

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

July 21, 2022

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 21, 2022, via video conference 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 at the Mississippi School Boards Association building. Board members present in the Training Room at the Mississippi School Boards Association building, 380 Zurich Drive, Ridgeland, Mississippi included: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Dr. Wendi Barrett, Mr. Glen V. East, Mr. Bill Jacobs (Brookhaven, Mississippi), Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Mr. Matt Miller (Hattiesburg, Mississippi), and Ms. Mary Werner. Board members absent: Dr. Angela Bass and 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 at the Training Room at the Mississippi School Boards Association building, 380 Zurich Drive, Ridgeland, Mississippi.

- I. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman called the Board meeting to order at 10:02 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. Ms. Aultman welcomed Dr. Kim S. Benton, Interim State Superintendent.
- 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 voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2022 Board meeting and minutes of the Special-Called Board meetings on June 15, 2022 – Student Representative Interviews, June 15, 2022 – Budget Work Session; June 23, 2022; June 27, 2022; and July 6, 2022.
- IV. On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.
- V. Recognition Ceremony

Council of Economic Education National Personal Finance Challenge **Finalists from Germantown High School Team**

Cooper Word

Isaac Toles

Preethika Lakshminarayanan

Shreenithi Lakshminarayanan

VI. Dr. Kim S. Benton gave the following report as the Interim State Superintendent of Education:

- Dr. Benton welcomed and introduced Ms. Holly Spivey, Director of Government Relations, to the Board. Dr. Benton stated that Ms. Spivey is the former Education Advisor of Governor Tate Reeves and has worked with MDE in the past and MDE is fortunate to have her join our team.
- Dr. Benton recognized and thanked the entire MDE staff for their hard work and the seamless way they have adapted to their temporary work sites. Dr. Benton stated that all staff are up and working at alternate sites including Woolfolk, Graymont, and the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (MSDB) campus. Dr. Benton stated the employees have been incredibly positive and responsive to ensure that MDE remained open for business and that we did not miss a beat. Dr. Benton stated that she wanted to especially thank Dr. Felicia Gavin and Mr. Ken Stamps for coordinating our move while managing major repair work that is taking place at Central High School. Dr. Benton also thanked Mr. John Kraman and the entire Office of Technology and Strategic Services (OTSS) Team for a tremendous job getting us up and running with all our technology. Dr. Benton thanked Ms. Jean Cook for handling all the logistics that were necessary to set up operations at the different locations. Dr. Benton thanked Dr. Jeremy Stenson, Superintendent at MSDB, for graciously opening the campus to MDE.
- Dr. Benton stated the progress of the renovations at Central High School are on schedule and Phase 1 should be completed by August 6. Dr. Benton stated they are removing the existing roof, and this is done in phases so one side of the building has been done and they have removed the entire south atrium skylight to install scaffolding. Dr. Benton stated that MDE staff are not entering the building so all can stay safe.
- Dr. Benton stated that the High Dosage Tutoring Guidebook for Districts and Schools, a customized resource, was available at each Board member's table. This resource contains evidence-based resources and strategies and will be sent out next week to all districts.
- Dr. Benton stated that last week, she and Dr. Tenette Smith had the opportunity to be interviewed for an Ed Post story about the progress of the Literacy-Based Promotion Act. Dr. Benton stated that this provides an opportunity to highlight all the progress that our state has made in improving literacy outcomes and to reiterate our commitment to continuing to move this work forward. Improving literacy for all children in our state remains a top priority and forefront of MDE's work.
- Dr. Benton stated the MDE Team has been very busy presenting at summer conferences, professional development events across our state, and we have been feeling the excitement, enthusiasm, and energy as we interact with school teachers, leaders, and support staff and gear up to begin a new school year.

- Dr. Benton stated MDE made multiple presentations at the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents (MASS) Summer Conference and Ms. Aultman did a beautiful job kicking off the prayer breakfast. Dr. Benton stated all sessions were well attended and many positive comments were received about the presentations. Dr. Benton stated she spoke during the MASS Conference Superintendent's Luncheon which was attended by seven legislators. She additionally stated that Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee was on a panel during the luncheon. Dr. Benton stated that she had the opportunity to share with the districts at the luncheon what they can expect from MDE in the upcoming months. Dr. Benton stated she was thrilled to be joined at the MASS Conference by Dr. Wendi Barrett and Jackson County Teacher Academy student, Ms. Megan McDaniel. Dr. Benton stated that Megan reached out to her about six months ago when she was doing research for a school project on public education and policy and Dr. Barrett graciously arranged for Megan to attend MASS and shadow MDE leaders. Dr. Benton stated that Megan wants to be a teacher and she was the star of the show. Dr. Benton stated that Megan had the opportunity to meet representatives of the two universities that she is interested in attending. Dr. Benton stated that having Dr. Barrett and Ms. McDaniel present really put a face on our "grow-your-own" and teacher recruitment efforts throughout the state.
- Dr. Benton stated that she presented at the MEGA Conference sponsored by the Alabama Department of Education. Dr. Benton stated that when they found out she was from Mississippi, a young lady shared she graduated from Mississippi. Dr. Benton stated she asked if she knew the Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) and she then told her story of how MSA had made a difference in her life and because of her experience with Dr. Suzanne Hirsch and MSA teachers, she became a teacher. Dr. Benton stated that sometimes we may not realize the incredible influence educators have on students even after graduation.
- Dr. Benton stated that a sheet that spotlights the professional development that took place across our state during last school year had been provided with Board materials. Dr. Benton stated that more than 11,000 teachers, instructional coaches, specialists, and administrators had the opportunity to participate in high quality professional development in forms such as face-to-face, virtual sessions, and a new element of independent study through Canvas courses. Dr. Benton stated that in the upcoming year, the outstanding professional development staff will continue to bring trainings forward. MDE has released the professional growth catalog that is aligned with the work that Dr. Courtney Van Cleave and Dr. Cory Murphy lead with MDE's Professional Growth System.
- Dr. Benton stated that regional superintendent meetings are being scheduled across the state in August and September and will be held in the six RESA areas. Dr. Benton stated that an email will be sent out next week

