

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

November 7, 2019

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 7, 2019, in the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Mr. Buddy Bailey, Dr. Jason S. Dean, Dr. Karen J. Elam, Dr. John R. Kelly, and Ms. Brittney Rye. Student Representatives present: Ms. Shelby Dean and Mr. Omar G. Jamil. Board members absent: Mr. Charles McClelland and Mr. Sean Suggs. Dr. Carey M. Wright was also present.

- I. Dr. Jason S. Dean called the Board meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Dr. Dean noted that cellular telephones and pagers are not permitted during the meeting. Dr. Dean stated that the meeting was being live streamed.
- II. Dr. Jason S. Dean led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Brittney Rye gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2019, Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board voted unanimously to remove Tab. 07.E. – Action: Renew contract with Guidesoft, Inc., d/b/a Knowledge Services to provide Information Technology Consulting Services to the MDE. The reason for this motion is to allow time to modify the agreement and to possibly add two additional staffing consultants.

On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda.
- V. Recognition Ceremony

2019 Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement

Cadet John Switzer

Brandon High School
Rankin County School District

Cadet Christopher Walton

Northwest Rankin High School
Rankin County School District

November 2019 Employee of the Month

Donna Stubbs

Accountant Auditor III

Office of Child Nutrition

VI. Dr. Carey M. Wright gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:

- Dr. Wright stated that in the blue folder at each Board members' seat includes the following:
 - Dr. Wright stated there is a packet of articles around The Nation's Report Card where Mississippi is concerned that the MDE will be talking about later in the meeting, a copy of the Mississippi Association for Middle Level Education (MAMLE) Conference program to see what it looked like and the sessions presented, and PowerPoints for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP), Kindergarten Readiness Results, and the Perkins Plan.
- Dr. Wright stated that she pulled in new superintendents from around the state. Dr. Wright stated that new was from zero to three years of experience and there were over 30 that came to the meeting. Dr. Wright stated they spent over two hours providing the opportunity for superintendents to learn about key issues and expectations related to their work and MDE got positive feedback stating that this was the best information they had received.
- Dr. Wright stated that she met for the first time this year with her Superintendents' Advisory Council to discuss a range of issues related to teacher and leader preparation and evaluation and innovative programming in the districts.
- Dr. Wright stated that she, Dr. Kelly, Dr. Dean, Senate Education Chairman Gray Tollison, and Mr. Pete Smith participated on a panel discussion at the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Annual Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. Dr. Wright stated the panel discussion was titled Leading is a Team Sport. Dr. Wright stated it was a great way to show the partnership between the Board, the Legislature, and MDE and showed the achievements that we have made so far.
- Dr. Wright stated that she and Ms. Robin Lemonis were invited to present to officials at the Utah Department of Education about the achievements that MDE has made in pre-K through grade three literacy and Utah officials shared what they are doing to get amazing results around students with disabilities. Dr. Wright stated they will continue to exchange ideas.
- Dr. Wright stated that the Education Achievement Council met, and they will be undertaking the development of a post-secondary attainment goal. Dr. Wright stated that Mississippi is one of six or seven states that does not have a post-secondary attainment goal and that goal is to reflect the percentage of the population between the ages of 24 and 65 that will have

some kind of post-secondary degree be it certificate, two year or four year. Dr. Wright stated that Lumina Foundation is going around the nation and giving every state what they recommend is their goal and the Education Achievement Council will be working on establishing that goal for Mississippi.

