

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

May 21, 2020

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2020, via teleconference pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5 for the purpose of conducting the Board meeting.

The meeting was available to the public by live stream.¹ Board members present: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman (Clinton, Mississippi), Mr. Buddy Bailey (Brandon, Mississippi), Senator Nancy Collins (Tupelo, Mississippi) (joined meeting at 10:10 a.m.), Dr. Jason S. Dean (Madison, Mississippi), Dr. Karen J. Elam (Oxford, Mississippi) (joined meeting at 10:07 a.m.), Dr. John R. Kelly (Gulfport, Mississippi), Ms. Brittney Rye (Starkville, Mississippi), and Mr. Sean Suggs (Blue Springs, Mississippi). Student Representative: Mr. Omar G. Jamil (Hernando, Mississippi). Dr. Carey M. Wright was present in Madison, Mississippi.

I. Dr. Jason S. Dean called the Board meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Dr. Dean noted that the meeting of the Board of Education was being held via teleconference pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5 and that the notice of this meeting included the date, time, place, and purpose of the meeting. Dr. Dean also stated that an audio recording was being made of the meeting, this meeting is being live streamed and that a quorum of the Board existed at the locations stated for the purpose of conducting a meeting through teleconference means.

II. Dr. Jason S. Dean led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Buddy Bailey gave the Invocation.

III. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2020, Board meeting.

IV. On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

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

- Dr. Wright stated that this had been a busy month with keeping the public apprised of what is going on in education. Dr. Wright stated that she has been on interviews, met with the Superintendents' Advisory Council,

¹ Due to the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) and the recommendations of the CDC and the Mississippi Department of Health, gatherings should be restricted to no more than 10 people. To protect the public health, the State Board of Education met via teleconference and video means and the meeting was available to the public via video means (live stream). The SBE exercised their authority granted by the Governor in his Proclamation of a State of Emergency. See Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-31.

Teachers' Advisory Council, and the Student Advisory Council. Dr. Wright stated that she is getting information from the Councils to better plan the work of MDE as we move forward to provide professional development.

- Dr. Wright stated MDE has met with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) since Mississippi did not conduct the statewide assessments this year and the MDE is working with TAC on how to measure growth. Dr. Wright stated that this will be a continuing issue that MDE will work on with them.
- Dr. Wright stated that she has been on weekly calls from all the State Chiefs from Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and calls every other week with the Chiefs from the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). Dr. Wright stated these calls have been very informative and everyone gets to share what each is doing and ensuring same issues are not being replicated.
- Dr. Wright stated that she has been in regular communication with the elected officials: the Governor's Office, the Speaker, Lt. Governor, and both Education Chairs. Dr. Wright stated that this has been an on-going conversation, so they are aware of what MDE is doing. Dr. Wright thanked Dr. Thomas Dobbs, State Health Officer, for being available and helping to advise the districts on issues related to health.
- Dr. Wright stated that she spoke at the joint committee meeting of the House this past week about broadband and education. Dr. Wright stated that she testified at the Senate that same day about the plan that MDE has put together. Dr. Wright stated that in order to create a world-class education system that the MDE and Board wants, and the issue of COVID-19 and everyone being at home and learning digitally has really shown the light that some children have connectivity and some do not. Dr. Wright stated that this is not just in Mississippi but every state in the nation facing this issue. Dr. Wright stated that she testified that we have a moral imperative that we address this matter. Dr. Wright stated that this impacts every State Board of Education goal. Dr. Wright presented the plan that had been vetted with the Mississippi Alliance for Nonprofits and Philanthropy to review and see how much it would cost. Dr. Wright stated the Digital Learning Plan Components are: (1) devices and services; (2) connectivity; (3) digital curriculum and learning management systems; (4) professional development for teachers, parents, and school staff; (5) computer security, planning, and support, and (6) increase the number of telehealth/teletherapy around the state (copy attached). Dr. Wright stated she has set up a subcommittee of the superintendents for the reopening of school so they can create a checklist of what that will look like.
- Dr. Wright stated that she attended the National Assessment Governing Board. Dr. Wright stated they are trying to figure what they are going to do about the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) this spring.
- Dr. Wright thanked her Executive Leadership Team for all their hard work. Dr. Wright stated that this is 24/7 now. Dr. Wright stated that the MDE staff has really stepped up and are cranking out materials that are phenomenal.

- Dr. Wright showed a video honoring the Mississippi graduating class of 2020. Dr. Wright stated that CCSSO asked each state to put together a video as part of that national graduate together telecast that was on last Saturday night. Dr. Wright stated that each state has a page that is devoted to their graduates on the web site at graduatetogether2020.com. Dr. Wright stated that you can see Mississippi's page with the video and a column from Ms. Shelby Dean, out-going Senior Board Representative. Dr. Wright stated that the Student Advisory Council were invited to help make the video very personal.

