

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

July 18, 2024

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 18, 2024, 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. Bill Jacobs, Mr. Matt Mayo, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Mr. Matt Miller, Mr. Mike Pruitt, Ms. Billye Jean Stroud, and Ms. Mary Werner. Student Representatives present: Ms. Kate Riddle and Mr. Crosby Parker. Dr. Lance Evans, 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. Matt Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance and Dr. Wendi Barrett gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Matt Mayo, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of June 20, 2024 Board meeting and the minutes of Special-Called Board meetings on June 19, 2024 – Student Representative Interviews and June 19, 2024 – Budget Work Session.
- IV. On a motion by Mr. Matt Mayo, seconded by Mr. Mike Pruitt, the Board approved the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

- V. Recognition Ceremony

State-level Finalists for 2023-24 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

Mathematics Finalists

Sara Broadbent
Petal Upper Elementary School
Petal School District

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Cassandra Johnson-Hudson
McLaurin Elementary School
Rankin County School District

Shonda Pummel
Camden Elementary School
Madison County School District

Science Finalists

Julie Chase
Weir Elementary School
Choctaw County School District

Kreissa Reed
Neshoba Central Elementary School
Neshoba County School District

Dr. Diane Smith
Wells APAC Elementary School
Jackson Public School District

- VI. Dr. Lance Evans gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:
- Dr. Evans thanked the Board for allowing him to have this position and he stated he started working in January on transitioning to this position.
 - Dr. Evans welcomed Mr. Crosby Parker as the Junior Student Representative. Dr. Evans welcomed new Board members Mr. Matt Mayo and Ms. Billye Jean Stroud.
 - Dr. Evans stated he met with MDE directors and Executive Leadership Team, and he had a meet and greet with all MDE staff.
 - Dr. Evans stated he gave opening remarks at the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents (MASS) Conference. Dr. Evans stated MDE staff and leaders presented at MASS, and they received great responses.
 - Dr. Evans stated he attended the Mississippi Association of Career and Technical Education (MS ACTE) Conference and introduced Senator Daniel Sparks, Chairman of the Senate Economic and Workforce Development Committee.
 - Dr. Evans stated he met with the K-12 and Postsecondary Mental Health Task Force, U.S. Department of Education Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Adam Schott, and ITS Executive Director Dr. Craig Ogeror.
 - Dr. Evans stated he had interviews with Magnolia Tribune, WLOX, and WAPT.
 - Dr. Evans asked for Mr. John Kraman and Ms. Deborah Donovan to give the Board a demo on MSIS 2.0. Dr. Evans thanked them and their staff for all the work that has gone into getting this set up.

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- VII. Mr. Glen V. East, Chair of the State Board, gave the following report:
- Mr. East thanked Mr. Matt Miller for covering for him last month.
 - Mr. East stated he attended the Mississippi Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) Conference and he spoke at the Prayer Breakfast at the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents (MASS) Conference.
 - Mr. East stated a copy of the list of subcommittees is at your station for you to review and let him know of any changes before the next Board meeting when a new subcommittee list will be provided.

VIII. Report from Student Representatives

Mr. Crosby Parker gave a report on Youth Mentoring.

Ms. Kate Riddle gave a report on Career and Technical Education.

IX. Report on State Board of Education Subcommittee meeting

Ms. Mary Werner, Chair, Workforce/Career and Technical Education Subcommittee, stated they met this morning and were introduced to Mr. John Ferrell, Chief of School and District Transformation, who is over Career and Technical Education. Ms. Werner stated they discussed National Certification Grants and WorkKeys, CTE enrollment, and the United States Department of Education (USDE) approved the MS Perkins Plan for one year.

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Information: Spring 2024 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment results [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

Dr. Paula Vanderford and Dr. Donna H. Boone provided an update on the Spring 2024 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment results.

02. Action: Approval of Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

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

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

- 03.A. Action: Modify contract with TransACT Communications, LLC dba AfterSchool21 to provide Mississippi's Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) data collection and reporting

requirements [Goals 1, 2, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]
(Donna Boone)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved item 03.A. (copy attached).

03.B. Action: Contract with Imagination Station, Inc., for Fiscal Year 2025 to provide an integrated assessment system that will include a Pre-Kindergarten and a Kindergarten-Readiness Assessment [Goals 1 and 2 — MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Mr. Matt Mayo, the Board unanimously approved to table item 03.B. to discuss in Executive Session.

04. Action: Approval of the MDE grant awards [Goals 1, 2, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

04.A. Action: Award competitive grant for Special Education State Systemic Improvement Plan Regional Literacy Coordinator (K-3) Educator-in-Residence services [Goals 1 and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

04.B. Action: Award competitive grants for Special Education State Systemic Improvement Plan Regional Literacy Coordinator (4-8) Educator-in-Residence services [Goals 1 and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

04.C. Action: Award grants for the Non-Profit Workforce Professional Development Program [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Ferrell)

04.D. Action: Award Educator-in-Residence (EIR) Grant to a school district for Reading Intervention Coach Supports [Goals 1, 2, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

04.E. Action: Award competitive grants to school districts to pilot the Services for Students with Dyslexia and Related Disorders [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

04.F. Action: Award competitive grants for the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved items 04.A., 04.B., 04.C., 04.D., 04.E., and 04.F. (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 Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Donna Boone)
- D. Approval of the 2024-2025 Student Handbooks for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind and the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (Donna Boone)
- E. Approval of the 2024-2025 Employee Handbooks for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind and the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (Donna Boone)
- F. Approval of the 2024-2025 Crisis Management Plans for the State Schools (Donna Boone)
- G. Approval of the 2024-2025 School Wellness Plan for the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (Donna Boone)
- H. Approval of FY25 budget for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Donna Boone)
- I. Approval of FY25 budget for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Donna Boone)
- J. Approval of the 2024-2025 Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science and the Mississippi University for Women Memorandum of Agreement (Donna Boone)
- K. Approval of the 2024-2025 Memorandum of Understanding between the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science and the Columbus Municipal School District for the use of their track and field facilities (Donna Boone)
- L. Approval of the appointments to the Commission on School Accreditation (Paula Vanderford)

