

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

August 15, 2024

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 15, 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 (joined the meeting at 10:08 a.m.), Mr. Bill Jacobs, Mr. Matt Mayo, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Mr. Matt Miller, Mr. Mike Pruitt, and Ms. Billye Jean Stroud. Board member absent: 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. Ms. Billye Jean Stroud led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Bill Jacobs gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Mike Pruitt, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of July 18, 2024 Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Mr. Matt Mayo, seconded by Ms. Billye Jean Stroud, the Board approved the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Matt Mayo, seconded by Ms. Billye Jean Stroud, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

- V. Recognition Ceremony

Cason Brinkley
Cleveland School District Student

- VI. Dr. Lance Evans gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:
 - Dr. Evans stated he attended numerous internal meetings, with special focus on restructuring support to low-performing schools.
 - Dr. Evans stated an Accountability Task Force meeting will be held tomorrow.
 - Dr. Evans stated he has attended many stakeholder meetings:
 - Mississippi Secretary of State Michael Watson;
 - Mississippi State Auditor Shad White;

- Representative Becky Currie and musician Steve Azar;
- Mississippi Head Start Association Executive Director Dr. Nita Norphlet-Thompson and sixteen Head Start/Early Head Start directors from across the state;
- Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (CGLR) – National Managing Director Ralph Smith, Dr. Angela Rutherford, Professor of Teacher Education and the Director of the Center for Excellence in Literacy Instruction at the University of Mississippi, and Mississippi CGLR Coordinator Alyssa Hobart;
- Greenwood-Leflore School District Leaders; and
- Yazoo County Board of Supervisors.
- Dr. Evans stated he had the following speaking engagements:
 - Teach Plus Mississippi for Mississippi policy fellows kick-off meeting;
 - Southern Regional Education Conference – school board members and education leaders from Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana; and
 - Toyota Mississippi 4T Academy Program Signing Day.
- Dr. Evans stated he had interviews with:
 - Mississippi Today;
 - Hattiesburg American;
 - MPB Radio; and
 - WYAD Radio (Yazoo County).

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

- Mr. East thanked Dr. Evans and the MDE for having better communication with the districts.

VIII. Report from Student Representatives

Mr. Crosby Parker gave a report on STEM mentoring and outreach to introduce innovative ideas to students.

Ms. Kate Riddle gave a report on Chronic Absenteeism and ideas to keep students in school.

Mr. East challenged Ms. Riddle and Mr. Parker along with the Student Advisory Council to prepare a one pager or hand out that can be disseminated sometime by March with how we can push student attendance from a student's perspective and how to replicate the mentoring STEM model program.

IX. Report on State Board of Education Subcommittee meeting

Mr. Bill Jacobs, Chair, Internal Accountability Subcommittee, stated they met this morning and Dr. Evans joined the meeting.

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Information: 2023-2024 Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) Results [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

Dr. Paula Vanderford gave the results of the 2023-2024 Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP).

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

02.A. Action: Renew 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)

02.B. Action: Modify the emergency contract with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) for Fiscal Year 2025 to administer the English Language Arts and Mathematics in Grades 3-8, End-of-Course (EOC) in Algebra I, and English II as part of the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program, (MAAP) and to also include Science in Grades 5 and 8, EOC Biology, and EOC US History [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Mr. Matt Mayo, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board unanimously approved items 02.A. and 02.B. (copy attached).

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

03.A. Action: Award competitive grants for the State Invested Pre-K Cohort III Grant Program [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

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

03.C. Action: Award grants for special projects appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature to the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) with a World Class Teacher Program (WCTP) site in House Bill 1823, 2024 Legislative Session [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

03.D. Action: Modify grant for the ESSER Migrant Program [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

03.E. Action: Award grant for a special project appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature and identified as the Mary Kirkpatrick-Haskell, Mary Sprayberry School Nurse Program in House Bill 1511, 2017 Legislative Session [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board unanimously approved items 03.A., 03.B., 03.C., 03.D., and 03.E. (copy attached).

04. 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, the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, and the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (Donna Boone)
- D. Approval of contract with Castleworks, LLC to provide a new Security Camera system for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Donna Boone)
- E. Approval of textbook titles as recommended by the 2023 State Textbook Rating Committee for adoption in the area of Math (Pre-Kindergarten) - Fiscal Year 2025 (Donna Boone)
- F. Approval to revise methodology to renew Title IV, Part B 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to subgrantee (Donna Boone)
- G. Approval to revise the Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks for College and Career Readiness (CCR), Freshman Seminar Early College High School (ECHS), Sophomore Seminar ECHS, Junior Seminar ECHS, and Senior Seminar ECHS (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comments) (Donna Boone)

- H. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 3: State Board Policy Chapter 14, Rule 14.6, to establish Rule 14.6.2(4) and amend Rule 14.6.3(10) related to Disciplinary Process Policy (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act Process with no public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- I. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish one (1) new Career Pathway in the endorsement area of Unmanned Aircraft Systems; and to revise endorsement 506 Special Populations Personnel (postsecondary only) (Paula Vanderford)
- J. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code Title 7: Part 107: *Educator Preparation Provider Process and Performance Review Guidelines* by amending certain existing criteria and establishing new criteria for federal reporting, onboarding new providers, closing providers, and deleting programs (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., F., G., H., I., and J. (copy attached).

XI. No Executive Session.

XII. State Board of Education

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

XIII. Other Business

- 01. On a motion by Mr. Mike Pruitt, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board approved to change the regularly scheduled State Board of Education meeting date from Thursday, September 26, 2024 to Tuesday, September 17, 2024.

Mr. East stated the September Board meeting will be held on September 17, 2024 in Jackson, MS at the Central High School Building in the 4th Floor Boardroom starting at 10:00 a.m.

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XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

Approved:



Glen V. East, Board Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Lance Evans
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education