

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

February 20, 2014

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a work session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2014 in the 4th Floor Boardroom of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present were: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Ms. Kami Bumgarner, Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Mr. Hal Gage, Dr. John R. Kelly, Mr. Charles McClelland, and Mr. Richard Morrison. Board members absent were: Mr. William H. Jones and Mr. Simon F. Weir, II.

The work session was called to order by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Chair. Dr. Gann noted the statement on the agenda that cellular telephones and pagers are not permitted during the work session.

01. Dr. Carey M. Wright gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:
 - Dr. Wright stated Dr. Daphne Buckley has retired from the Department. She thanked Dr. Buckley for her service to the Department.
 - Dr. Wright reported that she spoke on Monday, February 17, 2014, at the Tupelo Rotary Club and presented the Board's priorities. After the presentation, she had the opportunity to tour the Toyota plant in Tupelo, MS and talked with them about their program of working with students in career paths. Toyota is interested in early childhood and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Dr. Wright will tour Nissan in the near future and talk with them about their education program.
 - Dr. Wright was part of the Milken Award that was presented to Ms. Tracee Thompson at Jim Hill School in the Jackson Public School District on Wednesday, February 19, 2014.
 - Dr. Wright recognized Mr. Walt Drane and Ms. Gretchen Cagle who are working with the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) field test. They are handling all the calls and logistics. She thanked them for doing an outstanding job.
 - Dr. Wright recognized Dr. Kim Benton who was inducted into the Meridian Junior College Hall of Fame.
02. There were no subcommittee reports.
03. Dr. Larry Drawdy, Mr. Shane McNeill, and Mr. Robert Latham, Executive Director for Mississippi Emergency Management Association (MEMA) presented an update on School Safety. Mr. McNeill reported that 100% of all school districts submitted their School Safety Assessment and Planning Certification certificate assuring that the districts have conducted a school safety assessment, developed a written plan, provided training to their staff, and implemented the School Safety Plan in each school in the district. "In Safe Hands" Awards

program has been established by the Mississippi Department of Education to recognize districts for their efforts to implement sound policies and programs that promote school safety.

04. A. Mr. Mike Kent, Mr. John Wallace, Chair, Board of Trustees of Yazoo City School District, Ms. Lucille Lovette, Lead Teacher, Yazoo City School District, and Dr. Arthur Carlidge, Superintendent of Yazoo City School District, gave a report on the current status of the Yazoo City School District.

B. Mr. Kent discussed an extension of the March 14, 2014 Memorandum of Agreement deadline to September 12, 2014 State Board meeting in order to have Statewide Test results and final financial/budget results. Dr. Carlidge agreed to the extension. Mr. Kent recommended approval on Friday.

C. Mr. Kent gave a report on the status of consolidation of school districts in Bolivar County.

05. A. Dr. Drawdy, Dr. Bill Welch, and Ms. Kathy Boteler reported on the Commission on Starkville Consolidated School District Structure. The Commission was established by HB 716, 2012 Legislative Session, and the Commission had 16 meetings. The report was delivered to the Governor, members of the Legislature, and the State Board of Education. Some of the recommendations from the report are in three bills that members of the Legislature are considering during the current legislative session. Ms. Boteler reported that Mississippi State University proposed in the report that they would create a demonstration school for the Starkville Consolidation School District located on the campus of the university.

B. Dr. Drawdy and Dr. Margie Pulley, Conservator of Oktibbeha County School District reported on Oktibbeha County School District. Dr. Pulley reported that when she became the Conservator for the district, she found violations of 29 accreditation standards, two high schools that consistently had low test scores and low graduation rates, one high school that had had four principals since July 1, 2013, a culture of low expectations and some teachers lacking content knowledge to teach students. Dr. Pulley placed a person in charge of MSIS and the Accreditation Standards. She stated that they began weekly principal meetings, set goals for each school, analyzed data, progress monitored students, used results to guide instruction, hired consultants from Mississippi State University and other sources, began 21st Century After School Grant Saturday sessions and developed a strategic plan. Dr. Pulley reported that the QDI for East High went from 94 to 113, the QDI for West High went from 101 to 138, and the district now has a "C" classification. She acknowledged that 28 of the 29 accreditations standards have been cleared. Dr. Pulley stated that they are working with the students in the bottom 25%, have purchased three new buses

that were needed due to the problems with current buses during the recent cold weather, and are up-to-date on their audits.

