

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

June 16, 2021

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Special-Called Board meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, in the 4th Floor Boardroom at Central High School, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. 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, and Mr. Matt Miller. Student Representative: Ms. Amy Zhang (Starkville, Mississippi) via Zoom. Dr. Carey M. Wright was present at Central High School, 4th Floor Boardroom, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members absent were : Dr. Wendi Barrett and Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee.

- I. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair, called the Special-Called Board meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.
- II. Ms. Aultman stated that the Board members received a copy of the agenda. Ms. Aultman stated that this is a Special-Called meeting and therefore the only business that can be transacted is that which has been specified in the call of this meeting, which is student representative interviews.
- III. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board voted 4 to 0 to approve the agenda as presented.
- IV. Ms. Aultman reminded the Board members of the competitive process that has taken place to get the Board to this point. Ms. Aultman stated on January 29, 2021, 78 students from across the state submitted applications to MDE in response to the competitive application process that was released on December 1, 2020. Of the applications received, 73 applicants met the eligibility requirements, and under the leadership of Dr. Angela Bass, an Ad-Hoc Screening Committee evaluated these applications in March. On May 4 and 5, 2021, Dr. Bass, Mr. Glen V. East, and Ms. Aultman (members of the School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee) interviewed the 10 semi-finalists. Ms. Aultman stated the top three highest scoring students were named finalists of the program.

Ms. Aultman stated the three finalists will interview today for the junior representative position for a term that will begin immediately and will end on April 30, 2023. Ms. Aultman stated the responsibilities of the student representative are outlined on the first page of the interview questionnaire in the folders that have been provided. Ms. Aultman stated that in addition to the questionnaire that will be used during the interviews, the Board members will find the student applications and a student selection form.

Ms. Aultman stated the interviews will be conducted in one-hour increments and the Board members will rotate the interview questions as done in prior years.

Ms. Aultman stated that the Board will begin each interview by viewing the video that each student submitted as part of the application process. Ms. Aultman stated the student will then join the meeting. Ms. Aultman stated that following the interviews, the Board will have time for discussion and each member will rank the students on the selection form and submit it to Ms. Sonya Amis. Ms. Aultman stated the ballots will be counted during a brief recess and the results will be announced for subsequent vote by the Board. Ms. Aultman stated this is the schedule for the interviews.

- Micah Hill (Laurel School District) – 8:30 a.m.
- Isabelle Reynolds (Pascagoula-Gautier School District) – 9:30 a.m.
- Ella Watts (Columbia School District) – 10:30 a.m.

- V. The Board discussed the junior student finalists before completing their Student Representative Selection Form.

The meeting recessed for five minutes while the results were compiled.

- VI. On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously voted to approve Ms. Micah Hill of Laurel as the junior student representative whose term will begin immediately and end April 30, 2023.
- VII. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board unanimously voted to approve Ms. Isabella Reynolds of Pascagoula as the junior student representative alternate.

Ms. Aultman thanked Dr. Bass and Mr. East for their hard work on interviewing all the candidates to narrow the selection down to three student representative finalists. Ms. Aultman stated that the Board looked forward to working with the new junior student representative.

- VIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. Angela Bass, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Reconvening of Meeting:

Dr. Wright asked that the Board members vote on changing the time of the Special-Called Board Budget work session from 2:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. on June 16, 2021.

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On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved to change the time of the Special-Called Board Budget work session from 2:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. on June 16, 2021.

On a motion by Mr. Glen V. East, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:21 a.m.

Approved:


Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education


Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education