Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

April 21, 2016

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 21, 2016, 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, Ms. Kami Bumgarner, Dr. Jason S. Dean, Dr. Karen J. Elam, Mr. Johnny Franklin, Mr. William H. Jones, Dr. John R. Kelly, and Mr. Charles McClelland. Dr. Carey M. Wright was also present.

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

Dr. Kelly stated that Dr. Jason S. Dean and Mr. Buddy Bailey were confirmed by the State Senate this week. Dr. Kelly welcomed them to the State Board of Education and gave each an opportunity to introduce themselves to the Board and the audience.

II. Dr. Karen J. Elam led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman gave the Invocation.

III. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. William H. Jones, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of March 17, 2016.

IV. On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Dr. Karen S. Elam, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

V. Recognition Ceremony

2016 April Employee of the Month
Floyd Chambers
School Attendance Officer
Office of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement

Literacy Coaches
The Literacy Coaches were recognized for their work with 65 districts from across Mississippi.

VI. Dr. Carey M. Wright gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:
Dr. Wright gave an update to the Board on the current FY 16 budget cuts and the upcoming FY 17 budget that has been approved. Dr. Wright stated that Mr. Todd Ivey is working on the Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP) funding for the last two months of this fiscal year due to the cuts. Dr. Wright stated that the Department will be able to carry over funds from FY 16 to FY 17. Dr. Wright stated that the Department will have to step back and look at the programs and re-evaluate what can be funded.

Dr. Wright stated she met with Governor Phil Bryant and presented the Mississippi Board of Education Strategic Plan. Dr. Wright stated that he was pleased with the progress and expressed his support for the Board’s priorities.

Dr. Wright stated she met with the former Michigan Governor John Engler, who is president of the Business Roundtable. Dr. Wright stated they discussed Mississippi’s implementation of the Literacy-Based Promotion Act and Mississippi’s Third Grade Gate.

Dr. Wright stated that she had the opportunity to visit one of Mississippi’s Charter Schools, Reimagine Prep. Dr. Wright stated if you have an opportunity to visit you should do so.

Dr. Wright stated that she and Mr. Pete Smith met with Senate Education Chairman Gray Tollison and House Education Chairman John Moore to provide them with information. Dr. Wright stated the chairmen were receptive to the input.

Dr. Wright stated she participated in the nation’s first Educator Equity Lab, which focuses on equitable access to high-quality, experienced teachers. Dr. Wright stated that Mississippi was selected to be the first host in a series of labs that will be held across the country. Dr. Wright stated Mississippi was selected based on the strength of the Department’s Mississippi Educator Equity Plan.

Dr. Wright stated two Regional Superintendent’s Meetings have been held and the other meetings will be finished by April 29, 2016. Dr. Wright stated she visited schools in Ocean Springs and the students were working on coding. Dr. Wright stated they were very excited about learning.

Dr. Wright recognized Dr. Sandra Edwards who is serving as the National President of the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf.

Dr. Wright introduced Mr. Pete Smith. Mr. Smith stated that the Legislature Session is over and he gave an update on the education bills that will impact the Department (copy attached).

Dr. Wright stated the Spotlight for this Board meeting is the Pathways2Possibilities (P2P). Dr. Wright stated this is an interactive career expo designed for all 8th graders to show them the career possibilities that available across the state. The P2P held one expo in Biloxi, Mississippi in 2015 and the second expo was held in the Delta area this year.
VII. Dr. John R. Kelly as the Chair of the State Board did not give a report.

VIII. Dr. Karen J. Elam stated that the Academic Achievement PreK-12 Subcommittee did not meet and the School Improvement Subcommittee will meet after the Board meeting.

Mr. Johnny Franklin reported from the Finance Subcommittee. Mr. Franklin stated that Dr. Jason S. Dean, Mr. Buddy Bailey, and Mr. Todd Ivey met by teleconference on Wednesday for Mr. Ivey to share the audit findings and the responses with the subcommittee.

Mr. William H. Jones stated that the Legislative Subcommittee did not meet.

Dr. Jason S. Dean reported from the Dashboard Reports Subcommittee. Dr. Dean stated he met with Dr. John Q. Porter and staff members and they are in the creative phase of looking at reports. Dr. Dean stated he will have the first meeting of the subcommittee next month.

