Smilow Collegiate, is delaying opening by one year and the other charter schools will open as scheduled.
- Dr. Wright stated the Achievement School District Task Force held the last meeting and the group worked hard and reviewed an enormous amount of data and will bring the recommendations to the State Board in January.
- Dr. Wright stated she visited the PreK program in Pearl and commended Mr. Ray Morgigno for a job well done.
- Dr. Wright recognized Dr. Nathan Oakley and Dr. Shelita Brown on obtaining their doctoral degrees.
- Dr. Wright recognized Ms. Linda Golden on her retirement from the Department with 28 years of service.
- Dr. Wright stated the Spotlight for this Board meeting is South Jones High School in the Jones County School District who has fully embraced the Mississippi College and Career Ready Standards. A video was shown of inside the classroom of 7th grade English language arts teacher, Jennifer Valentine, NBCT, where great teaching and learning take place each day. Ms. Valentine was one of the 60 Mississippi educators who served on the Mississippi College and Career Ready Standards Review Committee. The Committee evaluated the comments received from the public on the Standards.

VII. Dr. John R. Kelly gave the following report as the Chair of the State Board:

- Dr. Kelly stated that he has served for the last three years on the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Government Affairs

Committee. Dr. Kelly stated the committee has worked with legislators on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization and it has been signed.

- VIII. Dr. Karen J. Elam reported from the Academic Achievement PreK-12 Subcommittee that met on Wednesday prior to the Board meeting. Dr. Elam reported that the committee received reviews from the Standard Committee. Dr. Elam stated that Dr. Kim Benton will take the Standards to the Board meeting for approval.

Mr. Johnny Franklin stated that Mr. Buddy Bailey, Dr. Jason S. Dean, and he held the Finance Subcommittee by teleconference. The committee discussed the FY 17 Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP), the FY 18 Budget submission, and the December report of monthly contracts that will be presented later in the Board meeting.

Mr. William H. Jones and Dr. John R. Kelly reported from the School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee. Mr. Jones stated the committee was given an update on the Holmes County/Durant report; report on the non-public accreditation statuses; report on test scores; and an update on Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). These items will be discussed later in the Board meeting.

IX. Discussion of Board Items

01. Mr. Pat Ross and Mr. Mike Kent reported on Holmes/Durant consolidation process [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 – MDE Strategic Plan]. The Report from the Commission on Holmes-Durant Consolidated School District Structure was presented to the Board.
02. Mr. Ross and Dr. Paula Vanderford discussed the nonpublic school accreditation statuses for School Year 2015-2016 [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 – MDE Strategic Plan]. Mr. Ross recommended approval.
03. Mr. Ross discussed the appointment of Conservator for Leflore County School District [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 – MDE Strategic Plan]. Mr. Ross recommended approval.
04. Mr. Ross discussed the contract for Conservator for Leflore County School District [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 – MDE Strategic Plan]. Mr. Ross recommended approval.

05. Dr. Kim Benton, Ms. Victoria Johnson, and Dr. Marla Davis discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish the *2016 Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards* [Goals 1 and 2 – MDE Strategic Plan]. The Board discussed the revisions. Dr. Benton recommended approval.
06. Dr. Benton and Ms. Trecina Green discussed awarding competitive grants for the Mathematics and Science Partnerships Program [Goal 4 – MDE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Benton recommended approval.
07. Dr. Benton and Ms. Green discussed modifying the contract with Cambium Education, Inc., dba Sopris Learning, for Fiscal Year 2016 for the operation of the Mississippi K-3 Literacy Professional Development Training System [Goals 1 and 4 – MDE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Benton recommended approval.
08. Dr. Benton, Ms. Gretchen Cagle, and Ms. JoAnn Malone reported on the State Plan to transition from English Braille American Edition (EBAE) to Unified English Braille (UEB) [Goal 4 – MDE Strategic Plan].
09. Dr. J. P. Beaudoin discussed beginning the Administrative Procedure Act process in order to amend the license code 101 requirements for student interns in Mississippi teacher preparation programs to reflect language of Mississippi Code 37-3-2 [Goal 4 – MDE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Beaudoin recommended approval.
10. Dr. Beaudoin and Dr. Benton reported on the 2014-15 statewide and district test scores in English and math grades 3-8, Kindergarten readiness (MKAS2), and ACT [Goal 1 – MDE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Beaudoin recognized his staff. The Board discussed the test scores.

Dr. Kelly asked for the Board to amend the agenda so Tab 3 – Election of Vice-Chair could be considered by the entire Board. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the agenda was amended.

Mr. Charles McClelland nominated Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman as Vice Chair. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland and voted on by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board approved Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman as the Vice Chair.

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:29 a.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

11. Dr. Beaudoin reported on the Mississippi Statewide Assessment's for SY 2015-16 interim procedures [Goals 1 and 2 – MDE Strategic Plan].
12. Dr. Beaudoin, Mr. Tollie Thigpen, and Mr. Tarance Hart reported on the Reauthorization of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 and the impact on the Accountability System in Mississippi [Goals 1 and 2 – MDE Strategic Plan].

Dr. Karen J. Elam left the Board meeting at 2:04 p.m.