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

Dr. Dean thanked Dr. Wright and her Executive Leadership Team for all their hard work during this time. Dr. Dean stated that since March 10 they have been working non-stop 24/7. Dr. Dean stated that he has worked with Dr. Wright over the last several weeks and thanked her for her leadership. Dr. Dean stated that he has been asked by the National Association of School Boards of Education (NASBE) to participate in a few Zoom calls with other state board members from across the country to talk about the issues Mississippi is facing and how Mississippi is approaching the challenges.. Dr. Dean stated that he attended the Aspen Institute Conference virtually to talk about the cutting edge concerns about topics like social and emotional learning impact and to network with other educators to hear the best ideas and have a platform to talk about some of the work we are doing. Dr. Dean stated that Governor Reeves appointed him to the Restart Mississippi Committee, and they have been meeting weekly. Dr. Dean stated they have established a separate committee and his topic is education impact and the Governor has asked to establish subcommittees to continue to get ideas to him around near-term, mid-term, and long-term impacts. Dr. Dean stated that they will be looking at how to make K-12 education better at the end of this and to take advantage of all the opportunities available.

Dr. Dean stated that this will be Mr. Buddy Bailey's last Board meeting and Ms. Brittney Rye will leave the Board after the June 11, 2020, Board meeting.

Dr. Dean introduced Mr. Bailey. Mr. Bailey stated that it has been an honor of a lifetime to work with you as colleagues and the work that has been done at the State Board of Education and in Mississippi. Mr. Bailey stated he is proud of the work done over the past several years. Mr. Bailey thanked Dr. Dean for his leadership on the State Board of Education and all his hard work. Mr. Bailey thanked Dr. Wright for a special appreciation of your hard work, diligence, and the courage that it takes to do your job. Mr. Bailey thanked the MDE staff for their hard work and leadership. Mr. Bailey stated that he looks forward to seeing the gains again for the children of Mississippi.

Dr. Dean introduced Ms. Rye. Ms. Rye stated she has been teaching for 20 years and will not be returning this fall. Ms. Rye stated she has been engaged in the community and will be working as a voice for unborn children. Ms. Rye thanked all for the opportunity to see this side of education and she stated that she will be looking forward to the continued success. Ms. Rye thanked the Board for the opportunity to have served with them for the past two years.

Dr. Dean thanked both and wished them the best.

VII. Report of Student Representative

Dr. Dean introduced Mr. Omar G. Jamil who reported they have been out of school for the past nine weeks and that his junior year has ended. Mr. Jamil stated that the past two weeks have been AP tests for the entire nation. Mr. Jamil stated that he has finished three tests and has one more to go. Mr. Jamil stated that he and his friends are relieved to be finished with the hassle of online, quarantine, and school because one is either motivated to do it or is not and either way one feels like they are not getting the most out of his education-- this junior year when one should be getting education for college. Mr. Jamil stated that the students are not free because one weight has been lifted but students still have to abide by certain things. Mr. Jamil stated that the past several weeks he has been meeting with the Youth Board to work on content for youth across the nation to read about, to engage with, and help them through this time socially and emotional. Mr. Jamil stated to help them stay motivated and to take it one day at a time or one week at a time. Mr. Jamil stated he will be busy this summer with Stanford which will be online. Mr. Jamil stated that everyone is settling in with the quarantine and making the most of it.

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman stated that Ms. Shelby Dean was named one of four Hall of Fame students chosen at Clinton High School. Ms. Aultman stated that the Board needs to acknowledge communities and school districts across the state for the things they have done to try to make graduation somewhat normal for the seniors. Ms. Aultman stated that they have done some of the most creative things to make seniors feel special and try to make their senior year as memorable as it could be. Ms. Aultman stated that the Board should thank them for that and applaud them for what they have done.

Ms. Aultman stated that the meeting date has not been set to interview the student representatives in person.

Dr. John R. Kelly stated that Mr. Buddy Bailey and Ms. Brittney Rye have been great colleagues to work with both of them and they have been great friends as well. Dr. Kelly stated they are caring and compassionate about their work. Dr. Kelly stated they are leaving the Board but their impact on education in Mississippi will be with us for a

long time. Dr. Kelly stated that he was proud of what the Student Representatives have brought to the Board.

VIII. Mr. Sean Suggs, Chair of the Workforce/Career and Technical Education Subcommittee, stated the Subcommittee met this morning by Zoom meeting. Mr. Suggs stated that the Mississippi Perkins Plan was submitted on time to the United States Department of Education and Mississippi is one of a few states to make the deadline. Mr. Suggs stated that an update was given on the CTE plan of work. Mr. Suggs stated that later in the meeting you will see a Hanover Research Labor Market Analysis that Dr. Nathan Oakley will present and it is a very detailed analysis that was just completed and he stated this is only one slice of the pie from a data point perspective on the state of Mississippi. Mr. Suggs stated that this organization has forecasted a lot of good data for Mississippi from a workforce perspective to the year 2029.

IX. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-10 for the 2019 - 2020 school year following Governor Tate Reeves' Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on school districts during the Spring of 2020 in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved item 01 (copy attached).

