

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

May 17, 2018

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:01 a.m. on Thursday, May 17, 2018, in the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Mr. Buddy Bailey, Dr. Jason S. Dean, Dr. Karen J. Elam, Mr. Johnny Franklin, Dr. John R. Kelly, Mr. Charles McClelland, and Mr. Sean Suggs. Board member absent: Ms. Kami Bumgarner. Dr. Carey M. Wright was also present.

- I. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair, called the Board meeting to order. Ms. Aultman noted that cellular telephones and pagers are not permitted during the meeting.
- II. Mr. Sean Suggs led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Charles McClelland gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2018, Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.
- V. Recognition Ceremony

Bill Gates Scholarship to Harvard University Recipient

Shakira Hall

Jefferson Davis County High School

Jefferson Davis County School District

- VI. Dr. Carey M. Wright gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:
 - Dr. Wright stated that she finished the Regional Superintendents' meetings. Dr. Wright stated the meetings are always well attended and she shared information with them about what is going on at the Department. Dr. Wright stated they heard from the superintendents about what was on their minds and how the Department can better support them as we move forward.
 - Dr. Wright stated that she attended the Child Health Council meeting. Dr. Wright stated this is a group that is expanding their reach with the Department of Medicaid, Department of Health, Department of Mental Health, Department of Mississippi Public Policy, Chair of Pediatrics at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, and Dr. Linda Southward from Mississippi State University. Dr. Wright stated that all came together to see

how we could support each other and support little ones as they are coming along. Dr. Wright stated that as we started our collaboratives one of the suggestions that was discussed was using Ages and Stages as a way to get a development read on the children coming into our collaboratives. Dr. Wright stated that the work of this group morphed into applying for a federal grant. Dr. Wright stated that Senator Thad Cochran was instrumental in making sure that Mississippi was awarded a three-year multi-million-dollar grant that really focuses on early intervention and health care for little ones. Dr. Wright stated that the Division of Medicaid has agreed to cover the cost of the assessment for all who are Medicaid eligible. Dr. Wright stated that this is a small group but will make a big impact over the next few years.

- Dr. Wright stated she met with the Superintendents' Advisory Committee yesterday. Dr. Wright stated the meeting was well attended and there was a lot of good input.
- Dr. Wright stated that the Mississippi English Learners Guidelines: Regulations, Funding Guidance, and Instructional Supports is for English Language Learners has been published and it has been distributed to the districts. Dr. Wright stated this is one of the hottest quality pieces of materials coming out of the Department. Dr. Wright stated she applauded the group that worked on this document. Dr. Wright stated that this document gives the districts the ability to look at the funding sources that they have, how they can use funding sources to help English Language Learners (ELL), gives them instructional ideas to use in their classrooms, and regulations that were established through Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Dr. Wright stated that this gives a host of information for anyone that touches ELLs. Dr. Wright stated that this is a growing population in our state. Dr. Wright stated that we had to build in a component in our accountability system that focuses strictly on ELLs. Dr. Wright stated that since we do not have enough ELL teachers, this document will help build capacity with our general education teachers that touch these children. Dr. Wright thanked Ms. Melissa Banks for her design work on the document. Dr. Wright stated that this is above and beyond her regular job at the Department. Dr. Wright stated that Dr. Kim Benton informed her that the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) wants to send the document to their entire listserv so this will go out to every state in the nation recognizing the work done at the Department. Dr. Wright stated hats off to all of you who were instrumental on working on this document. Dr. Wright stated that the beauty of this is how wonderful this will be for the children in the classrooms that will benefit from your work.
- Dr. Wright stated that we have our first early college high school that is a partner with an Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) where all the others have been with community colleges. Dr. Wright stated that Greenville is partnering with Mississippi Valley State University to open their first early college high school with a university.

