

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

June 17, 2021

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 17, 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.¹ Board members present at Central High School, 4th Floor Boardroom, Jackson, Mississippi were: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Dr. Angela Bass, Mr. Glen V. East, Dr. Karen J. Elam, Mr. Matt Miller, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, and Dr. Wendi Barrett appeared via videoconference (Biloxi, Mississippi). Student Representative: Ms. Amy Zhang appeared via teleconference (Starkville, Mississippi). Dr. Carey M. Wright was present at Central High School, 4th Floor Boardroom, Jackson, 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.

Ms. Aultman welcomed Mr. Bill Jacobs to his first Board meeting. Ms. Aultman also stated that Mr. Matt Miller and Dr. Wendi Barrett were also new Board members.

- II. Dr. Karen J. Elam led the Pledge of Allegiance and Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to approve the May 20, 2021, Board meeting minutes.
- IV. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. 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 welcomed the new Board members.
 - Dr. Wright stated that she serves on the Children's Health Council and they meet monthly to make sure we know what everyone is working on and that we can complement each other's work.

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.

- Dr. Wright stated that she and Ms. Aultman met with the Lt. Governor Hosemann to go over MDE plans for spending all our federal dollars that related to the ESSA and the COVID funds. Dr. Wright stated that the Lt. Governor informed them of how he was spending his funds and wanted to know how MDE was spending ours. Dr. Wright stated she informed him that the Department does not have the authority over how the districts spend their funds. Dr. Wright stated the districts do have to submit a plan to MDE and MDE will send them a template soon that drills down into more depth on how their funds are spent. Dr. Wright stated that the last round of funds must be obligated by May 2022 and they have until September 30, 2024 to spend the money.
 - Dr. Wright stated the National Assessment Governing Board has been working on the new reading framework by which the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAPE) is administered. Dr. Wright stated there have been some concerns expressed about the document so the Chair of the National Assessment Governing Board, former Governor Haley Barbour, has assembled a subcommittee of the Board to address the concerns and she is on the subcommittee to review and give feedback to the Board. Dr. Wright stated they would vote on the new framework in August and the new framework will be used for the 2026 assessment.
 - Dr. Wright stated that she was asked by the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce, the Tennessee State Chief, and the Arkansas State Chief to be on a webinar to talk about assessments, about how assessments are being used in the state, and summative assessment and data related to assessments. Dr. Wright stated this was a very informative webinar.
 - Dr. Wright stated that she brought greetings virtually to the Mississippi PTA on their 102nd Convention.
 - Dr. Wright stated that the Council for Grade Level Reading asked her to be on a panel with several other people to present the Big Bets that we feel that will change education in the future.
 - Dr. Wright stated that she was on a panel about women in public service leading state agencies at the Mississippi University for Women (MUW) this week.
- VI. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair of the State Board, gave the following report.
- Ms. Aultman stated they met with the Lt. Governor Hosemann and had a good discussion about the money that districts are getting, the state is getting, and the ways to spend the funds. Ms. Aultman stated that he was very supportive of several things that Dr. Wright presented particularly our early learning collaboratives and finding more money for seats for children. Ms. Aultman stated that he was wanting some things that would be generational for children such as early childhood development.
 - Ms. Aultman stated that Dr. Angela Bass chaired the Ad-Hoc Committee along with Mr. Glen V. East on interviewing the applicants for student representative. Ms. Aultman stated that yesterday the Board interviewed

the three finalists and selected Ms. Micah Hill from Laurel School District as the junior student representative. Ms. Aultman stated that the Board is looking forward to working with her.

