

## Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

February 17, 2022

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 17, 2022, via video means pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5 for the purpose of conducting the Board meeting.

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

- I. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman called the Board meeting to order at 10:04 a.m., after determining that a quorum of the Board existed for the purpose of conducting a meeting through video means in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5.
- II. Mr. Matt Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Glen V. East gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Mr. Bill Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board voted unanimously to approve the January 20, 2022, Board meeting minutes.
- IV. On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.
- V. Recognition Ceremony

### **2021 Mississippi History Teacher of the Year**

Steven White

Pearl High School

Pearl Public School District

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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, social distancing is encouraged and capacity in the Boardroom is limited. 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.

- VI. Dr. Carey M. Wright gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:
- Dr. Wright stated the Utah House and Senate Education Committees invited her to testify virtually before both committees about developing a literacy bill like Mississippi's and they wanted to hear about MDE's strategies and how MDE implemented the bill.
  - Dr. Wright stated that she, Mr. Pete Smith, and Dr. Felicia Gavin testified before the House Appropriations Committee about the Board's Legislative Priorities and the education bills during the Legislative session.
  - Dr. Wright stated the Hunt Institute from North Carolina invited her to serve on a panel about teacher residence and it is called teacher residence return on investment: a pathway that prepares effective and diverse teachers who stay. Dr. Wright stated MDE has implemented a strong teacher residence program and a news release will be coming out soon.
  - Dr. Wright stated that she appeared on the Paul Gallo Radio Show.
  - Dr. Wright stated that she and Mr. Smith met yesterday with the Black Caucus, and they had a lot of questions as they are considering some bills moving through the session.
  - Dr. Wright stated that she met with the Teacher Advisory Council, a group of about 400 teachers, and they are forthcoming with information about what they see and what their needs are. Dr. Wright stated that it comes back to the Executive Leadership Team, and we respond to what they want and need.
  - Dr. Wright shared with the Board resources that have been created. Dr. Wright thanked Dr. Marla Davis and her team for the Middle School Transition Toolkit. Dr. Wright stated that this is for districts and gives them some ideas for students transitioning from elementary to middle school and transitioning from middle to high school. Dr. Wright stated it has a lot of good ideas.
  - Dr. Wright passed out a listing for all the mental health training that has been scheduled. Dr. Wright stated that MDE is hearing a lot from superintendents, principals, the Teacher Advisory Council, and the Student Advisory Council about a lot of students and adults carrying a lot of stress on them. Dr. Wright stated MDE has been ramping up professional development where mental health is concerned. Dr. Wright stated that list shows the topics, dates, and times for the training that is scheduled.
  - Dr. Wright stated that the teacher residence program started with funding from Kellogg and when that funding ran out the ESSER funding came in. Dr. Wright stated that in December the Board approved to award over \$8 million to five universities to establish the teacher residency program. Dr. Wright stated this will be for about 200 people and it pays for tuition, expenses, testing fees, books, mentor stipends, and this will be tremendously helpful as they are working toward becoming a teacher. Dr. Wright stated the goal is to get these people trained, get them the degrees they need in either elementary or special education, and put them in the

classrooms. Dr. Wright stated that this is a great way for Mississippi to continue to grow our own.

- Dr. Wright stated that the MDE held the Social Studies framework hearing in January, and she thanked Mr. Mike Kent for serving as the hearing officer. Dr. Wright stated that MDE is in the process of gathering all the data, looking at all the responses, and addressing them. Dr. Wright stated that the framework will come back to the Board in March and the Board will be able to see with input that MDE received and what MDE does with the inputs and what the MDE recommendations will be.

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

- Ms. Aultman stated that she, Dr. Wright, Ms. Sonya Amis, and Dr. Robert Hull from the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) have finalized the topics for the Board Retreat which will be held on February 25, 2022.
- Ms. Aultman stated that Mr. Omar Jamal, former student representative, is attending Vanderbilt and is on the Dean's List. Ms. Aultman stated that he will be going to Greece to study abroad and has joined some organizations on campus. Ms. Aultman stated that he has not declared a major yet, but he is loving college.
- Ms. Aultman stated that Dr. Wright will be honored at a reception and program as one of the 50 Most Influential People in Mississippi. Ms. Aultman stated that the Board is proud of Dr. Wright and honored to work with her. Ms. Aultman stated that Dr. Wright has changed the trajectory of education in Mississippi.