06. Dr. Drawdy and Dr. Welch reported on North Panola School District, Hazlehurst City School District, and Tate County School District. These districts have selected their new Board members and the Board members have gone through the Mississippi School Boards Association training. All districts are in the process of selecting a new superintendent that will be in place by July 1, 2014. When the superintendents are named, the conservators in these districts will be removed according to opinions issued by the Attorney General. The Sunflower County School District (which includes Drew) and Indianola School District will be merged into the Sunflower County Consolidated School District. Sunflower County has new Board members that have also been trained by the Mississippi School Boards Association. The district is in the process of selecting a new superintendent who should be named by July 1, 2014. The conservator will be removed when the superintendent is named.
07. Dr. Drawdy and Dr. Welch discussed awarding competitive grants for the Mississippi Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) grants program. Dr. Drawdy recommended approval on Friday.
08. Dr. Kim Benton and Ms. Jean Massey discussed awarding discretionary grants to school districts to implement innovative high school programs. Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.
09. Dr. Benton, Ms. Debbie Murphy, Ms. Staci Curry, and Ms. Jo Ann Malone discussed requesting an extension and amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Request. Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.
10. Dr. Benton and Dr. Therrell Myers discussed modifying the contract with Dupree Education Associates LLC to provide consultative services to selected school districts relative to technical assistance for special education programs. Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.
11. Dr. Benton and Dr. Myers discussed modifying the contract with John E. Fleming dba J. E. Fleming Education Team LLC to provide consultative services to selected school districts under Corrective Action Plans. Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.
12. Dr. Benton, Ms. Trecina Green, and Mr. Nathan Oakley discussed renewing the contract with Connections Education, LLC for the operation of the Mississippi Virtual Public School system. Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.

13. Dr. Benton, Ms. Green, and Mr. Oakley discussed establishing the *2014 Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards for English Language Arts*. The item has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments presented to the Board. The Board engaged in discussion on the preparation of school districts and teachers to transition to the *Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards for Mathematics*. Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.
14. Dr. Benton, Ms. Green, and Mr. Oakley discussed establishing the *2014 Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards for Mathematics*. The item has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments that were presented to the Board. Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.
15. Dr. Benton, Ms. Green, and Mr. Oakley discussed establishing a transition plan to allow school districts to continue to offer selected secondary courses from the *2007 Mississippi Mathematics Framework, Revised* during the 2014-2015 school year. The item has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments that were presented to the Board. Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.

The consensus of the Board was to discuss Item No. 21 prior to the lunch break since representatives of the Jackson School District were present.

21. Dr. Benton, Dr. Myers, Dr. Joe Fisher, Administrator of Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for Jackson Public Schools, and Dr. Cedrick Gray, Superintendent of Jackson Public Schools reported on the Follow-up Monitoring Evaluation for students with disabilities in the Jackson Public School District's Exceptional Education Programs.

Dr. Myers gave the following report:

A team of independent evaluators and staff from the Office of Special Education (OSE) conducted a follow-up visit in the District on December 4-6, 2013 in order to assess the status of the District's correction of all findings of noncompliance as noted in the Findings and Decision dated November 22, 2010. The OSE evaluation team also reviewed and analyzed updated data/information submitted by the District following the completion of the December 2013 follow-up visit to provide needed clarifications and documentation of the District's correction of noncompliance. In order to verify correction of noncompliance, OSEP Memo 09-02 requires that states must: Prong 1 – Verify that each individual case of noncompliance is corrected and Prong 2 – Determine that the District is correctly implementing specific regulatory requirements. This must be based on the State's review of updated data. The OSE has verified the correction of noncompliance in all previously identified areas. This verification was based on a

review of twenty-one (21) student files and data and documentation reviewed during and after the December 2013 on-site visit. The monitoring team indicated that it is imperative the District develop and implement a comprehensive District Sustainability Plan; one that is powerful in action and powerful in effect to ensure continued improvement and systemic change for all students with disabilities enrolled in the District. The OSE will continue to closely and intensely monitor and provide oversight as transition is made to the implement of the District's Sustainability Plan.

