

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

November 9, 2017

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:02 a.m. on Thursday, November 9, 2017, in the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Mr. Buddy Bailey, Ms. Kami Bumgarner, Dr. Jason S. Dean, Dr. Karen J. Elam, Mr. Johnny Franklin, Dr. John R. Kelly, and Mr. Charles McClelland. Board member absent: Mr. Sean Suggs. Dr. Carey M. Wright was also present.

- I. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair, called the Board meeting to order. Ms. Aultman noted the statement on the agenda that cellular telephones and pagers are not permitted during the meeting.
- II. Ms. Kami Bumgarner led the Pledge of Allegiance and Dr. John R. Kelly gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2017, Board meeting.
- IV. Mr. Johnny Franklin requested to add item 8 – Board Procedures to the agenda, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the revised agenda.

Dr. Wright reminded the Board members to speak into the microphones so the people outside the Boardroom could hear what is being said.

V. Recognition Ceremony

2017 November Employee of the Month

Shonula Wright

Administrative Assistant III

Office of Child Nutrition

- VI. Dr. Carey M. Wright gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:
 - Dr. Wright stated she presented at the Stennis Institute/Capitol Press Corps luncheon. Dr. Wright stated that she spoke about the importance of early childhood and that is part of her platform as Chair of Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).

- Dr. Wright stated that last week she and Dr. John R. Kelly participated in panel presentations at the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Annual Conference. Dr. Wright congratulated Dr. Kelly. Dr. Wright stated Dr. Kelly is the current Chair of NASBE, the Governor is the Chair of Education Commission of the States (ECS), and she is the incoming Chair of Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and that speaks volumes for Mississippi.
- Dr. Wright stated she has started the “Celebration of Excellence” tour to recognize all A-rated districts with visits. Dr. Wright stated it is exciting to see the community, legislators, and parents come out with such pride in their communities.
- Dr. Wright stated that the Achievement School District (ASD) Planning Committee met recently and will come to you in December for discussion and a vote on two recommendations. Dr. Wright shared information from the ASD Planning Committee (copy attached). Dr. Wright answered questions from the Board about the information presented.
- Dr. Wright stated that the Superintendent’s Advisory Council met yesterday and they are a dedicated group of people. Dr. Wright stated they had conversations about accountability and things that are happening in accreditation. Dr. Wright stated the group provides a lot of great input.
- Dr. Wright stated the Spotlight for this Board meeting is “Chronic Absenteeism.” Dr. Wright stated that chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10% or more of school days in a year. Dr. Wright said if you are looking at a 180 school day year that would be missing 18 days or more. Dr. Wright stated that would be a month and there are children that are missing that much instruction per year. Dr. Wright stated that two of our districts decided to take this on in a joint venture. Dr. Wright stated that Oxford School District and Lafayette County School District have partnered to work with local communities and Campaign for Grade Level Reading to raise awareness of what this means and focus on the negative impact on student learning. Dr. Wright stated you will see how these districts are focusing on excused absences and unexcused absences because that becomes a critical part of chronic absenteeism. Dr. Wright stated they are also looking at suspensions because they are not in school. Dr. Wright stated that the chronic absenteeism information will be added to the school and district report cards. Dr. Wright stated that we need to highlight this information for the communities. Dr. Wright recognized Ms. Allison Crain, School Attendance Officer in Lafayette County School District, and Ms. Suzanne Ryles, Director of Early Childhood and Reading Development for Oxford School District, Lafayette County School District, City of Oxford, and Lafayette County. Dr. Wright stated hats off to both of you and the two superintendents that made this happen.