VIII. Report of Student Representative

Ms. Amy Zhang stated that she will be talking about Dr. Wright's Student Advisory Council that met earlier this month. Ms. Zhang stated that a PowerPoint presentation was presented, and the students divided into four different work groups. Ms. Zhang stated that slides were presented on ACT preparation included: ACT preparation, career academies, life skills, civil rights education, mental health training and support, special education, bullying, and LGBTQ safety, educator diversity, and sex education. Dr. Wright was out sick and could not attend the meeting but MDE experts Ms. Wendy Clemons, Dr. Armerita Tell, Mr. Joe Goff, Dr. Courtney Van Cleave, and Mr. Scott Clements stepped in to help present. Ms. Zhang stated that after the presentation the students separated into breakout rooms to form four different work groups where they would work with the rest of the group to start planning a presentation on their topic. Ms. Zhang stated the first group was the mental health group that she helped with. Ms. Zhang stated that the group discussed students' experiences with mental health support in schools, interactions with school administrators, and counselors, pressures and the type of help given to high achieving students in mental health days. Ms. Zhang stated that they have had a second meeting

already and plan to meet once or twice a week. Ms. Zhang stated that next work group is the life skills group, and they plan to cover skills such as culinary skills, home maintenance, automotive, basic electrical skills, social skills, and public speaking, managing business, gun safety, mental health, and critical thinking. Ms. Zhang stated that they are currently assigning people to every topic, and they have started researching and working on their slides. Ms. Zhang stated the third group is the ACT prep group and they have held a second meeting where they discussed their plans and ideas such as incentives for students in schools and districts to offer ACT prep, increasing the scope of ACT prep, improving classes, and disparities between different schools. Ms. Zhang stated they have been brainstorming and researching solutions to all the problems that they have discussed. Ms. Zhang stated the last group is the civil rights education group. They held a meeting earlier this week and discussed critical race theory in how the new law will affect Mississippi's high school civil rights education. Ms. Zhang stated they also discussed ways to improve the curriculum like offering African American Studies as an elective focusing on important figures within the civil rights movement and comparing what different schools are teaching. Ms. Zhang stated that in conclusion she thinks that the meeting went well, and students have adjusted to holding these meetings virtually and she thinks it went a lot smoother than it did last year. Ms. Zhang stated she is excited to see what the work groups create within the next two months, and she really loves the opportunity to talk to all these student leaders from all over the state and to help facilitate their conversations between them as well and in April when they present their final presentations, I think the Board will really be impressed.

- IX. Mr. Glen V. East, Chair of the Academic Achievement PreK-12/Early Childhood Subcommittee, stated that the subcommittee met yesterday afternoon via Teams. Mr. East stated the Middle School Transition Toolkit came before the Subcommittee and it is an outstanding document. Mr. East stated that on the agenda today is the tutoring piece and it should be very powerful for every family in the state of Mississippi.

Dr. Karen J. Elam, Chair of the Educator Quality Subcommittee, stated they met yesterday afternoon and all members were present. Dr. Elam stated that Dr. Debra Burson informed the Subcommittee about continued work beyond the SREB leadership. Dr. Elam stated that Dr. Burson shared that two staff members will lead the Governor's Human Capital Task Force work and they had their first meeting and are getting organized to meet on a regular basis and build upon the SREB document put together for the Governor and how the agency is going to move forward with those plans.

Ms. Aultman, Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, stated they met this morning and Mr. Pete Smith updated them on the bills that are dead and the bills that are still alive that are of interest to education. Ms. Aultman stated that the teacher pay raise bill is still alive and moving through the process. Ms. Aultman

stated that the deadline to come out of committee is March 1. Ms. Aultman thanked Mr. Smith and others for all their work with the Legislature and for keeping the Board updated.

Dr. Angela Bass, Chair of the School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee, stated they met this morning and discussed some agenda items that will be discussed today. Dr. Bass stated they discussed a program evaluation report about the prekindergarten infrastructure development grant and there were some important findings about the importance of having some PreK coaches on the ground and we are really excited about what the preliminary findings are saying. Dr. Bass stated they approved appointments to the Ad Hoc Screening Committee for the recruitment of the 2022 – 2024 student representative that will be coming on Board once Ms. Amy Zhang graduates and goes on to her next academic journey.

