



**Minutes of the
Commission on School Accreditation
Special-Called Teleconference Meeting
Gulfport School District
2001 Pass Road, Gulfport, MS
July 13, 2016
2:00 p.m.**

The special-called meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation (CSA or Commission) was held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13, 2016, in Gulfport School District, 2001 Pass Road, Gulfport, Mississippi. The Commission members present included: Lee Childress, Roy Gill, Sara Foster, Ann Jones and Eddie Prather. Commission members participating via teleconference included Chuck Blackwell, Sean Brewer, Kenny Bush, Valencia Martin, Mike Miller, and Rob Tyner. Michael Lindsey, John Mistilis, Anthony Montgomery, and Heather Westerfield did not attend.

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), Office of District Accreditation staff members present included Dr. J.P. Beaudoin, Chief, Research and Development, Dr. Paula Vanderford, Executive Secretary, Raina Lee, Special Assistant Attorney General, Erin Meyer, Special Assistant Attorney General (via teleconference), James Thompson and Brenda Shelby. Other MDE staff members present included Michael Martin, Patrice Guilfoyle, Jean Cook, and Pete Smith. Members of the public present included a number of district superintendents and administrators.

I. Call to Order

Lee Childress, Chair of the Commission on School Accreditation (CSA), called the meeting of the Commission to order at 2:08 p.m. Dr. Childress noted that the meeting was being held via teleconference pursuant to Section 25-41-5 of the *Mississippi Code of 1972*, as amended, and that the notice of the meeting made at least five (5) days in advance of this date, included the date, time, place, and purpose of the meeting, and identified the location available to the public (Gulfport School District, 2001 Pass Road, Gulfport, Mississippi). Dr. Childress also stated that an audio recording was being made of this meeting, and the minutes would be recorded. A roll call was taken as follows:

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|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Chuck Blackwell | Present, via teleconference, Hattiesburg, Mississippi |
| Sean Brewer | Present, via teleconference, Madison, Mississippi |
| Kenny Bush | Present, via teleconference, Philadelphia, Mississippi |
| Lee Childress | Present |
| Sara Foster | Present |
| Roy Gill | Present |
| Ann Jones | Present |

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Michael Lindsey | Absent |
| Valencia Martin | Present, via teleconference, Greenwood, Mississippi |
| Michael Miller | Present, via teleconference, Pearl, Mississippi |
| John Mistilis | Absent |
| Anthony Montgomery | Absent |
| Eddie Prather | Present |
| Rob Tyner | Present, via teleconference, Sumner, Mississippi |
| Heather Westerfield, | Absent |

Dr. Childress determined that a quorum of the Commission members was present at the locations stated for the purpose of conducting a meeting through teleconference means.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Childress asked the Commission members to review the agenda they had received. He asked members to identify themselves for the record when making a motion. On a motion by Ann Jones, seconded by Eddie Prather, the Commission unanimously adopted the agenda.

Members voting aye: Chuck Blackwell
 Sean Brewer
 Kenny Bush
 Lee Childress
 Sara Foster
 Roy Gill
 Ann Jones
 Valencia Martin
 Mike Miller
 Eddie Prather
 Rob Tyner

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Michael Lindsey
 John Mistilis
 Anthony Montgomery
 Heather Westerfield

III. Report of the Internal Review of the Preliminary Accountability Results in accordance with Accreditation Policy 3.1.3 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2015*, and discussion of District/School Performance Reports and District/School Performance Classifications for the 2015 Accountability Results (School Year 2014-2015) (Dr. J. P. Beaudoin)

On behalf of Walt Drane, Dr. Vanderford presented an overview of the internal review process in accordance with Accreditation Policy 3.1.3 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2015*. Twelve (12) districts submitted a request for an appeal. Two (2) appeals were approved, one (1) appeal was denied, and nine (9) districts requested actions that were included in the preliminary results released to the Districts.

Dr. J. P. Beaudoin presented the overall scores and letter grade designations for the 2014-2015 Statewide Accountability Results. He emphasized that the results should be interpreted as 1) complying with state and federal accountability requirements and 2) impact estimates using mixed assessment data. The results should not be interpreted as 1) equivalent to prior years and 2) a valid metric to compare schools or districts. He also discussed key concepts such as the bridge scale, the transition in statewide assessments, and the technical differences in the assessments. A summary of school and district grade distributions (with and without the waiver) were presented to the Commission.