02. Action: Approval by the SBE to extend the funding period of 2018-2019 McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program awards as a result of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), March 27, 2020 [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Mr. Sean Suggs, seconded by Ms. Brittney Rye, the Board unanimously approved item 02 (copy attached).

03. Action: Approval by the SBE to delegate to the State Superintendent of Education or her designee the authority to review and approve plans for summer learning and enrichment measures as required by Governor Tate Reeves' Executive Order 1476 [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Senator Nancy Collins, the Board unanimously approved item 03 (copy attached).

04. Information: Overview of the Hanover Research (Hanover) Regional Labor Market Analysis [Goals 1, 2, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

Dr. Nathan Oakley presented an overview of the report from the Hanover Research Regional Labor Market Analysis. Dr. Oakley stated this is only one piece of the pie that will be used to work with the Career and Technical Education program.

Mr. Sean Suggs left the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

05. Action: Approval of a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise Part 189: *Mississippi School Safety Manual* [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. John R, Kelly, seconded by Senator Nancy Collins, the Board unanimously approved item 05 (copy attached).

06. Action: 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 an Advanced Placement (AP) supplemental (add-on) endorsement that is added to a valid standard five-year Mississippi teacher license to teach Advanced Placement courses [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board voted 5 to 1 to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-4: Part 4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 (copy attached).

Members voting aye: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman
Mr. Buddy Bailey
Senator Nancy Collins
Dr. Karen J. Elam
Dr. John R. Kelly

Member voting nay: Ms. Brittney Rye

Member absent: Mr. Sean Suggs

07. Action: Approval of the MDE Contracts [Goals 1, 2, and 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

07.A. Action: Renew contract with Questar Assessment, Inc. (QAI) for Fiscal Year 2021 to administer the English Language Arts and

Mathematics in grades 3-8; Science Grades 5 & 8; and High School Algebra I, English II, and Biology I as part of the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program - Alternate, (MAAP-A) for students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (SCD) [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

- 07.B. Action: Renew contract with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) for Fiscal Year 2021 to administer the 5th and 8th Grade Science assessment, and End-of-Course assessments in Biology and U.S. History as part of the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program, (MAAP) [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)
- 07.C. Action: Renew contract with Questar Assessment, Inc. (QAI) for Fiscal Year 2021 to administer the English Language Arts and Mathematics in Grades 3-8, End-of-Course in Algebra I, English II, and options for Geometry and Algebra II as part of the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program, (MAAP) [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)
- 07.D. Action: Renew contracts with Monitoring and Compliance Fiscal Specialists II for the Fiscal Year 2021 for the Office of Federal Programs [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved items 07.A., 07.B., 07.C., and 07.D. (copy attached).

Dr. Karen J. Elam left the meeting at 11:41 a.m.

- 08. Action: Approval of the MDE grant awards [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6– MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
 - 08.A. Action: Award grant to Mississippi School Boards Association to conduct basic and continuing education for local school boards, and conduct training for school board members and school superintendents in failing school districts, as required by Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-4 [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)
 - 08.B. Action: Award competitive grants for the Mississippi Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) grant program [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)
 - 08.C. Action: Renewal of Educator-in-Residence (EIR) Grants to school districts for literacy coaches [Goals 1, 2, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G Aultman, seconded by Ms. Brittney Rye, the Board unanimously approved items 08.A., 08.B., and 08.C. (copy attached).

09. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval to establish the Mississippi Alternate Academic Achievement Standards for K-8 Social Studies, Career Readiness III & IV, and Life Skills Development III & IV
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Nathan Oakley)
- B. Approval to establish State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 30, Rule 30.8 – Educational Stability for Students in Foster Care
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Nathan Oakley)
- C. Approval of the 2020-2021 Student Handbooks for the State Schools
(Nathan Oakley)
- D. Approval of the Mississippi School of the Arts Operations Policy Manual (Nathan Oakley)
- E. Approval of the 2020-2021 Teacher and Principal Contracts for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Nathan Oakley)
- F. 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)
- G. Report of monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits (Felicia Gavin)

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

- X. No Executive Session.
- XI. State Board of Education
 - 1. No report on meetings attended.

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2. No request to attend a meeting.
3. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Brittney Rye, the Board unanimously approved the meeting dates for Fiscal Year 2021 (copy attached).

XII. Other Business

1. Approval of the Board Budget Work Session to discuss upcoming Department budgets to change the date from June 10, 2020, starting at 2:00 p.m. to June 11, 2020, starting at 8:30 a.m.

On a motion by Ms. Brittney Rye, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved to change the date of the Board Budget Work Session from June 10, 2020, starting at 2:00 p.m. to June 11, 2020, starting at 8:30 a.m. and the State Board meeting starting immediately after the Board Budget Work Session.

- XIII. On a motion by Senator Nancy Collins, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

Approved:



Jason S. Dean, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education