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Information: Overview of High Dosage Tutoring Services [Goals 1, 2, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)

Dr. Kim Benton and Dr. Marla Davis gave an overview of High Dosage Tutoring Services.

02. Information: Overview of the Mississippi Health and School Safety Platform [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

Dr. Paula Vanderford and Mr. Brian McGairty gave an overview of the Mississippi Health and School Safety Platform.

03. Information: Report of the 2022 graduation rates for the state, district, and school levels [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

Dr. Vanderford and Mr. Alan Burrow gave a report of the 2022 graduation rates for the state, district, and school levels (copy attached). Ms. Werner asked if maps could be presented by regions. Mr. Burrow stated that a geographical data map to show where rates are trending could be prepared. Dr. Wright stated the maps would be sent to the Board members and that it would be included in the presentation going forward.

04. Action: Begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2021* specifically, the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System, Section 25, *College- and Career-Readiness*, Section 9, *Acceleration*, Section 7, *Lowest Performing Students*, and Section 3, N-

Count Minimums [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]  
(Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Angela Bass, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board unanimously approved item 04. (copy attached).

05. Action: Approval of MDE Contracts [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
  - 05.A. Action: Contract with Major Clarity, Inc. to provide a college and career readiness platform with an e-transcript feature [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)
  - 05.B. Action: Contract with R & A Solutions (dba) RANDA Solutions for The Mississippi Educator Career Continuum Archive (MECCA) System [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)
  - 05.C. Action: Contract with nSide, Inc. to provide a web-based solution for public school districts for the consistent and equitable development and implementation for all components of the *Crisis Management Plan* in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-83, and the *Mississippi School Safety Manual* including pandemic response [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)
  - 05.D. Action: Contract with Microsoft to provide for Premier and Unified Support Services [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)
  - 05.E. Action: Contract with CDW Government, LLC to provide Microsoft Windows Azure Subscriptions [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)
  - 05.F. Action: Contract with Applied Engineering Management (AEM) Corporation to develop domain analysis and recommendation report for the implementation of the new MSIS [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)
  - 05.G. Action: Emergency contract with GradeSlam America, Inc. d/b/a Paper to provide high dosage tutoring for grades 3-12 English Language Arts and high dosage tutoring for grades 3-12 Mathematics [Goals 1, 2, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)
  - 05.H. Action: Approve multi-year contracts with School Improvement Leadership Coaches for Fiscal Years 2022 through 2025 [Goal 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)

- 05.I. Action: Emergency contract with Teaching Lab to provide mathematics instructional coaching services [Goals 1, 2, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)

On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved to rescind Action Item 03.A. from the January 16, 2022, Regularly Scheduled Board meeting, wherein the Board approved a contract with Teaching Lab to provide mathematics instructional coaching services.

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board unanimously approved items 05.A., 05.B., 05.C., 05.D., 05.E., 05.F., 05.G., 05.H., and 05.I. (copy attached).

06. Action: Approval of MDE grant awards [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
- 06.A. Action: Award competitive grant dollars to University of Mississippi Medical Center for Telehealth for 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 Fund [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
- 06.B. Action: Award American Rescue Plan (ARP) Learn More grants for the implementation of quality evidence-based programs. [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)
- 06.C. Action: Award competitive grants for the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)
- 06.D. Action: Award grants to school districts for the purchase of High-Quality Instructional Material (HQIM) and professional learning to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic [Goals 1, 2, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)
- 06.E. Action: Award competitive grants for Early Childhood Educators-in-Residence services [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved items 06.A., 06.B., 06.C., 06.D., and 06.E. (copy attached).

07. 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 to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise selected Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks in Career and Technical Education (Kim Benton)
  - 01. Collision Repair Technician—Paint
  - 02. Computer Science and Engineering
  - 03. Diversified Agriculture Agricultural Leadership
  - 04. Educator Preparation
  - 05. Engineering
  - 06. Information Technology
  - 07. Law and Public Safety
  - 08. Lodging, Hospitality, and Tourism
- D. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish selected Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks in Career and Technical Education (Kim Benton)
  - 01. Collision Repair Technician—Non-Structural
  - 02. Diversified Agriculture Agricultural Communications
  - 03. Diversified Agriculture Food Science
  - 04. Diversified Agriculture Poultry Science
  - 05. Diversified Agriculture Veterinary Science
  - 06. Law Enforcement
- E. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise three Secondary Academic Business courses [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)
  - 01. Academic Business—Business Essentials
  - 02. Academic Business—Business Law
  - 03. Academic Business—Personal Finance
- F. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish the Secondary Academic Business course E-Commerce [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)
- G. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to modify the existing Master of Arts in Teaching Special Education