- M. Approval of the Mississippi Critical Teacher Shortage Act of 1998: Designation of 2024-2025 Critical Shortage Subject Areas and Critical Shortage Geographical Areas (Mississippi School Districts) (Paula Vanderford)
- N. Approval of Delta State University's request to modify its existing approved licensure-track programs in Physical Education and Health (Paula Vanderford)
- O. Approval of Jackson State University's request to establish a traditional teacher education preparation licensure-track bachelor's degree program in math that leads to dual licensure in the areas of Algebra (7-12) and Geometry (7-12) (Paula Vanderford)
- P. Approval of Mississippi College's request to establish a Specialist in Education (Ed.S.) degree licensure-track program leading to Teacher Leadership licensure (Paula Vanderford)
- Q. Approval of Mississippi State University's request to establish and administer the Teach Mississippi Institute (TMI) nontraditional teacher preparation program in accordance with requirements outlined in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2 (6)(b) and related rules adopted by the State Board of Education (Paula Vanderford)
- R. Approval of Mississippi State University's request to modify its licensure-track supplemental endorsement in the area of Special Education Mild/Moderate Disabilities (7-12) by reducing the required hours of undergraduate coursework from eighteen (18) to fifteen (15) hours (Paula Vanderford)
- S. Approval of Mississippi University for Women's request to establish a licensure-track supplemental endorsement in the area of Special Education Mild/Moderate Disabilities (K-12) (Paula Vanderford)
- T. Approval of William Carey University's request to establish a licensure-track supplemental endorsement in the area of Special Education Mild/Moderate Disabilities (7-12) (Paula Vanderford)
- U. Approval of Alcorn State University's request to offer the Mississippi State Board approved nontraditional teacher education preparation licensure-track Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) (K-6) Elementary Education program (Paula Vanderford)

- V. Approval of Alcorn State University's request to establish a licensure-track supplemental endorsement in the area of Child Development (Pre-K-K) (Paula Vanderford)
- W. Approval of Mississippi State University's request to modify its existing licensure-track supplemental endorsement in the area of Special Education Mild/Moderate Disabilities (K-8) by adding equivalent graduate level coursework to allow candidates to complete eighteen (18) hours of undergraduate level coursework or graduate level coursework or a combination thereof for obtaining the supplemental endorsement (Paula Vanderford)
- X. Approval of Mississippi State University's request to modify its existing licensure-track supplemental endorsement in the area of Special Education Mild/Moderate Disabilities (7-12) by adding equivalent graduate level coursework to allow candidates to complete fifteen (15) hours of undergraduate level coursework or graduate level coursework or a combination thereof for obtaining the supplemental endorsement (Paula Vanderford)
- Y. Approval of Mississippi University for Women's request to establish a licensure-track supplemental endorsement in the area of Reading (K-12) (Paula Vanderford)
- Z. Approval of preliminary calculation of the Mississippi Student Funding Formula Base Student Cost for Fiscal Year 2026 (Felicia Gavin)
- AA. Approval of preliminary calculation of the Mississippi Student Funding Formula for Fiscal Year 2026 (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Mr. Matt Mayo, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, 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., X., Y., Z., and AA. (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. Mr. Matt Mayo seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Mr. Glen V. East asked for legal counsel and Mr. Michael D. Kent 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 (4)(a) and (k) for discussion of discrete personnel matters and Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(b) for strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation, ongoing litigation,

or issuance of an appealable order. Ms. Mary Werner seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote. 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, the Board discussed discrete personnel matters and strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation, ongoing litigation, or issuance of an appealable order.

01. On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the appointed hearing officer and confirm the termination of the Mississippi School for the Blind principal.
02. On a motion by Mr. Matt Mayo, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously voted to terminate the remainder of the contract with NWEA for the MAAP grades 3-8 ELA and Math, and End of Course assessments for Algebra I and English II for the Fiscal Year 2025.
03. On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously voted to enter an emergency contract with DRC to administer the MAAP grades 3-8 ELA and Math, and End of Course assessments for Algebra I and English II for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2025.

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Mr. Matt Mayo, the Board unanimously voted to come out of Executive Session.

The public came back into the Board meeting.

- XII. On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board voted unanimously to take Tab 03.B. off the table.

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Mr. Matt Mayo, the Board voted unanimously to approve Tab 03.B.

- XIII. State Board of Education

1. No report on meetings attended.
2. On a motion from Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board approved for Ms. Kate Riddle and Mr. Crosby Parker to attend the National Student Board Member Association (NSBMA) virtual conference in August which will cost \$550.00 per student representative.

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3. Mr. Matt Miller nominated Mr. Glen V. East to serve as Board Chair. On a motion from Mr. Matt Mayo, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved Mr. Glen V. East to serve as Board Chair from July 2024 to July 2025.

Ms. Mary Werner nominated Mr. Matt Miller to serve as Board Vice-Chair. On a motion from Mr. Mike Pruitt, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved Mr. Matt Miller to serve as Board Vice-Chair from July 2024 to July 2025.

XIV. Other Business

1. On a motion from Mr. Matt Mayo, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board approved to change the date of the regularly scheduled November 2024 meeting of the Mississippi Board of Education from November 14, 2024 to November 7, 2024.

XV. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Billye Jean Stroud, seconded by Mr. Matt Mayo, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Approved:



Glen V. East, Board Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Lance Evans
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education