

## Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

May 9, 2019

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 11:06 a.m. on Thursday, May 9, 2019, in the Boardroom, Clinton Public School District, 201 Easthaven Drive, Clinton, Mississippi. Board members present: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Mr. Buddy Bailey, Dr. Karen J. Elam, Dr. Jason S. Dean, Mr. Johnny Franklin, Dr. John R. Kelly, Ms. Brittney Rye, and Mr. Sean Suggs. Board member absent: Mr. Charles McClelland. Dr. Carey M. Wright was also present.

- I. Dr. Jason S. Dean, Chair, called the Board meeting to order at 11:06 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. Dr. Dean recognized Dr. Tim Martin, Superintendent of Clinton Public School District and Mrs. Paula DeYoung, Board President for Clinton Public School District. Dr. Dean thanked them for inviting the Mississippi Department of Education to visit the Clinton Public School District.
- II. Mr. Sean Suggs led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2019, Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.
- V. Recognition Ceremony

### **Mississippi's TOP ALL-STAR Scholar for 2019**

Clark Hensley  
Clinton High School  
Clinton School District

### **STAR teacher**

Alix Davis Williams  
Clinton High School  
Clinton School District

### **2019 May Employee of the Month**

Patrick Brown  
Senior Systems Administrator  
MS School of the Arts

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

- Dr. Wright gave an update on the teacher pay raise. Dr. Wright stated: “Let me be clear, all teachers and teacher assistants will receive their well-deserved pay raise.” Dr. Wright stated that the Department is working with all school districts to verify the total number of Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP) funded teachers and teacher assistants to update the cost of the teacher pay raise. Dr. Wright stated that if the teachers are paid out of federal funds that they will get their pay raise out of federal funds. Dr. Wright stated that once finalized the Department will provide this information to lawmakers and work with them to obtain the additional funding for the pay raise.
- Dr. Wright stated that she has asked Mr. John Kraman to put together a plan with the costs, deliverables, and how many phases it would take to upgrade the Mississippi Student Information System (MSIS) and this will be brought to the Board in June.
- Dr. Wright stated that she was on the Paul Gallo Radio Show to discuss the teacher pay raise.
- Dr. Wright stated that she attended for the first time in about 18 months the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) Governing Board that is housed at National Strategic Planning and Analysis Research Center (NSPARC). Dr. Wright stated there is a Governing Board that is required by state statute to oversee the work of NSPARC. Dr. Wright stated there was a federal visit to oversee SLDS and when they reviewed the bylaws it stated that the Governing Board was to be meeting to oversee SLDS. Dr. Wright stated there are representatives from every agency on the SLDS Governing Board and we are moving forward with producing more reports to the field about post-secondary success and post-secondary attainment. Dr. Wright stated this information would be helpful for Career and Technical Education and the Pathway program.
- Dr. Wright stated that she met with members of the Mississippi Teacher Advisory Council to share information about a number of topics of interest to teachers.
- Dr. Wright stated that she visited Clinton High School and spent half a day shadowing a student as part of her work with the Broad Academy. Dr. Wright stated that she asked to be paired with a student who receives special education services because she was interested in this perspective. Dr. Wright stated she saw how the students used technology in the classrooms. Dr. Wright thanked Mr. Brett Robinson, Principal, Clinton High School; Ms. Heather McKinion, Algebra I Teacher; Ms. Laura Cockrell, English II Teacher; Ms. Wendy Thrash, Inclusion Teacher; and Ms. Chaffie Gibbs, Special Education Director.
- Dr. Wright recognized Mr. John Kraman and Dr. Felicia Gavin’s teamwork on the teacher pay raise matter.

