

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

December 15, 2022

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 15, 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 livestream or in-person at the Mississippi School Boards Association, 380 Zurich Drive, Ridgeland, Mississippi. Board members physically present included: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Mr. Glen V. East, Dr. Karen J. Elam, Mr. Bill Jacobs, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, and Mr. Matt Miller. Board members: Dr. Wendi Barrett via Zoom (Biloxi, Mississippi) and Ms. Mary Werner (traveling – joined the meeting at 10:05 a.m via phone). 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.
- II. Dr. Karen J. Elam led the Pledge of Allegiance and Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the November 10, 2022, Board meeting and minutes of the Special-Called Board meeting of November 21, 2022.
- IV. On a motion by Dr. Wendi Barrett, seconded by Mr. Glen V. East, the Board unanimously adopted the agenda as presented.
- V. Recognition Ceremony

2023 National Elementary and Secondary Education Act Distinguished Schools

D'Iberville Elementary School
Harrison County School District

Pearl Lower Elementary School
Pearl Public School District

- VI. Dr. Kim S. Benton gave the following report as the Interim State Superintendent of Education:
 - Dr. Benton stated that after an 18-month application and rigorous peer review process, the United States Department of Education (USDE)

determined that Mississippi's use of the Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) as a locally selected, nationally recognized high school assessment substantially meets the requirements of the federal Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA). This allows MDE to include Cambridge high school assessment scores in the state accountability system for the 2022-23 school year.

- Dr. Benton thanked Dr. Paula Vanderford, Dr. Jackie Sampsell, and their teams for working collaboratively and persistently with the USDE, MDE's Technical Advisory Committee, Dr. Lee Childress, and the Corinth School District to shepherd this process through to a successful conclusion.
- Dr. Benton stated MDE has concluded the initial visits to the five districts identified for the new System of Support for Continuous Improvement initiative with meetings in the Amite and Wilkinson County School Districts. MDE's continuous improvement strategists are now providing support to all five district leadership teams as they implement their improvement plans.
- Dr. Benton stated she visited the Lauderdale County School District Legislative Luncheon, a high school testing rally at Perry High School, a ribbon cutting for the state's first electric school bus at the Forrest County Agricultural High School, and a visit to the Choctaw Tribal Schools.
- Dr. Benton stated she met with the Teacher Advisory Council, the Principal Advisory Council, and the Superintendents Advisory Council.
- Dr. Benton shared she spoke at the Mississippi Literacy Association Conference, the East Mississippi Center for Educational Development (EMCED) Principals Meeting, and the Program of Research and Evaluation for Public Schools (PREPS) VIP Teacher Academy, and the CEO Leadership Institute's Superintendents Roundtable.
- Dr. Benton stated she attended the Foundation for Excellence in Education's National Summit. Dr. Benton stated that MDE literacy directors, Ms. Kristen Wynn and Ms. Laurie Weathersby, presented to literacy leaders from other states during one of the breakout sessions. Mississippi continues to be recognized as a leader in literacy and early childhood among education policymakers, practitioners, and advocates from throughout the country.

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

- Ms. Aultman stated that she and the Board have been working to select a State Superintendent. She stated that on November 21 the Board selected Dr. Robert Taylor who will start on January 16, 2023.
- Ms. Aultman thanked Ms. Tamala Matthews, Mr. Johnathan Sanders, Mr. Gary Ragsdale, and Mr. Joshua Huwe from the Office of Technology and Strategic Services for their work each month for the Board meeting.
- Ms. Aultman read a Resolution for Dr. Karen J. Elam (copy attached).

VIII. Report of Student Representative

Mr. Charlie Frugé, who is in Washington, D.C. until January, spoke on accessibility in education through health and wellness.

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

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Information: Progress on the Mississippi State Board of Education's (SBE) Strategic Plan [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)

Dr. Kim Benton presented the progress on the *Mississippi Board of Education's Five-Year Strategic Plan 2018-2022* (copy attached).

02. Action: Approval to revise the 2022 Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards for Social Studies [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Wendy Clemons)

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board unanimously approved item 02. (copy attached).

