

## Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

April 19, 2023

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 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, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members physically present included: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Dr. Wendi Barrett (arrived at 10:04 a.m.), Mr. Glen V. East, Mr. Bill Jacobs, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Mr. Matt Miller, and Ms. Mary Werner. Student Representatives present: Ms. Micah Hill and Mr. Charlie Frugé. Mr. Michael D. Kent, 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.
- II. Mr. Glen V. East led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of March 9, 2023, Board meeting and the minutes of Special-Called Board meetings on March 13, 2023, March 27, 2023, March 28, 2023, and March 30, 2023.
- IV. On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board unanimously adopted the agenda as presented.
- V. Recognition Ceremony

### **2022 Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement**

Cadet Kinsey Nicholson  
Northwest Rankin High School  
Rankin County School District

### **2023 Senior Beta Club State President**

Zyionn Holmes  
Humphreys County High School  
Mississippi Achievement School District

### **2023 Mississippi Scholastic Chess Association State Champions**

Humphreys County High School Chess Team  
Mississippi Achievement School District

**2023 Class 4A State Basketball Champions**

Yazoo City High School

Mississippi Achievement School District

VI. Mr. Michael D. Kent gave the following report as the Interim State Superintendent of Education:

- Mr. Kent welcomed everyone back to the Central High School 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom.
- Mr. Kent stated that with the rain last week the South Atrium had leaks and the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) and the general contractor have been contacted so this issue can be resolved.
- Mr. Kent stated that MDE is continuing to work with the school districts impacted by the March 24 tornados to provide help and support to continue or resume school. Mr. Kent stated that Amory School District returned to class on April 11 with 85% attendance. Mr. Kent stated that the South Delta School District reopened on April 14 with a soft start for all K-12 students at the South Delta Middle School. Mr. Kent stated all faculty and staff will be housed at the middle school through the end of the school year. Mr. Kent stated that transportation is being provided for the bus riders and he and MDE are in daily contact with the district superintendent.
- Mr. Kent stated that MDE has provided the school districts across the state guidance on enrolling displaced students.
- Mr. Kent stated that MDE has provided all school districts in the state maximum flexibility for scheduling statewide assessments by extending the statewide testing window on most assessments. Mr. Kent stated that if needed, the tornado-affected districts may seek to extend scheduling of the third grade reading assessment and assessments for seniors who need to retake an assessment to meet graduation requirements.
- Mr. Kent stated the Accountability Taskforce met last week to discuss several topics, including schools impacted by tornados, growth revisions and chronic absenteeism and to explore innovations in districts accountability.
- Mr. Kent stated that he plans to stay close with district superintendents and MDE is setting dates to go on the road to meet with superintendents to discuss relevant topics such as accountability, budget, and the state superintendent search.
- MDE's recognition ceremony for Mississippi's 61 inaugural Military Star Schools was held at Brandon High School on April 18, 2023. Mr. Kent stated that Governor Tate Reeves delivered remarks and helped recognize the principals, superintendents, and military points of contact from the state's Military Star Schools.
- Mr. Kent stated that the final meeting of the year was held with the Mississippi Student Advisory Council. Mr. Kent stated the students presented their findings and recommendations about ACT prep, mental health support, school safety, class rank, and the dropout rate. Mr. Kent



stated that he was very impressed with the students' work and their ideas about improving the high school experience.

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

- Ms. Aultman thanked Mr. Michael D. Kent for stepping in as the Interim State Superintendent. Ms. Aultman stated he has been working with the school districts affected by the tornados to get students back in school.
- Ms. Aultman thanked the Mississippi School Boards Association and the Madison County School District for the use of their facilities while the roof was being repaired at the Central High School Building.
- Ms. Aultman stated that today is Ms. Micah Hill's last Board meeting as the Senior Student Representative. Ms. Aultman read a Resolution for Ms. Hill (copy attached).

VIII. Report of Student Representatives

Ms. Micah Hill presented a video of her trip to the Gulfport School District where she saw some ideas that she could share with her school district.

Mr. Charlie Frugé reported on mental health and school counseling.

