

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

October 19, 2023

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 19, 2023, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5 for the purpose of conducting a regularly scheduled Board meeting.

The public accessed this meeting via livestream or in-person at the Central High School Building, 4th Floor Boardroom, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members physically present included: Mr. Glen V. East, Dr. Wendi Barrett, Mr. Matt Miller, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, and Mr. Mike Pruitt. Board members participating virtually: Mr. Bill Jacobs, (WaterColor, Florida) and Ms. Mary Werner (Tupelo, Mississippi). Student Representative present: Mr. Charlie Frugé. Student Representative absent: Ms. Kate Riddle. Dr. Raymond C. Morgigno, Interim State Superintendent, was also present.

- I. Mr. Glen V. East 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. Mr. Mike Pruitt led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Matt Miller gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of September 28, 2023, Board meeting and minutes of September 29, 2023, Special-Called Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Mr. Mike Pruitt, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board unanimously adopted the Consent agenda.

On a motion by Dr. Wendi Barrett, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

- V. Recognition Ceremony

Carnegie Hall Performance

Holmes County Central High School Choir
Holmes County Consolidated School District

- VI. Dr. Raymond C. Morgigno gave the following report as the Interim State Superintendent of Education:
 - Dr. Morgigno stated the Student Advisory Council was held at the Capitol with Mr. Charlie Frugé and Ms. Kate Riddle helping to facilitate. Dr. Morgigno stated there were 90 students in attendance and Senator Nicole Boyd and Representative Clay Dewese also attended. Dr. Morgigno

stated that at the next meeting the students will be touring Nissan to see the plant and all the different available opportunities.

- Dr. Morgigno stated the Superintendents Advisory Council met and discussed ideas, concerns, and things that are going on in their districts. Dr. Morgigno stated that someone from Homeland Security came to tell the superintendents about cyber security grants that are available.
- Dr. Morgigno attended the JROTC Roundtable meeting with some military leaders and leaders from different JROTC programs. Dr. Morgigno stated that Representative Kevin Felsher and Representative Kent McCarty were in attendance.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he met with the Legislative Budget Office and the Mississippi State Personnel Board about the upcoming Legislative session.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he attended the Tunica County School District Celebration since the district scored a “B” for two consecutive years.
- Dr. Morgigno brought greetings at the SEAS Mississippi Educational Conference on the Coast. Dr. Morgigno stated he visited Ocean Springs High School and Oak Park Elementary School where he saw some amazing work that the students and teachers are doing.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he met with the Mississippi Department of Mental Health to talk about the opportunities that are available for our schools and to continue to work on the mental health aspect for our students.

VII. Mr. Glen V. East, Chair of the State Board, gave the following report:

- Mr. East stated that he drove students from Gulfport to the Student Advisory Council meeting and going home they were very excited about things they are planning to do. Mr. East thanked Mr. Charlie Frugé and Ms. Kate Riddle for their leadership on the Council.
- Mr. East stated that Ms. Riddle is taking the PSAT exam today and will not be attending the Board meeting.

VIII. Report from Student Representative

Mr. Charlie Frugé reported on ACT tutoring and stated that students should be prepared to take the test.

IX. Reports on State Board of Education Subcommittee meetings

Mr. Matt Miller, Chair of the Educator Quality, stated they met on Monday and heard a report on Educator Workforce Development, and it will be presented today at the meeting.

Mr. Bill Jacobs, Chair of the Internal Accountability Subcommittee, stated they met this morning and had several long discussions. Mr. Jacobs stated that one discussion was on the 21st Century Community Learning Centers evaluations for

2022 and 2023 and these will be contracted to an external evaluator. Mr. Jacobs stated they discussed establishing protocols related to program evaluations for contracts.

Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Chair of the School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee, stated they met yesterday afternoon and Dr. Paula Vanderford shared the scores. Dr. McGehee stated they are proud of our districts who scored tremendously. Dr. McGehee stated you will hear the report later in the meeting.

Ms. Mary Werner, Chair of the Workforce/Career and Technical Education Subcommittee, stated they met this morning and Ms. Wendy Clemons gave a return on investment for Baseline Report and basically, she talked about pros and challenges that came out of the report. Ms. Werner stated that one good point under the pros is approximately 2,700 students enrolled in secondary CTE programs each year and that is a 10% growth over the participation of the last five years. Ms. Werner stated that some of the challenges seem to be the community colleges are like side roads since they are not all teaching subjects the same way, so MDE is going to work to melt them together, so all the classes are the same. Ms. Werner stated that this is really important. Ms. Werner stated that Mr. Brett Robinson is going to attend the Dean Retreat of Community Colleges and will speak to them about this issue. Ms. Werner stated there was a need for dual credit opportunities for CTE since there are a lot of opportunities for the regular academic programs. Ms. Werner stated in the past she had stated that MDE was going to join forces with Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) for the Perkins V State Plan, but this is going to take one more year before we can join with them. Ms. Werner stated that the Perkins V State Plan is on track to be submitted to the Governor and then submitted to the U.S. Department of Education in March 2024.

