

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

September 29, 2022

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 29, 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. Karen J. Elam, Mr. Bill Jacobs, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Mr. Matt Miller, and Ms. Mary Werner. There were no Board members absent. 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 10:01 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 Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2022, Board meeting.
- IV. Mr. Bill Jacobs asked to pull out Tabs M. and Q. from the Consent Agenda to be discussed. On a motion by Mr. Bill Jacobs, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board voted unanimously to move Tabs M. and Q. to the regular agenda.

Tab M. was changed to Tab 06. Approval to revise selected policies and procedures for programs within the Office of School Financial Services.

Tab Q. was changed to Tab 07. Approval to grant accreditation to charter schools approved by the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-1.

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the agenda as amended.

- V. No recognition ceremony.

- VI. Dr. Kim S. Benton gave the following report as the Interim State Superintendent of Education:
- Dr. Benton stated that MDE had a busy and exciting month meeting with teachers and district leaders around the state in regional meetings and preparing for the release of the highly anticipated 2021-22 accountability grades.
 - Dr. Benton stated that work continues on roofing and repair projects at the Central High School building but due to weather, the project is behind by a month.
 - Dr. Benton stated that she and members of the Executive Leadership Team have been traveling across the state for the fall round of Regional Superintendents Meetings and Teacher Advisory Council Meetings. Dr. Benton stated they visited all six RESAs for the Superintendents Meetings and met with members of the Teacher Advisory Council in Ridgeland, Gulfport, and Oxford. Meetings were well attended and enabled MDE staff to meet in-person with nearly all district superintendents.
 - Dr. Benton stated that close to 150 teachers attended the Teacher Advisory Council meetings, including a teacher at the Children's Hospital School Program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.
 - Dr. Benton stated that she met with 25 new superintendents for a full-day training sponsored by the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents (MASS). Dr. Benton stated that MDE staff provided sessions on Accreditation, the Educator Code of Ethics, Technology and Data Reporting, and Federal Programs.
 - Dr. Benton stated that she has continued to meet with state leaders and legislators this month including House Education Chair Richard Bennett, Co-Chair Kent McCarty, Senator John Polk, House Speaker Pro Tempore Jason White, and Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann. Dr. Benton stated that these meetings strengthen partnerships with state leaders and align efforts to best serve the students, teachers, and school leaders.
 - Dr. Benton stated that she is pleased to report the United States Department of Education (USDE) highlighted Mississippi's telehealth initiative in its newly released back-to-school checklist for parents and families. This checklist elevates key evidence-based practices for supporting students' learning and mental health.
 - Dr. Benton stated that she and MDE's special education team participated in the Mississippi Council for Exceptional Children Annual State Conference. This is a statewide professional organization dedicated to improving the success of children and youth with disabilities.
 - Dr. Benton stated that she joined several MDE colleagues at a meeting of the Teaching Leading Solutions Group (TLSG), which included leaders from MDE, school districts, and higher education. The meeting focused on policies and solutions for recruiting and retaining educators, preparing educators, and supporting educators through professional development. Dr. Benton stated that the Collaboration for Effective Educator Development,

Accountability, and Reform Center (CEEDAR) at the University of Florida supports this work.

- Dr. Benton stated that earlier this week she spoke to a group of 40 school leaders from across Mississippi who are participating in the CEO Leadership Academy (Collaborating to Empower Others). Dr. Benton stated this program is an initiative of the Program of Research and Evaluation for Public Schools (PREPS) based at William Carey University.
- Dr. Benton stated that she would like to highlight the seven districts and schools she has been fortunate to visit during the past month. These include: Newton County, Leake County, Newton City, Union Public, Meridian, and Grenada. Dr. Benton stated that each district is unique, but they all share the same dedication to students and are working hard to help every student succeed.
- Dr. Benton spotlighted Grenada by showing a video because it is an example of the extraordinary teachers and leaders we have in Mississippi and the incredible work they are doing to provide high quality instruction for our students.

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

- Ms. Aultman stated that for the month, she has been on telephone calls, emailing, and having conversations with the consultants on the State Superintendent search.
- Ms. Aultman stated she has been in constant contact with Dr. Benton.
- Ms. Aultman stated that Dr. Benton has been on the road making good contacts and supporting what is going on in the school districts.

VIII. Report of Student Representative

Mr. Charlie Frugé who is in Washington, D.C. until January gave a video report about mental health, violence in schools, and the national guidance counselor shortage. Mr. Frugé' stated he did not know the answer, but he did know there is a problem.

