

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

January 21, 2021

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a regularly scheduled Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 21, 2021, 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 (Central High School, 4th Floor Boardroom, Jackson, Mississippi), Dr. Angela Bass (Jackson, Mississippi), Dr. Jason S. Dean (Central High School, 4th Floor Boardroom, Jackson, Mississippi), Mr. Glen East (Gulfport, Mississippi), Dr. Karen J. Elam (Oxford, Mississippi), and Dr. Ronnie McGehee (Central High School, 4th Floor Boardroom, Jackson, Mississippi). Student Representatives: Mr. Omar G. Jamil (Hernando, Mississippi) and Ms. Amy Zhang (Columbus, Mississippi). Dr. Carey M. Wright was present at Central High School, 4th Floor Boardroom, Jackson, Mississippi.

- I. Dr. Jason S. Dean called the Board meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., after determining that a quorum of the Board existed at the locations stated for the purpose of conducting a meeting through teleconference and video means in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5.
- II. Dr. Angela Bass led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the December 17, 2020, Board meeting minutes.
- IV. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, seconded by Mr. Glen East, 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 declined giving a full report since she would be presenting the update on the Strategic Plan later in the meeting. Dr. Wright introduced Mr. Pete Smith, who gave an update on the Legislative actions thus far. Mr. Smith stated that the next deadline will be February 2, 2021, when the bills will come out of the original chamber. Mr. Smith stated that the Senate has

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.

conducted two Education Committee meetings and they are moving ahead with the teacher pay raise and they are looking at reciprocity for teacher licenses. Mr. Smith stated they tackled the Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP) hold harmless and that bill passed out of committee. Mr. Smith stated they looked at a bill yesterday at trauma informed training for teachers and they tabled it so some questions could be answered, and MDE is working to answer the questions. Mr. Smith stated there are a lot of scholarship programs for teachers who are coming out as teachers and they are working to consolidate those programs into a teacher loan repayment program and will be renamed the William Winter and Jack Reed, Sr. Repayment Loan program. Mr. Smith stated they are working on dyslexia awareness with Senator Moore along with Ms. Robin Lemonis to put clarification in the law around the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) federal guidance for districts. Mr. Smith stated they are extending the repealer on the Mississippi Critical Teacher Shortage Act. Mr. Smith stated that the House Education Committee has not met. Mr. Smith stated that a couple of bills that the Board should be aware of are coming out of Workforce Development. Mr. Smith stated one bill would create an accountability system for Career and Technical Education (CTE) and is instructing the State Department of Education to work with the State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) to come up with some type of accountability measure to measure the effectiveness of CTE programs across the state and included in this bill to create an independent body to evaluate the State Superintendent as it relates to the effectiveness of CTE programs across the state. Mr. Smith stated that MDE needs to review and offer any concerns for the bill. Mr. Smith stated that they met with the Education Chair earlier this week and he extended the invitation for them to review the bill and to submit to him any concerns that MDE has before they move forward and the Department is working on that now. Mr. Smith stated that another bill deals with a curriculum change in CTE as well as the WorkKeys Silver and ensuring that the WorkKeys has the same equal weighting as ACT in the accountability model in the college and career readiness portion. Mr. Smith stated that in this bill is a sequence of courses that MDE feels will be problematic and hopefully a compromise can be reached before this bill moves forward. Mr. Smith stated that this is House Bill 539 and he will e-mail the Board members a copy for their review. Mr. Smith stated that the other bill coming out of Workforce is to eliminate the history exam which the Board has tackled over the years. Mr. Smith stated that Chairman Bell is very appreciative of the work the Board has done around CTE. Mr. Smith stated that they talked about the Expert Citizenship License that is renewable for five years. Mr. Smith stated that MDE has some minor technical amendments that will be taken up later in the session.

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

- Dr. Dean welcomed Dr. John R. Kelly to the Board meeting via Zoom. Dr. Dean read a Resolution for Dr. Kelly from the Board. Dr. Dean thanked Dr. Kelly for his guidance, mentorship, being a friend to him, and introducing him to the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE).

Dr. Kelly thanked Dr. Dean for his kind words. Dr. Kelly stated that the work on the State Board is about making sure that teachers, principals, superintendents, and students have the resources that they need to prepare them for the next generation. Dr. Kelly thanked his former colleagues on the Board that he served with--he thanked them for their friendship, and the manner that we work together to get the work of this Board done. Dr. Kelly thanked Dr. Wright and her incredible staff for their work. Dr. Kelly stated that his nine years on the Board was an incredible time and very rewarding work, so he appreciated Governor Barber for appointing him. Dr. Kelly stated that he looks forward to following the work of the State Board and he knows that Mississippi's children are in great hands.

Dr. Wright thanked Dr. Kelly for his work on the Board and for his friendship.

- Dr. Dean stated that he was invited to join a group of business leaders focusing on early childhood education organized by The Kellogg Foundation called the Early Learning Investment Council. Dr. Dean stated that he was excited about working with this group.

VII. Report of Student Representatives

Mr. Omar G. Jamil stated that he wanted to thank Ms. Amy Zhang for her help with technology. Mr. Jamil stated that he could not attend the Student Advisory Council meeting since he had some Internet trouble that day but Amy has details about the meeting. Mr. Jamil stated that he was able to talk with some of the Student Advisory Council members after the meeting, especially some of the ACT and SAT prep students, and they mentioned that some of the course work that they are doing in their schools was definitely helping in improving their grades in those courses and test subjects. Mr. Jamil stated that he would like to push for more required ACT and SAT curriculum since that was a consensus from the Council to improve prep for the exams.