IV. Request for Approval of 2015 District/School Performance Classifications (School Year 2014-2015), with the Stipulation that the Information Continue to be Embargoed to the Public until July 14, 2016

On a motion by Roy Gill, seconded by Ann Jones, the Commission unanimously moved that the 2014-2015 Mississippi Statewide Accountability Results be presented to the State Board of Education without a recommendation from the Commission on School Accreditation based on concerns related to psychometric issues comparing two (2) different assessments.

Members voting aye: Chuck Blackwell
Sean Brewer
Kenny Bush
Lee Childress
Sara Foster
Roy Gill
Ann Jones
Valencia Martin
Mike Miller
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Michael Lindsey
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Heather Westerfield

V. Approval of the reinstatement of the accreditation status and assignment of PROBATION for the Tunica County School District

Dr. Vanderford presented the deficiencies and letter(s) of warning on the Accreditation Record Summary for the Tunica County School District. In accordance with Accreditation Policy 2.9.5, of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2015*, the District may petition the Commission on January 1st and July 1st to consider the reinstatement of their accreditation status. A request to reinstate the accreditation status of the Tunica County School District was received on June 27, 2016. The District has made substantial progress in clearing deficiencies on record at the time the state of emergency was declared; therefore, the Office of District Accreditation recommends the reinstatement of the District's accreditation status and the assignment of PROBATION status.

On a motion by Ann Jones, seconded by Roy Gill, the Commission unanimously approved the assignment of a PROBATION accreditation status for the Tunica County School District.

Members voting aye: Chuck Blackwell
Sean Brewer
Kenny Bush
Lee Childress
Sara Foster
Roy Gill
Ann Jones
Valencia Martin
Mike Miller
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Michael Lindsey
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Heather Westerfield

VI. Approval to upgrade the accreditation status of the Carroll County School District from PROBATION to ACCREDITED

Dr. Vanderford informed the Commission that the Carroll County School District has cleared all deficiencies that resulted in the downgrade of the accreditation status. The recommendation of the Office of District Accreditation is to upgrade the District's accreditation status from PROBATION to ACCREDITED.

On a motion by Eddie Prather, seconded by Ann Jones, the Commission unanimously approved the upgrade of accreditation status from PROBATION to ACCREDITED for the Carroll County School District.

Members voting aye: Chuck Blackwell
Sean Brewer
Kenny Bush
Lee Childress
Sara Foster
Roy Gill
Ann Jones
Valencia Martin
Mike Miller
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Michael Lindsey
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Heather Westerfield

VII. Approval to upgrade the accreditation status of the Forest Municipal School District from PROBATION to ACCREDITED

Dr. Vanderford informed the Commission that the Forest Municipal School District has cleared all deficiencies that resulted in the downgrade of the District's accreditation status. The recommendation of the Office of District Accreditation is to upgrade the District's accreditation status from PROBATION to ACCREDITED.

On a motion by Roy Gill, seconded by Eddie Prather, the Commission unanimously approved the upgrade of accreditation status from PROBATION to ACCREDITED for the Forest Municipal School District.

Members voting aye: Chuck Blackwell
Sean Brewer
Kenny Bush
Lee Childress
Sara Foster
Roy Gill
Ann Jones
Valencia Martin

Mike Miller
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Michael Lindsey
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Heather Westerfield

VIII. Discussion and Approval of meeting dates through December 31, 2016

On a motion by Ann Jones, seconded by Sara Foster, the Commission unanimously approved the motion to schedule a special-called teleconference meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation for July 21, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. to consider the standards for the Mississippi Assessment Program (MAP).

Members voting aye: Chuck Blackwell
Sean Brewer
Kenny Bush
Lee Childress
Sara Foster
Roy Gill
Ann Jones
Valencia Martin
Mike Miller
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Michael Lindsey
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Heather Westerfield

On a motion by Eddie Prather, seconded by Roy Gill, the Commission unanimously approved the motion to reschedule the August 4, 2016, regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation for August 16, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. to consider the standards for the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System.

Members voting aye: Chuck Blackwell
Sean Brewer
Kenny Bush
Lee Childress
Sara Foster
Roy Gill
Ann Jones
Valencia Martin
Mike Miller
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Michael Lindsey
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Heather Westerfield

The Commission tabled the discussion of meetings dates beyond August 16, 2016. Meeting dates for the remainder of the year will be considered at the August 16, 2016, meeting.

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Ann Jones, seconded by Eddie Prather, the Commission unanimously approved the motion to adjourn at 3:42 p.m.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION:

8 16 16
(Month) (Day) (Year)

Edward Lee Childress
Chair of the Commission

[Signature]
Executive Secretary of the Commission

If you need accommodation(s) due to a disability, contact our office at 601-359-3764.

NOTE: Cellular telephones and pagers must be on silent during the meeting.