Ms. Kami Bumgarner reported from the Educator Quality Subcommittee. Ms. Bumgarner stated that Dr. J.P. Beaudoin and Dr. Paula Vanderford met with the subcommittee to discuss items that will be presented to the Board today.

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman reported from the School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee. Ms. Aultman stated the subcommittee heard an update on the graduation rates, discussed some contracts to be approved, audit issues that resulted from MAGIC, and internal plan on audits.

IX. Discussion of Board Items

01. Dr. Carey M. Wright discussed State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 38, Rule 38.13 – Restraint and Seclusion [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]. The item has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments. Dr. Wright recommended approval.

02. Dr. Kim Benton discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish Part 3, Chapter 99, Rule 99.1 – Title IX Grievance Policy [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Benton recommended approval.

03. Dr. Benton discussed the National Industry Certifications to be used in the acceleration component of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Benton recommended approval.
04. Dr. J. P. Beaudoin and Dr. Paula Vanderford discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise Part 24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*, specifically, the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System effective school year 2015-2016 [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Beaudoin recommended approval.

05. Dr. Beaudoin discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise Part 3, Chapter 36, Rule 36.4: Assessments Required for Graduation [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Beaudoin recommended approval.

06. Dr. Beaudoin and Dr. Vanderford discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process to repeal Part 3, Chapter 75, Rule 75.1: Residency Verification [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Beaudoin recommended approval.

07. Dr. Beaudoin and Dr. Vanderford discussed the recommendations on exceptions to pupil-teacher ratio requirements for grades 1-4 [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Beaudoin recommended approval.

08. Dr. Beaudoin discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process to establish Part 3, Chapter 14, Rule 14.6.2: Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure Development [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Beaudoin recommended approval.

09. Dr. Beaudoin and Dr. Vanderford discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to require eligible teachers in Elementary Alternate Route Programs to pass the *Foundations of Reading* assessment with a passing scale score of 229 for Endorsement Code 117 effective July 1, 2017 [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Beaudoin recommended approval.

10. Dr. Beaudoin discussed changing the requirements for participants in alternate route programs to pass the Praxis Core and Praxis II assessments [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]. The item has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comment. Dr. Beaudoin recommended approval.

11. Dr. Beaudoin discussed revising *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to require eligible teachers in Elementary Traditional Route Programs to pass the *Foundations of Reading* assessment with a passing scale score of 229 [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]. The item has cleared the Administrative
12. Dr. Beaudoin discussed the Educator preparation programs as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Beaudoin recommended approval.

13. Dr. Beaudoin discussed the report of the 2015 graduation rates for the state, district, and school levels [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan].

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:45 a.m. and reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

14. Dr. Beaudoin discussed Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) planning team update regarding Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan].

15. Dr. Beaudoin and Dr. Tarance Hart discussed recommendations from the Educator and Leader Effectiveness Steering Committee [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Beaudoin recommended approval.

16. Dr. Beaudoin discussed renewing the contract with Questar Assessment, Inc., for the Mississippi Assessment Program – Alternate (MAP-A) [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Beaudoin recommended approval.

17. Dr. Beaudoin discussed the Mississippi Assessment Program-Alternate (MAP-A) test design for School Year 2015-2016 and School Year 2016-2017 for English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan].

18. 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 2016-2017 School Calendar (Kim Benton)

   C. Renew contract with Valley Services, Inc. to provide food service to Mississippi Schools for the Blind and the Deaf for FY2017 (Kim Benton)

   D. Award discretionary Educator in Residence grants to school districts for literacy coaches (Kim Benton)
E. Contract with personnel to serve as literacy coaches in school districts (Kim Benton)

F. Renew contract with Amplify Education, Inc., for conducting the Data Coaching Pilot Program (Kim Benton)

G. Renew contract with Connections Education, LLC, for the operation of the Mississippi Virtual Public School system (Kim Benton)

H. Award discretionary grants to local school districts for the purpose of contracting with Educators in Residence to provide technical assistance and training support to districts (Kim Benton)