IX. Report on State Board of Education Subcommittee meetings

Mr. Matt Miller, Chair of the Educator Quality Subcommittee, reported they met yesterday, and this was his first time as Chair of the Subcommittee. Mr. Miller stated he was provided a lot of information and the committee reviewed the Consent Agenda items L through S.

Mr. Bill Jacobs, Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, reported they met today, and it was his first time as Chair of the Subcommittee. Mr. Jacobs stated the Legislative session has wrapped up and they received a report on the bills that will impact MDE. Mr. Jacobs stated they discussed the meeting with the Senate Education Committee about the upcoming superintendent search.

Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Chair of the School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee, reported they met today. Dr. McGehee stated that Dr. Paula Vanderford gave a report on accountability. Dr. McGehee stated several meetings have been held to review the 28 applications received for the junior student representative. Dr. McGehee stated the top 10 semifinalists were chosen and they are: Mafati Bah, Tate County School District, Strayhorn High School; Kenadi Carpenter, Rankin County School District, Brandon High School; Yaerim Choi, Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District, Starkville High School; Mennah Ibrahim, Oxford School District, Oxford High School; Jackson Pearce, Gulfport School District, Gulfport High School; Kate Riddle, Lafayette County School District, Lafayette High School; Alexandra Ritchie, Oxford School

District, Oxford High School; Hannah Smith-Phillips, Rankin County School District, Northwest Rankin High School; Grace Taylor, Rankin County School District, Northwest Rankin High School; and Addison Winburn, Lafayette County School District, Lafayette High School. Dr. McGehee stated the 10 semifinalists will be interviewed by the Subcommittee and the top four finalists will be recommended to the Board for interviews.

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Information: Update on Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funded Projects [Goals 1, 2, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

Ms. Wendy Clemons, Dr. Marla Davis, Ms. Melissa Banks, and Dr. Tenette Smith presented an update on Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funded projects.

02. Action: Begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2022* specifically the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System, Section 9, *Acceleration*, Section 10, *Banking Scores: End-of-course, subject area assessments taken before 10th grade*, Section 15, *English Learners (EL)*, Section 19, *Rounding*, Section 25, *College- and Career-Readiness Indicator*, and Section 27, *Other* [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

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

03. Action: Approval of the MDE Contract [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
- 03.A. Action: Renew contract with Research and Curriculum Unit, Mississippi State University for Fiscal Year 2024 for the operation of the Mississippi Career and Planning and Assessment System, Third Edition (MS-CPAS3) [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)
- 03.B. Action: Renew contracts with vendors for the adoption of textbooks in the areas of Science (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) and the K-12 Arts (Dance, Theater, General Music, Choral Music, Instrumental Music, and Visual Arts) to include one additional year - Fiscal Year 2024 [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)



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- 03.C. Action: Modify contract with Teachstone to provide training and commodities to the Mississippi Department of Education relative to the Office of Early Childhood Pre-K to third grade Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) training program [Goals 3 and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)
- 03.D. Action: Renew contract with the Mississippi State Department of Health to provide health inspections for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Summer Food Service Program for the remainder of FY 2023 and FY 2024 [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
- 03.E. Action: Renew contract with Tann, Brown, and Russ, Co., PLLC for Fiscal Year 2024 for the calculation of the FY2025 Base Student Cost and Mississippi Adequate Education Program Cost [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Mr. Mary Werner, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board unanimously approved items 03.A., 03.B., 03.C., and 03.D. (copy attached).

- 04. Action: Approval of the MDE grant awards [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
  - 04.A. Action: Award competitive grants for the Special Education Grants to States Special Education New Teacher Mentor Program Coordinator Educator-in-Residence [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)
  - 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] (Donna Boone)
  - 04.C. Action: Award Educator-in-Residence (EIR) Grants to school districts for literacy coaching supports [Goals 1, 2, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board unanimously approved items 04.A., 04.B., and 04.C. (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 of the school calendars for the Mississippi School of the Arts, the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, and the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science for 2023-2024 school year (Donna Boone)
- E. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 48.1, State Board Policy Chapter 48, Rule 48.1 – Section 504 Teacher Units (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Donna Boone)
- F. Approval to establish selected Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks in Career and Technical Education (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Donna Boone)
  - 1. Barbering
  - 2. Diversified Agriculture Capstone
  - 3. Diversified Agriculture Precision Agriculture
  - 4. Diversified Agriculture Turfgrass Management
  - 5. Energy Technology
  - 6. Exploration of Agriscience
  - 7. Software Development
- G. Approval to revise selected Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks in Career and Technical Education (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Donna Boone)
  - 1. Agricultural and Natural Resources
  - 2. Aquaculture
  - 3. Diesel Technician
  - 4. Entrepreneurship
  - 5. Logistics and Supply Chain
  - 6. Polymer Science

