

## Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

April 15, 2021

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 15, 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 via live stream.<sup>1</sup> Board members present: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman (Clinton, Mississippi), Dr. Angela Bass (Jackson, Mississippi), Mr. Glen East (Gulfport, Mississippi), Dr. Karen J. Elam (Oxford, Mississippi), and Dr. Ronnie McGehee (Madison, Mississippi). Student Representatives: Mr. Omar G. Jamil (Hernando, Mississippi) and Ms. Amy Zhang (Columbus, Mississippi). Dr. Carey M. Wright was present at Madison, Mississippi.

- I. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman called the Board meeting to order at 10:05 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. Karen J. Elam led the Pledge of Allegiance and Dr. Ronnie McGehee gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the March 11, 2021, Board meeting minutes.
- IV. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, 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 apologized that the Board meeting could not be held in the Central High School building. Dr. Wright stated that renovations are being done on all floors in the Building. Dr. Wright stated that we are at the mercy of the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) and hope the May Board meeting can be held at the building.
  - Dr. Wright stated that she has given several presentations: she served on a panel with two other education leaders at Equity Talks which was around women education leaders across the nation; she presented a keynote for the Chief State School Officers' (CCSSO) Legislative Conference; she presented at the Education Achievement Council which was an update on

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

*Mississippi Connects* so they would know the status of Mississippi's initiative; she was invited to attend the Northeast Regional Principals meeting and she provided updates to them about the Department; she also appeared on Politico and their focus was on recovery and what are states and districts doing in terms of recovery and getting children back in school; she attended the Education Funder Strategy Group---this is a group of national funders and she was asked to talk about how can the field leverage the moment and how can philanthropy help and this gave her a chance to get in front of people who fund a lot of things from around the nation where education is concerned; and she and Mr. Pete Smith also appeared on the Paul Gallo Radio Show and we discussed a variety of topics.

- Dr. Wright stated that several meetings had taken place: she attended the Chiefs for Change Executive Board Meeting; she held meetings with her Superintendent Advisory Council, Principal Advisory Council, and the Student Advisory Council; and had a two day meeting with our Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and they discussed accountability and how to measure accountability since the assessments were not given last year but the Federal Government is requiring states to measure accountability.
- Dr. Wright introduced Dr. Felicia Gavin to give an update from the Legislative Session on the impact to the Department on how funds were appropriated. Dr. Gavin stated that the Department saw a two percent increase in non-specified items for the general fund but received a cut in pins so the Department will have to identify 16 pins to cut. Dr. Gavin stated the great news was the Department receiving funding for Mississippi Student Information System (MSIS) in the amount of \$7.6 million. Dr. Gavin stated that we received \$5 million for math coaches, an additional \$8 million for early learning collaboratives, \$1 million for Career and Technical Education (CTE) equipment upgrades, Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP) saw a slight increase in funding, and teachers saw an increase from \$12 million in school supply funds to \$20 million. Dr. Gavin stated that the Department received \$1.5 million for early learning coaches and CTE received a slight increase this year of \$700,000. Dr. Gavin stated that the State Personnel Board is doing a realignment of state employees so the Department will have to absorb the pay increase with the two percent increase the agency received.
- Dr. Wright stated that the agency is excited, and this is a great opportunity for the State to expand early childhood. Dr. Wright stated the math coaches are a real plus since the superintendents and the principals have been asking for them since they have seen the true value of the literacy coaches. Dr. Wright stated that the Department received another line item of \$1 million to allow districts to pay for WorkKeys exams, AP/IB/Cambridge, and dual credit/dual enrollment. Dr. Wright stated that this is great news for Mississippi, and the Department is excited to get to work.

