

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

June 11, 2020

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 11, 2020, via teleconference and video means 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), Senator Nancy Collins (Tupelo, Mississippi), Dr. Jason S. Dean (Madison, Mississippi), Dr. Karen J. Elam (Oxford, Mississippi), Dr. John R. Kelly (Gulfport, Mississippi), Ms. Brittney Rye (Starkville, Mississippi), and Mr. Sean Suggs (Blue Springs, Mississippi). Student Representatives: Mr. Omar G. Jamil (Hernando, Mississippi) and Ms. Shelby Dean (Clinton, Mississippi). Dr. Carey M. Wright was present in Madison, Mississippi. Board member absent: Mr. Buddy Bailey.

I. Dr. Jason S. Dean called the Board meeting to order at 10:04 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 Ms. Brittney Rye gave the Invocation.

III. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Brittney Rye, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2020, Board meeting.

IV. On a motion by Mr. Sean Suggs, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, 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 several virtual meetings. Dr. Wright stated that she met virtually with all MDE employees to keep them abreast of what is happening, any new Executive Orders that

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.

have been issued, and the health and safety rules that they will have to follow when they return to the building.

- Dr. Wright stated that she met with her Superintendent's Advisory Council and they have been heavily involved in what MDE has been doing.
- Dr. Wright stated that she met with all the superintendents and the technology coordinators from across the state in a meeting to walk them through the needs assessment that MDE has issued. Dr. Wright stated that MDE wanted them to know what was coming, how important it is to be completed, and sent back because all these data points MDE is getting from them are being fed into the statewide plan that Mr. John Kraman will talk with the Board a little later in the meeting.
- Dr. Wright stated that she had a call with the Mississippi State Medical Association, and they were so pleased with our inclusion of the telehealth and teletherapy into our plan and they were very supportive of that. Dr. Wright stated they are writing a letter of support to the elected leadership and they are thrilled to be a partner with MDE.
- Dr. Wright stated she has been on two calls per week from all the State Chiefs from the 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 invaluable and it gives us a chance to talk about what is happening around the nation, struggles that everyone is having, ideas that everyone is sharing so that we are not inventing the exact same wheel.
- Dr. Wright stated that she has been interviewed by WLOX, Paul Gallo Radio Show along with Mr. Pete Smith, The Wall Street Journal, and CNN.
- Dr. Wright stated that she wanted to recognize two groups of superintendents that have really been partners with MDE. Dr. Wright stated that the first group that has been under Dr. Bonita Coleman's leadership are getting ready to release the Considerations for Reopening Mississippi Schools and the superintendents on that work group are Dr. Todd English, Mr. Jason Harris, Dr. Adrian Hammitte, Ms. Tess Smith, Ms. Charlotte Seals, Mr. Lance Evans, Dr. Matt Dillon, and Ms. Miskia Davis. Dr. Wright stated they worked together to produce this document and MDE will be conducting two virtual webinars with all superintendents across the state to familiarize them with it. Dr. Wright stated that the document is done in three month increments with what we are doing in June, July and August. Dr. Wright stated that another document will be released later for the next three months. Dr. Wright stated that the other group of superintendents are working directly with Dr. Dobbs, State Health Director. Dr. Wright stated that the members of that group are Dr. Tim Martin, Dr. Michelle Bivens, Mr. Lundy Brantley, Mr. Glen East, and Dr. Ray Morgigno. Dr. Wright stated that they will be looking at guidelines around athletics, extra curriculum activities, as well as safety and health. Dr. Wright stated that this group has just started working with Dr. Dobbs.