- H. Approval to revise selected Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks in Secondary Education  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Donne Boone)
  - 1. Accounting Essentials
  - 2. Entrepreneurship
  - 3. Graphic Design I
  - 4. Graphic Design II
  - 5. Introduction to Information Technology
  - 6. Management Essentials
  - 7. Marketing Essentials
  - 8. Web Design I
  - 9. Web Design II
- I. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise the *Textbook and Instructional Materials Administration Handbook: Rules and Regulations for the Adoption, Distribution, Care and Use of Textbooks and Instructional Materials in Mississippi* in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-43-1, Miss. Code Ann. § 37-43-19, and Miss. Code Ann. § 37-43-25 (Donna Boone)
- J. Approval of methodology to award competitive and discretionary grants to early learning collaboratives to support Pre-Kindergarten programs (Donna Boone)
- K. Approval to establish Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 81.15, State Board Policy Chapter 81, Rule 81.15: Minimum Specifications for School Buses  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- L. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12*, to amend certain criteria regarding renewal and reinstatement of a Mississippi educator license  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- M. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code Title 7: Part 107: 2021 Educator Preparation Provider Process and Performance Guidelines, to amend certain criteria  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)



- N. Approval of the appointments to the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Paula Vanderford)
- O. Approval of Mississippi State University to offer the Mississippi State Board approved Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary Education K-6 Nontraditional Licensure-Track Program (Paula Vanderford)
- P. Approval of William Carey University to offer the Mississippi State Board approved Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary Education K-6 Nontraditional Licensure-Track Program (Paula Vanderford)
- Q. Approval of Mississippi State University to offer the Mississippi State Board approved Master of Arts in Teaching Mild/Moderate Special Education K-12 Nontraditional Licensure-Track Program (Paula Vanderford)
- R. Approval of William Carey University to offer the Mississippi State Board approved Master of Arts in Teaching Mild/Moderate Special Education K-12 Nontraditional Licensure-Track Program (Paula Vanderford)
- S. Approval of Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) to offer the Mississippi State Board approved Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary Education K-6 Nontraditional Licensure-Track Program (Paula Vanderford)
- T. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: Chapter 55, Rule 55.2: Data Classification Policy (John Kraman)
- U. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: Chapter 1 – Accountability, Rules 1.1 – 1.3  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Sonya Amis)
- V. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-2: Chapter 2 – Organization of the State Board, Rule 2.3 – Student Representatives of the Mississippi State Board of Education  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Sonya Amis)
- W. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: Chapter 10 – Subrecipient Single Audit Resolution, Rule 10.1 – Subrecipient Single Audit Resolution



(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Sonya Amis)

- X. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: Chapter 12 – Board of Education Operations, Rules 12.1 - 12.10  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Erin Meyer)

- Y. Information: Revision of the Composite (Combined) Score Guidance and updates to the Universal Concordance Table in Appendix A-5 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2022*  
(Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, 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., S., T., U., V., W., and X. (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. Mr. Matt Miller seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a vote of 6 to 0. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman asked for Legal Counsel and Mr. Michael D. Kent to remain in the room.

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 certain positions and appointments within the MDE.

Mr. Matt Miller seconded the motion, which passed on a motion of 6 to 0. Ms. Jennifer Nichols 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 certain positions and appointments within the MDE.

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board voted 6 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

The public came back into the Board meeting and Ms. Aultman stated an update was given but no action was taken.

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XII. State Board of Education

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

XIII. Other Business

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman stated the May Board meeting will be held on May 18, 2023, in Jackson, MS at the Central High School Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom, 359 North West Street starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:36 p.m.

Approved:



Glen V. East, Vice-Chair/Acting Board Chair  
Mississippi Board of Education



Michael D. Kent  
Interim Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Board of Education