- Dr. Wright stated that the Department had their entrance conference with the Joint Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) and they will be conducting an audit of our educational savings accounts. Dr. Wright stated that these are the vouchers that are written into law for students with disabilities where the funds can be used outside the public education system to receive services.
- Dr. Wright recognized Dr. Yan Li who is Director of Research and Analytics. Dr. Wright stated that Dr. Li has received the 2018 NextGeneration Leader Award by EdScoop and CoSN. Dr. Wright stated that Dr. Li had already been in the newspaper with an article on how to use data to tell a story. Dr. Wright stated that we have been talking about how to use our data and tell our story and in a positive way. Dr. Wright stated that we are blessed and very proud to have Dr. Li.
- Dr. Wright stated the Spotlight for this Board meeting is “Learning English and Spanish from Each Other in Kindergarten and 1st Grade – North Jones Elementary School, Jones County Schools.” Dr. Wright stated this program has been started to teach the students in Kindergarten and 1st grade English and Spanish. Dr. Wright stated that this approach helps the Spanish students retain their language while they learn English and it enriches the experience of the students that do not speak Spanish. Dr. Wright stated that they start learning early and what we know is that the earlier they start, the better off they are. Dr. Wright stated that this has a component for parents of English Learners to help them start developing their own English skills as well. Dr. Wright recognized Ms. Debbie Blackledge, District English Learner Coordinator, Jones County Schools, and she is also a member of the English Language Learners Advisory Panel that helped create the Mississippi English Learner Guidelines. Dr. Wright recognized Ms. Anderle Foster, Supervising Principal, North Jones Elementary School, and Ms. Nilda Witty, English Language Learner Teacher. Dr. Wright thanked them for everything they are doing for our children.

VII. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman as the Chair of the State Board gave the following report:

- Ms. Aultman stated that she attended a Network Meeting with Dr. Nathan Oakley, Dr. Cory Murphy, and Dr. Jennifer Wilson, Superintendent of Greenwood Public School District. Ms. Aultman stated that they went to Alexandria, Virginia to attend a workshop sponsored by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) which was titled Building Strong Early Childhood Education Programs. Ms. Aultman stated that the Department has the grant for next year. Ms. Aultman stated they heard from the first five cohort states in this program. Ms. Aultman stated that her biggest take away was that everyone is struggling with the same issues. Ms. Aultman stated that she was going to report primarily on the New

Jersey program. Ms. Aultman stated that the report they gave showed the benefits of a pre-kindergarten program. Ms. Aultman stated they began their program as a result of an economic study that they did and the impact that early childhood education would have on the future of their state. Ms. Aultman stated they came away with thinking it would increase school readiness for their state and success, a decrease in special education and retention, decrease in risky behavior and better health, improve social and emotional development, and improve graduation rates. Ms. Aultman stated that all of these are things we are working on and want to impact here in our state. Ms. Aultman stated they have fewer dropouts, they have better students who enter school more prepared, and they are predicting since they are still studying their students that these students will have a higher income and a better quality of life.

- Ms. Aultman stated that she attended a graduation at a university recently and that only 31 graduated in education and she stated that all may not teach. Ms. Aultman stated that we are going to have to work with the Legislature and through this Department on looking at how to address these issues we have on trying to get qualified teachers into the classrooms and especially those in early childhood.
- Ms. Aultman stated that lessons learned, strategy is a must have, and every state has to have a good strategy, weigh internal needs against external needs, custom content for your targeted audience, and a clear concise message for the audience. Ms. Aultman stated that you have to make the message where people can understand and especially the parents understand what you are talking about.

Dr. Wright stated that Mr. Johnny Franklin had asked about cyber security and cyber bullying and in the folder at each seat, there was an Executive Summary about the work that is ongoing and will be done on this matter (copy attached). Dr. Wright asked Dr. Paula Vanderford and Mr. John Kraman to come to the table. Mr. Kraman stated that in response to Mr. Franklin's request and as discussed at the last Board meeting, the Office of Technology and Strategic Services (OTSS) has taken on a review of where MDE stands in terms of guidance and support that MDE can offer to the districts with regard to safety both physical and virtual. Mr. Kraman stated that they have developed a roadmap for producing a framework of guidance and best practices of support that MDE can offer the districts. Mr. Kraman stated there are four content areas that MDE is stitching together and MDE is looking to offer these frameworks, best practices, and guidance on how to help the districts implement these recommendations. Mr. Kraman stated that the four areas are (1) Safe Schools, (2) Online Safety and Appropriate Use, (3) Data Privacy and Approving Classroom Apps, and (4) Securing Your System and Responding to Threats. Dr. Vanderford updated the Board on the Office of Safe and Orderly Schools as they can help the districts upon request.

Dr. Wright stated that in the folder at their seat was the FY 2020 Budget Request information that will be discussed at the June Board Budget meeting (copy attached).