to the superintendents and will include the Board members so they can attend any or all the meetings.

- Dr. Benton presented a slide show that captured the work of the MDE Team in June and July as they have touched educators across our state in professional learning.

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

- Ms. Aultman welcomed Ms. Holly Spivey to the Department and stated that we look forward to working with you and certainly she comes with breadth and depth of connections and knowledge, so we are pleased to have her.
- Ms. Aultman thanked the MDE staff since this is their second major move and stated this is no small task to move the whole Department along with all the resources and the technology that has to go with it. Ms. Aultman thanked MDE for their diligence and flexibility. Ms. Aultman thanked the Mississippi School Boards Association for allowing MDE to use their Training Room for the Board meetings and making it easy and comfortable to make the transition for the time being.
- Ms. Aultman stated she represented the Board at the MASS prayer breakfast. Ms. Aultman stated she visited with superintendents and others who attended to get their different perspectives about things that are going on. Ms. Aultman stated they were interested in the Superintendent search and were happy to have Dr. Benton.
- Ms. Aultman stated that the rest of her time since the last meeting has been spent coordinating with the consultant, Ms. Sonya Amis, and Dr. Gavin in setting up interviews for our candidates. Ms. Aultman stated that the goal with the consultant is to have a list of candidates during the week of October 31st through November 4th for the Board to review. Ms. Aultman stated after the Board has reviewed the candidates, the top candidates will be brought in to interview, and then we will have a Board meeting on November 10th. Ms. Aultman stated that the goal is to have a Superintendent in place by January 1st, but it depends on the candidate, their schedule, and their current position.

VIII. Report of Student Representative

Ms. Aultman stated that Mr. Charlie Frugé is attending a summer program at Vanderbilt and will join the Board next month.

Ms. Micah Hill stated she attended the Mississippi Governor's School, and this was an amazing experience. The topic was creating a culture of belonging and this really capitalized on diversity of thought. Ms. Hill stated that she was invited to Mississippi State University's Research and Curriculum Unit for their Innovative Institute Conference to speak on her experience on the Mississippi State Board of Education and for her to introduce Mr. Michael Bonner. Ms. Hill stated that he is an educator at the famed Ron Clark Academy, and she felt so

honored to introduce him. Ms. Hill stated that she went to Nashville, Tennessee for the National Beta Convention and she had the opportunity to represent Mississippi and Jones County and the motto was Let Us Lead by Serving Others. Ms. Hill stated that she is on a panel with NASBE's Student Engagement Collaborative about policy and Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee is her mentor. Ms. Hill stated she is excited about her senior year and will keep the Board posted. Ms. Hill stated she is looking forward to working with Mr. Charlie Frugé.

Ms. Aultman thanked her for representing her town, family, and this Board beautifully.

IX. No reports on State Board of Education Subcommittee meetings. Ms. Aultman stated that an updated roster was sent by Ms. Sonya Amis since MDE liaisons have changed.

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Information: Spring 2022 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment results [Goals 1, 2, and 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

Dr. Tenette Smith and Ms. Melissa Beck presented the results of the Spring 2022 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. The results showed the majority of Pre-K and kindergarten students made gains over the course of the school year but fell short of pre-pandemic achievement levels.

02. Action: Approval of Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Request [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

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

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

03.A. Action: Approval of an emergency contract with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) for Fiscal Year 2023 to administer the LAS Links, English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Wendi Barrett, seconded by Mr. Glen V. East, the Board unanimously approved item 03.A. (copy attached).

04. Action: Approval of MDE grant awards [Goals 1 and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

- 04.A. Action: Award competitive grants for Special Education State Systemic Improvement Plan K-3 and 4-8 Literacy Coaches [Goals 1 and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kim Benton)

On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board unanimously approved item 04.A. (copy attached).