- Dr. Wright stated the Spotlight for this Board meeting is “Then and Now: Golden Triangle Early College High School (GTECHS) Students Grow from Freshmen to Seniors.” Dr. Wright stated the spotlight features the Golden Triangle Early College High School, GTECHS for short, which is Mississippi’s first early college high school. Dr. Wright stated GTECHS is a partnership among the Mississippi Department of Education, Mississippi State University, and East Mississippi Community College. Dr. Wright stated that GTECHS opened in the fall of 2015 with 60 freshmen and these students are now seniors getting ready to graduate. Dr. Wright stated as an early college high school, GTECHS gives students the opportunity to earn college credit throughout their four years of high school. Dr. Wright stated that depending on their course of study, GTECHS students can earn an associate degree by the time they graduate from high school. Dr. Wright stated that early college high schools are designed for students who may not otherwise have the chance to attend college. Dr. Wright stated that almost half of the graduating class are first-generation college-going students. Dr. Wright stated a spotlight was produced about GTECHS featuring three freshmen, when the school first opened and for today’s video we are interviewing the same three students as seniors. Dr. Wright stated you will see how much the students have grown and changed over the past four years. Dr. Wright stated they look like totally different people. Dr. Wright stated unfortunately, we do not have visitors here from GTECHS because today is their awards ceremony. Dr. Wright stated what a success story, GTECHS is a model early college high school that is truly making a difference in student’s lives.

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

- Dr. Dean stated that the students graduating from GTECHS with a high school diploma and an associate degree was a step in the right direction.
- Dr. Dean stated that he was invited to visit the Midtown Charter School.
- Dr. Dean stated that he was hall monitor for two hours at Madison Middle School during state testing.
- Dr. Dean stated that the Board gets the agenda one week before the Board meeting for review and if you want to add an item to the agenda you can do so then before the agenda goes public on Wednesday at noon before the Board meeting on Thursday. Dr. Dean stated that if you add an item at the meeting then you will have to have a motion, a second, and a simple majority to change the agenda.

VIII. Report on State Board of Education Subcommittee Meetings

Dr. John R. Kelly, Chair of the School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee, stated that one year ago the Board made a decision that students’ voices were an important process to the Board’s decision making. Dr. Kelly stated a subcommittee has been working to move the process forward with

thanks to Ms. Sonya Amis and her staff for all their hard work. Dr. Kelly stated that he, Mr. Buddy Bailey, and Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, had the pleasure of interviewing the eight finalists that were chosen from the 37 student applications received. Dr. Kelly stated the Board will interview the finalists in June and the two chosen will start in July. Dr. Kelly stated that he asked Dr. Wright if all the semifinalists could be put on a Superintendent Student Advisory Committee and she has agreed. Dr. Kelly stated that Dr. Wright wants other students from across the state on the Committee also. Dr. Kelly stated that student voices are so important.

Dr. Karen J. Elam, Chair of the Educator Quality Subcommittee, stated that Dr. Cory Murphy and Ms. Krystal Cormack presented licensure changes that will be coming before the Board at the June meeting. Dr. Elam stated that the Elevate Teachers Conference will be held at the Jackson Convention Center on July 8-9, 2019. Dr. Elam stated that the conference has a capacity of 800 with 640 participants already registered. Dr. Elam stated the remaining slots are for recent teacher graduates to get them to come to the conference to begin the mentoring process. Dr. Elam stated a shout out to Dr. Murphy on getting vouchers from Educational Testing Service (ETS) for the PRAXIS at no cost to the students who will be in our residence pilot program and the performance-based licensure pilot. Dr. Elam stated that ETS will train 16 people from Mississippi on how to take the PRAXIS test, so they can come back and train others. Dr. Elam stated that Mississippi is the first group that ETS is teaching how to take the test.

IX. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Dr. Nathan Oakley gave an overview of the Mississippi Department of Education's Middle School Initiative [Goals 1, 2, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan].

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:03 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

02. Action: Approval to revise the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System effective for school year 2018-2019 and thereafter [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 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 Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved to revise the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System effective for school year 2018-2019 and thereafter (copy attached).