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Information: Educator Workforce Development Update [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

Dr. Paula Vanderford and Dr. Courtney Van Cleve presented the Educator Workforce Development update (copy attached).

02. Information: Update on Literacy Based Promotion Act [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

Dr. Tenette Smith and Mrs. Kristen Wynn presented an update on the Literacy Based Promotion Act (copy attached).

03. Action: Approval of the MDE Contracts [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
- 03.A. Action: Modify contract with EMS LINQ, Inc. to extend the contract date and increase the cost for additional modules, hosting, maintenance and support to the Mississippi Department of Education relative to the Mississippi Comprehensive Automated Performance-based System (MCAPS) [Goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
- 03.B. Action: Renew contract with the Mississippi State Department of Health to provide health inspections for the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) Summer Food Service Program for the remainder of FY 2024 and FY 2025 [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Mr. Mike Pruitt, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved items 03.A. and 03.B. (copy attached).

04. Action: Approval of the MDE grant awards [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
- 04.A. Action: Award competitive grants for the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) Stronger Connections Grant Program [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

On a motion by Dr. Wendi Barrett, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board unanimously approved item 04.A. (copy attached).

05. Consent Agenda
- A. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Donna Boone)
- B. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Donna Boone)
- 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 (Donna Boone)
- D. Approval to adopt policies required by state statute for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind to be placed on the District Policy Service website established by the Mississippi School Boards Association (Donna Boone)

1. Section: G; Policy Code: GBRI
Policy: Absence from Duty
 2. Section: I; Policy Code: IDDFAA
Policy: District Assurance for Children with Disabilities
 3. Section: J; Policy Code: JBD
Policy: Student Attendance, Reporting of Student Attendance, Tardiness and Excuses
 4. Section: C; Policy Code: CEB
Policy: Duties of Superintendent
- E. Approval to modify the district calendar for Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind due to campus power and Internet outages on August 21, 2023 (Donna Boone)
- F. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise the Regulations for Gifted Education Programs (Donna Boone)
- G. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise selected State Board policies related to Career and Technical Education (CTE) (Donna Boone)
- H. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To create State Board Policy Chapter 84, Rule 84.18 – Appeals Procedure for Career Technical Data Reporting (Donna Boone)
- I. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise State Board Policy Chapter 28, Rule 28.1 – Curriculum Guides (Donna Boone)
- J. Approval of methodology to award Equipment Assistance grants to School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program (Paula Vanderford)
- K. Approval of Jackson State University’s request to add a Child Development (Pre-Kindergarten – Kindergarten (PreK-K) supplemental endorsement to its existing Elementary Education (K-3) approved licensure-track educator preparation program (Paula Vanderford)
- L. Approval of The University of Southern Mississippi’s request to modify its existing approved Child Development (Pre-Kindergarten –

Kindergarten (PreK-K) master’s degree licensure-track educator preparation program (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Wendi Barrett, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., F., G., H., I., J., K., and L. (copy attached).

XI. Consideration of Executive Session

Mr. Matt Miller 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 unanimous vote. Mr. Glen V. East asked for Legal Counsel to remain in the room.

Mr. Matt Miller, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(a) and (k), to discuss discrete personnel matters and Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(b) to discuss strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation, ongoing litigation, or issuance of an appealable order.

Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Ms. Jennifer Nichols 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, in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(a) and (k), the Board discussed discrete personnel matters and in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(b) discussed strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation, ongoing litigation, or issuance of an appealable order.

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board voted 6 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

The public came back into the Board meeting and Mr. East stated the Board discussed the recent State Superintendent search process.

Mr. East stated the recruitment period for the State Superintendent of Education began on August 14, 2023, and will close tonight at 11:30 p.m. CST. The position announcement is posted on the MDE website, the McPherson & Jacobson website, and it has been shared nationally by the search firm.

On September 5, 2023, the Communications Office released a Stakeholder Survey for public comments which closed on September 22, 2023.

On November 2, 2023, the State Board will meet with McPherson & Jacobson consultants to discuss the candidates who applied for the position, view applicant videos, and select the semi-finalists for interviews on December 11 and 12, 2023. Following the semi-finalist interviews, finalist(s) will be selected for interviews on December 20, 2023. The State Superintendent will be appointed by the State Board on December 20, 2023, with a hire date of July 1, 2024, upon Senate confirmation.

XII. State Board of Education

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

XIII. Other Business

Mr. East stated the November 2, 2023, Special-Called Board meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. rather than 10:00 a.m.

Mr. East stated the November Board meeting will be held on November 9, 2023, in Jackson, MS at the Central High School Building in the 4th floor Boardroom starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

Approved:



Glen V. East, Board Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Raymond C. Morgigno
Interim Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education