- VI. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair of the State Board, gave the following report.
- Ms. Aultman stated that her involvement has been a lot of phone calls and e-mails and that she attended the Education Achievement Council virtually with Dr. Wright who gave an overview of *Mississippi Connects*.
- VII. Report of Student Representatives

Ms. Amy Zhang spoke about mental health and about how student's social lives are looking up despite COVID. Ms. Zhang stated that last month she served on a student panel with four other students at the Student Mental Wellness Summit for the National Consortium of Secondary STEM Schools. Ms. Zhang stated they discussed a lot of topics but the one that stood out most to her was how students are most comfortable talking to other students and their peers about mental health but they are reluctant to go to adults for help. Ms. Zhang stated the conclusion that they drew is that students are not used to talking to administration and counselors especially if there is no precedence for doing so. Ms. Zhang stated that the panel got her to thinking about how to facilitate communication at the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (MSMS). Ms. Zhang stated that she is working with the student government in pushing for the formation of committees made up of student body representatives and to have a committee focus on mental health. Ms. Zhang stated that the goal is to have committees to understand the student bodies thoughts on mental health and the changes they would like to see with policies and things from administration and they will be finding that information through methods such as interviewing students, sending out polls to student body, and holding meetings. Ms. Zhang stated the committee will take that information while staying in contact with administration so they can bridge the gap and bring up student concerns in an easier and more thorough way. Ms. Zhang stated that this committee has not been approved yet, but if it does not work out then she will talk with Dr. Wright's Student Advisory Council on how to implement this in their schools and will talk with MSMS students on how to set this up at their home schools. Ms. Zhang stated that she is really hopeful that these discussions about mental health will bring change across the state. Ms. Zhang stated that student lives are still going on despite of COVID and MSMS prom is happening in about two weeks and it will be in person and follow the social distancing guidelines. Ms. Zhang stated that a lot of other schools are having prom this year or they have had it already and that is very exciting for a lot of students. Ms. Zhang stated that MSMS has sent out acceptance letters to rising juniors and she is really looking forward to meeting the juniors and helping them through their MSMS experience. Ms. Zhang stated that she will be able to talk to them about the state of education in Mississippi and hear their perspectives or changes that they would like to see because it is a new class with students from all across the state. Ms. Zhang thanked Mr. Omar Jamil for helping her when she first joined the Board as a student representative. Ms. Zhang stated that he helped her learn how to be an effective student representative and having another student on the Board made it a lot easier to

speaking up. Ms. Zhang stated that there are a lot of exciting things happening regarding mental health and our social lives are still happening. Ms. Zhang stated that she was really grateful to have served with Mr. Jamil this year and thanked him for all the work he has done.

Ms. Aultman thanked Ms. Zhang and stated that she had really done a good job and the Board looks forward to you being the senior student representative member next year and you can help bring the junior student along just as Mr. Jamil has done for you.

Mr. Omar Jamil stated this is his final report. Mr. Jamil stated that for the past two years he has been blessed with the opportunity to serve on the Mississippi Board of Education as an inaugural member of the journey to traverse as he paved it acting as a student representative for the state has provided many triumphs as well as difficulties. Mr. Jamil stated that in order to understand the financial liberties bestowed upon the Board as well as the procedures and policies capable of fruition within the Boardroom took a great deal of time and effort to understand, however, armed with patience and intuitive mentors by his ability to engage in progressive policies surged with every monthly meeting. Mr. Jamil stated that during the first year of engagement with the Board that Ms. Shelby Dean and he learned the Board procedures and goals and how to create policies that will raise our standardized testing scores, about how each and every district and region of Mississippi have distinct educational needs that only the State Board can solve. Mr. Jamil stated that nevertheless they persisted, they improved their discourse in a manner that actually and fluently reflected the needs of Mississippi students. Mr. Jamil stated that perhaps the greatest achievement of our time on the Board has been the inclusion of Dr. Wright's Student Advisory Council. Mr. Jamil stated that in the previous year the council was much of a trial run. Mr. Jamil stated that student members had to learn secondhand about the engagement of the State Board of Education regarding Mississippi curriculum and policy implementation. Mr. Jamil stated that it was difficult for Ms. Dean and himself to not only learn about the State Board of Education but to also relay the information to the student council. Mr. Jamil stated this year it changed; however, it goes without saying that Ms. Zhang has been fundamental in his improvement as a Board member for her ability to engage with the Council as well as the Board of Education surpassed his own capabilities in his first year. Mr. Jamil stated that Ms. Zhang has helped to ensure that the Student Advisory Council is always updated with information and provided topics of discussion items for the student agenda, provided ample opportunities for Zoom meetings, presentation discourse, and summit invitations. Mr. Jamil stated that Ms. Zhang assisted him when he was unavailable to lead. Mr. Jamil stated that he is confident in her personal conviction and community outreach and he believes she will leave a profound impact on the Board of Education as he has done. Mr. Jamil stated that as he steps down from his position with relief knowing that another leader is assuming the reins. Mr. Jamil stated that it is with great sadness that he departs from the Board of Education.

