

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

February 20, 2020

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2020, in the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Mr. Buddy Bailey, Senator Nancy Collins, Dr. Jason S. Dean, Dr. Karen J. Elam, Dr. John R. Kelly (Gulfport, Mississippi), Ms. Brittney Rye, and Mr. Sean Suggs. Student Representatives present: Ms. Shelby Dean and Mr. Omar G. Jamil. Dr. Carey M. Wright was also present.

- I. Dr. Jason S. Dean called the Board meeting to order at 10:01 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 Mr. Buddy Bailey gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Senator Nancy Collins, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2020, Board meeting with one edit.
- IV. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.
- V. Recognition Ceremony

February 2020 Employee of the Month

Joshua Huwe
Systems Manager III
Office of Technology & Strategic Services

- VI. Dr. Carey M. Wright gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:
 - Dr. Wright stated the Spotlight for this Board meeting is "Mississippi School for the Deaf Girls Basketball Coach Sekoe White." Dr. Wright stated that Mr. White is an inspiration and role model to his players and the entire Mississippi School for the Deaf (MSD) community. Dr. Wright stated he gained national attention after a video of him coaching his team went viral and that promoted MBA-TV to travel to Mississippi to produce a feature story about him. Dr. Wright recognized Mr. Sekoe White, Head Girls Basketball Coach; Mr. Arness Georgetown, Head Football Coach; Ms. Kaci Cronin, Interpreter; Ms. Cheryl Kaler, Principal; Ms. Sheila White, Secretary; and the MSD girls basketball team. Dr. Wright asked Mr. White to introduce each of the players of the team. After the video, Dr. Wright stated what a

powerful story. Dr. Wright stated that Mr. White and colleagues, we are so fortunate to have you serving the children of MSD. Dr. Wright thanked them for their dedication and passion for education.

- Dr. Wright stated she held the Teachers' Advisory Council meetings.
- Dr. Wright stated she held the Superintendents' Advisory Council meetings.
- Dr. Wright stated she held Superintendents' Regional meeting in four locations across the state.
- Dr. Wright stated that the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) sponsored the first National Literacy Summit and Mississippi (MS) was one of the features of the Summit because of the success Mississippi is having and we are taking an active role as the Chief State School Officers with this and MS is on call so that MS could help other states by talking about next steps with literacy.
- Dr. Wright stated that she spoke at the Council of Chief State School Officers Chief Academic Officer/Chief Talent Officers' meeting about Mississippi's early literacy policies and outcomes.
- Dr. Wright stated that Speaker Jay Lucas invited her to speak to the South Carolina House Education Committee and audience about the progress Mississippi has made in early literacy and other significant gains on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).
- Dr. Wright stated that she was the keynote at the Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) – Southeast Governing Board meeting where she spoke about our progress.
- Dr. Wright stated that she presented about Mississippi's K-12 achievements at the Butler Snow Education Forum. Dr. Wright stated in attendance was Governor Tate Reeves, former Governor Haley Barbour, House and Senate Education Chairs, Dr. Jason S. Dean representing the Board, and in attendance were all of Butler Snow's educational partners.
- Dr. Wright stated that she spoke at the House Education Appropriation Committee about our budget.
- Dr. Wright stated that Governor Tate Reeves has opened a roundtable in Mississippi and Dr. Karen J. Elam is the Board representative. Dr. Wright asked Dr. Elam to give an update. Dr. Elam stated that the official title is Governor's Education Human Capital Roundtable and is being conducted by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and will examine what we are going to do about teacher shortage and teacher preparation. Dr. Elam stated that the Governor came to the opening meeting and gave opening remarks. Dr. Elam stated that he gave extremely complementary remarks about what Dr. Wright and MDE as a group have achieved in Mississippi over the last few years. Dr. Elam stated she believes that we will have his support over the next four years to advance education in Mississippi. Dr. Elam stated the group is composed of teachers, legislatures, a representation from IHL, university deans, presidents of universities, superintendents, and a community college representative. Dr.