Ms. Amy Zhang stated that they had smaller work group sessions last Friday and other than the ACT and SAT courses workgroup that Mr. Jamil talked about, they also had four other groups that talked about improving virtual learning for students, mental and emotional health resources and support, social justice awareness, and teacher training. Ms. Zhang stated to summarize what was talked about in these meetings for improving virtual learning were three big ideas being research right now: cross district learning; improving outdated technology, and having better communication. Ms. Zhang stated that in mental and

emotional health resources and support that a lot of the ideas were influenced from the special meeting earlier this month with Child and Adolescent Psychologist, Dr. David Elkins. Ms. Zhang stated that the three main areas are raising awareness about the importance of mental health, creating a supportive environment, and increasing the ways that people can seek help if they need it. Ms. Zhang stated that one of the big ideas that Dr. Elkins brought up was digital therapy and she stated that this was especially important during the COVID pandemic. Ms. Zhang stated that in social justice awareness, the ideas that they discussed were having classes such as minority studies, theology in religion in order to increase awareness, having podcasts or newsletters for social justice outside the classroom and outside of the proposed classes, and having a social justice club or a social justice awareness week at school to spread more awareness to the entire school. Ms. Zhang stated the last group was the teacher training for improved virtual instruction and they just brainstormed ideas. Ms. Zhang stated in the next meeting they are going to start making a slide of the ideas and this group had high school and college students, so it was interesting to see the similarities and differences. Ms. Zhang stated they have meetings coming up before the next Student Advisory Council meeting on February 25, 2021. Ms. Zhang stated that some groups have already met and she is excited that the groups are off to a good start in sharing ideas and she is looking forward to working with all the students on the Council.

VIII. There were no reports on State Board of Education Subcommittee meetings.

IX. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Information: Progress on the Mississippi Board of Education's 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 2018-2022* (copy attached).

02. Action: Approval to submit an Addendum to the ESEA Consolidated State Plan due to the COVID-19 National Emergency and an accompanying waiver request for the identification of Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) schools based on 2020-21 results [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved item 02 (copy attached).

03. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes, 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)

03.A. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes, State Board of Education policies, manuals, and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 school year as it relates to the accountability determinations, 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)

03.B. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes, State Board of Education policies, manuals, and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 school year as it relates to 3rd Grade English Language Arts/Reading Assessment, 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)

03.C. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes, State Board of Education policies, manuals, and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 school year as it relates to the End-of-Course Subject Areas Tests, 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)

03.D. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific state statutes, State Board of Education policies, manuals, and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 school year as it relates to submission of the FY 2020 Single Audit reporting package, 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)

03.E. Action: Approval by the SBE to suspend strict compliance with specific states statutes, State Board of Education policies, manuals,

and process standards for the 2020 – 2021 school year as it relates to the required training for MCOPS recipients and SROs, 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 Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, the Board unanimously approved items 03.A., 03.B., 03.C., 03.D., and 03.E. (copy attached).

04. Action: Revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020* specifically the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System, Section 25, *College- and Career-Readiness*, regarding the inclusion of ACT WorkKeys in performance measures [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)

Following discussion, the Chair tabled item 04 until the February 18, 2021, Board meeting.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened at 1:01 p.m. Dr. Jason S. Dean did not return to the meeting. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman served as Acting Chair.

05. Action: Establish the Mississippi K-12 Social Emotional Learning Standards [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board unanimously approved item 05 (copy attached).

06. Action: Approval of the MDE grant awards [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

- 06.A. Action: Award competitive grants for the Mississippi Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) grant program [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board unanimously approved item 06.A. (copy attached).

07. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Nathan Oakley)
- B. Approval of list of evidence-based behavior interventions for use in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade (Nathan Oakley)
- C. Approval to establish Licensure Guidelines for Licensure Preparation and Other Programs Completed Outside the State of Mississippi (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comment) (Paula Vanderford)
- D. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to amend the Mississippi Alternate Path to Quality School Leadership Business Track and remove all references to the Mississippi Alternate Path to Quality Teachers (MAPQT) and Mississippi Alternate Path to Quality School Leadership (MAPQSL) Education Track nontraditional licensure pathways from the Licensure Guidelines as appropriate (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comment) (Paula Vanderford)
- E. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 3: 14.6, 14.6.1, and 14.6.2, State Board Policy Chapter 14, Rules 14.6, 14.6.1, and 14.6.2 and establish Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 3: 14.6.3 and 14.6.4, State Board Policy Chapter 14, Rules 14.6.3 and 14.6.4 related to Licensure Commission, Discipline Procedures, Hearings and Appeals (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- F. Approval of the appointment of a Chairman for the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., and F. (copy attached).

X. No Executive Session

XI. State Board of Education

- 1. Dr. Ronnie McGehee stated that he was really impressed with the collective conversations of the Pine Belt group that met at William Carey College yesterday. Dr. McGehee stated these superintendents were sharing

information about going forward, thinking about not just today but what is going on tomorrow, and they are ready for what is next. Dr. McGehee stated they are looking at potential changes of schedules and their graduation preparations are leaning back toward the virtual side. Dr. McGehee stated they are concerned about certifications and teacher employment, and high on their list is what kind of supports are out there for the learning loss that they identify as they start to enter school next fall.

2. No request to attend a meeting.
3. Dr. Karen J. Elam moved to nominate Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman to serve as Vice-Chair until July 2021. Dr. Ronnie McGehee seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman to serve as the Board Vice-Chair until July 2021.

XII. Other Business

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman stated that the February Board meeting will be held on February 18, 2021, at the Central High School Building starting at 10:00 a.m.

- XIII. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Approved:



Jason S. Dean, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education