

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

October 27, 2022

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 27, 2022, via video conference means pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5 for the purpose of conducting a regularly scheduled Board meeting.

This meeting was made available to the public via live stream at the Mississippi School Boards Association Training Room located at 380 Zurich Drive, Ridgeland, Mississippi. Board members physically present included: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Dr. Wendi Barrett, Mr. Glen V. East, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, and Mr. Matt Miller. Board members via Zoom: Mr. Bill Jacobs (Watercolor, Florida) and Ms. Mary Werner (Saltillo, Mississippi). Board member absent: Dr. Karen J. Elam. Student Representative present: Ms. Micah Hill. Student Representative absent: Mr. Charlie Frugé. Dr. Kim S. Benton, Interim State Superintendent, was also present.

- I. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman called the Board meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., after determining that a quorum of the Board existed for the purpose of conducting a meeting through video conference means in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5.
- II. Mr. Glen V. East led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Glen V. East, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2022, Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the agenda as presented.
- V. Recognition Ceremony

2022 National Blue Ribbon Schools

Florence Elementary School
Rankin County School District

Hayes Cooper Center
Cleveland School District

Petal High School
Petal School District

Oak Grove Lower Elementary School
Lamar County School District

- VI. Dr. Kim S. Benton gave the following report as the Interim State Superintendent of Education:
- Dr. Benton stated that MDE had a busy month with stakeholders and traveled to districts around the state for school visits and special events.
 - Dr. Benton stated that this month she visited schools in Tunica, Franklin County, Jefferson County, South Panola, Holmes County, Petal, and Pascagoula-Gautier. Dr. Benton stated she attended a virtual community meeting in Jefferson Davis County. Dr. Benton stated that these trips gave us the opportunity to see high-quality instruction in pre-K through high school, including high school Career and Technical Education programs.
 - Dr. Benton stated she joined two very exciting celebrations for two outstanding teachers who won national awards:
 - Mr. Tyler Shows, a 5th grade math teacher at Petal Upper Elementary School who won the \$25,000 Milken Educator Award in a surprise school assembly.
 - Ms. Kristie Jones, the carpentry teacher in the Franklin County School District, was one of five finalists in the nation to receive a \$100,000 award for teaching excellence from Harbor Freight Tools. Her school received \$70,000 of the award and she received \$30,000.
 - Dr. Benton stated she was honored to be involved in several other events including the inauguration ceremony for William Carey University President, Dr. Ben Burnett, and meetings and conferences with the Mississippi School Public Relations Association, Mississippi Council on Economic Education, Mississippi Volunteer Commission, AccelerateMS, and Mississippi Association of School Administrators.
 - Dr. Benton stated that two of the highlights this month were the Student Council Meeting and the Principal Advisory Council Meeting. Dr. Benton stated that approximately 75 students joined the virtual meeting and MDE is using their feedback to plan for an in-person meeting in Jackson. Dr. Benton stated that Ms. Aultman joined us for the Principals Meeting in Clinton with more than 40 members in attendance. Dr. Benton stated the meeting included a visit to Clinton High School's Career and Technical Education Center.
 - Dr. Benton stated she is continuing to meet with legislators this month including Senator Education Chairman Dennis DeBar and Senator Education Vice-Chair David Blount.
 - Dr. Benton shared the 2022 National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP) results, which highlighted how Mississippi maintained historic ten-year gains in NAEP 4th grade reading, while scores nationally dropped sharply in all four NAEP subjects and grades since 2019. Dr. Benton stated 2022 results underscore the urgent need to press forward to ensure all students achieve proficiency. Dr. Benton stated that we have much more work to do to bring students performance up to the national average in 8th grade reading and math and then continue to improve.

- Dr. Benton stated that one example of how MDE is meeting the needs of students with disabilities is the new Mississippi Alternate Diploma. Dr. Benton stated that the video shows two of the first graduates to receive the Mississippi Alternate Diploma and how this is opening postsecondary pathways for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

VII. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair of the State Board, gave the following report:

- Ms. Aultman stated that for the month, she has been in conversation with the consultants on the State Superintendent search.
- Ms. Aultman stated that she did attend the Principals Advisory Meeting and there were extensive discussions on several topics such as AP and dual credit. She also stated that she learned that students should start making plans for advanced courses in middle school. Ms. Aultman stated that Clinton is very proud of the Career and Technical Education facility and the students who prepared and served lunch for the group.

VIII. Report of Student Representatives

Ms. Micah Hill gave an update on Laurel School District. Ms. Hill stated that in a previous report she noted the district was an F and now they are a C, and this has taken a team effort. She spoke about some improvements such as offering the ACT to all 11th and 12th graders and offering ACT classes. Ms. Hill stated that they are on a modified schedule where after nine weeks they have a two-week break where students have time for help if they need it. Ms. Hill stated she is so proud of her fellow students and the growth of the Laurel School District. Ms. Hill stated that she was in a pageant recently and is currently serving as Miss Meridian's Outstanding Youth. She will be in the state competition in April.