- Dr. Wright stated that the MDE will talk about this later, but she was in Washington, D.C. for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Press Conference and it was awesome.
- Dr. Wright stated that she has conducted 22 of 31 Celebration Tours and they are all as unique as you can possibly imagine and as wonderful as you can possibly imagine. Dr. Wright stated they are saving snippets from each one and they will put them together at the end so you can get a flavor of what it was like. Dr. Wright stated that if you get a chance you should come to one of the celebrations.
- Dr. Wright stated that she just found out that Secretary Betsy DeVos had nominated her to be a member of the National Assessment Governing Board.
- Dr. Wright stated the Spotlight for this Board meeting is “The Great Escape: Teaching Teachers to Create an Escape Room for Learning.” Dr. Wright stated the spotlight features a recent initiative of MDE’s professional development team that helps teachers develop innovative and engaging learning practices for students. Dr. Wright stated that MDE’s team calls it: “The Great Escape,” and it is modeled after the escape room trend that has become so popular around the country. Dr. Wright stated the escape rooms are like mini-stage sets decorated with props where a team of people hunt for clues and solve a series of puzzles to “escape” the room. Dr. Wright stated the team that “escapes” or finishes first wins the challenge. Dr. Wright stated the MDE’s professional development coordinators trained teachers around the state on how to adapt the escape room concept to teaching students in elementary, middle, and high school. Dr. Wright stated that the Board will see some of their training and how the teachers who were trained implemented those strategies in their classrooms. Dr. Wright recognized the members of the MDE Professional Development Team who led this work: Dr. Lea Johnson, Bureau Director for Professional Development; Ms. Elise Brown, Professional Development Coordinator II for Secondary Mathematics and Online Learning; and Ms. Tanjanikia McKinney, Professional Development Coordinator for Secondary Science. Dr. Wright stated that this is such a fun and engaging way to learn! Dr. Wright stated there is so much learning taking place in these activities that students may not even realize that they are collaborating, building their communication skills, and learning the standards. Dr. Wright stated that she could see how this concept benefits students.

VII. Dr. Jason S. Dean, Chair of the State Board, gave the following report:

- Dr. Dean stated that he was honored to be a part of the trip to Omaha, Nebraska to see Senator Tollison recognized as Public Policy Maker of the Year. Dr. Dean stated that he, Dr. Wright, Dr. Kelly, and Senator Tollison along with the moderator, Mr. Pete Smith, served on a panel and talked about what is going on in Mississippi and why all these achievements and gains are happening. Dr. Dean stated it was all about the Board's Strategic Plan and the theme of the comments were the Plan was built along a lot of policy work and as the accountable policy model has settled in and the Board's role is to remain faithful to the Plan. Dr. Dean stated that anything that the Board does, members ask how it impacts the Plan and if the Board stays true to the Plan and stays the course, Mississippi will keep seeing these gains.

VIII. Report on State Board of Education Subcommittee Meetings.

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair of the Academic Achievement PreK-12 Subcommittee, stated the Subcommittee met yesterday afternoon and the conversation centered around the middle school initiative, which recently the Leadership Team brought the information to the Board that middle school was an area that had not gotten as much focus. Ms. Aultman stated there is an association for middle schools called Mississippi Association for Middle Level Education called MAMLE that recently had a conference and the Subcommittee was presented information on how well it was attended, the initiatives that they have implemented, and how well received they have been. Ms. Aultman stated that MAMLE is planning another conference next year.

Ms. Brittney Rye, Chair of the Early Childhood Subcommittee, stated the Subcommittee met late yesterday afternoon and received a lot of updates about what is going on in early childhood. Ms. Rye stated that currently the Early Learning Collaboratives are at 18 sites which are 177 classrooms, the other funded Pre-K programs are in 43 classrooms statewide, and the Family Engagement Connection Conferences were held in two sites with 85 participants at these sites and they have 80 registered in Hattiesburg for the Conference. Ms. Rye stated the Preschool Development PDGB-5 Renewal Application grant was submitted and MDE should hear something back by mid-December. Ms. Rye stated that there has been a lot of conversation around the state about the need for a Leadership Institute, so they are currently working on a plan to develop one.

Dr. Dean, Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, stated the Subcommittee met this morning and discussed ways to be supportive in the transition as the regular session gets started and there will be a lot of transitional type of committee work that he volunteered to be a part of and Mr. Pete Smith is monitoring getting our appointments for the Board from the new Governor and Lt. Governor. Dr. Dean stated that as January approaches and the regular session gets started, the

Board needs to be thinking through strategically how Board members can participate in some of the top requests that MDE will have for the Legislature and participate in any informational sessions that they have moving forward.