Mr. Jamil stated that he has grown familiar to the cordiality at the Boardroom, a familiar banter of board members, and even the corner table he called his own. Mr. Jamil stated that he has said as many farewells to Board members as he has created new ones and he leaves knowing he fulfilled his duty as best he could. Mr. Jamil stated that the future student Board member involvement is guaranteed under a welcoming administration. Mr. Jamil stated that before he ends his final report, he would like to address some personal improvements that he sees fit for the Board of Education. Mr. Jamil stated that he encourages more dialogue opportunities between our teacher and student advisory councils to foster improved awareness about similar and contrasting issues in the school environment. Mr. Jamil stated that he also asks the State Board to implement student advisory councils in every district both to serve as a pipeline to statewide issues addressed with the Mississippi Student Advisory Council and to create solutions to district specific issues. Mr. Jamil asks that the State Board of Education implement policies that network our student council members with similarly engaged teachers and administrators. Mr. Jamil stated that this concludes his final report.

Ms. Aultman stated that Mr. Omar Jamil and Ms. Shelby Dean who is completing her freshman year at Mississippi College were the first two student representatives and they were just sort of thrown out there into a world they were not familiar. Ms. Aultman stated that Mr. Jamil has done a great job in being able to navigate those waters and lay the ground work. Ms. Aultman stated that Mr. Jamil and Ms. Zhang have worked beautifully together this year to move the Board to the next level and engage students statewide and be able to get their input through the Student Advisory Council. Ms. Aultman stated that she hopes this has been a good experience for Mr. Jamil but as time goes on he can look back and know that he helped get this off the ground and helped to lay the ground work for other students.

Ms. Aultman read a Resolution for Mr. Jamil (copy attached).

Dr. Wright thanked Mr. Jamil for his leadership that he gave to the inaugural Student Advisory Council and she has enjoyed working with him and the Council.

#### VIII. Report on State Board of Education Subcommittee meetings

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, stated they met earlier today, and Mr. Pete Smith brought them up to date on all the actions related to educational issues in the recent legislative session. Ms. Aultman asked Mr. Smith to give the highlights of the session. Mr. Smith stated that he wanted to thank both the Education Chairs, Representative Richard Bennett and Senator Dennis DeBar, and the Appropriation Chairs, Representative John Read and Senator Briggs Hopson for really working shoulder to shoulder this year on our budget as well as on some very important legislation that they passed for education. Mr. Smith stated that the K-12 appropriation bill is due back on April