- (K-12) Mississippi State Board of Education approved Alternate Route Program  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- H. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to modify the existing Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary Education (4-6) Mississippi State Board of Education approved Alternate Route Program to include an Elementary Education (K-6) option  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- I. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to modify the existing pre-teaching coursework requirement for all Mississippi State Board of Education approved Alternate Route Programs  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- J. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 107: *2021 Educator Preparation Provider Process and Performance Guidelines* to modify the existing literacy coursework requirement for Mississippi State Board of Education approved Elementary Education K-6 licensure-track programs  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- K. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 12: *Mississippi Testing Accommodations Manual*  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- L. Approval of Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) for Districts assigned a PROBATION or WITHDRAWN status in accordance with Accreditation Policy 2.8.1 (Paula Vanderford)
- M. Approval of Education Preparation Provider (EPP) programs as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development  
(Paula Vanderford)
- N. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 3: 9.3, State Board Policy Chapter 9, Rule 9.3: School-Wide and District-Wide Virtual Learning Days

(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)

- O. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise the following Mississippi State Board of Education Policies in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-3.114 which requires an agency to review all of its rules at least every five years to determine whether any rule should be repealed, amended or a new rule adopted (Paula Vanderford)

- 01. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise State Board Policy Chapter 51 *Mississippi Recovery School District*

- P. Approval of methodology to award grant dollars for Behavioral Telehealth to schools in accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (Carey Wright)

On a motion by Mr. Bill Jacobs, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., F., G., H., I., J., K., L., M., N., O., and P. (copy attached).

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:40 a.m. and reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

#### 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. Mr. Matt Miller 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, Ms. Baylea Blough, Mr. David Minton, and the Executive Leadership Team 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)(b) to discuss strategy session or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation, litigation or issuance of an appealable order involving the State Board and/or the MDE. Mr. Matt Miller 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 in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(b) discussed strategy session or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation, litigation or issuance of an appealable order involving the State Board and/or the MDE.

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, 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.

Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(10) and State Board Policy, the State Board of Education has three options when considering an appeal from a decision of the Commission. The Board may either (1) affirm the decision of the Commission Hearing Subcommittee, (2) reverse the decision of the Commission Hearing Subcommittee, or (3) remand back to the Commission Hearing Subcommittee with instructions. The decision of the Commission's Hearing Subcommittee shall not be disturbed on appeal if supported by substantial evidence, was not arbitrary or capricious, within the authority of the Commission, and did not violate some statutory or constitutional right. It is the decision of this State Board of Education to:

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, and seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to AFFIRM the decision of the Commission Hearing Subcommittee from July 27, 2021. The Board voted to deny the reinstatement of Melanie Walters, Educator Licensure # 180553.

## XII. State Board of Education

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

## XIII. Other Business

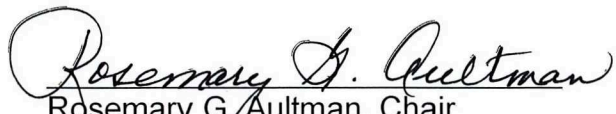
Ms. Aultman stated the State Board of Education will attend the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Training and conduct the SBE Work Session – MDE Training on February 25, 2022, starting at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Butler Snow Building in Ridgeland, Mississippi.

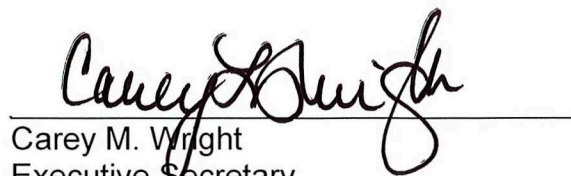
Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman stated that the March Board meeting will be held on March 17, 2022, at the Central High School Building starting at 10:00 a.m.

## XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:41 p.m.

Approved:

  
Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair  
Mississippi Board of Education

  
Carey M. Wright  
Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Board of Education