Elam stated that Dr. Wright, Dr. Cory Murphy, and Dr. Debra Burson participated. Dr. Elam stated the charge is looking at what MS can do to enhance the pipeline of teachers in different pathways. Dr. Elam stated the challenge of the charge put forth by SREB was to increase the effectiveness, quantity, and the diversity of teachers in Mississippi classrooms and this will be done by concentrating on new and better ways to attract, prepare, license, hire, support, and retain those teachers. Dr. Elam stated they will be meeting over the next year every two months and SREB will be supplying research documents to move this challenge forward.

- Dr. Wright stated that Dr. Dean had asked for updates on computer science and civics education. Dr. Wright introduced Dr. Nathan Oakley. Dr. Oakley stated that computer science has been in the pilot stages and will be fully implemented statewide in the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Oakley stated that the driving force behind this is workforce and job demand and we are doing a lot of work with career and technical education with connections with business and industry to identify labor market needs. Dr. Oakley stated that there has been ongoing statewide professional development provided. Dr. Oakley stated that in 2016-2017 MDE participated in CSforAll Summit and then established Computer Science Teachers Association in Mississippi; in 2017-2019 the Mississippi Computer Science Standards were developed; in 2018-2019 MDE launched C Spire software development pathway linked to community colleges, redesigned middle school technology courses to include computer science content, and the Board approved computer science as a high school graduation credit. Dr. Oakley stated that in the fall of 2019 the curriculum for Cyber Foundations I and II and Information Technology were revised and added focus on regional and local needs assessment as part of the Perkins Plan. Dr. Oakley stated that in the spring of 2020 a policy to allow for Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles to count as a Carnegie credit for math science will be proposed, a new licensure endorsement related to computer science will be proposed, and the Exploring Computer Science curriculum will be revised. Dr. Oakley stated that the Computer Science Standards were for K-12 grades. Dr. Oakley stated that when the Social Studies curriculum was revised in 2018 there are five strands that are threaded throughout K-12 content. Dr. Oakley stated that the civics strand provides a student with a basic understanding of civic life, politics, and government. Dr. Oakley stated that civics instruction provides a basic for understanding the rights and responsibilities of citizens in American constitutional democracy and a framework for competent and responsible participation. Dr. Oakley stated the civics strand is expanded to related learning experiences and enables students to learn how to participate in their own governance (copy attached).

- VII. Dr. Jason S. Dean, Chair of the State Board, gave the following report:
- Dr. Dean stated he moderated for a panel on a conversation for education. Dr. Dean stated the praise was extreme for the hard work of the Executive Leadership Team at MDE and for Dr. Wright from Governor Tate Reeves and former Governor Haley Barbour. Dr. Dean stated these are good times and the good did not exist in the past years.
 - Dr. Dean thanked the Board for returning their superintendent evaluations forms.
 - Dr. Dean stated that he is planning a retreat away from the building like we did a couple of years ago either in May or June for one day. Dr. Dean stated he will get with each Board member individually so he can check the dates.

IX. Report on State Board of Education Subcommittee Meetings.

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair of the Academic Achievement PreK-12 Subcommittee, met this morning and she stated that Dr. Nathan Oakley gave an update on professional development that is reported quarterly. Ms. Aultman stated that the quarterly professional development conducted face-to-face was to 2,360 participants in 32 districts and in 109 sessions. Ms. Aultman stated that the online professional development was for 533 participants with 69% completion rate in 14 courses and 100% of participants surveyed wanted to take additional online classes. Ms. Aultman stated that the teachers and practitioners are buying into the professional development and are using it to their advantage. Ms. Aultman stated that Ms. Robin Lemonis and Dr. Oakley presented in New Orleans yesterday on the literacy training and the LETRS training that is going on. Ms. Aultman stated that it was very rewarding for our people to be called upon to be presenters and people are asking us questions whereas in the past we were having to ask them questions. Ms. Aultman stated that we were given an update on the interviews that they have been having with individual schools that are low performing and the preparation that is being done for the districts to present to the Board. Ms. Aultman stated that they have identified four districts that will present to the Board.