- Dr. Wright stated that she, Mr. Pete Smith, Dr. Jason S. Dean, and Mr. John Kraman have had several meetings with the Education Chairs, the Lt. Governor, and the Governor's Education Policy Advisor about MDE's Technology Plan. Dr. Wright thanked Dr. Dean, State Board Chair, for his leadership, for always being available to meet or be on phone calls to discuss what is going on with MDE.
- Dr. Wright stated that she got a call from Secretary Betsy DeVos checking in to see how things are going and how the United States Department of Education (USDE) could be more helpful. Dr. Wright stated that Secretary DeVos told her about rockets in the air containing satellites for worldwide broadband. Dr. Wright stated they have launched 480 satellites with a goal of 600 with the first application being the military. Dr. Wright stated that she has a call scheduled to talk with SpaceX because she wants to see how MDE could partner with them about our Technology Plan and statewide connectivity.
- Dr. Wright stated the Department has been getting questions about assessments and about savings on assessments since the MDE did not administer the statewide assessments this spring. Dr. Wright introduced Dr. Paula Vanderford who showed a PowerPoint on the savings to MDE and as of today the savings are a little over \$4 million for FY 20 and FY 21.
- Dr. Wright stated the Governor passed an Executive Order requiring all schools to offer summer learning to all students. Dr. Wright stated MDE passed out guidance around that and asked them to send back questionnaires about what they are doing. Dr. Wright stated that last month the Board designated her the authority to approve the summer learning plans and today Dr. Nathan Oakley will give you a review of these plans by a PowerPoint presentation. Dr. Oakley stated the individual plans will be posted online.
- Dr. Wright introduced Mr. John Kraman to present the Mississippi Digital Learning Plan as to where the agency is and where the agency is headed. Dr. Wright thanked Mr. Kraman for all his hard work on the Plan. Mr. Kraman presented a PowerPoint on the Plan stating the total amount for the Plan is \$250,000,000.00. Mr. Kraman answered questions from the Board about equipment that would be purchased by the districts.

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

Dr. Dean stated that the Board can see that the MDE had been extremely busy around this District Technology Plan. Dr. Dean thanked Dr. Wright and her Team especially Mr. Kraman for all their hard work during this time. Dr. Dean stated that this is hard work to get this right. Dr. Dean stated that the Board will look back on this and see that the Board provided every child in the state with a device to do education remotely. Dr. Dean stated that just that statement along profoundly changes how educators do their job. Dr. Dean stated there is a lot more work to do especially once the MDE gets the devices. Dr. Dean stated that

he participated in a Zoom meeting with 700 or 800 participants with Dr. Dobbs, the Leavitt Partners, and the CDC Foundation to discuss tools to evolve the COVID-19 schools' strategy.

Dr. Dean read Resolutions for Ms. Shelby Dean, Senior Student Representative, Ms. Brittney Rye, and Mr. Buddy Bailey since they are leaving the Board (copy attached).

- VII. No Report of Student Representatives.
- VIII. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair of the Academic Achievement PreK-12 Subcommittee, stated the Subcommittee met this morning by Zoom meeting. Ms. Aultman stated the items discussed today were for the Mississippi School of the Arts and would be discussed later in the Board meeting.

Ms. Aultman stated that Ms. Sonya Amis is working on setting up face-to-face student representative interviews for July and bringing the finalists to the Board in August.

Ms. Aultman stated that she participated in the Accountability Task force meeting which dealt primarily with WorkKeys and the administration of WorkKeys. Ms. Aultman stated that no decision was made but there were several issues that came out of the meeting. Ms. Aultman stated that (1) cost – who would pay, (2) what students would take the WorkKeys, and (3) how and where does it figure into the Accountability Model. Ms. Aultman stated that the Task force will continue to work on this issue before a recommendation can be brought to the Board.

IX. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

- 01. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes for the 2020 - 2021 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 in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved item 01 (copy attached).

- 02. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific State Board of Education policies, manuals, and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 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 in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-31, 33-15-11(b)(9) and 33-15-11(c)(1) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

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

03. Information: Update on Middle Grades Pilot Initiative [Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

Dr. Nathan Oakley introduced Dr. Marla Davis and Mr. Richard Morrison who gave an update on the Middle Grades Pilot Initiative program (copy attached).

Dr. John R. Kelly left the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

04. Action: Revise the Career Pathway Experience course the Work-Based Learning (WBL): Credit-Bearing Course [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Ms. Brittney Rye, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved item 04 (copy attached).

05. Action: Establish Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Framework in Career and Technical Education – Exploring Computer Science [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Mr. Sean Suggs, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved item 05 (copy attached).

06. Action: Begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Part 24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*, specifically the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System, Section 9, *Acceleration*, regarding the collection of performance measures for dual credit courses [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Ms. Brittney Rye, the Board unanimously approved item 06 (copy attached).