05. Action: Approval of a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 97.1. State Board Policy Chapter 97, Rule 97.1 – Weapon [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

The Board discussed and the staff answered questions. On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board unanimously approved item 05. (copy attached).

06. 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 the 2022-2023 MSA and Brookhaven School District Interlocal Agreement (Wendy Clemons)
- D. Approval of the revised School Wellness Plan for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, and the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (Wendy Clemons)
- E. Approval of the 2022-2022 Crisis Management Plans for the State Schools (Wendy Clemons)
- F. Approval of FY23 budget for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Wendy Clemons)
- G. Approval of FY23 budget for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Wendy Clemons)
- H. Approval to establish Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 14.21, State Board Policy Chapter 14, Rule 14.21 – *Mississippi Assistant Teacher Requirements* (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Kim Benton)

- I. Approval to repeal Miss. Code 7-3: 65 and 65.2, State Board Policy Chapter 65 – Reading Improvement Program, Rule 65.2 – Assistant Teacher Program Regulations
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Kim Benton)
- J. Approval to revise the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Kim Benton)
- K. Approval of methodology to award competitive grants to public schools to support pre-Kindergarten programs (Kim Benton)
- L. Approval to revise certain criteria for Career Pathway licensure options, 954 Information Technology; 964 Instrumentation; and 967 Collision Repair Technician
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- M. Approval to establish Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 99.3, State Board Policy Chapter 99, Rule 99.3 – Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy for the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Wendy Clemons)
- N. Approval of preliminary calculation of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program Base Student Cost for Fiscal Year 2024
(Felicia Gavin)
- O. Approval of preliminary calculation of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program for Fiscal Year 2024 (Felicia Gavin)
- P. Approval of certified personnel for the Mississippi School of the Arts, Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and Blind, and Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (Wendy Clemons)
- Q. Approval of the *Mississippi Critical Teacher Shortage Act of 1998*: Designation of 2022-2023 Critical Shortage Subject Areas and Critical Shortage Geographical Areas (Mississippi School Districts)
(Paula Vanderford)
- R. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Mississippi State Board of Education Policy Chapter 14, Rule 14.10 to add Deans of Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) to the list of required mandatory reporters for infractions delineated under

Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2 as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Paula Vanderford)

- S. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to include requirements for the issuance of the Special License, Expert Citizen – Teacher License as set forth in House Bill 1388 of the 2022 legislative session; establish criteria for renewal of this Special License and Class Level at which license shall be issued (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., F., G., H., I., J., K., L., M., N., O., P., Q., R., and S. (copy attached).

- T. Approval of a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to include a Resident Teacher License for resident teachers once unconditionally admitted to a State Board of Education-approved Mississippi Teacher Residency program as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Wendi Barrett, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board unanimously approved item T. (copy attached).

XI. No Executive Session.

XII. State Board of Education

- 1. Dr. Wendi Barrett thanked Dr. Kim S. Benton for taking the time with us at the MASS Conference. Dr. Barrett stated that it was an honor for an up and coming senior to job shadow the State Superintendent and she was thrilled to meet with the colleges she is interested in attending. Dr. Barrett stated the presentations by Dr. Benton, Dr. Vanderford, and Mr. Kraman were standing room only and they did a phenomenal job and gave a lot of interesting information about all the things that have been going on at the Department.

Mr. Matt Miller attended a meeting on July 7 to be the moderator for the local leadership class on education at William Carey College. Mr. Miller stated the panelists included the Early Childhood Development Director at Hattiesburg Public School District, the principal at the alternative school, the Superintendent of Education for Lamar County School District, and Dr.

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Barnett, Dean of Education at William Carey and soon to be the new President. Mr. Miller stated they provided some excellent information to the members of the class about how education at all levels including the Pine Belt. Mr. Miller stated that he was impressed with Ms. Hope Mikell, Director of the Early Learning Collaborative for Hattiesburg, who provided some great insight on how they are progressing but how they are working with other Early Learning Collaboratives specifically in Lamar County and in Petal to coordinate efforts to make sure they are reaching as many students as possible.

2. No request to attend a meeting.
3. Dr. Wendi Barrett moved to nominate Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman to serve as Board Chair from July 2022 to July 2023. Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman to serve as Board Chair from July 2022 to July 2023.

Ms. Mary Werner moved to nominate Mr. Glen V. East to serve as Board Vice-Chair from July 2022 to July 2023. Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved Mr. Glen V. East to serve as Board Vice-Chair from July 2022 to July 2023.

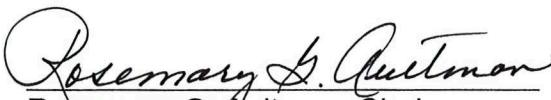
XIII. Other Business

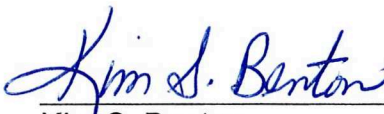
Ms. Aultman stated the August Board meeting will be held on August 18, 2022, in Ridgeland, MS at the Mississippi School Boards Association, 380 Zurich Drive starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Approved:


Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education


Kim S. Benton
Interim Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education