Ms. Brittney Rye, Chair of the Early Childhood Subcommittee, stated that they met yesterday and received a lot of updates. Ms. Rye stated one of the updates was with the Family Engagement trainings with 607 participants which included administrators, teachers, center directors, teacher assistances, family liaisons, and others. Ms. Rye stated that the literacy coaches will be starting the evaluation process soon. Ms. Rye stated that this will be with 92 schools, 17 Head Starts, 13 child-care centers involving 3,126 students, 352 teachers with nine full time coaches and two part-time coaches. Ms. Rye stated an update was given on Senate Bill 2286 which changes the language to match *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), changes the language to state that 25% of the four-year-

old children in the state be served by no later than the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, and it increases funding for the learning collaboratives.

Dr. Karen J. Elam, Chair of the Educator Quality Subcommittee, met yesterday and the Subcommittee reviewed the two items on the Consent Agenda that they fully endorse and that will be presented later in the meeting. Dr. Elam stated that they discussed what had transpired at the Roundtable and how the challenge will be taken on in the Roundtable.

VIII. Report of Student Representatives

Mr. Omar G. Jamil stated that he and Ms. Dean will meet with the Student Advisory Council for the first time this year tomorrow in Jackson, Mississippi with dozens of students from across the state. Mr. Jamil stated that he and Ms. Dean will discuss student safety, safe testing, college courses in high school, and college and career readiness and we look forward to hearing from our Council on their concerns, ideas, and achievements. Ms. Shelby Dean stated that at the last meeting in November one of the major issues expressed by students was the lack of SAT and ACT prep courses. Ms. Dean stated that she was going to brag on her high school, Clinton High School. Ms. Dean stated there is a course offered to juniors and seniors called Humanities and it happens before school during early period and is a semester long. Ms. Dean stated that any junior or senior can participate in the course no matter what your GPA is or what courses you are taking. Ms. Dean stated that it is five days a week with daily practice for PSAT and ACT. Ms. Dean stated she took the course and brought her SAT up four points and PSAT index up 13 points. Ms. Dean stated that she believes this is a really great opportunity and if we could find a way to let this be offered to all Mississippi high school students that they would be more prepared for these very important tests and they would be able to get into better colleges and get more scholarships opportunities.

Dr. Wright thanked all the teachers who give up their time to come in early. Dr. Wright stated that when she visited Clinton High School recently, they were saying yes it was early, but it was beneficial to the students and the program has grown over the years because of the popularity of this class.

Dr. Jason Dean welcomed special guests: Dr. Leah Smith serving on the Lieutenant (Lt.) Governor's staff and Chairman Dennis DeBar, Jr. representing Greene, George, and Wayne Counties. Dr. Dean introduced Lt. Governor Hosemann who is our 33rd Lt. Governor and was elected with more than 60% of the votes in November. Dr. Dean thanked Lt. Governor Hosemann for his focus on education and stated the Board looked forward to hearing his thoughts and the direction he is going and whatever way the Board can be supportive.

Lt. Governor Hosemann thanked Dr. Dean for his introduction. Lt. Governor Hosemann stated that it was a pleasure to come over and have a chance to visit since education is a third to 40% of the Legislature's budget and it is very important that we stay in contact and he thanked Dr. Wright for coming over on several occasions to explain what MDE needs are and where MDE is going. Lt. Governor stated the Senate has significant things that are proposed this year and are requesting that the Board help with them. Lt. Governor stated that they have proposed a teacher pay raise this year and this is a part of a commitment that the Senator is making through Chairman DeBar to raise the compensation for teachers and they have a plan to go forward. Lt. Governor stated that they have a commitment to pre-kindergarten in Mississippi. Lt. Governor stated they intend to fund all the collaboratives next year and planting that original seed for pre-kindergarten brings better students to the teachers when they get there, it gives students a better chance to pass the third grade reading gate, and go forward with a career or to go to college. Lt. Governor stated that in addressing the critical teacher shortage he intends to visit as many schools as possible from May through the fall so that he and Chairman DeBar will be able to be helpful in their committees in the dialog by having been there and actually experiencing what the superintendents and teachers are going through. Lt. Governor stated that he was honored to have a Superintendent's Committee and they have a Teacher's Committee that they will be listening to also. Lt. Governor stated that this is a commitment on behalf of the legislative branch of government that we go forward with assisting education to enhance the future of Mississippi. Lt. Governor stated that since Shelby has asked for it, they are going to increase ACT by half a million dollars this year. Lt. Governor stated this will be for ACT, Cambridge, and other things that schools have the discretion to use. Lt. Governor stated only 24 to 25% of students get a college degree and approximately 43% get a community college degree and that leaves a significant part of the citizens in Mississippi that do not get a college degree. Lt. Governor stated that career technical has become the mantra for going forward. Lt. Governor stated that as they have looked at career technical in Mississippi, they have discovered that MS is spending somewhere between \$350 to \$400 million per year. Lt. Governor stated that in career technical some of that is remedial work and some is being spent over 55 different state agencies. Lt. Governor stated that it is their hope and intent to get a hold on that disbursement of funds and with that we are going to begin to coordinate with schools. Lt. Governor stated that this will involve career technical. Lt. Governor stated that MS has increased the graduation rate and MS made great progress in a number of areas in the state and they are all proud of the work that MDE and the Board are doing. Lt. Governor stated that when they look forward to this in the future that they believe that the 13th year needs to be done in high school so they will be looking at dual credits, funding dual credits, and the relationships between community colleges, MDE, and high schools on delivering education to students. Lt. Governor stated that this is cheaper, keeps the students focused, keeps them in school, and gives them the ability to earn a job when they graduate. Lt.