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 yesterday he, Mr. Matt Miller, and Dr. Karen Elam met via Teams. Mr. East stated during the meeting they heard about the revisions to the Social Studies Standards. Mr. East stated that a lot of manhours have gone into this revision from the committee and every comment received was reviewed. Mr. East stated that early childhood and tutoring programs are going well. Mr. East stated that they met the new Special Education Director, Dr. Jennifer Boykin.

Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Chair of the School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee, reported that he and Mr. Bill Jacobs met prior to the Board meeting this morning. Dr. McGehee stated he applauds the efforts by the teachers, students, and the administrators for the great job they have done since 2019 and we ask them to do it again this coming year. Dr. McGehee thanked Dr. Paula Vanderford and Mr. Alan Burrow for their hard work.

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Action: Begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise the 2022 Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards for Social Studies [Goals 1 and 2 – MDE Strategic Plan] (Wendy Clemons)

Ms. Wendy Clemons, Ms. Tammy Crosetti, and Dr. Tenette Smith presented the revised 2022 Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards for Social Studies. The Board had questions that were answered by MDE staff. On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved item 01. (copy attached).

02. Action: Approval of the 2021-2022 Mississippi Statewide Accountability Results [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved item 02. (copy attached).

Ms. Micah Hill left the Board meeting at 11:11 a.m.

03. Information: Overview of the Mississippi Succeeds Report Card [Goals 1, 2, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)

Mr. John Kraman provided an overview of the Mississippi Succeeds Report Card.

04. Action: Approval of the MDE grant awards [Goals 1, 2, and 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

04.A. Action: Modify competitive grants for the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Wendy Clemons)

04.B. Action: Modify Early Learning Collaborative grants to support pre-kindergarten programs with increased funding to serve additional children [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Marla Davis)

04.C. Action: Modify the grant award for the Mississippi Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools Grant (MCOPS) FY23 (2022-2023) [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

04.D. Action: Award Covid-19 Public Health Workforce Grant [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved items 04.A., 04.B., 04.C., and 04.D. (copy attached).

05. Action: Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 97.1, State Board Policy Chapter 97, Rule 97.1 – Weapons [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)

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

06. Action: Approval to revise selected policies and procedures for programs within the Office of School Financial Services [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved item 06. (copy attached).

07. Action: Approval to grant accreditation to charter schools approved by the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17- 1 [Goals 1, 2, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board voted 6 to 0 to approve item 07. (copy attached). Mr. Bill Jacobs abstained from voting.

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

Member voting nay: None

Member abstain: Mr. Bill Jacobs

Member absent: None

08. 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 revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2022*, Appendix A-6 – A-10, A-12, and C-2 and Miss. Admin. Code 7-163: *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2022*, Appendix A-6 – A-10, A-12, and C-2 (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Wendy Clemons)
- D. Approval of Dropout Prevention Plan for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Wendy Clemons)
- E. Approval 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 (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- F. Approval 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 (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- G. Approval 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

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

- H. [PULLED]
- I. Approval of an Accredited-Temporary Status for The Canopy School (Paula Vanderford)
- J. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 37.1, State Board Policy Chapter 37, Rule 37.1 – Grants/Subgrants (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Felicia Gavin)
- K. Approval to revise selected policies and procedures for programs within the Office of Child Nutrition (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Felicia Gavin)
- L. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 23.1, State Board Policy Chapter 23, Rule 23.1 – Contracts (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Felicia Gavin)
- M. [PULLED]
- N. 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)
- O. Approval of Administrative Leave for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Wendy Clemons)
- P. Approval of contract with American Sentry Security System, a preapproved state vendor, to provide security services on the campus of the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year (Wendy Clemons)
- Q. [PULLED]

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., F., G., I., J., K., L., N., O., and P. (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. Ronnie L. McGehee seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a vote of 7 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. Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee seconded the motion, which passed on a motion of 7 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.

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board voted 7 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. Ms. Mary Werner stated that she met with the Superintendent of Itawamba as a request from Rep. Donnie Bell. Ms. Werner stated the meeting was about career and technical education which she is passionate about. She stated there were six people in the meeting, and it was a good meeting.
2. No request to attend a meeting.

XIII. Other Business

No other business.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Bill Jacobs, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:26 p.m.

Approved:


Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Kim S. Benton
Interim Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education