

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

September 17, 2015

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 17, 2015, in the South Pointe Building, 4th Floor Boardroom, 500 Clinton Center Drive, Clinton, Mississippi. Board members present were: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Dr. Jason S. Dean, Dr. Karen J. Elam, Mr. Johnny Franklin, Mr. Richard Morrison, and Mr. Charles McClelland. Board members absent were: Ms. Kami Bumgarner, Mr. William H. Jones, and Dr. John R. Kelly.

- I. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Richard Morrison, Vice-Chair. Mr. Morrison noted the statement on the agenda that cellular telephones and pagers are not permitted during the meeting. Mr. Morrison stated he was acting as Chair in the absence of Dr. Kelly who was out of the country for business.

Mr. Morrison recognized Dr. Jason S. Dean as the new State Board member.

Dr. Dean stated he worked at Tenax Aerospace LLC and is from Madison, Mississippi. Dr. Dean stated he looked forward to working with the Board and thanked Lt. Governor Tate Reeves for the appointment.

Mr. Morrison recognized special guests in the audience: Dr. Lynn Weathersby, Superintendent of Rankin County School District for the past 16 years; Mr. Doug Copeland with Mississippi School Counselors Association; Ms. Laurie Smith from the Governor's Office; and Ms. Erika Berry from the Lt. Governor's Office.

Mr. Morrison noted that the proposed agenda was amended by moving the Invocation, Recognition Ceremony, and other items to the beginning of the meeting.

- II. Mr. Charles McClelland lead the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of August 20, 2015.
- IV. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as amended.

V. Recognition Ceremony

National Recognized American School Counselor Association Model Program (RAMP)

Brandon Elementary School, Rankin County School District

Stonebridge Elementary School, Rankin County School District

Dr. Lynn Weathersby, Superintendent, Rankin County School District

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

- Dr. Wright welcomed the new State Board member, Dr. Jason S. Dean.
- Dr. Wright stated she spoke at several speaking engagements with the focus on the State Board's strategic plan and initiatives, and sharing the good things happening across our state in education. Dr. Wright was interviewed on the Jackson Public Schools public access channel; spoke at the School Attendance Officers' Annual Conference where she stressed the importance of their job to decrease absenteeism and address chronic absenteeism; spoke at Gulfport Connections Breakfast; and spoke at the luncheon of the Capital Area Professional Women.
- Dr. Wright toured the Children's Center in Hattiesburg serving pre-Kindergarten students with disabilities.
- Dr. Wright stated she attended the Education Achievement Council meeting where Ms. Jean Massey made a presentation regarding initiatives related to college/career readiness and the goals of the Strategic Plan.
- Dr. Wright toured the Toyota plant where the company is willing to work with the Department to replicate their advanced manufacturing technician program around the state.
- Dr. Wright stated an opportunity from National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) to apply for a grant over two years to work with other states to evaluate, make revisions, and the adoption of policies focused on our standards and engaging in standards-related decision-making. Dr. Wright stated more information will be available soon.
- Dr. Wright recognized Ms. Jean Cook, Ms. Patrice Guilfoyle, and Mr. Andy Royes for their work on the SPOTLIGHT video.
- Dr. Wright recognized Ms. Cassandra Moore and the Office of Human Resources for their work on getting staff hired in an efficient and expeditious manner.
- Dr. Wright recognized Ms. Toni Kersh from the tremendous feedback from the School Attendance Officers' Conference. Ms. Kersh continues to reinforce the importance of their work.
- Dr. Wright stated the Spotlight for this Board meeting is Mississippi Math in Action: Higher Expectations, Higher Achievement. Della Davidson Elementary School in the Oxford School District has fully embraced the Mississippi College and Career-Ready Standards. Teachers, administrators, and students are

achieving more because they have raised expectations for what is possible. Ms. Patches Calhoun, 4th grade math teacher at Della Davidson Elementary School takes viewers into her math classroom where great teaching and learning take place every day.

VII. There was no report from the Chair.

VIII. Mr. Johnny Franklin reported from the Academic Achievement PreK-12 Subcommittee that met Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Franklin reported that the committee reviewed the Special Education Report and the feedback on the Mississippi College and Career-Ready Standards.

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman reported from the Legislative Subcommittee that met before the Board meeting to discuss the items that will be presented to the Legislative Budget Office on Monday. The Committee also discussed how the budget request applies to the Mississippi Department of Education strategic plan.

IX. Discussion of Board Items

04. Mr. Pat Ross and Mr. Mike Kent reported on the Holmes/Durant consolidation process and answered questions from Board members.