A copy of the Department's Transition Plan was presented to the members of the Board.

Dr. Fisher gave the following report:

The Transition Plan is a set of activities to sustain education practices implemented under the CAP for the remainder of the current school year after the termination of the CAP on February 28, 2014. Although all of the activities required for compliance have been implemented as prescribed in the CAP, both JPS and MDE agree that continued support is necessary to ensure appropriate continuation of the procedures initiated under the CAP. The activities set forth in the Transition Plan are designed to provide such continuity from March 1 through June 30, 2014. The plan addresses the following: Behavior Related Services, IEP Development, Meaningful Education Benefit, Parent Relations, Least Restrictive Environment, Secondary Transition, Fiscal Management, Organizational Structure and Administration, and Oversight. To ensure continued sustainability of compliance, MDE will continue to provide oversight through school year 2014-15. The accomplishments under this CAP are a testament to what can happen with the right team and the solid support of the administrators at both district and state levels. The continued support of the State Board has also been a critical component in our success. Due to the partnership that has evolved, significant progress has occurred. It is imperative the District develop and implement a comprehensive District Sustainability Plan, one that is powerful in action and powerful in effect to ensure continued improvement and systemic change for all students with disabilities enrolled in the District.

Dr. Gray discussed the Sustainability Plan for the District in the following report:

Dr. Gray reported that the noncompliance in exceptional education was one of the first things facing him as he began as Superintendent of JPS. Dr. Gray expressed appreciation to the State Board of Education for forbearance so that JPS could correct the areas of non-compliance. A Sustainability Plan is being developed by the district to include the following issues: Organizational Communication, Suspensions/Discipline, IEP Development, Development and Implementation of Behavioral Programming, Data Entry/Reporting and

Appropriate Alternative School Placements. The Sustainability Plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees of JPS for approval.

Dr. Myers and Dr. Gray expressed appreciation to the Board of Trustees of the JPS for their support of the Corrective Action Plan.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:13 a.m. and reconvened at 1:04 p.m.

16. Dr. Benton discussed modifying grant awards for the Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) Grant. Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.
17. Mr. Todd Ivey and Dr. Paula Vanderford discussed the recommendations on exceptions to pupil-teacher ratio requirements for grades 1-4. Mr. Ivey recommended approval on Friday.
18. Mr. Ivey and Dr. Vanderford discussed the waiver of days missed by school districts as a result of inclement weather during school year 2013-2014.
19. Mr. Ivey discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise State Board Policy 2601 - Contract of Employment with Mississippi Public School Districts for Assistant Superintendent, Principal, and Licensed Employee. Mr. Ivey recommended approval on Friday.
20. Mr. Ivey discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise State Board Policy 2602 – Contingent Contract of Employment with Mississippi Public School Districts. Mr. Ivey recommended approval on Friday.
22. Dr. Gann gave the Board an opportunity to discuss the following consent agenda items:
 - A. Discussion of monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits (Kim Benton)
 - B. Report of Personnel Actions (Cassandra Moore)
23. Consideration of Executive Session

Dr. John R. Kelly moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session with respect to litigation and investigative proceedings in accordance with Mississippi Code Sections 25-41-7 (4)(b) and (d). The motion was seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, and the motion passed on a vote of 6 to 0.

Dr. John R. Kelly then moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of a strategy session or negotiations with respect to litigation involving the

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Department in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(b) and discussion with respect to investigative proceedings of school districts regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(d). Mr. Richard Morrison seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 6 to 0.