03. Action: Approval of the Mississippi Department of Education contracts [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Gavin recommended approval.
  - 03.A. Action: Monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
  - 03.B. Action: Renew contracts with School Improvement Coaches for Fiscal Year 2020 [Goal 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)
  - 03.C. Action: Renew contracts with Monitoring and Compliance Specialists [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)
  - 03.D. Action: Renew contract with Lydia Boutwell for Fiscal Year 2020 for Early Childhood Coach [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)
  - 03.E. Action: Renew contract with Amy Summerlin for Fiscal Year 2020 for the MDE Office of Career and Technical Education – Programmer Analyst position [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)
  - 03.F. Action: Approval to renew competitive contracts to various milk distributors to supply and deliver milk to local organizations in the State Food Purchasing Program (Seven Regions in the State) [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
  - 03.G. Action: Approval to renew competitive contracts to various ice cream distributors to supply and deliver ice cream products to local organizations in the State Food Purchasing Program (Seven Regions in the State) [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board unanimously approved items 03.A., 03.B., 03.C., 03.D., 03.E., 03.F., and 03.G. (copy attached).

04. Action: Approval of the Mississippi Department of Education grant awards [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Gavin recommended approval.
  - 04.A. Action: Award competitive grants for K-8 STEM Initiative Enhancement Project [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

04.B. Action: Approval of grant awards for the School Nurse Intervention Grants, as identified in the Mary Kirkpatrick-Haskell, Mary Sprayberry School Nurse Program, Miss. Code Ann. § 37-14-3 and funded by legislative appropriation [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

04.C. Action: Award competitive grants for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Mr. Sean Suggs, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board voted unanimously to approve items 04.A., 04.B., and 04.C. (copy attached).

05. Action: Determination by the Mississippi Board of Education to officially abolish the Humphreys County School District and the Yazoo City Municipal School District in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-17 [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board voted 6 to 1 to approve the determination to officially abolish the Humphreys County School District and the Yazoo City Municipal School District in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-17.

Members voting aye:  
Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman  
Mr. Buddy Bailey  
Dr. Karen J. Elam  
Dr. John R. Kelly  
Ms. Brittney Rye  
Mr. Sean Suggs

Member voting nay: Mr. Johnny Franklin

Member absent: Mr. Charles McClelland

06. Consent Agenda

A. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish the Mississippi Alternate Academic Achievement Standards for English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Health, Career Readiness, and Life Skills Development (Nathan Oakley)

B. Approval to revise the methodology to award grants to school districts, to participate in the State Systemic Improvement Plan (Nathan Oakley)

- C. Approval of the 2019-2020 Student Handbook for State Schools (Nathan Oakley)
  - 1. Mississippi School of the Arts
  - 2. Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science
  
- D. Approval of school calendars for State Schools for 2019-2020 school year (Nathan Oakley)
  - 1. Mississippi School of the Arts
  - 2. Mississippi Schools for the Blind and the Deaf
  - 3. Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science
  
- E. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3:84.7, State Board Policy, Chapter 84, Rule 84.7 – Designation of Providers for the Delivery of Career and Technical Education Services (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Nathan Oakley)
  
- F. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 36.5, State Board Policy, Chapter 36, Rule 36.5: Additional Assessment Options for Meeting End-of-Course Assessment Graduation Requirements and Appendix A-5 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2019* (Paula Vanderford)
  
- G. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3:10.1, State Board Policy, Chapter 10, Rule 10.1 – Audit, State Department of Education Resolution Process (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Sonya Amis)

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board unanimously voted to approve consent agenda items A., B., C., D., E., F., and G. (copy attached).

#### XI. 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 7 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 related to the appointment of a Bureau Manager to serve within the

Office of District and School Performance in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k). Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 7 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 related to the appointment of a Bureau Manager to serve within the Office of District and School Performance in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k).

On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board voted 7 to 0 to come out of Executive Session at 1:36 p.m.

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 Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Christopher Alan Burrow as Bureau Manager to serve as Director of District and School Performance at a salary of \$100,000.00.

#### **XI. State Board of Education**

1. There were no reports of meetings attended.
2. There were no requests to attend a meeting.
3. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved the meeting dates for Fiscal Year 2020 (copy attached).

#### **XII. Other Business**

The State Board of Education will have a work session for the Semifinalist Interviews for Student Board Representatives and Fiscal Year 2020 Budget meeting on June 12, 2019, in Jackson, Mississippi at the Central High School Building starting at 8:30 a.m.


The June Board meeting will be held June 13, 2019, 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 Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason S. Dean, Chair  
Mississippi Board of Education

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carey M. Wright  
Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Board of Education