Dr. John R. Kelly, Chair of the School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee, stated the Subcommittee met this morning and looked at five items which four are discussion items and one is an action item. Dr. Kelly stated the first item was a group of school districts that have graduate rates above 75% but when you look at the proficiency rate in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, they are below 25%, obviously this would be disturbing for anybody. Dr. Kelly stated these kinds of comparisons tend to draw audits from the U.S. Department of Education and MDE wants to be proactive and look at it here internally and see how we can help these districts to rectify that problem. Dr. Kelly stated the second item they looked at was State Board Policy 36.4 – the notion of removing the U.S. History test from assessment and it has gone out for the Administrative Procedures Act process (APA) and the MDE has received feedback. Dr. Kelly stated the Subcommittee discussed sending this to the Accountability Task Force to look at what kind of effect removing it would have on the school district in the accountability model. Dr. Kelly stated this is a big decision and the Subcommittee recommends that we remand it back so the appropriate committee can assess what impacts it will have on the schools' accountability. Dr. Kelly stated the next item looked at was the North Bolivar Consolidated School District accountability appeal and you will hear more about that today in the meeting. Dr. Kelly stated the last two items had to do with the student representatives on the State Board of Education with this year appointing two student representatives. Dr. Kelly stated that next year the State Board would appoint a junior and laid out the timeline and asked Ms. Sonya Amis and her group to look at it. Dr. Kelly stated that they are looking at the appointment process and are setting up an Ad Hoc Committee like last year's and have asked Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman to chair that Committee again.

Ms. Aultman stated that she had the opportunity to attend and speak at the Promise to Graduate Ceremony at the Sumner Hill Junior High School which is the ninth-grade school in Clinton. Ms. Aultman stated this was a very moving and impactful ceremony. Ms. Aultman stated the students signed a banner saying that they were making a promise to graduate and the idea that you make a promise that you carry through with it. Ms. Aultman stated that Dr. Martin said that this has really made a difference with their graduation rate. Ms. Aultman stated the banner hangs in the school and when the students go to the high school it goes with them. Ms. Aultman stated that this could be replicated very easily.

Mr. Buddy Bailey, acting as Chair of the Workforce/Career and Technical Education Subcommittee in the absence of Mr. Sean Suggs, stated that Dr. Nathan Oakley gave the Subcommittee an update on where MDE was and some funding mechanisms of the Perkins Plan that will be covered later in the Board

meeting as an item. Mr. Bailey stated that MDE continues to work towards funding and putting money towards workforce readiness and CTE components of secondary and community colleges at the same time.

Dr. Dean stated that there were special guests in the audience. Dr. Dean stated that the Executive Director of the Community College Board and some community college presidents were in attendance and he asked to move Tab 06 to Tab 01.

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board unanimously approved to move Tab 06 to Tab 01. Dr. Dean stated the rest of the agenda would be renumbered.

IX. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Action: Approval of the *Carl D. Perkins V State Plan* [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved to begin public comments on the *Carl D. Perkins State Plan*.

02. Dr. Paula Vanderford and Dr. Carey M. Wright gave the 2019 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) results [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved to move Tab 09 to Tab 03. Dr. Dean stated that the remaining agenda would be renumbered.

03. Action: Consideration of appeal of final accountability results for the North Bolivar Consolidated School District in accordance with Policy 3.1.4 of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, 2019* [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

Dr. Vanderford stated this is an action item for the consideration of appeal of final accountability results for the North Bolivar Consolidated School District in accordance with Policy 3.1.4 of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, 2019*, and as the Board recalls last month the Board remanded it to the Commission on School Accreditation. Dr. Vanderford stated that Dr. Jo Ann Malone serves as the Executive Secretary of the Commission on School Accreditation and she will give a report from the Commission.

