

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

November 10, 2022

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

The public could view this meeting via live stream or in person at the Madison County School District Boardroom at 476 Highland Parkway, Ridgeland, Mississippi. Board members physically present included: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Dr. Wendi Barrett, Mr. Glen V. East, Dr. Karen J. Elam, Mr. Bill Jacobs, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Mr. Matt Miller, and Ms. Mary Werner. Student Representatives absent: Ms. Micah Hill and 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. Ms. Aultman thanked the Madison County School District and Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee for the use of the Madison County School District Boardroom for the meeting.
- II. Mr. Matt Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Glen V. East gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2022, Board meeting and minutes of the Special-Called Board meetings of November 3, 2022, November 8, 2022, and November 9, 2022.
- IV. On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the agenda as presented.
- V. No recognition ceremony.
- VI. Dr. Kim S. Benton gave the following report as the Interim State Superintendent of Education:
 - Dr. Benton stated that she visited the Mississippi Achievement School District and Clarksdale Municipal School District with members of the Executive Leadership Team and School Improvement teams to interview district leaders. She stated these interviews are part of MDE's System of Support for Continuous Improvement for districts that are at risk of state intervention due to multiple years of poor academic performance. Dr. Benton stated that next week the visits will be with Amite County and Wilkinson County School Districts. MDE is providing district leaders with support as they develop and implement intensive action plans to improve student outcomes. An improvement strategist will be assigned to work

closely with district leaders during the implementation of their respective improvement plans. She stated that instructional audits will be conducted in all five districts this month and additional support from MDE staff will be provided based on needs that emerge during the instructional audit.

- Dr. Benton stated she visited Obama Magnet School in the Jackson Public School District, which is the number one ranked elementary school in the state. She stated the school is a model of high expectations and excellence, committed teachers and leaders, and students who are engaged and extremely proud of their school.
 - Dr. Benton stated she served as the keynote speaker at the Mississippi Action for Progress' Head Start Conference. There was a large turnout of early childhood education providers working together to provide young children with a strong foundation for their future education.
 - Dr. Benton shared the results of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, which showed 34.8% of students are not meeting the beginning of the year benchmark. She stated the results are an improvement from the pandemic setback last year, but still underscore the need for high-quality early childhood education programs. Dr. Benton stated our pre-K and Kindergarten teachers across the state are working hard to build a strong foundation for our youngest students.
 - Dr. Benton stated she and Mr. John Kraman joined the superintendent and Chief Information Officer (CIO) from the South Carolina Department of Education on a panel at the Conference of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Annual Policy Forum. She stated the topic focused on how Mississippi used federal COVID-19 relief funds for digital learning and to modernize our student's information and educator licensure systems.
 - Dr. Benton shared that she and Holly Spivey met with Representative Donnie Bell about Career and Technical Education and discussed some of his priorities in this area.
 - Dr. Benton stated that each Board member has a copy of the latest issue of the School Focus magazine, which spotlights the work of K-12 education around the state.
- VII. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair of the State Board, gave the following report:
- Ms. Aultman stated that she and the Board last week watched videos of the selected finalists and this week they spent two days conducting in-person interviews. Ms. Aultman stated that she feels good about the future and the prospects for the State Superintendent. She stated that a report will be prepared later in the month.
- VIII. Report of Student Representative

Mr. Charlie Frugé who is in Washington, D.C. until January stated that he watches the Board meetings via livestream. He gave a comparison of Mississippi student results to the National level results for various assessments.

Mr. Frugé stated that Mississippi is making strides and pushing through the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that Oxford High School ranked fourth in ACT scores in Mississippi this year. Mr. Frugé stated that Mississippi's results are uplifting and point to a bright future.

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

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Information: MSIS Modernization Progress Report (John Kraman)

Mr. John Kraman and Ms. Deborah Donovan gave a progress report on the MSIS modernization.

02. Action: Approval of a new five-member advisory board for the administration of the Tunica County School District [Goal 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Mike Kent)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved item 02. (copy attached).

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

03.A. Action: Award contract to PATH Company for the operation of the Coordinating and Management of Educational Facilities Revolving Loan Fund Program [Goals 2 and 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board approved on a 5 to 2 vote item 03.A. (copy attached).

Members voting aye:
Dr. Wendi Barrett
Mr. Glen V. East
Dr. Karen J. Elam
Mr. Matt Miller
Ms. Mary Werner

Member voting nay:
Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee
Mr. Bill Jacobs

Member abstain: None

Member absent: None

- 03.B. Action: Renew contract with TransACT Communications, LLC to provide parent notifications [Goals 1, 2, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Wendy Clemons)

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board unanimously approved item 03.B. (copy attached).

04. Action: Approval of the MDE grant awards [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

- 04.A. Action: Award competitive grants for the State Invested Pre-Kindergarten Program [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Marla Davis)

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved item 04.A. (copy attached).

05. Consent Agenda

- 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 to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to repeal the existing version of the Special, Non-renewable License for Adjunct Teachers and replace it with the proposed Special License, Adjunct Teacher Licensure pathway (Paula Vanderford)
- D. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act Process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 3: 14.6, State Board Policy Chapter 14, Rule 14.6 et al., related to Licensure Commission, Discipline Procedures, Hearings and Appeals (Paula Vanderford)
- E. 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)
- F. Approval of contract with American Sentry Services to provide security services for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Wendy Clemons)
- G. Information: Report on action of the Commission on School Accreditation concerning the assignment of district accreditation statuses (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., and F. (copy attached).

XI. No Executive Session.

XII. State Board of Education

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

XIII. Other Business

01. Action: Approval of a special-called board meeting on Monday, November 21, 2022, at Butler Snow Building – Mississippi Room, Renaissance at Colony Park, 1020 Highland Colony Parkway #1400, Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157 starting at 10:00 a.m.

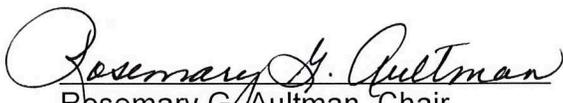
On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved the Special-Called Board meeting on Monday, November 21, 2022, at the Butler Snow Building – Mississippi Room, Renaissance at Colony Park, 1020 Highland Colony Parkway #1400, Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157 starting at 10:00 a.m.

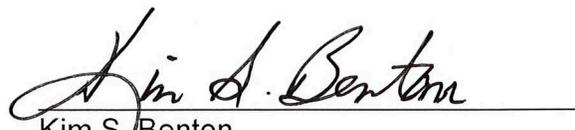
The December Board meeting will be held on December 15, 2022, in Ridgeland, Mississippi at the Mississippi School Boards Association, 380 Zurich Drive starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

Approved:


Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education


Kim S. Benton
Interim Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education