Governor stated that when one starts to do something like this people always reply and are motivated about things that are accountable. Lt. Governor stated that when one goes to look at the Accountability Model in Mississippi, they find that no credit is given for career technical. Lt. Governor stated that he is asking the Board to consider making career technical part of the Accountability Model. Lt. Governor stated that this is just a realization of where the state is. Lt. Governor stated that the state has a 55% participation rate and to raise that participation rate MS has to have skilled workers and that is what they are about. Lt. Governor stated that they believe that career technical will be that and they see honor in the skilled workers in MS. Lt. Governor stated that not having the Accountability Model recognize that is just not recognizing what is happening in MS now and what is happening in the future. Lt. Governor stated that they would like for the Board to consider adding that to your Accountability Model so that will reflect what the state is doing. Lt. Governor stated that the Senate and the House are very enthusiastic about the relationship today and where we are going in the future. Lt. Governor stated that they support the Board and MDE and want the Board and MDE to help them and they appreciate what the MDE and Board does.

Dr. Dean responded that career and technical education is something that the Board has started focusing on in the last two years. Dr. Dean stated that Mr. Sean Suggs, Head of Toyota, is the Chair of the Workforce/Career and Technical Education Subcommittee focused on workforce and the MDE is in the middle of a redesign for the Perkins Act where MDE gets more funds for career and technical education in K-12. Dr. Dean stated he will ask Dr. Paula Vanderford and her team to get started down the path of presenting to the Board about adding the WorkKeys as part of the Accountability Model, but the Board is not changing the cut scores.

Dr. Wright thanked Lt. Governor and the Education Chairs for the partnership in working together so that we can get so much more done. Dr. Wright stated that she looks forward to his leadership and the leadership of Senator DeBar.

Dr. Dean, Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, stated that the Subcommittee met this morning and the Legislative session has been reduced by eight days and that impacts bill deadlines. Dr. Dean stated that March 3 is the date when all bills must come out of committees or die on the calendar. Dr. Dean stated that several bills came out of Chairman DeBar's committee yesterday. Dr. Dean stated they have already done teacher pay and now are focusing on teacher recruitment and a bill around early childhood collaboratives passed. Dr. Dean stated that we are still working on several technical amendments and the Mississippi Student Information System (MSIS) upgrade.

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Information: Progress on the Mississippi Board of Education's 5-Year Strategic Plan for 2018-2022 [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Carey Wright)

Dr. Carey M. Wright presented the progress on the Mississippi Board of Education's 5-year Strategic Plan for 2018-2022 (copy attached). Dr. Wright stated that this is online and that actions over the past year are being highlighted but all the actions of the Strategic Plan are listed online.

