

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
June 13, 2019

OFFICE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION

- A. Approval to dissolve and lift the September 16, 2013 emergency declaration for the Leflore County School District so the District as stated in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.6 can be consolidated with the Greenwood Municipal Separate School District into the Greenwood-Leflore School District effective July 1, 2019 [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]

On September 16, 2013, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6, the Honorable Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi declared a state of emergency existed in the Leflore County School District because of a continued pattern of poor performance that jeopardized the safety, security and educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of the district.

On September 16, 2013, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-13, the Mississippi State Board of Education abolished the Leflore County School District and assumed control and administration of the schools formerly constituting the district and appointed a conservator to administer the district under the direction of the Mississippi State Board of Education.

On April 27, 2016, the Mississippi Legislature passed House Bill 987 (Regular Session 2016) mandating the administrative consolidation of the Leflore County School District and the Greenwood Municipal Separate School District, effective July 1, 2019; and, on May 10, 2016, the Honorable Phil Bryant signed into law House Bill 987 (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.6) mandating the administrative consolidation of the Leflore County School District and the Greenwood Municipal Separate School District, effective July 1, 2019; and, Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.6(3)(a) provides, in part, that “The State Board of Education shall require the administrative consolidation of Leflore County School District and the Greenwood Municipal Separate School District on or before July 1, 2019.”

There have been significant improvements in the conditions in the Leflore County School District since the establishment of the conservatorship in September 2013; and, the Greenwood Municipal Separate School District is not under conservatorship or otherwise a district of transformation under the direct administration of the State Board of Education.

The State Board of Education has determined that the Legislative intent in the enactment of Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.6 is to consolidate the Leflore County School District and the Greenwood Municipal Separate School District into the Greenwood-Leflore School District effective July 1, 2019.

Pursuant to the actions mandated in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.6(3)(a), the Mississippi State Board of Education does hereby administratively consolidate the Leflore County School District and the Greenwood Municipal School District into the new Greenwood-Leflore School District, effective July 1, 2019. Further, the State Board of Education requests the Governor of the State of Mississippi to dissolve and lift the September 16, 2013, emergency declaration for the Leflore County School District, effective July 1, 2019.

This item references Goal 2 of the *Mississippi Department of Education 2018-2022 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

June 13th, 2019

Honorable Phil Bryant
Governor
State of Mississippi
Post Office Box 139
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Re: Termination of Conservatorship in the Leflore County School District

Dear Governor Bryant:

On September 16, 2013, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6 you issued a Proclamation declaring that a state of emergency existed in the Leflore County School District because of a continued pattern of poor performance that jeopardized the safety, security and educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of the district. Following the declaration of the state of emergency, the State Board of Education abolished the district, removed the school board, assumed control and administration of the schools formerly constituting the district, and appointed a conservator to administer the district under the direction of the State Board of Education.

On April 27, 2016, the Mississippi Legislature passed House Bill 987 (Reg. Sess. 2016) mandating the administrative consolidation of the Leflore County School District and the Greenwood Municipal Separate School District, effective July 1, 2019. The referenced legislation was codified in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.6. Among other things, Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.6 directs the formation of a new school board, the appointment of a new superintendent, the selection of central office staff, and provides "The new board of trustees of the Greenwood-Leflore Consolidated School District shall be responsible for establishing the contracts for teachers, principals, clerical and administrative staff personnel for the 2019-2020 school year and each school year thereafter." By action of the Legislature, the conservatorship is ending and responsibility for the operation of the former Leflore County School District is transferred on July 1, 2019, to the new Board of Trustees of the Greenwood-Leflore School District.

The State Board of Education has determined there has been improvements to the Leflore County School District and the legislatively mandated consolidation with the Greenwood Municipal School Districts necessitates the termination of the conservatorship established in 2013. Therefore, the State Board of Education approved at their June 2019 meeting the attached Resolution requesting the termination of the state of emergency in the Leflore County School District effective July 1, 2019. Therefore, please accept this correspondence with the attached Resolution as the State Board of Education's official request pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6(12)(d) that you lift the state of emergency declared for the Leflore County School District.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent of Education.