I. Renew contract with The Riverside Publishing Company DBA HM Receivables, LLC for Fiscal Year 2017 to provide an assessment system as required by the State Performance Plan (Kim Benton)

J. Award Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) discretionary grants to local school districts for the purpose of providing assistance to districts for excess costs (Kim Benton)

K. Revise Appendix A of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards to allow Career Technical Education (CTE) students to substitute Digital Media in lieu of the Art requirement (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comment) (J.P. Beaudoin)

L. Change in Accreditation Status for Walnut Grove Correctional School from PENDING to VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL (J.P. Beaudoin)

M. Renew the contract with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) for Fiscal Year 2017 to administer Las Links, an English language proficiency test (J.P. Beaudoin)


O. Contracts for the following conservators (John Q. Porter)
   1. Aberdeen School District
   2. Tunica County School District
   3. Leflore County School District
P. Renew contract with Kathryn Johnson, Harvard Data Fellow for Fiscal Year 2017, as provided by House Bill 1648, 2013 Legislative Session (John Q. Porter)

X. Approval of Action Items

01. On a motion by Mr. William H. Jones, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously approved to establish State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 38, Rule 38.13 – Restraint and Seclusion [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]. The item cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments that were presented to the Board (copy attached). (Office of State Superintendent)

02. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish Part 3, Chapter 99, Rule 99.1 – Title IX Grievance Policy [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached). (Office of Chief Academic Officer)

03. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved of National Industry Certifications to be used in the acceleration component of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached). (Office of Chief Academic Officer)

04. On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise Part 24: Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, specifically, the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System effective school year 2015-2016 [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached). (Office of Chief of Research and Development)

05. On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise Part 3, Chapter 36, Rule 36.4: Assessments Required for Graduation [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached). (Office of Chief of Research and Development)

06. On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to repeal Part 3, Chapter 75, Rule 75.1: Residency Verification [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached). (Office of Chief of Research and Development)
07. On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved the recommendations on exceptions to pupil-teacher ratio requirements for grades 1-4 [Goal 4 - MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).
(Office of Chief of Research and Development)

08. On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to establish Part 3, Chapter 14, Rule 14.6.2: Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure Development [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).
(Office of Chief of Research and Development)

09. On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise Licensure Guidelines K-12 to require eligible teachers in Elementary Alternate Route Programs to pass the Foundations of Reading assessment with a passing scale score of 229 for Endorsement Code 117 effective July 1, 2017 [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).
(Office of Chief of Research and Development)

10. On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved to change the requirements for participants in alternate route programs to pass the Praxis Core and Praxis II assessments [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]. The item cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comment (copy attached).
(Office of Chief of Research and Development)

11. On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved to revise Licensure Guidelines K-12 to require eligible teachers in Elementary Traditional Route Programs to pass the Foundations of Reading assessment with a passing scale score of 229 [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]. The item cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comment (copy attached).
(Office of Chief of Research and Development)

12. On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved of educator preparation programs as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).
(Office of Chief of Research and Development)
16. On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved to renew the contract with Questar Assessment, Inc., for the Mississippi Assessment Program – Alternate (MAP-A) [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached). (Office of Chief of Research and Development)

18. On a motion by Mr. William H. Jones, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved consent item: A.

   A. Monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits  
      (Office of Chief Operations Officer)

   On a motion by Ms. Kami Bumgarner, seconded by Mr. William H. Jones, the Board unanimously approved consent items: B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, and P.

   B. Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science 2016-2017 School Calendar  
      (Office of Chief Academic Officer)

   C. Renew contract with Valley Services, Inc. to provide food service to Mississippi Schools for the Blind and the Deaf for FY2017  
      (Office of Chief Academic Officer)

   D. Award discretionary Educator in Residence grants to school districts for literacy coaches  
      (Office of Chief Academic Officer)

   E. Contract with personnel to serve as literacy coaches in school districts  
      (Office of Chief Academic Officer)

   F. Renew contract with Amplify Education, Inc., for conducting the Data Coaching Pilot Program  
      (Office of Chief Academic Officer)

   G. Renew contract with Connections Education, LLC, for the operation of the Mississippi Virtual Public School system  
      (Office of Chief Academic Officer)