05. Dr. Kim Benton and Ms. Patrice Guilfoyle reported on the results from the Mississippi College and Career-Ready Standards Feedback Forum [Goals 1 and 2 – MDE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Benton and Ms. Guilfoyle stated that more than 90 percent of the participants in the Mississippi College and Career-Ready Standards Feedback Forum approved of the learning goals for students, according to the final results. Teachers, parents, administrators or school district staff, and representatives from the community at-large provided feedback on the Standards. Proposed changes to the Standards will be presented to the Board for consideration by December.

06. Dr. Benton and Ms. Jean Massey discussed the Spring 2015 ACT Results for 11th Grade [Goals 1 and 2 – MDE Strategic Plan]. The Board discussed the results and commended the staff on their work with the Institutions of Higher Learning and the Community Colleges.

07. Dr. Benton, Ms. Massey, and Ms. Wendy Clemons discussed the Advanced Placement in Mississippi [Goals 1 and 2 – MDE Strategic Plan]. The purpose of the discussion of Advanced Placement programming in Mississippi was to: (1) share the results that highlight what Mississippi educators and students have accomplished as of May 2015; (2) focus on where and how Mississippi might improve Advanced Placement programming and student performance; and (3) identify and dismantle

obstacles that prevent all students from realizing their full potential in Advanced Placement programming.

09. Dr. Benton and Ms. Gretchen Cagle discussed the Annual Report of the Mississippi Special Education Advisory Panel [Goal 4 – MDE Strategic Plan]. Ms. Cagle recognized three of the Special Education Advisory Panel members present: Mr. Roger Bullock, Mr. Johnny McGitt, and Ms. Nan Christian. The Panel made recommendations for Special Education to consider this year such as: addressing the accessibility of playgrounds for students with disability; making the Special Education section of the Mississippi Department of Education website more transparent and user-friendly; and submitted recommendations for State Board Policy 4013 – Restraint and Seclusion.

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:00 noon and reconvened at 12:57 p.m.

08. Dr. Benton, Mr. Nathan Oakley, and Dr. Jill Dent discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise the Mississippi Kindergarten Guidelines (2015) [Goal 3 – MDE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Benton recommended approval.
10. Dr. J. P. Beaudoin and Mr. Tollie Thigpen discussed establishing a combined minimum score for the end-of-course assessments that will serve as an additional option in meeting graduation requirements for students enrolled during the 2015-2016 school year as outlined in State Board Policy 3803 [Goal 2 – MDE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Beaudoin recommended approval.
11. Mr. Morrison gave the Board an opportunity to discuss the following consent agenda items. The Board requested to discuss items B and P.
 - A. Monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits (Todd Ivey)
 - B. Contract with Colyar Technology Solutions for the implementation and maintenance of Child Nutrition Management System software (Todd Ivey)
 - C. Award grants to school districts for school nurses as appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature and identified as the Mary Kirkpatrick-Haskell, Mary Sprayberry School Nurse Program (Todd Ivey)
 - D. Revise Process Standard 20 – *Instructional Management System of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2014* [Goals 2 and 4 – MDE Strategic Plan] (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment) (Pat Ross)

- E. Pupil Transportation Equipment Bids (Pat Ross)
- F. 2015-2016 Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science Employee Handbook (Kim Benton)
- G. Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science Wellness Plan (Kim Benton)
- H. 2015-2016 Mississippi School of the Arts Employee Handbook (Kim Benton)
- I. Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) to host arts camps each summer and participate in the summer meals program (Kim Benton)
- J. Mississippi School of the Arts Media Arts as a discipline of study (Kim Benton)
- K. Revise the policy requiring districts to implement a 3 tier instructional model (State Board Policy 4300 – Intervention) (Kim Benton)
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments)
- L. Contract with personnel to serve as literacy coaches in school districts (Kim Benton)
- M. Award discretionary Educator in Residence grants to school districts for literacy coaches (Kim Benton)
- N. Educator preparation programs as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (J.P. Beaudoin)
- O. Begin the Administrative Procedure Act process: To make the following changes to CTE endorsement codes as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development September 3, 2015 (J.P. Beaudoin)
- P. Continue with a Memorandum of Understanding with the Harvard College to participate in the Strategic Data Project (SDP) fellowship (John Q. Porter)

X. Approval of Action Items

08. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process with minor edits to the guidelines as requested by Dr. Elam: To revise the Mississippi Kindergarten Guidelines (2015) [Goal 3 – MDE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).

(Office of Chief Academic Officer)

10. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board approved the establishment of a combined minimum score of 646 for the end-of-course assessments that will serve as an additional option in meeting graduation requirements for students enrolled during the 2015-2016 school year as outlined in State Board Policy 3803 [Goal 2 – MDE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).