Dr. O. Wayne Gann stated the following to remain in the Executive Session: Dr. Carey M. Wright, Dr. Kim Benton, Mr. Todd Ivey, Mr. Pete Smith and Ms. Kathy Boteler.

Minutes of the Executive Session

Ms. Kathy Boteler informed the public of the Board's decision to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of a strategy session or negotiations with respect to litigation involving the Department and in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(b) and discussion with respect to investigative proceedings of school districts regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(d).

On motion by Mr. Richard Morrison, seconded by Mr. Hal Gage, the motion passed on a vote 6 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

No action was taken during the Executive Session.

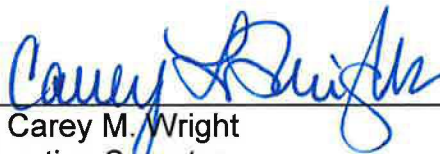
24. Mr. Ivey and Ms. Boteler discussed the temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Accreditation Policy 2.0-District Accreditation Policy of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2012*. Mr. Ivey recommended approval on Friday.

On a motion by Mr. Richard Morrison, seconded by Dr. John R, Kelly, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

Approved:



Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Dr. Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

February 21, 2014

The regular meeting of the Mississippi Board of Education was held at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, February 21, 2014, in the 4th Floor Boardroom of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present were: Ms. Kami Bumgarner, Mr. Hal Gage, Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Dr. John R. Kelly, Mr. Charles McClelland, and Mr. Richard Morrison. Board members absent were: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Mr. William H. Jones, and Mr. Simon F. Weir, II.

- I. The meeting was called to order by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Chair. Dr. Gann noted the statement on the agenda that cellular telephones and pagers are not permitted during the Board meeting.
- II. Mr. Richard Morrison led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Dr. John R. Kelly gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Mr. Richard Morrison, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 16-17, 2014 Board meeting and minutes of the February 6, 2014 Special-Called Board meeting.

Dr. Gann stated that the Items 18 and 24 had been reworded and Item 25 had been added to the agenda.

18. Action on the waiver requests from the school districts to operate schools for less than one hundred eighty (180) days as a result of inclement weather during school year 2013-2014
(Office of Educational Accountability)
 24. Approval as a temporary rule to become effective immediately and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Accreditation Policy 2.3, Annual Accreditation Statuses, to read under the definition of Withdrawn that any school district placed in conservatorship may have its accreditation withdrawn
(Office of Educational Accountability)
 25. Approval of resolution by the State Board of Education that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Scott County School District and that the accreditation of the school district will be downgraded to PROBATION
(Office of Educational Accountability)
- IV. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved the revised agenda as presented.

V. Report of the Chair

- Attended the Education Summit in Corinth and introduced Dr. Carey M. Wright where she presented to the group. The students provided demonstrations of the Cambridge model being used in the Corinth School District.

VI. Approval of Action Items

(Items below are numbered to correspond to the items as discussed on Thursday, February 20, 2014.)

- 04.B. On a motion by Ms. Kami Bumgarner, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the extension of the March 14, 2014 Memorandum of Agreement deadline with Yazoo City School District to September 12, 2014 State Board meeting in order to have Statewide Test results and final financial/budget results (copy attached).
07. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved to award competitive grants for the Mississippi Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) grants program (copy attached).
08. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to award discretionary grants to school districts to implement innovative high school programs (copy attached).
09. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved the request of an extension and amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Request (copy attached).
10. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to modify the contract with Dupree Education Associates LLC to provide consultative services to selected school districts relative to technical assistance for special education programs (copy attached).
11. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to modify the contract with John E. Fleming dba J. E. Fleming Education Team LLC to provide consultative services to selected school districts under Corrective Action Plans (copy attached).
12. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to renew the contract with Connections Education, LLC for the operation of the Mississippi Virtual Public School system (copy attached).

13. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board voted to establish the *2014 Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards for English Language Arts*. The motion passed on a 3 to 2 vote. The item has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments that were presented to the Board (copy attached).

Members voting aye:

Mr. Hal Gage
Dr. John R. Kelly
Mr. Richard Morrison

Members voting nay:

Ms. Kami Bumgarner
Mr. Charles McClelland

14. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board voted to establish the *2014 Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards for Mathematics*. The motion passed on a 3 to 2 vote. The item has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments that were presented to the Board (copy attached).

Members voting aye:

Mr. Hal Gage
Dr. John R. Kelly
Mr. Richard Morrison

Members voting nay:

Ms. Kami Bumgarner
Mr. Charles McClelland

15. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to establish a transition plan to allow school districts to continue to offer selected secondary courses from the *2007 Mississippi Mathematics Framework, Revised* during the 2014-2015 school year. The item has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments that were presented to the Board (copy attached).

16. On a motion by Mr. Richard Morrison, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved to modify grant awards for the Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) Grant (copy attached).

17. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board voted to approve the recommendations on exceptions to pupil-teacher ratio requirements for grades 1-4 (copy attached).

18. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board voted to deny the waiver requests from the school districts to operate schools for

less than one hundred eighty (180) days as a result of inclement weather during school year 2013-2014 (copy attached). The motion passed on a 4 to 1 vote.

Members voting aye:

Ms. Kami Bumgarner
Mr. Hal Gage
Mr. Charles McClelland
Mr. Richard Morrison

Member voting nay: Dr. John R. Kelly

19. On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise State Board Policy 2601 - Contract of Employment with Mississippi Public School Districts for Assistant Superintendent, Principal, and Licensed Employee (copy attached).

20. On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise State Board Policy 2602 - Contingent Contract of Employment with Mississippi Public School Districts (copy attached).

22. On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Mr. Hal Gage, the Board unanimously approved the following consent item (copy attached):

A. Approval of monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits

24. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board approved on the following vote a temporary rule to become effective immediately to revise Accreditation Policy 2.3 Annual Accreditation Statuses, to read under the definition of Withdrawn that any school district placed in conservatorship may have its accreditation withdrawn based on the Board's finding that the rule only confers a benefit or removes a restriction on the public or some segment of the public and that the Board begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to adopt this amendment to Accreditation Policy 2.3.

Members voting aye:

Mr. Hal Gage
Ms. Kami Bumgarner
Mr. Charles McClelland
Mr. Richard Morrison

Member abstaining: Dr. John R. Kelly

25. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Ms. Kami Bumgarner, the Board unanimously approved the resolution by the State Board of Education that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Scott County School District and that the accreditation of the school district will be downgraded to PROBATION (copy attached).

VII. Recognition Ceremony

Dr. Kim Benton announced that to accommodate all individuals present for the recognition of the following “A” school districts, the recognition ceremony will be held in the Auditorium immediately following the Board meeting.

Recognition of “A” School Districts

- Amory School District
- Biloxi Public School District
- Booneville School District
- Clinton Public School District
- Corinth School District
- Oxford School District
- DeSoto County School District
- Enterprise School District
- Kosciusko School District
- Lamar County School District
- Long Beach School District
- Madison County School District
- Ocean Springs School District
- Pass Christian Public School District
- Petal School District
- Pontotoc City Schools
- Rankin County School District
- Union Public School District
- Webster County School District

Dr. Benton recognized the following individual:

2014 February Employee of the Month

Dorothy Baskin

Office of Compulsory School Attendance

Projects Officer IV, Special

VIII. State Board of Education

February 21, 2014

01. Mr. Charles McClelland reported attending the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents (MASS) Conference in Natchez, Mississippi. Dr. Carey M. Wright gave a greeting at the Conference.


02. There were no requests to attend a meeting.

IX. There was no other business.

Dr. Gann announced that the March Board meeting is scheduled for March 20-21, 2014.

X. On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 a.m.

Approved:



Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Dr. Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education