Dr. Malone stated that the Commission on School Accreditation met in a Special-Called meeting on October 22, 2019, to take a second look at the

North Bolivar Consolidated School District's appeal. Dr. Malone stated that after questions from the Commission members to both the MDE and the Superintendent of the North Bolivar Consolidated School District the Commission voted 5 to 4 to uphold the decision and deny the District's request for an appeal.

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board voted 2 to 3 to affirm to deny the North Bolivar Consolidated School District's appeal to the accountability results and report the graduation rate for Northside High School at 77.5 and assign the performance classification that goes with that result. The motion failed.

Members voting aye: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman
Mr. Buddy Bailey

Members voting nay: Dr. Karen J. Elam
Dr. John R. Kelly
Ms. Brittney Rye

Members absent: Mr. Sean Suggs
Mr. Charles McClelland

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board voted 3 to 2 to reverse the decision of the Commission and grant the North Bolivar Consolidated School District's appeal to the accountability results and report the graduation rate of Northside High School at 80 and assign the performance classification that goes with that result. The motion passed.

Members voting aye: Dr. Karen J. Elam
Dr. John R. Kelly
Ms. Brittney Rye

Members voting nay: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman
Mr. Buddy Bailey

Members absent: Mr. Sean Suggs
Mr. Charles McClelland

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:04 p.m. and reconvened at 12:50 p.m.

04. Dr. Vanderford and Mr. Alan Burrow reported on Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) achievement gap results by subgroup [Goals 1, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).

05. Dr. Vanderford and Dr. Oakley presented the Fall 2019 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Results [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).
06. Dr. Vanderford reported on Mississippi High Schools with a Graduation Rate Above 75% and Proficiency Rates in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Below 25% [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Vanderford stated forthcoming there will be a plan to begin to conduct audits of graduation rates in districts where you see such a discrepancy in graduation rates and proficiency rates in ELA and Mathematics.
07. Action: Revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 36.4, State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.4: Assessments Required for Graduation [Goals 1, 2, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act Process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board voted 3 to 2 to remand to the appropriate committee (Accountability Task Force) to discuss the impact of the accountability model on removing the U.S. History test for graduation without changing the cut score. The motion passed.

Members voting aye: Mr. Buddy Bailey
Dr. John R. Kelly
Ms. Brittney Rye

Members voting nay: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman
Dr. Karen J. Elam

Members absent: Mr. Sean Suggs
Mr. Charles McClelland

08. Action: Approval of the MDE Contracts [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Felicia Gavin recommended approval.
 - 08.A. Action: Modify contracts with vendors, as recommended by the 2019 State Textbook Rating Committee for the adoption of textbooks in the areas of Social Studies (Advanced Placement) and Mathematics (9-12) [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)
 - 08.B. Action: Contract with Curriculum Associates, LLC to provide a comprehensive early learning observational screener as part of the effectiveness evaluation for pre-kindergarten programs [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

- 08.C. Action: Contract with Dr. Kim S. Benton to provide emergency and temporary administrative oversight at the Mississippi Schools for the Blind and the Deaf [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)
- 08.D. Action: Modify contract with Guidesoft Inc., d/b/a Knowledge Services to provide consultative services to the MDE [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)
- 08.E. [PULLED]
- 08.F. Action: Contract with Republic Parking System, LLC to provide parking for the Mississippi Department of Education [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved items 08.A., 08.B., 08.C., 08.D., and 08.F. (copy attached).

- 09. Action: Approval of the MDE grant award [Goals 3 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Gavin recommended approval.
 - 09.A. Action: Award competitive grant to school district to support pre-kindergarten programs [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved item 09.A. (copy attached).