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

02.A. Action: Contract with Interim Superintendent for Tunica County School District [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Washington Cole)

02.B. Action: Contract with Urban Policy Development, LLC to provide independent consultant services through process and staff development, current state documentation, future state documentation and design requirements for a new MSIS [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)

02.C. Action: Modify contract with Michael D. Kent for 2019-2020 to increase the PERS retirement fee [Goals 4 and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

02.D. Action: Renew contract with the Mississippi State Department of Health to provide health inspections for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Summer Food Service Program for FY2021 [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

02.E. Action: Renew 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)

02.F. Action: Renew contract with Riverside Assessments, LLC d/b/a Riverside Insights for Fiscal Year 2021 to provide an assessment system as required by the State Performance Plan [Goals 1 and 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

02.G. [PULLED]

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved items 02.A., 02.B., 02.C., 02.D., 02.E., and 02.F. (copy attached).

03. Action: Approval of the MDE grant awards [Goals 2 and 3– MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Gavin recommended approval.

03.A. Action: Award competitive grants for K-8 STEM Initiative Enhancement Project [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

03.B. Action: Award competitive grants for the Non-Profit Workforce Professional Development Grants [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board unanimously approved items 03.A. and 03.B. (copy attached).

04. Consent Agenda

A. [PULLED]

B. Approval of methodology to award grant dollars appropriated from the Mississippi Legislature for agricultural certification programs, agricultural programs, computer science, engineering or robotic engineering programs equipment upgrades and Mississippi Elementary STEM and STEAM program to local educational agencies (Nathan Oakley)

C. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 28.3, State Board Policy Chapter 28, Rule 28.3: Access to a Substantive and Rigorous Curriculum Policy, Miss. Admin. Code: 7-24, *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2019*, Process Standard 26 and Appendices A and B, Miss. Admin. Code: 7-163: *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2019*, Process Standard 22 and Appendices A and B (Paula Vanderford)

D. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act Process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-4: Part 4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 to modify the licensure requirements for obtaining and maintaining the *Special Non-Renewable License for Prospective Non-Traditional Teacher Preparation Program Completers*, to ensure alignment to current Federal guidelines for employing Special Education Teachers who hold a temporary license as required by the Individuals with

Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 612(a)(14)(c), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) (Paula Vanderford)

- E. Approval to revise two (2) Career Pathway licensure options, 972 Culinary Arts; 962 Sports Medicine; establish two (2) new Career Pathways in the endorsement areas of Fire Science; Business, Marketing, and Finance; and establish one (1) new endorsement in the area of Computer Science (Paula Vanderford)
- F. Approval of Statewide Purchasing Program's FY20 Financial Statement and FY21 fee structure (Felicia Gavin)
- G. Report of monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits (Felicia Gavin)
- H. Information: Annual School Board Meeting Attendance Report in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-6-13 (Paula Vanderford)
- I. Approval of recommendations on exceptions to pupil-teacher ratio requirements for grades 1-4 (Paula Vanderford)

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

Dr. Kelly left the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

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. Mr. Sean Suggs seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a vote of 6 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 the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as Director of Safe and Orderly Schools and (2) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as Associate Director of District and School Performance. Dr. Karen J. Elam 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 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 the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as Director of Safe and Orderly Schools and (2) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as Associate Director of District and School Performance.

On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board voted 6 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 Senator Nancy Collins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Brian McGairty as Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as Director of Safe and Orderly Schools at a salary of \$84,000.00.

02. On a motion by Senator Nancy Collins, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Cody Shumaker as Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as Associate Director of District and School Performance at a salary of \$84,000.00.

XII. State Board of Education

1. There was no report on meetings attended.

2. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board unanimously approved for Dr. John R. Kelly to attend the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Legislative Conference convening on March 21-24, 2020 in Washington, DC.

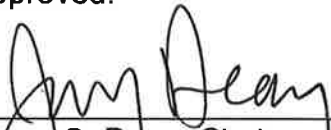
XIII. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved a work session for Wednesday, March 18, 2020, starting at 1:00 p.m. to hear presentations from persistently low-performing school districts.

The March Board meeting will be held on March 19, 2020, in Jackson, Mississippi at the Central High School Building starting at 10:00 a.m.

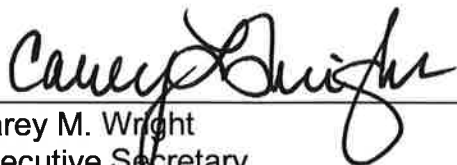
XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Brittney Rye, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

Approved:



Jason S. Dean, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education