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

- Ms. Aultman congratulated Oxford School District and Lafayette County School District on their success academically.
- Ms. Aultman stated that she attended, along with Dr. Wright and Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Stennis Institute/Capitol Press Corps luncheon. Ms. Aultman stated that Dr. Wright did a great job giving a synopsis of what is going on in the Department and answering questions.
- Ms. Aultman stated that she attended the Mississippi Association of School Administrators (MASA) Conference and heard a very interesting talk on Competencies or Mastery-Based Learning as opposed to Curriculum Based Learning and what the future holds for that. Ms. Aultman stated that Ms. Jean Massey was recognized as a friend of education for her work in workforce development.
- Ms. Aultman stated that Dr. John R. Kelly is the Chair of the National Association of School Boards of Education (NASBE) and will represent us well. Ms. Aultman stated that next week, Dr. Wright will become the Chair of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). Ms. Aultman stated that Dr. Wright is recognized nationally as a transformational superintendent and the work she does in early childhood where transformation begins.
- Ms. Aultman stated there is a new Board member, Mr. Sean Suggs with Toyota Mississippi, who was appointed by the Speaker of the House. Ms. Aultman stated that she looks forward to having him on the Board with his background in industry and workforce.
- As a point of personal privilege, Ms. Aultman presented the following comments about the Jackson Public School District (JPS):
 - I would like to briefly address the current status of Jackson Public Schools because we have all been getting a lot of questions about the plan the Governor and the Mayor announced two weeks ago.
 - As you know, after an extensive audit of JPS, the Commission on School Accreditation and the Board determined that JPS was in an emergency situation. As the law requires, the Board asked the Governor to declare a state of emergency in the district. The Governor instead chose to create a coalition of community members to address the crisis in JPS.
 - Several media reports and editorials have portrayed this situation as a battle between the Governor, the Mayor, JPS, and the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). Let me be clear. There is no conflict, there is no fight. The concern of MDE and this State Board of Education was students were not getting an education that would lead to success in college or the workforce.
 - The state of JPS reached the point that the Board could no longer ignore the fact that the district was not successful and had not been for several years. However, I am glad our actions mobilized JPS stakeholders to work together to address the longstanding problems in the district.

- Every person with a stake in JPS shares the same goal: We all want a high-quality school system that helps the 27,000 students in JPS to be successful. If the Governor's and Mayor's plan results in quality schools throughout JPS, everybody benefits, most importantly the students of Jackson.
- MDE will monitor the district's Corrective Action Plan and will provide the same support and assistance that it gives to all school districts across our state. In addition to clearing accreditation violations, JPS must implement a comprehensive plan to improve teaching and learning.
- The responsibility of a district's performance rests on the shoulders of the district superintendent and its board members. Decisions that guide the district to be compliant with standards that state law and State Board policy deem critical to success are functions of local leadership. When that fails to happen systematically over time, it is this State Board's duty by state law to act, which it did.
- It is also my hope that all of the people who have come forward to address the crisis in JPS remain engaged in the district. This crisis will not be resolved in a short term but rather over a period of years with a concerted sustained effort of intervention and support. School districts depend on community support and engagement to be successful. Highly successful school districts across our state have three things in common: highly engaged parents, a highly engaged community, and focused and effective administrative leadership. We all, everyone sitting around this table, want JPS to be successful so the children of Jackson will have the quality schools and which will prepare them for a productive future.

VIII. Mr. Johnny Franklin, Chair of the Finance Subcommittee, stated the staff presented information on the State Auditors report, CliftonLarsonAllen report, and the PEER report. Mr. Franklin stated this is an ongoing process and we will hear more information during the meeting. Mr. Franklin thanked Ms. Raina Lee and Ms. Sonya Amis for clarifying Ms. Amis' role.

Dr. Karen J. Elam, Chair of the Academic Achievement PreK-12 Subcommittee, stated that Dr. Kim Benton and her staff presented information about Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) instructional materials professional development network. Dr. Elam stated that Dr. Benton gave an update on how educators in Mississippi are being given access to the high quality instructional materials and how to effectively use them to support learning of all students. Dr. Elam stated that during the two years in Mississippi, they are going to be concentrating in the area of Mathematics. Dr. Elam stated that Mr. Quentin Ransburg presented information on the grants for Homeless and the 21st Century

Community Learning Centers and will bring these to the Board later today. Dr. Elam stated that Ms. Toni Kersh presented information on the Chronic Absenteeism trends. Dr. Elam stated that the Mississippi Department of Education will roll out a new program entitled Strive for Less than Five.

IX. Discussion of Board Items

01. Dr. Felicia Gavin discussed the Mississippi Department of Education Contracts [Goal 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Gavin recommended approval.

1.A. Monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits (Felicia Gavin)

1.B. Renew competitive contracts to various manufacturers to provide food products to local organizations in the State Food Purchasing Program (All 7 Regions in the State) (Felicia Gavin)

02. Dr. Kim Benton introduced Mr. Quentin Ransburg and Ms. Elisha Campbell to discuss the Mississippi Department of Education grant awards [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Mr. Ransburg discussed the competitive grants for McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program and the grants for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program. The Board discussed the grants and had questions that were answered. Dr. Benton recommended approval.

2.A. Competitive grants for the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program (Kim Benton)

2.B. Competitive grants for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program (Kim Benton)

Mr. Charles McClelland thanked Mr. Ransburg for cleaning up the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program and for his leadership.

03. [PULLED]

04. Dr. Gavin recognized Ms. Stacey Graves, Chair of the Commission on School District Efficiency. Ms. Graves reported from the Commission on School District Efficiency [Goals 4 and 5 – MBE Strategic Plan], stating the three recommendations from the Commission for this year are: (1) offering computers to out-going seniors at fair market value; (2) allow school districts

to direct bill for eligible Medicaid services provided by the school district; and (3) Early Learning Collaborative Tax Credits. The Board discussed these recommendations.