VII. Report of Student Representative

Ms. Amy Zhang talked about how she and her peers are spending summer vacation. Ms. Zhang stated that they have been taking advantage of their free time by participating in a lot of summer activities and currently she has been working as a research assistant at Mississippi State University (MSU) under the Department of Biological Sciences and she has been interning as a Policy Analyst at the Institute for Youth and Policy where she writes articles on U.S. policies. Ms. Zhang stated that her first article will be published on the Institute's web site early next month. Ms. Zhang stated that she has friends that are doing research at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) through the program of Rebel Research A.R.I.S.E. Ms. Zhang stated they are doing more of their own projects with more of their own ideas for their research. Ms. Zhang stated that some are doing things to help people in their community. For example, about a dozen MSMS students volunteer as camp counselors at the MSMS summer enrichment program every week. Ms. Zhang stated that a group of students have set up an online tutoring program for elementary school students. Ms. Zhang stated that some people are organizing ACT and test prep meetings and one classmate has set up a meeting in early July to help people take a practice ACT test for the people who are taking the July ACT. Ms. Zhang stated that rising seniors are worrying about college applications, essays, what to major in, what to do for the rest of their lives, and she admitted that she does not have all her answers right now, but she stated she has a few months to decide. Ms. Zhang stated that she would like to welcome Ms. Micah Hill to the Board of Education as the junior student representative. Ms. Zhang also congratulated Ms. Isabelle Reynolds as being selected as the alternative. Ms. Zhang stated that she is excited to see Ms. Hill form her ideas on statewide education into a reality and as well as hear what unique perspective she will bring to the table and she is looking forward to serving with her for the next year.

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

IX. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Action: Approval of a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 9.3, State Board Policy Chapter 9, Rule 9.3: School-Wide and District-Wide Virtual Learning Days [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

The Board discussed some concerns and asked questions. The MDE staff

answered the questions. On a motion by Dr. Angela Bass, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board unanimously approved item 01 (copy attached).

02. Action: Approval of a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 56.2, State Board Policy Chapter 56, Rule 56.2: Virtual Students [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

The Board discussed some concerns, asked questions, and suggested that FERPA be added to the policy. The MDE staff stated they would add information about FERPA before the APA filing. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board unanimously approved item 02 (copy attached).

03. Action: Approval of MDE contracts [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

- 03.A. Action: Contract with Michael D. Kent for 2021-2022 to perform the administrative duties for the Office of Academic Education, work with school districts to consolidate, mentor existing and potential future school district superintendents and principals in Mississippi, and special assignments [Goals 4 and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Glen V. East, the Board unanimously approved item 03.A. (copy attached).

- 03.B. Action: Renew Kindergarten through Grade 3 Contract Worker Literacy Coach, Cohort 2 [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)
- 03.C. Action: Award competitive contracts to various produce distributors to participating organizations in the State Food Purchasing Program (5 Regions in the State) [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
- 03.D. Action: Contract with Warner, Inc. dba ServiceMaster OneCall to provide initial and weekly sanitizing/deep cleaning, daily cleaning, and COVID-19 terminal cleaning (upon request) of the MDE Office of Child Nutrition [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
- 03.E. Action: Contract with Forman Watkins & Krutz, LLP to provide supplementary legal counsel to the Office of Special Education for FY 2022 [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved items 03.B., 03.C., 03.D., and 03.E. (copy attached).

04. Action: Approval of MDE grant awards [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

04.A. Action: Award competitive three-year grants to school districts to pilot the Services for Students with Dyslexia and Related Disorders grant [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

04.B. Action: Award an Educator-in-Residence (EIR) competitive grant for the State Systemic Improvement Plan Literacy Coach (K-3) and Regional Coordinators (K-3) and (4-8) [Goals 1 and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)

04.C. Action: Award grant to Mississippi School Boards Association to conduct basic and continuing education for local school boards as required by Miss Code Ann. 37-3-4 [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Angela Bass, seconded by Mr. Glen V. East, the Board unanimously approved items 04.A., 04.B., and 04.C. (copy attached).

05. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Nathan Oakley)

B. Approval of the 2021-2022 Principal and Visual Arts Teacher contracts for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Nathan Oakley)

C. Approval of Interlocal Agreement with Brookhaven School District to provide instructional services for the Mississippi School of the Arts for Fiscal Year 2022 (Nathan Oakley)

D. Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Mississippi School of the Arts and Copiah Lincoln Community College related to the planning for and use of a performing arts center (Nathan Oakley)