19, 2021. Mr. Smith stated that House Bill 633, the computer science bill, was passed this year. Mr. Smith stated that the Department had the initiative some three to five years ago by implementing computer science in K-12 by 2024. Mr. Smith stated the Department was well on its way of doing that without any funding, but happy to say this year the Department got a bill and C Spire Foundation is going to donate \$1 million toward the effort of professional development, curriculum, and the legislature appropriated \$1 million going toward this effort for computer science. Mr. Smith stated that House Bill 852, the teacher pay raise bill, which is about \$52 million for the pay raise where zero to two-year teachers will see an increase of \$1,100 to get their starting salaries up to \$37,000 and the other teachers and assistant teachers will receive \$1,000 pay raise. Mr. Smith stated that House Bill 1047 which deals with National Board Certification in that piece of funding from the legislature it allows for nurses, as well as certified speech language pathologist, to receive a \$6,000 stipend if they are certified in their areas and the Legislature removed the cap on the number of nurses or speech language pathologists that could get the stipend. Mr. Smith stated that this year they also included athletic trainers to receive the \$6,000 stipend. Mr. Smith stated that there was a lot of work done around teacher incentives and scholarship programs that are being administered around the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) student financial services department, so the legislature consolidated some of these programs to create the William Winter and Jack Reed Teacher Loan Repayment Program and the legislature appropriated \$2 million to get this program up and running. Mr. Smith stated that Senate Bill 2149, the hold harmless bill, where districts were able to calculate Average Dailey Attendance (ADA) funding based on their 2019-2020 pre pandemic ADA versus 2020-2021 and about six districts during the pandemic increased their ADA so they will receive funding based on the higher amount. Mr. Smith stated that Senate Bill 2267 was the reciprocity bill that saw the legislature removing standards for teachers coming to Mississippi with a valid license and offer them reciprocity pending a background check by the district for a job. Mr. Smith stated that the funds the Department received this year for a lot of priorities such as MSIS, math coaches, expanding early childhood, literacy coaches, and some others were from lottery proceeds. Mr. Smith stated what people may not know is that when the lottery bill passed a couple of years ago the first \$80 million went to improve infrastructure across the state and any revenue above that would go to education. Mr. Smith stated that this year education got roughly \$30 million from lottery proceeds. Ms. Aultman stated that the funds coming from the lottery are going into programs that directly impact school districts.

Dr. Angela Bass, Chair of the School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee, stated that the Ad Hoc Screening Committee met to start reviewing the applications of the new junior student representative that will be serving from 2021 to 2023. Dr. Bass stated that the Board received 73 applications that met all the requirements and they were evaluated by the Committee. Dr. Bass stated that she served on the Ad Hoc Screening

Committee and there are some very talented and gifted students in our state. Dr. Bass stated that this was a really fulfilling experience for her. Dr. Bass stated the ten semi-finalists are: Ms. Kayle Amos, Brandon High School, Rankin County School District; Ms. Aminata Ba, DeSoto Central High School, DeSoto County School District; Ms. Carrie “McKenzie” Bivens, Houston High School, Houston School District; Mr. Joshua Bowman, Northwest Rankin High School, Rankin County School District; Ms. Alexis Chen, Center Hill High School, DeSoto County School District; Ms. Madison DeVaul, Northwest Rankin High School, Rankin County School District; Ms. Micah Hill, Laurel High School, Laurel School District; Mr. Keerthin Karthikeyan, Oxford High School, Oxford School District; Ms. Isabella Reynolds, Pascagoula High School, Pascagoula-Gautier School District; and Ms. Ella Watts, Columbia High School, Columbia School District. Dr. Bass congratulated these students and stated they will be interviewed by the School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee in May and the Subcommittee will recommend no more than four finalists to the State Board to be interviewed in June.

Dr. Karen J. Elam, Chair of the Educator Quality Subcommittee, stated they met yesterday, and the members of the Subcommittee are Dr. Angela Bass and Dr. Ronnie McGehee. Dr. Elam stated that Dr. Cory Murphy, Director of Teaching and Learning, put together a presentation where each of his direct reports gave an overview of their functions and responsibilities and this was very interesting and worthwhile. Dr. Elam stated that the Board will be looking at the Mississippi Educator Preparation Provider Process and Performance Guidelines that will be going forward to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process. Dr. Elam stated that Dr. Debra Burson will be leading that discussion and that the Board members pay attention to this since it is very important, and a great deal of work has gone into preparing this to bring to the Board.