Respectfully,

Jason Dean, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education

Enclosure

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2013, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6, the Honorable Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi declared a state of emergency existed in the Leflore County School District because of a continued pattern of poor performance that jeopardized the safety, security and educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of the district as evidenced by Proclamation attached hereto as Exhibit "1" and incorporated herein by reference as a part of this Resolution; and,

WHEREAS, upon the issuance of the declaration of the state of emergency in the Leflore County School District, the Mississippi State Board of Education, acting in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6(12), appointed an Interim Conservator to be responsible for the administration, management and operation of the school district; and,

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2013, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-13, the Mississippi State Board of Education abolished the Leflore County School District and assumed control and administration of the schools formerly constituting the district and appointed a conservator to administer the district under the direction of the Mississippi State Board of Education as evidenced by the Resolution attached hereto as Exhibit "2" and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Resolution; and,

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2016, the Mississippi Legislature passed House Bill 987 (Reg. Sess. 2016) mandating the administrative consolidation of the Leflore County School District and the Greenwood Municipal Separate School District, effective July 1, 2019; and,

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2016, the Honorable Phil Bryant signed into law House Bill 987 (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.6) mandating the administrative consolidation of the Leflore County School District and the Greenwood Municipal Separate School District, effective July 1, 2019; and,

WHEREAS, Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.6(3)(a) provides, in part, that "The State Board of Education shall require the administrative consolidation of Leflore County School District and the Greenwood Municipal Separate School District on or before July 1, 2019;" and,

WHEREAS, Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.6(3)(a) provides for the administration of the consolidated school district by the appointment of members to a new "County Board of Education of the Greenwood-Leflore School District; and,

WHEREAS, Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.6(4) directs that the "Greenwood-Leflore Board of Education shall appoint a new Superintendent of Schools" and employ central office staff for the district

no later than July 1, 2019; and,

WHEREAS, Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.6(5)(b) provides “The new board of trustees of the Greenwood-Leflore Consolidated School District shall be responsible for establishing the contracts for teachers, principals, clerical and administrative staff personnel for the 2019-2020 school year and each school year thereafter”; and,

WHEREAS, there have been significant improvement in the conditions in the Leflore, County School District since the establishment of the conservatorship in September 2013; and,

WHEREAS, the Greenwood Municipal Separate School District is not under conservatorship or otherwise a district of transformation under the direct administration of the State Board of Education; and,

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has determined that the Legislative intent in the enactment of Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.6 is to consolidate the Leflore County School District and the Greenwood Municipal Separate School District into the Greenwood-Leflore School District effective July 1, 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, pursuant to the actions mandated in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.6(3)(a), the Mississippi State Board of Education does hereby administratively consolidate the Leflore County School District and the Greenwood Municipal School District into the new Greenwood-Leflore School District, effective July 1, 2019. Further, the State Board of Education requests the Governor of the State of Mississippi to dissolve and lift the September 16, 2013, emergency declaration for the Leflore County School District, effective July 1, 2019.

THIS THE ____ DAY OF JUNE, 2019.

Jason Dean, Chair
Mississippi State Board of Education

Dr. Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi State Board of Education

COUNTY OF HINDS

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

This day personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority of law in and for the above named county and state, the within named Jason Dean and Carey M. Wright who acknowledged that they signed the above and foregoing instrument of writing on the day and year therein mentioned for the purposes therein shown as their voluntary act and deed.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND OFFICIAL SEAL on this, the ____ day of June, A.D. 2019.

NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor

A Proclamation

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2013, the Governor, in response to the Resolution and request of the Commission on School Accreditation and the Resolution and request of the Mississippi Board of Education, and by virtue of the authority vested in him by Section 123 of the Mississippi Constitution of 1890 and Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6(12), declared a state of emergency existed in the Leflore County School district because of a continued pattern of poor performance that jeopardized the safety, security and educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of the district; and,

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2016, the Mississippi Legislature passed House Bill 987 (Reg. Sess. 2016) mandating the administrative consolidation of the Leflore County School District and the Greenwood Municipal Separate School District, effective July 1, 2019; and,

WHEREAS, on June 13, 2019, the Mississippi State Board of Education requested that the state of emergency be lifted in the Leflore County School District to conform with the provisions in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.6; and,

WHEREAS, there have been significant improvement in the conditions in the Leflore, County School District since the establishment of the conservatorship in September 2013; and,

WHEREAS, the Greenwood Municipal Separate School District is not under conservatorship or otherwise a district of transformation under the direct administration of the State Board of Education; and,

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature in the enactment of Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-104.6 is to consolidate the Leflore County School District and the Greenwood Municipal Separate School District into the Greenwood-Leflore School District effective July 1, 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, in response to the request of the Mississippi Board of Education, and by virtue of the authority vested in me by Section 123 of the Mississippi Constitution of 1890 and Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6(12)(d), do hereby issue this Proclamation to declare that a State of Emergency no longer exists in the Leflore County School District, effective July 1, 2019.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol, in the City of Jackson, this the ___ day of June, in the year of our Lord, two thousand nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-third.

PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

C. DELBERT HOSEMANN, JR.
SECRETARY OF STATE