(Office of Chief of Research and Development)

Members voting aye: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman
Dr. Jason S. Dean
Dr. Karen J. Elam
Mr. Charles McClelland

Member voting nay: Mr. Johnny Franklin

Member absent: Ms. Kami Bumgarner
Mr. William H. Jones
Dr. John R. Kelly

11. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board unanimously approved the following consent items: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, and P.

- A. Monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits

(Office of Chief Operations Officer)

- B. Contract with Colyar Technology Solutions for the implementation and maintenance of Child Nutrition Management System software

(Office of Chief Operations Officer)

- C. Award grants to school districts for school nurses as appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature and identified as the Mary Kirkpatrick-Haskell, Mary Sprayberry School Nurse Program

(Office of Chief Operations Officer)

- D. Revise Process Standard 20 – *Instructional Management System of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2014* [Goals 2 and 4 – MDE Strategic Plan]
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comments)
(Office of Chief School Performance Officer)
- E. Pupil Transportation Equipment Bids
(Office of Chief School Performance Officer)
- F. 2015-2016 Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science Employee Handbook
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)
- G. Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science Wellness Plan
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)
- H. 2015-2016 Mississippi School of the Arts Employee Handbook
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)
- I. Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) to host arts camps each summer and participate in the summer meals program
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)
- J. Mississippi School of the Arts Media Arts as a discipline of study
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)
- K. Revise the policy requiring districts to implement a 3 tier instructional model (State Board Policy 4300 – Intervention)
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments)
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)
- L. Contract with personnel to serve as literacy coaches in school districts
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)
- M. Award discretionary Educator in Residence grants to school districts for literacy coaches
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)
- N. Educator preparation programs as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development
(Office of Chief of Research and Development)

- O. Begin the Administrative Procedure Act process: To make the following changes to CTE endorsement codes as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development September 3, 2015
(Office of Chief of Research and Development)
- P. Continue with a Memorandum of Understanding with the Harvard College to participate in the Strategic Data Project (SDP) fellowship
(Office of Chief Information Officer)

XI. Consideration of Executive Session

Mr. Johnny Franklin moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, and the motion passed on a vote of 5 to 0.

Mr. Johnny Franklin, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose 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 to discuss 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 5 to 0.

Mr. Morrison stated the following to remain in the Executive Session: Dr. Carey M. Wright, Executive Leadership Team, Ms. Raina Lee, Ms. Heather Deaton, Ms. Erin Meyer, and Ms. Beebe Garrard.

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 discussed 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 Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board approved on a 5 to 0 vote to appoint Ms. Rhonda Smith as Education Bureau Director II to serve in the Office of Accreditation at a salary of \$84,000.00.

02. On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board approved on a 5 to 0 vote to appoint Ms. Shakinna Patterson as Education Bureau Director II to serve in the Office of School Improvement at a salary of \$84,000.00.
03. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board approved on a 5 to 0 vote the salary adjustment for Mr. Quentin Ransburg, Education Bureau Manager, in the Office of Educational Accountability at a salary of \$100,000.00.
04. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board approved on a 5 to 0 vote to appoint Dr. Tarance Hart as Bureau Director II in the Office of School and Educator Accountability to serve as Director of Educator Accountability at a salary of \$84,000.00.
05. On a motion by Dr. Jason S. Dean, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board approved on a 5 to 0 vote to appoint Ms. Debra Price as Bureau Director II as Principal of the Mississippi School for the Arts (MSA) at a salary of \$75,000.00.
06. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board approved on a 5 to 0 vote to appoint Dr. Sonja J. Robertson as Bureau Director II in the Office of Federal Programs at a salary of \$84,000.00.
07. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board approved on a 5 to 0 vote the salary adjustment for Ms. Jean Massey, Executive Director of the Office of Secondary Education at a salary of \$120,802.00.

On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the motion passed on a vote of 5 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

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

XII. State Board of Education

1. There were no report on meetings attended.
2. There was no request of attendance at meetings.

XIII. Other Business

The October Board meeting will be October 15, 2015.

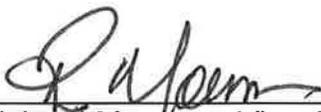
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Mr. Morrison informed the Board that he has asked the Governor to appoint someone to take his place on the Board and he will serve until the new Board member is appointed. Mr. Morrison thanked the Board and wished them well.

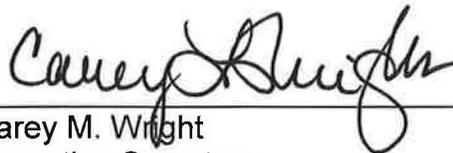
XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Approved:



Richard Morrison, Vice-Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education