

## Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

September 17, 2024

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 17, 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, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members physically present included: Mr. Glen V. East, Mr. Bill Jacobs, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Mr. Matt Miller, Mr. Mike Pruitt, and Ms. Mary Werner. Board member attending virtually: Ms. Billye Jean Stroud (New Albany, Mississippi). Board members absent: Dr. Wendi Barrett and Mr. Matt Mayo. 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. East led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of August 15, 2024 Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board approved the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

- V. No Recognition Ceremony.
- VI. Dr. Lance Evans gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:
  - Dr. Evans stated the Regional Superintendents meetings for Meridian, Jackson, Oxford, and Cleveland have been completed. Dr. Evans stated that this week the Regional Superintendents meetings will be held in Hattiesburg and Gulfport. Dr. Evans stated the first Teacher Advisory Council will meet in Gulfport since it was rescheduled due to the weather.
  - Dr. Evans stated that MDE had meetings with the superintendents of Holmes County Consolidated School District, Noxubee County School District, and the Achievement School District (Humphreys County School District and Yazoo City Municipal School District).

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- Dr. Evans stated he visited the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science along with House Education Chair Rob Roberson, House Education Vice-Chair Kent McCarty, Representative Donnie Scoggin, and Mr. Cole Butler from House Speaker Jason White's Office. Dr. Evans thanked Mr. Mike Pruitt for joining the group. Dr. Evans stated MDE will be working with legislators on funding and other support for the school.
- Dr. Evans stated he had the following speaking engagements:
  - Mississippi Horizons Conference by AccelerateMS: On panel with Patrick Sullivan, Chair of the State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB), and Kell Smith, Executive Director of the Mississippi Community College Board about how our agencies can streamline workforce development efforts and ensure equitable access to CTE programs;
  - State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB): Highlighted national certification passing percentages and CTE expenditure data;
  - Clinton Rotary Club: Presented with Clinton School District Superintendent Dr. Andy Scoggin to answer questions about school choice; and
  - PREPS CEO Leadership Academy: Spoke to 50 principals and assistant principals who are part of the year-long PREPS CEO Leadership Academy.
- Dr. Evans stated he attended legislative/stakeholder meetings:
  - PEER Committee: Biennial review of Education Scholarship Account (ESA) program MDE administrators;
  - Florida Harm Prevention Model: Met at Rankin County School District with staff and education stakeholders to learn about the Model and he thanked Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee for participating in the meeting;
  - Mississippi Association of School Business Officers (MASBO): Mentoring program proposal for new school business administrators;
  - AccelerateMS: Provided Executive Director Courtney Taylor an overview of the statewide accountability system and current considerations for updating the model;
  - Foundation for Excellence in Education (ExcellinEd) State Chiefs convening in North Carolina: Met with ExcellinEd leaders and my counterparts from around the country;
  - Mississippi College Board: Possible K12/Adult Education partnership to address statewide low adult literacy rates;
  - College Board: Preview of Mississippi's PSAT, SAT, and AP results to be released publicly September 24;
  - Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB): Discussed partnership to develop comprehensive distance learning program staffed by Mississippi teachers hired to teach remotely; and
  - Code.org: Met with state government relations director.
- Dr. Evans stated he had interviews with:

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- Daily Journal, Sun Herald, MPB, Magnolia Tribune, WLBT, among others to discuss the Accountability results; and
- Commercial Dispatch to discuss Mississippi Student Funding Formula.

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

- Mr. East asked for two or three Board members to volunteer to serve on a subcommittee to work on the Board Strategic Plan and bring a proposal back to the Board.

VIII. Report from Student Representatives

Ms. Kate Riddle and Mr. Crosby Parker gave a joint report on their participation in the Start+ Conference put on by the National Student Board Member Association.

IX. Report on State Board of Education Subcommittee meeting

Mr. Glen V. East, Chair, Academic Achievement PreK-12/Early Childhood Subcommittee, stated they met yesterday and heard outstanding plans in early childhood education. Mr. East stated MDE is looking at the way we measure effectiveness of our early childhood programs especially those involved in the grants. Mr. East stated MDE is trying to outline some ideas to not only make sure that our children are ready for kindergarten in math and reading but also in what is called executive skills which is being able to solve problems, being able to share, and being able to do those things that make a good human being. Mr. East stated MDE is getting ready to move forward with the process and will bring the document to the Board to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process soon.

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Action: Approval of the 2023-2024 Mississippi Statewide Accountability Results [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 01. (copy attached).

02. Action: Approval of the MDE Contracts [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

- 02.A. Action: Modify contract with Mississippi Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs) to provide a variety of education-related services allowable under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) (Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) Program to participating

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non-public schools [Goals 1, 2, and 4 - MBE Strategic Plan]  
(Donna Boone)

02.B. Action: Contract with Major Clarity by Paper, Inc. to provide a college and career readiness platform with an e-transcript feature [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

02.C. Action: Contract with Paper Education America, Inc. to provide high dosage tutoring for grades 3-12 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics [Goals 1, 2, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Ferrell)

02.D. Action: Contract with Staffing Innovations, Inc. for providing Temporary Staffing Services for the Call Center [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

02.E. Action: Modify contract with North Mississippi Education Consortium to extend the end date and increase the amount of the contract for FY25 and FY26 to facilitate planned activities for Mississippi Department of Education for 2022-2026 [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

02.F. Action: Contract with Cybersoft Technologies, Inc. for the operation of the Automated Purchasing System [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

02.G. Action: Contract with R & A Solutions, LLC to provide maintenance and support for the Mississippi Educator Career Continuum Archive (MECCA) system [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

02.H. Action: Modify contract with Guidesoft, Inc. d/b/a Knowledge Services to provide for the acquisition of Information Technology Professionals [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)

On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board unanimously approved items 02.A., 02.B., 02.C., 02.D., 02.E., 02.F., 02.G. and 02.H. (copy attached).

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

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

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

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

04. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval to appoint a certificated public-school administrator to the State and School Employees' Health Insurance Advisory Council (Lance Evans)
- B. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Donna Boone)
- C. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Donna Boone)
- D. Approval of an Accredited-Temporary Status for CARES School, Biloxi, MS (Paula Vanderford)
- E. Approval of certified personnel for the Mississippi School of the Arts and the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Donna Boone)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., and E. (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

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

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XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Approved:

  
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Glen V. East, Board Chair  
Mississippi Board of Education

  
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Lance Evans  
Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Board of Education