03. Information: Update on the Community Engagement Council (CEC), formerly referred to as P16 Community Engagement Council, revised guidance for school and district implementation [Goal 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Wendy Clemons)

Dr. Sonja Robertson gave an update on the Community Engagement Council.

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

- 04.A. Action: Contract with Reading and Language Arts Center, Inc. D.B.A. Brainspring to provide professional development training system based on the Orton Gillingham reading methodology [Goals 1, 2, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Marla Davis)

- 04.B. Action: Award the ITS contract to Cybersoft Technologies, Inc. for the implementation, operation, and maintenance of the Child Nutrition USDA Donated Foods Distribution Program [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Ms. Mary Warner, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board unanimously approved items 04.A. and 04.B. (copy attached).

05. Action: Approval of new Districts and Schools of Innovation for 2022-2023 [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Wendy Clemons)

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved item 05. (copy attached).

06. Action: Approval of the 2022 Annual Educator Preparation Provider Teacher Preparation Performance Report [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved item 06. (copy attached).

07. 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 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)
- D. Approval of Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy proficiency assessments and vendors for use in determining student levels of bilingual language proficiency (Wendy Clemons)
- E. Approval of nonpublic school accreditation statuses for School Year 2022-2023 (Paula Vanderford)
- F. Approval 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 (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- G. Approval 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

(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)

- H. Approval of educator preparation programs as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Paula Vanderford)
- I. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* and *State Board of Education Policy Rule 71.2*, to ensure consistency regarding certain criteria found therein required for the licensing of School Business Administrators (Paula Vanderford)
- J. Approval of final calculation of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program Base Student Cost for Fiscal Year 2024 (Felicia Gavin)
- K. Approval of final calculation of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program for Fiscal Year 2024 (Felicia Gavin)

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

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. Karen J. Elam seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a vote of 7 to 0. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman asked Ms. Erin Meyer 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 positions within and for the Department of Education, in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(d) for discussion of investigative proceedings by a public body regarding allegations of misconduct or violations of law, and in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(b) for discussion of 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 7 to 0. Ms. Erin Meyer 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 positions within and for the Department of Education, in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(d) discussed investigative proceedings by a public body regarding allegations of misconduct or violations of law, and in accordance with 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 Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted 7 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.

1. On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board unanimously approved the salary adjustment for Ms. Jean Cook, Public Relations Specialist Team Lead within the Office of Communication and Government Relations at a salary of \$110,000.00.

XII. State Board of Education

1. Mr. Matt Miller reported that on November 30, 2022, he attended an Education Forum held by The Pine Belt News. He stated the panelists were Dr. Robert Williams, Superintendent with Hattiesburg Public School District, Dr. Matt Dillion, Superintendent with Petal School District, and Dr. Steven Hampton, Superintendent with Lamar County School District. The forum was moderated by Mayor Toby Barker. Mr. Miller stated there were set topics with time for questions and answers. He stated these superintendents do a lot of work together, talk a lot, and this is very encouraging.
2. No request to attend a meeting.

XIII. Other Business

01. Action: Approval to change the date of the regularly scheduled March 2023 meeting of the Mississippi Board of Education from March 16, 2023, to March 09, 2023

On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved to change the date of the regularly scheduled March 2023 meeting of the Mississippi Board of Education from March 16, 2023, to March 09, 2023.

02. Action: Approval to move the location of the State Board of Education meetings from Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, Fourth Floor Boardroom to the Madison County School District Boardroom, 476 Highland Parkway, Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157 for the meetings scheduled January 2023 through March 2023

On a motion by Mr. Bill Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board unanimously approved to move the location of the State Board of Education meetings from Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, Fourth Floor Boardroom to the Madison County School District Boardroom, 476 Highland Parkway, Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157 for the meetings scheduled January 2023 through March 2023.

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman stated the January Board meeting will be held on January 19, 2023, in Ridgeland, MS at the Madison County School District Boardroom, 476 Highland Parkway starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Mr. Glen V. East, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 2:12 p.m.

Approved:


Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education


Kim S. Benton
Interim Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education