   H. Award discretionary grants to local school districts for the purpose of contracting with Educators in Residence to provide technical assistance and training support to districts  
      (Office of Chief Academic Officer)
I. Renew contract with The Riverside Publishing Company DBA HM Receivables, LLC for Fiscal Year 2017 to provide an assessment system as required by the State Performance Plan (Office of Chief Academic Officer)

J. Award Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) discretionary grants to local school districts for the purpose of providing assistance to districts for excess costs (Office of Chief Academic Officer)

K. Revise Appendix A of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards to allow Career Technical Education (CTE) students to substitute Digital Media in lieu of the Art requirement (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comment) (Office of Chief of Research and Development)

L. Change in Accreditation Status for Walnut Grove Correctional School from PENDING to VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL (Office of Chief of Research and Development)

M. Renew the contract with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) for Fiscal Year 2017 to administer Las links, an English language proficiency test (Office of Chief of Research and Development)

N. Renew the contract with NCS Pearson, Inc., for Fiscal Year 2017 for the Mississippi Science Test, Second Edition (MST2) and the Subject Area Testing Program, Second Edition (SATP2) (Office of Chief of Research and Development)

O. Contracts for the following conservators (Office of Chief Information Officer)
   1. Aberdeen School District
   2. Tunica County School District
   3. Leflore County School District

P. Renew contract with Kathryn Johnson, Harvard Data Fellow for Fiscal Year 2017, as provided by House Bill 1648, 2013 Legislative Session (Office of Chief Information Officer)

Dr. Jason S. Dean left the meeting prior to the start of the Executive Session.

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. Dr. Karen J. Elam seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a vote of 7 to 0. Dr. Kelly asked Dr. Carey M. Wright, Ms. Erin Meyer, Ms. Beebe Garrard, Executive Leadership Team, and Dr. Paula Vanderford to remain in the Executive Session.

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); to discuss 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); and discuss with respect to investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(d). Mr. Buddy Bailey seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 8 to 0. Ms. Beebe Garrard 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); 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); and discussed with respect to investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(d).

Dr. Jason S. Dean returned to the meeting during the Executive Session at 1:25 p.m. On a motion by Mr. William H. Jones, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted 8 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

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

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

01. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board approved on a 7 to 0 vote to appoint Ms. Elisha C. Campbell as Education Bureau Director II to serve as Director of Academic Grants Management in the Office of Academic Education at a salary of $84,000.00.
02. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board approved on a 7 to 0 vote to appoint Mr. Ben Sylve as Education Bureau Director II to serve as Data Dashboard Developer for the federal Statewide Longitudinal Data System in the Office of Data Management and Integration at a salary of $84,000.00.

03. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Ms. Kami Bumgarner, the Board approved on a 7 to 0 vote to appoint Ms. Anna L. Furniss as Education Bureau Director II to serve as a Program Evaluator in the Office of Program Evaluation at a salary of $84,000.00.

04. On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board approved on a 7 to 0 vote to appoint Dr. Shuntina L. Johnson as Education Bureau Director II to serve as Director of Quantitative Research in the Office of Research and Development at a salary of $84,000.00.

05. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board approved on an 8 to 0 vote to affirm the November 18, 2015, decision of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Educator, Certification and Licensure Development's Hearing Subcommittee, to suspend Tetra Winter's Educator Licensure No. 160661 for a period of five (5) years in accordance with Mississippi Code Annotated Section 37-3-2(12)(g).

Ms. Kami Bumgarner left the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

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. John R. Kelly stated the May Board meeting will be held May 12, 2016.

1 Dr. Jason S. Dean participated in this action item upon his return to the Executive Session.
Dr. Karen J. Elam raised the question on whether the Board wanted to hold the July Board meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi since the Board would be down on the coast for the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents (MASS) Conference. On a motion by Mr. William H. Jones, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously voted to move the July 21, 2016 State Board meeting to July 14, 2016 and hold the Board meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi. However, such schedule change is contingent on whether no conflict exists with new provisions in state law.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. William H. Jones, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:43 p.m.

Approved:

John R. Kelly, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education

Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education