13. Dr. John Q. Porter discussed amending the contract with Ciber, Inc. to continue to provide network services for the public school districts in the state of Mississippi [Goal 5 – MDE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Porter recommended approval.
14. Mr. Todd Ivey and Ms. Donna Nester discussed the adjusted estimate of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program Base Student Cost for Fiscal Year 2017 [Goals 4 and 5 – MDE Strategic Plan]. Mr. Ivey recommended approval.
15. Mr. Ivey and Ms. Nester discussed the adjusted estimate of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program for Fiscal Year 2017 [Goals 4 and 5 – MDE Strategic Plan]. Mr. Ivey recommended approval.
16. Dr. Benton and Ms. Gretchen Cagle reported on the *Equal Opportunity for Students with Special Needs Act* [Goal 1 – MDE Strategic Plan].
17. Dr. Kelly gave the Board an opportunity to discuss the following consent agenda items.
 - A. Monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits (Todd Ivey)
 - B. Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (MSMS) Advisory Board appointments (Kim Benton)

X. Approval of Action Items

02. On a motion by Dr. Jason S. Dean, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously approved the nonpublic school accreditation statuses for School Year 2015-2016 [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 – MDE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).
(Office of Chief School Performance Officer)
03. On a motion by Dr. Jason S. Dean, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Ilean Richards as Conservator for Leflore County School District [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 – MDE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).
(Office of Chief School Performance Officer)
04. On a motion by Dr. Jason S. Dean, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously approved the contract for Dr. Ilean Richards as Conservator for Leflore County School District [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 – MDE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).
(Office of Chief School Performance Officer)
05. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish the *2016 Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards* [Goals 1 and 2 – MDE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)
06. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board unanimously approved to award competitive grants for the Mathematics and Science Partnerships Program [Goal 4 – MDE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)
07. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board unanimously approved to modify the contract with Cambium Education, Inc., dba Sopris Learning, for Fiscal Year 2016 for the operation of the Mississippi K-3 Literacy Professional Development Training System [Goals 1 and 4 – MDE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)
09. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process in order to amend the license code 101 requirements for student

interns in Mississippi teacher preparation programs to reflect language of Mississippi Code 37-3-2 [Goal 4 – MDE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).

(Office of Chief Research Development Officer)

13. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board unanimously approved to amend the contract with Ciber, Inc. to continue to provide network services for the public school districts in the state of Mississippi [Goal 5 – MDE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).
(Office of Chief Information Officer)

14. On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously approved the adjusted estimate of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program Base Student Cost for Fiscal Year 2017 [Goals 4 and 5 – MDE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).
(Office of Chief Operations Officer)

15. On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously approved the adjusted estimate of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program for Fiscal Year 2017 [Goals 4 and 5 – MDE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).
(Office of Chief Operations Officer)

17. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the following consent agenda items: A and B (copy attached).

A. Monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits

(Office of Chief Operations Officer)

B. Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (MSMS) Advisory Board appointments: Mr. Chance Theriot (Non-Public Parochial School Representative) and Mr. Cloyd Garth, Jr. (Practicing Secondary School)

(Office of Chief Academic Officer)

IX. Consideration of Executive Session

Mr. William H. Jones moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, and the motion passed on a vote of 6 to 0.

Mr. William H. Jones, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss discrete personnel matters related to the job performance of persons holding specific positions in the Department of Education in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k) and discussion of a strategy session or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation involving the Department and the issuance of an appealable order in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(b). Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman 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. Raina Lee, and Ms. Erin Meyer. Ms. Meyer informed the public of the Board's vote to go into Executive Session for the above-stated reasons.

Minutes of the Executive Session

During the Executive Session, the Board discussed discrete personnel matters related to the job performance of persons holding specific positions in the Department of Education in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k) and discussion of a strategy session or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation involving the Department and the issuance of an appealable order in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(b).

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

01. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board approved on a 5 to 1 vote to modify the contract with Butler Snow, LLP to assist with the preparation and filing of administrative complaints and conducting administrative hearings and any related appeals involving test irregularities for a modified contract cost of \$350,000.00.

Members voting aye: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman
Mr. Buddy Bailey
Dr. Jason S. Dean
Mr. Johnny Franklin
Mr. Charles McClelland

Member voting nay: Mr. William H. Jones

Members absent: Ms. Kami Bumgarner
Dr. Karen J. Elam

02. On a motion by Mr. William H. Jones, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board approved on a 6 to 0 vote to appoint Mr. Kendell N. Churchwell as Bureau Director II to serve as Lead Project Manager and Accountability in the Office of Technology and Strategic Services at a salary of \$84,000.00.
03. On a motion by Mr. William H. Jones, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board approved on a 6 to 0 vote to appoint Ms. Debra Hines as Bureau Director II to serve as Director of the Office of Administration and Budgets in the Office of Technology and Strategic Services at a salary of \$84,000.00.

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman left the meeting at 4:19 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. William H. Jones, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board voted 5 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

The public came back into the Board meeting and Dr. Kelly reported the actions taken during the Executive Session.

XII. State Board of Education

1. There was no report from a meeting attended
2. There was no request to attend a meeting.

XIII. Other Business

Dr. Kelly stated the January Board meeting will be held January 21, 2016.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

Approved:



John R. Kelly, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education