Mr. Glen East, Chair of the Academic Achievement PreK-12/Early Childhood Subcommittee, met Wednesday and Ms. Aultman and Dr. Karen J. Elam are on the Subcommittee. Mr. East stated that they heard an outstanding report from directors that are responsible for a lot of work in our state and praised their work of wanting to get to the parents and teachers in the state with all of the resources and information they are putting together. Mr. East stated that as a new Board member it was good information and complemented Dr. Nathan Oakley and his team for all the good work they have done to this point. Mr. East stated that he looks forward to some great things to come out of this group in the future.

IX. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Action: Establish the Advanced Technical Mathematics course [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Mr. Glen East, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board unanimously approved item 01 (copy attached).

02. Action: Approval of Districts and Schools of Innovation for 2021-2022 [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

02.A. Action: Approval of a school of innovation within the Laurel School District [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Mr. Glen East, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved item 02.A. (copy attached).

02.B. Action: Approval of district of innovation status for the Corinth School District [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

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

02.C. Action: Approval district of innovation status for the Gulfport School District [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved item 02.C. (copy attached). Mr. Glen East recused himself from voting and discussion.<sup>2</sup>

Members voting aye: Dr. Angela Bass  
Dr. Karen J. Elam  
Dr. Ronnie McGehee

Members voting nay: None

Member absent: None

02.D. Action: Approval of a school of innovation within the Vicksburg Warren School District [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Mr. Glen East, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board unanimously approved item 02.D. (copy attached).

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<sup>2</sup> NOTE: Due to recusal of Mr. Glen East, the Board lacked a quorum to transact business on this item; therefore, the action of approval of the district of innovation status for the Gulfport School District, is null and void. The Board will need to bring this matter up for action when quorum is established.



03. 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)

The Board discussed some concerns about comments received and the concerns were addressed by staff. On a motion by Mr. Glen East, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved item 03 (copy attached).

04. Action: Begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish the 2021 Mississippi Educator Preparation Provider Process and Performance Guidelines [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

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

05. Action: Approval by the SBE to establish deadlines related to the suspension of 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)

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

06. Action: Approval of a financial advisor for the Holmes County Consolidated School District [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Mr. Glen East, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved item 06 (copy attached).

07. Action: Approval of methodology to award grant dollars for Behavioral Telehealth to schools in accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Washington Cole, IV)

On a motion by Mr. Glen East, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board unanimously approved item 07 (copy attached).

- 08. Action: Approval of MDE contracts [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
  - 08.A. Action: Renew contract with Research and Curriculum Unit, Mississippi State University for Fiscal Year 2022 for the operation of the Mississippi Career and Planning and Assessment System, Third Edition (MS-CPAS3) [Goals 1 and 2– MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)
  - 08.B. Action: Renew contract with Lydia Boutwell for Fiscal Year 2022 for Early Childhood Coach [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)
  - 08.C. Action: Renew contract with Hanover Research Council, LLC for FY 2022 to provide proprietary research information for education [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)
  - 08.D. Action: Renew contract with ACT, Inc. for Fiscal Year 2022 to administer the ACT to all juniors in the state [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)
  - 08.E. Action: Renew contract with Questar Assessment, Inc. (QAI) for Fiscal Year 2022 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)
  - 08.F. Action: Contract with ESSER Technical Assistance Specialist for ESSER Program for the Office of Federal Programs [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Joe Goff)
  - 08.G. Action: Renew contract with Sharon Miller to provide services in the role of Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Coordinator for FY2022 [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
  - 08.H. Action: Contract with Guidesoft Inc., d/b/a Knowledge Services under the terms of the Master Consulting Services Agreement to provide for the acquisition of Network Engineer Professionals for local school districts in support of MDE's Digital Learning Program [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)

- 08.I. Action: Approval of employment agreement to serve as Superintendent for Noxubee County School District (NCSD) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Washington Cole, IV)
- 08.J. Action: Approval of employment agreement to serve as Superintendent for Achievement School District (ASD) [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Washington Cole, IV)

On a motion by Mr. Glen East, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved items 08.A., 08.B., 08.C., 08.D., 08.E., 08.F., 08.G., 08.H., 08.I., and 08.J. (copy attached).