05. Dr. Gavin introduced Mr. Ryan Merryman and Ms. Jody Frantz with CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP: Mr. Merryman and Ms. Frantz reported on the Forensic Audit [Goals, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).

Ms. Aultman thanked them for the report and thanked Dr. Gavin for the changes that have been put in place.

Dr. Wright thanked them on how professional and patient they have been with the Mississippi Department of Education and working with the Mississippi Accountability System for Government Information and Collaboration (MAGIC).

06. Dr. Paula Vanderford discussed a temporary rule and beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to include revisions to the Special, Non-renewable License and the One Year Teacher Interim License [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]. The Board discussed the temporary rule and the revisions. Dr. Vanderford recommended approval.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:50 a.m. and reconvened at 12:34 p.m.

07. Dr. John Q. Porter presented an update on the Mississippi Department of Education New Website [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Porter gave a time line of what has taken place and introduced the Web Master for the Department, Mr. Richard Scott.
08. Mr. Johnny Franklin discussed Board Procedures. Mr. Franklin stated that any communication provided should be shared with all Board members. Mr. Franklin stated he wanted to know what the Board thought about going back to the two day Board meeting so practitioners could be more involved and this was discussed. The Board did not vote to make any changes to the Board meeting. Dr. Jason S. Dean stated that he would like to see the numbers on the live stream of the Board meeting to see how effective it is.

X. Approval of Action Items

01. Action: Approval of the Mississippi Department of Education Contracts

[Goal 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]

(Office of Chief Operations Officer)

1.A. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved the monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits (copy attached).

(Office of Chief Operations Officer)

1.B. On a motion by Dr. Jason S. Dean, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved to renew competitive contracts to various manufacturers to provide food products to local organizations in the State Food Purchasing Program (All 7 Regions in the State) (copy attached).

(Office of Chief Operations Officer)

02. Action: Approval of the Mississippi Department of Education grant awards

[Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]

(Office of Chief Operations Officer)

2.A. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board unanimously approved the competitive grants for the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program (copy attached).

(Office of Chief Academic Officer)

2.B. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board unanimously approved the competitive grants for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program (copy attached).

(Office of Chief Academic Officer)

06. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to include revisions to the Special, Non-renewable License and the One Year Teacher Interim License [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached)

On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board unanimously approved a temporary rule to revise Part 4: *Licensure*

Guidelines K-12 to include revisions to the Special, Non-renewable License and the One Year Teacher Interim License.

(Office of Chief Accountability Officer)

Dr. John R. Kelly left the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

XI. Consideration of Executive Session

Dr. Jason S. Dean moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session. Mr. Johnny Franklin seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a vote of 6 to 0. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman asked Dr. Carey M. Wright, Ms. Raina Lee, Ms. Erin Meyer, and the Executive Leadership Team to remain in the Executive Session.

Dr. Jason S. Dean, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss discrete personnel matters related to the job performance of persons holding specific positions in the Department of Education in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k), discussion of a strategy session or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation involving the Department and the issuance of an appealable order in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(b), and discussion with respect to investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(d). Mr. Buddy Bailey seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 6 to 0. Ms. Erin Meyer 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 related to the job performance of persons holding specific positions in the Department of Education in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k), discussed a strategy session or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation involving the Department and the issuance of an appealable order in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(b), and discussed with respect to investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(d).

On a motion by Dr. Jason S. Dean, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted 6 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

The public came back into the Board meeting and Ms. Aultman reported the action taken during the Executive Session.

November 9, 2017

Ms. Aultman announced that Dr. John R. Kelly will serve as the Board representative to the Achievement School District Superintendent Search Committee that will be working in the next few months.

XII. State Board of Education

1. There were no meetings attended.
2. On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously approved for Dr. John R. Kelly to attend the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Annual 2017 Policy Forum in St. Louis, Missouri on November 13-15, 2017 and 2017 National Summit on Education Reform in Nashville, Tennessee on November 29 – December 1, 2017.

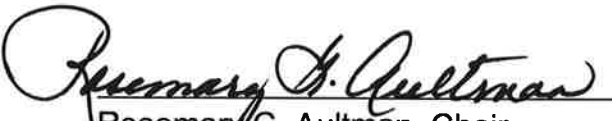
XIII. Other Business

The December Board meeting will be held December 14, 2017 in Jackson, Mississippi at the Central High School Building starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Approved:



Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education