

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting  
November 12, 2021

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, November 12, 2021, via teleconference and video means pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5 for the purpose of conducting the Board meeting.

The meeting was available to the public via live stream.<sup>1</sup> Board members present: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman (4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom, Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi), Dr. Wendi Barrett (Biloxi, Mississippi), Dr. Angela Bass (Jackson, Mississippi), Mr. Glen V. East (Gulfport, Mississippi), Dr. Karen J. Elam (Oxford, Mississippi), Mr. Bill Jacobs (Brookhaven, Mississippi), Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee (Madison, Mississippi), Mr. Matt Miller (Hattiesburg, Mississippi), and Ms. Mary Werner (Saltillo, Mississippi). Student Representatives were present in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom, Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi: Ms. Amy Zhang and Ms. Micah Hill. Dr. Carey M. Wright was present at Madison, Mississippi.

- I. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman called the Board meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., after determining that a quorum of the Board existed at the locations stated for the purpose of conducting a meeting through teleconference and video means in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5.
- II. Ms. Micah Hill led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board voted unanimously to approve the October 21, 2021, Board meeting minutes.
- IV. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.
- V. Dr. Carey M. Wright, State Superintendent of Education, deferred her report to December.
- VI. Ms. Rosemary Aultman, Chair of the State Board of Education did not provide a report.
- VII. Ms. Micah Hill stated that she participated in the Leadership Exchange for Adolescent Health Promotion Conference where she discussed Youth-Adult Partnerships.

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<sup>1</sup> Due to the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) and the recommendations of the CDC and the Mississippi Department of Health, gatherings should be restricted to no more than 10 people. To protect the public health, the State Board of Education met via teleconference and video means and the meeting was available to the public via video means (live stream). The SBE exercised their authority granted by the Governor in his Proclamation of a State of Emergency. See Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-31.

Ms. Amy Zhang and Ms. Hill gave a report on the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council meeting that was held recently.

VIII. No reports on State Board of Education Subcommittee meetings.

IX. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items (All action items require vote)

01. Information: Fall 2021 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment results [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

Dr. Paula Vanderford and Dr. Tenette Smith presented the results of the Fall 2021 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. The Board asked questions that MDE staff answered.

02. Action: Approval of MDE Contracts [Goals 1, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

02.A. Action: Renew competitive contracts with various manufacturers to provide food products to contracted distributors in the Statewide Food Purchasing Program (All 7 Regions in the State) [Goal 1- MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

02.B. Action: Contract with Guidesoft Inc., d/b/a Knowledge Services under the terms of Master Consulting Services Agreement to provide for the acquisition of Information Technology Professionals [Goal 5- MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)

02.C. Action: Contract with Dr. Kim S. Benton to serve as Interim Deputy State Superintendent in the Office of Academic Education [Goals 4 and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Carey Wright)

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved items 02.A., 02.B., and 02.C. (copy attached).

03. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Kim Benton)

B. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Kim Benton)

C. Approval of the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind admissions policy as an addenda within the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Operations Manual, Mississippi School for the Deaf

Student Handbook, and Mississippi School for the Blind Student Handbook (Kim Benton)

- D. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 28.7, State Board Policy Chapter 28, Rule 28.7 – Districts of Innovation and Schools of Innovation  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Kim Benton)
- E. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Framework for Natural Hair Care and Braiding in Career and Technical Education  
(Kim Benton)
- F. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise selected Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks in Career and Technical Education (Kim Benton)
  - 1. Principles of Agriscience (Miss. Admin. Code 7-180)
  - 2. Diversified Agriculture Mechanization Core (Miss. Admin. Code 7-171)
  - 3. Diversified Agriculture Plants Core (Miss. Admin. Code 7-177)
  - 4. Diversified Agriculture Animals Core (Miss. Admin. Code 7-173)
  - 5. Diversified Agriculture Environment Core (Miss. Admin. Code 7-175)
  - 6. Diversified Agriculture Agribusiness Core (Miss. Admin. Code 7-179)
  - 7. Early Childhood Education (Miss. Admin. Code 7-166)
  - 8. Cosmetology (Miss. Admin. Code 7-80)
  - 9. Architecture and Drafting (Miss. Admin. Code 7-151)
  - 10. Furniture Design and Manufacturing (Miss. Admin. Code 7-155)
  - 11. Automotive Service Technician (Miss. Admin. Code 7-128)
- G. Approval to revise the calendar for the Mississippi School of the Arts 2021-2022 (Kim Benton)
- H. Approval to revise the methodology to award School Nurse Intervention Grants as identified in the Mary Kirkpatrick-Haskell, Mary Sprayberry School Nurse Program, Miss. Code Ann. § 37-14-3 and funded by legislative appropriation (Felicia Gavin)
- I. Approval of the 2021-2022 Teacher and Administrator contract for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Kim Benton)

- J. Approval of methodology to award grant dollars to a qualifying state agency or state hospital for the delivery of Telehealth equipment and access to medical and non-medical healthcare providers to LEAs and charter schools in accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (Carey Wright)

On a motion by Dr. Angela Bass, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., F., G., H., I., and J. (copy attached).

X. Consideration of Executive Session

Mr. Glen V. East 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 8 to 0. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman asked Dr. Carey M. Wright, Ms. Erin Meyer, and the Executive Leadership Team to remain in the Executive Session.

Mr. Glen V. East, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss discrete personnel matters in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(a) and (k) related to the appointment of certain positions within the Department of Education. Dr. Karen J. Elam seconded the motion, which passed on a motion of 8 to 0. Ms. Erin 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 in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(a) and (k) related to the approval of the appointment of a School Finance Officer to serve in the Bureau of Internal Audit.

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board voted 8 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

The public came back into the Board meeting and Ms. Aultman reported the action taken during the Executive Session. Ms. Amy Zhang did not return to the meeting.

1. On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Rhonda Lowe as a School Finance Officer to serve in the Bureau of Internal Audit at a salary of \$71,204.49.

XI. State Board of Education

1. Mr. Matt Miller stated that he attended a Teacher Shortage Conference hosted by Gulfport School District and William Carey University. Mr. Miller

stated there were a lot of ideas on how to tackle the problem and a public document with practical steps to help solve the problem will be developed.

2. No request to attend a meeting.

XII. Other Business

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman stated that the December Board meeting will be held on December 16, 2021, at the Central High School Building starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Angela Bass, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Approved:

  
Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair  
Mississippi Board of Education

  
Carey M. Wright  
Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Board of Education