Mr. Charlie Frugé who is in Washington, D.C. until January stated that he met with Senator Wicker last week. Mr. Frugé stated that he wanted to report on the student government at Oxford High School. He stated the dress code was causing problems so the student council researched policies from across the nation, talked to students, and wrote articles in the student newspaper. Mr. Frugé stated that a new policy was proposed to the Oxford School Board for their consideration and at this time a decision has not been made. Mr. Frugé stated that he is proud of his peers and the way they effected policy in our district. He stated that every school should want students who care about their policies and use the correct method to change what they see fit.

IX. Report on State Board of Education Subcommittee meetings

Mr. Glen V. East, Chair of the Academic Achievement PreK-12/Early Childhood Subcommittee, reported that he and Mr. Matt Miller met via Teams with the Chief Academic Office leaders. Mr. East stated that 100,000 student activities have been accessed through on-demand tutoring (Paper). Mr. East stated that the

Social Studies Standards will have a public hearing on November 18 before coming back to the Board in December. He stated that a report was given on the Literacy Based Promotion Act (LBPA).

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Information: Update on Literacy Based Promotion Act [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Marla Davis)

Dr. Marla Davis, Dr. Tenette Smith, and Ms. Kristen Wynn gave an update on the Literacy Based Promotion Act.

02. Information: Report on Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) achievement gap results by subgroup [Goals 1, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

Dr. Paula Vanderford and Mr. Alan Burrow gave a report on Mississippi Academic Assessment program (MAAP) achievement gap results by subgroup.

03. Information: Spring 2022 ACT Results [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

Dr. Vanderford and Mr. Burrow gave the results of the Spring 2022 Act Results.

Ms. Mary Werner left the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

04. Information: Educator Workforce Development Update [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

Dr. Vanderford and Dr. Courtney Van Cleve gave an update on Educator Workforce Development.

05. Action: Approval of the MDE contract [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

05.A. Action: Modify contract for Interim Superintendent for Tunica County School District [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Mike Kent)

05.B. Action: Renew contract with The National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment, Inc. for Fiscal Year 2023 for the Mississippi Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for Statewide Assessment and Accountability [Goals 1, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board unanimously approved items 05.A. and 05.B. (copy attached).

Members voting aye: Dr. Wendi Barrett
 Mr. Glen V. East
 Mr. Bill Jacobs
 Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee
 Mr. Matt Miller

Member voting nay: None

Member abstain: None

Members absent: Dr. Karen J. Elam
 Ms. Mary Werner

06. Information: Report on Supports for Low Performing Schools [Goal 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)

Dr. Benton and Dr. Sonja Robertson reported on Supports for Low Performing Schools.

07. Consent Agenda (All consent items are action items which require vote, unless otherwise noted.)

- A. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Wendy Clemons)
- B. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Wendy Clemons)
- C. Approval of Interlocal Agreement between the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind and Jackson Public School District (Wendy Clemons)
- D. Approval of certified personnel for the Mississippi School of the Arts, Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, and Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (Wendy Clemons)
- E. Approval of educator preparation programs as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., and E. (copy attached).

Members voting <u>aye</u> :	Dr. Wendi Barrett Mr. Glen V. East Mr. Bill Jacobs Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee Mr. Matt Miller
Member voting <u>nay</u> :	None
Member abstain:	None
Members absent:	Dr. Karen J. Elam Ms. Mary Werner

XI. 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. Ronnie L. McGehee seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a vote of 5 to 0. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman asked Ms. Baylea Blough and Ms. Sonya Amis to remain in the Executive Session.

Mr. Glen V. East, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(a) and (k) to discuss discrete personnel matters related to the State Superintendent search process for the Department of Education and Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(b) to discuss strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation, litigation, or issuance of an appealable order. Mr. Matt Miller seconded the motion, which passed on a motion of 5 to 0. Ms. Baylea Blough informed the public of the Board’s vote to go into Executive Session for the above stated reason.

Minutes of the Executive Session

During the Executive Session, the Board in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(a) and (k) discussed discrete personnel matters related to the State Superintendent search process for the Department of Education and Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(b) discussed strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation, litigation, or issuance of an appealable order.

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board voted 5 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

The public came back into the Board meeting and Ms. Aultman stated that no action was taken during the Executive Session. Ms. Aultman stated that the Board heard a report given from the consultants on the State Superintendent search.

XII. State Board of Education

1. No report on meetings attended.
2. No request to attend a meeting.

XIII. Other Business

A Special-Called Board meeting will be held on Thursday, November 3, 2022, in Ridgeland, MS at the Mississippi School Boards Association, 380 Zurich Drive starting at 10:00 a.m.

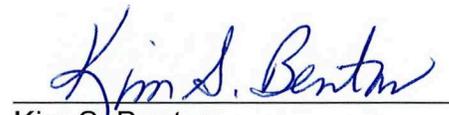
The November Board meeting will be held on November 10, 2022, in Ridgeland, Mississippi at the Madison County School District Boardroom, 476 Highland Parkway starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Wendi Barrett, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:58 p.m.

Approved:


Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Kim S. Benton
Interim Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education