- E. Approval of the revised School Wellness Plans for the Mississippi School of the Arts, Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, and Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (Nathan Oakley)
- F. Approval of list of evidence-based academic interventions for use in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade (Nathan Oakley)
- G. Approval of Renaissance and Riverside Insights for the purpose of providing qualified vendors to establish assessment instruments for local school districts and or schools (Nathan Oakley)
- H. 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)
- I. Approval of the appointments to the Commission on School Accreditation (Paula Vanderford)
- J. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code: 7-24, *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2020*, specifically Process Standard 14.3, and Appendices A-10 and A-11 and Miss. Admin. Code 7-163: *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2020*, specifically Process Standard 12.2 and Appendices A-10 and A-11 (Paula Vanderford)
- K. Approval to establish a qualifying score for the newly revised versions of certain *Praxis Subject Assessments: Audiology (Test Code 5343); Mathematics (Test Code 5165); Middle School Mathematics (Test Code 5164); and Middle School Science (Test Code 5442)* as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development and approval to add Middle School Math grades 7-8 (Endorsement Code 901) to the list of approved supplemental endorsements that may be added to a valid three (3) year or valid five (5) year license with eighteen (18) hours of acceptable coursework bearing the MAT subject area prefix (Paula Vanderford)
- L. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to add Middle School Math grades 7-8 (Endorsement Code 901) to the list of approved supplemental endorsements that may be added to a

valid three (3) year or valid five (5) year license with eighteen (18) hours of acceptable coursework bearing the MAT subject area prefix and to remove any references to the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) approved Math and Science Partnerships initiative (Paula Vanderford)

- M. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Part 142: Guidelines and Clarification of Requirements for Issuance of Career and Technical Education (Occupation Educator) Licenses to establish new supplemental endorsements for Master Teacher of Personal Finance and Master Teacher of College and Career Readiness (Paula Vanderford)
- N. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to revise certain Project Lead the Way (PLTW) licensure options (Paula Vanderford)
- O. Approval of educator preparation programs as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Paula Vanderford)
- P. Report of monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits (Felicia Gavin)
- Q. Approval of Statewide Purchasing Program's FY21 Financial Statement and FY22 fee structure (Felicia Gavin)
- R. Approval of 2021-2022 educator contracts for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Nathan Oakley)
- S. Approval of the revised Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Operations Policy Manual (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., F., G., H., I., J., K., L., M., N., O., P., Q., R., and S. (copy attached).

X. Consideration of Executive Session

Mr. Glen V. East 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 6 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 V. 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 within the Department of Education. Dr. Karen J. Elam seconded the motion, which passed on a motion of 6 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) approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction; (2) approval of appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as the Director of Communication within the Office of Communication and Government Relations; (3) approval of appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as the Marketing Director within the Office of Communication and Government Relations; (4) approval of the realignment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as the State Director of Educator Talent Acquisition and Effectiveness within the Office of Teaching and Leading; and (5) approval of the appointment of a Superintendent for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted 6 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 L. McGehee, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Tammy Crosetti as an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction at a salary of \$92,000.00.
2. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Jean Cook as an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as the Director of Communication within the Office of Communication and Government Relations at a salary of \$100,000.00.
3. On a motion by Dr. Angela Bass, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Corie Jones as an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as the Marketing Director within the Office of Communication and Government Relations at a salary of \$84,000.00.
4. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Glen V. East, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Dr. Courtney Van Cleve as an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as the State Director of Educator Talent

Acquisition and Effectiveness within the Office of Teaching and Leading at a salary of \$100,000.00.

5. On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Dr. Jeremy E. Stinson as Superintendent for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind at a salary of \$120,000.00.

6. The Mississippi Department of Education's Chief of Staff, Dr. Washington Cole, IV, was appointed as the Interim Superintendent of the Noxubee County School District.

XI. State Board of Education

1. No report on meetings attended.

2. No request to attend a meeting.

3. On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board voted unanimously to change the location of the July 15, 2021, Board meeting from Jackson, Mississippi to Biloxi, Mississippi at the Biloxi Performing Arts Center.

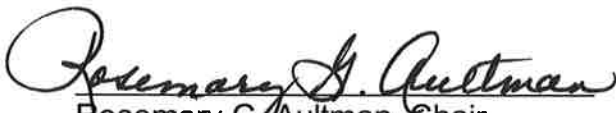
XII. Other Business

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman stated that the July Board meeting will be held on July 15, 2021, at the Biloxi Performing Arts Center starting at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Aultman asked the Board members to put on their calendar a dinner on Wednesday night, July 14, 2021, with more information to be provided later.

XIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

Approved:


Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education


Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education