07. Action: Approval of the MDE Contracts [Goals 1 and 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
 - 07A. Action: Renew competitive contracts with produce distributors to supply and deliver produce products to participating organizations in the State Food Purchasing Program (Five Regions in the State) [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

- 07.B. Action: Renew competitive contracts to various full-line food distributors to supply and deliver food products to local organizations in the State Food Purchasing Program (All Regions in the State) [Goal 1– MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
- 07.C. Action: Modify Contract with Ciber Global, LLC., for the K12 Network Support Services to provide onsite technical support for Mississippi public school districts [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)
- 07.D. Action: Award competitive contracts to Prairie Farms Dairy to supply and deliver ice cream products to participating organizations of the State Food Purchasing Program (All 7 Regions in the State) [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
- 07.E. Action: Award competitive contracts to various milk distributors to supply and deliver milk products to participating organizations of the State Food Purchasing Program (All 7 Regions in the State) [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board unanimously approved items 07.A., 07.B., 07.C., 07.D., and 07.E. (copy attached).

- 08. Action: Approval of the MDE grant awards [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
 - 08.A. Action: Award a competitive grant for Migrant Education Program [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)
 - 08.B. Action: Award a competitive grant to school districts to support pre-kindergarten programs [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)
 - 08.C. Action: Award competitive grants for K-3 Summer Literacy Grants to school districts to implement summer reading camps [Goals 1, 2, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Ms. Brittney Rye, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved items 08.A., 08.B., and 08.C. (copy attached).

09. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of dyslexia screeners for use in kindergarten and first grade (Nathan Oakley)

- B. [PULLED]
- C. Approval of Interlocal Agreement with Brookhaven School District to provide instructional services for the Mississippi School of the Arts for Fiscal Year 2021 (Nathan Oakley)
- D. Approval to establish Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks for College and Career Readiness (CCR), Freshman Seminar Early College High School (ECHS), Sophomore Seminar ECHS, Junior Seminar ECHS, and Senior Seminar ECHS [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Nathan Oakley)
- E. Approval of the appointments to the Commission on School Accreditation (Paula Vanderford)
- F. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To repeal Miss. Admin. Code: 7-139, *Accreditation Audit Procedures* (Paula Vanderford)
- G. Approval of educator preparation programs as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development May 1, 2020 (Paula Vanderford)
- H. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Career Pathway licensure option, 971 Teacher Academy; to revise Career and Technical Education supplemental licensure options, 309 Special Populations; and 917 Career Pathway Experience; to establish one new Career Pathway in the endorsement area of Shipbuilding; and to establish one new Computer endorsement in the area of Exploring Computer Science (Paula Vanderford)
- I. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3:55.1, State Board Policy Chapter 55, Rule 55.1 – Office of Technology and Strategic Services (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (John Kraman)
- J. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Framework for Culinary Arts (Nathan Oakley)
- K. Approval to award formula grants to school districts for the purpose of providing reimbursement for K-3 universal screening assessments (Nathan Oakley)

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

X. Consideration of Executive Session

Mr. Sean Suggs 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.

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, 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 Educator Effectiveness within the Office of Teaching and Leading and (2) discuss a strategy session or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation regarding the Department of Education in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(b) related to the CARES Act and the provision of Equitable Services. Senator Nancy Collins 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 reasons.

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 Educator Effectiveness within the Office of Teaching and Leading and (2) discuss a strategy session or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation regarding the Department of Education in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(b) related to the CARES Act and the provision of Equitable Services.

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, 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 action taken during the Executive Session.

01. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Dr. Courtney Van Cleve as Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as Director of Educator Effectiveness within the Office of Teaching and Leading at a salary of \$84,000.00.

XI. State Board of Education

1. No report on meetings attended.
2. No request to attend a meeting.

XII. Other Business

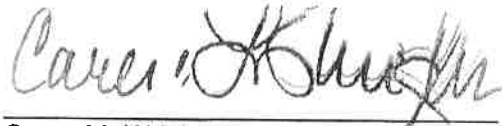
Dr. Dean stated that the July 16, 2020, Board meeting starting at 10:00 a.m. will be held at the Central High School Building in accordance with Executive Order Number 1495. Dr. Dean stated that if any Board member has concerns that accommodations can be worked out.

- XIII. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

Approved:



Jason S. Dean, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education