- 09. Approval of MDE grant awards [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
  - 09.A. Action: Award grants to school districts for the purpose of providing for costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic impact on Pre-K classrooms [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)
  - 09.B. Action: Award competitive grant to state agency to facilitate the broadcast of instructional content via a statewide television network available to Mississippi students and teachers [Goals 1, 2, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)
  - 09.C. [PULLED]
  - 09.D. Action: Award grants to the School Nurse ESSER 1 Grant Program [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
  - 09.E. Action: Award grant to University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) for Behavioral Telehealth to schools in accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Washington Cole, IV)

On a motion by Dr. Angela Bass, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved items 09.A., 09.B., 09.D., and 09.E. (copy attached).

- 10. Consent Agenda
  - A. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Nathan Oakley)
  - B. Approval of adjusted 2020-2021 calendar for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Nathan Oakley)

- C. Approval of Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) for Districts assigned a PROBATION or WITHDRAWN status in accordance with Accreditation Policy 2.8.1 (Paula Vanderford)
- D. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code: 7-24, *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020*, specifically Process Standard 14, and Appendices A, B, and C and Miss. Admin. Code 7-163: *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2020*, specifically Appendices A, B, and C (Paula Vanderford)
- E. Approval to revise licensure guidelines for certain Career and Technical Education Career Pathways; to revise Career and Technical Education 309 Special Populations supplemental endorsement licensure guidelines; to establish one new Career Pathway in the endorsement area of Advanced Manufacturing (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- F. Approval of a new school site for the Madison County School District (Paula Vanderford)
- G. Approval of the appointments to the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Paula Vanderford)
- H. Approval of the 2021-2022 Teacher and Principal contracts for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Nathan Oakley)
- I. Approval of the Career and Technical Education Memorandum of Agreement between the Mississippi Community College Board and the Mississippi State Board of Education and the Mississippi Department of Education (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Mr. Glen East, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., F., G., H., and I. (copy attached).

X. Consideration of Executive Session

Mr. Glen East moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session. Dr. Ronnie McGehee seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a vote of 4 to 0. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman asked Dr. Carey M. Wright, Ms. Erin Meyer, and the Executive Leadership Team to remain in the Executive Session.

Mr. Glen East, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss discrete personnel matters in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(4)(a) and (k) related to the appointment of certain positions with the Department of Education.

Mr. Ronnie McGehee seconded the motion, which passed on a motion of 4 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 discrete 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 in the role of Compliance Officer within the Chief Operations Office and (2) the approval of the appointment of an Associate State Superintendent to serve in the role of Academic Liaison within the Chief Academic Office.

On a motion by Mr. Glen East, seconded by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, the Board voted 4 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

The public came back into the Board meeting and Ms. Aultman reported the action taken during the Executive Session.

1. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Kymberly Wiggins as an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve in the role of Compliance Officer within the Chief Operations Office at a salary of \$84,000.00.
2. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Dr. Marla Davis as an Associate State Superintendent to serve in the role of Academic Liaison within the Chief Academic Office at a salary of \$120,000.00.

#### **XI. State Board of Education**

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

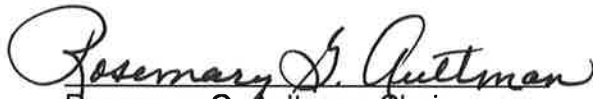
#### **XII. Other Business**

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman stated that the May Board meeting will be held on May 20, 2021, at the Central High School Building starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

Approved:

  
Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair  
Mississippi Board of Education

  
Carey M. Wright  
Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Board of Education