10. Consent Agenda

- A. [PULLED]
- B. Approval to revise selected Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks in Career and Technical Education (Nathan Oakley)
 - 1. Architecture & Construction – Construction Core
 - 2. Architecture & Construction – Electrical
 - 3. Architecture & Construction – Carpentry
 - 4. Manufacturing – Welding
 - 5. Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics – STEM Applications(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comment) (Nathan Oakley)
- C. Approval to establish Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Framework in Career and Technical Education – Manufacturing, Instrumentation

(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comment) (Nathan Oakley)

- D. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise selected Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks in Career and Technical Education (Nathan Oakley)
 - 1. Agricultural Power and Machinery
 - 2. Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems
 - 3. Contemporary Health
 - 4. Cyber Foundations I
 - 5. Cyber Foundations II
 - 6. Family and Consumer Sciences
 - 7. Health Care and Clinical Services
 - 8. Health Science Core
 - 9. Information Technology
 - 10. Polymer Science
 - 11. Simulation and Animation Design
 - 12. Sports Medicine

- E. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Framework in Career and Technical Education – Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, Shipbuilding Academy (Nathan Oakley)

- F. Approval of textbooks, as recommended by the 2019 State Textbook Rating Committee for the adoption of textbooks in the areas of Social Studies (Advanced Placement) and Mathematics (9-12) (Nathan Oakley)

- G. Approval of vendors, as recommended by the 2019 State Textbook Rating Committee for the adoption of textbooks in the areas of Social Studies (Advanced Placement) and Mathematics (9-12) (Nathan Oakley)

- H. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To adopt English Language Development (ELD) Standards, as created by WIDA (Nathan Oakley)

- I. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Accreditation Policies in Miss. Admin. Code: 7-24, *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2019* (Paula Vanderford)

- J. Approval of the appointment to the Commission on School Accreditation (Paula Vanderford)

- K. Approval of the *Mississippi Critical Teacher Shortage Act of 1998*: Designation of 2019-2020 Critical Shortage Subject Areas and Critical Shortage Geographical Areas (Mississippi School Districts) (Paula Vanderford)
- L. Information: Memorandum of Agreement to award Grants for Enhanced Assessment Instruments to the Council of Chief State School Officers CCSSO) that partnered in the submission of the grant (Paula Vanderford)
- M. Report of monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved items B., C., D., E., F., G., H., I., J., and K. (copy attached).

X. Consideration of Executive Session

Mr. Buddy Bailey moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session. Dr. Karen J. Elam seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a vote of 5 to 0. Dr. Jason S. Dean asked Dr. Carey M. Wright, Ms. Erin Meyer, and the Executive Leadership Team to remain in the Executive Session.

Mr. Buddy Bailey, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-41-7(4)(a) and (k) related to: (1) the approval of a salary adjustment for an Educ-Bureau Director II, serving as Director of Curriculum in the Office of Secondary Education and (2) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as Director of Internal Audit. Dr. Karen J. Elam seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 5 to 0. Ms. Erin Meyer 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 discussed personnel matters in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-41-7(4)(a) and (k) related to: (1) the approval of a salary adjustment for an Educ-Bureau Director II, serving as Director of Curriculum in the Office of Secondary Education and (2) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as Director of Internal Audit.

On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted 5 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

The public came back into the Board meeting and Dr. Dean reported the actions taken during the Executive Session.

01. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board voted unanimously to approve the salary adjustment for Dr. Marla Davis, Educ-Bureau Director II, serving as Director of Curriculum in the Office of Secondary Education for additional duties at a salary of \$100,000.00.
02. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Virginia Breckenridge as an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as Director of Internal Audit at a salary of \$84,000.00.

XI. State Board of Education

1. Dr. Dean stated that he was asked to bring greetings to the Mississippi School Boards Association on Tuesday, November 12, 2019.
2. There were no requests to attend a meeting.

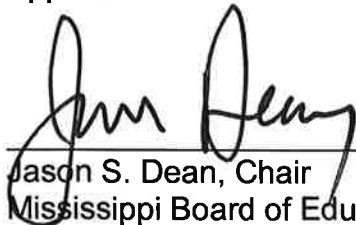
XII. Other Business

The December Board meeting will be held on December 19, 2019, in Jackson, Mississippi at the Central High School Building starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Ms. Brittney Rye, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 1:56 p.m.

Approved:



Jason S. Dean, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education