VIII. Dr. Karen J. Elam, Chair of the Academic Achievement PreK-12 Subcommittee, stated that when the Subcommittee met yesterday, all members were present. Dr. Elam stated that the Mississippi English Learner Guidelines: Regulations, Funding Guidance, and Instructional Supports 2018 is for teachers and administrators. Dr. Elam stated that the guidelines will be online and you can choose what information you want to view. Dr. Elam stated that Ms. Wendy Clemons gave an update on the online courses that will be offered this fall for professional development. Dr. Elam stated that this will allow greater reach to some of the rural areas in the state. Dr. Elam congratulated Ms. Clemons and her team for all their hard work with the professional development. Dr. Elam stated that Dr. Nathan Oakley presented the Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Infants through Four-Year-Old Children that will be going out for the Administrative Procedures Act process for approval. Dr. Elam stated that Ms. Robin Lemonis gave an update on dyslexia where one in five students have dyslexia and 80% of the students are Special Education students. Dr. Elam stated there are only 117 certified and endorsed teachers for dyslexia and this is an issue. Dr. Elam applauded Ms. Lemonis and her two staff, who are all certified, on the work they are doing. Dr. Elam stated that the dyslexia methodology to award grants will be brought before the Board later today. Dr. Elam thanked Dr. Benton and her staff for their work.

IX. Discussion of Board Items

01. Dr. Kim Benton and Dr. Jill Dent discussed beginning the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish the Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Infants through Four-Year-Old Children 2018 [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan]. The Board had comments about the document. Dr. Benton recommended approval.

Mr. Johnny Franklin as a matter of personal privilege congratulated the staff on a great document and thanked them for all their hard work.

02. Dr. Felicia Gavin discussed approval of the Mississippi Department of Education Contracts [Goals 1, 2, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Gavin recommended approval.

02.A. Monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

02.B. Contract with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) for Fiscal Year 2019 to administer the 5th and 8th Grade Science assessment, and End-of-Course assessments in Biology I and U.S. History [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

03. Ms. Aultman gave the Board an opportunity to discuss the following consent agenda items. Dr. Karen J. Elam requested to discuss item G. Mr. Johnny Franklin requested to discuss items C., E., and H.

Dr. Paula Vanderford and Dr. Cory Murphy answered questions on item G.

Dr. Nathan Oakley answered a question on item C.

Dr. Vanderford and Dr. Murphy answered questions on item E.

Dr. Felicia Gavin answered questions on item H.

A. Approval of the 2018-2019 Student Handbooks for the State Schools (Kim Benton)

1. Mississippi School of the Arts
2. Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science

B. Approval of methodology to award grant dollars to school districts in support of the implementation of dyslexia programs (Kim Benton)

C. Approval of methodology to award competitive grants to Early Learning Collaboratives to support Pre-Kindergarten programs (Kim Benton)

D. Approval of State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 80, Rule 80.4 - Every Student Succeeds Act: Equitable Services Dispute Resolution Policy (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comment) (Kim Benton)

E. Approval of a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to include revisions to the Alternative Qualifications for Prospective Local Superintendents of Education (Paula Vanderford)

- F. Approval of a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to include revisions to the Special, Non-renewable License for Traditional Teacher Preparation Program Completers (Paula Vanderford)
 - G. Approval to adjust the passing score for Praxis Subject Assessment *Mathematics: Content Knowledge* (Test Code 5161) as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Paula Vanderford)
 - H. Approval of statutory revisions to State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 23, Rule 23.1 – Contracts (Felicia Gavin)
- X. Approval of Action Items
- 01. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish the Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Infants through Four-Year-Old Children 2018 [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)
 - 02. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board voted to approve the Mississippi Department of Education Contracts [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).¹
(Office of Chief Operations Officer)
 - 02.A. Monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement Benefits [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan]
(Office of Chief Operations Officer)
 - 02.B. Contract with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) for Fiscal Year 2019 to administer the 5th and 8th Grade Science assessment, and End-of-Course assessments in Biology I and U.S. History [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]
(Office of Chief Accountability Officer)

¹ Unless otherwise noted, the Board voted unanimously to approve the contracts.

Members voting aye: Mr. Buddy Bailey
Dr. Jason S. Dean
Dr. Karen J. Elam
Dr. John R. Kelly
Mr. Charles McClelland
Mr. Sean Suggs

Member voting nay: Mr. Johnny Franklin

Member abstaining: None

Member absent: Ms. Kami Bumgarner

03. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board voted to approve the consent agenda items A., B., C., D., E., F., G., and H. (copy attached).²

- A. Approval of the 2018-2019 Student Handbooks for the State Schools
 - 1. Mississippi School of the Arts
 - 2. Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)
- B. Approval of methodology to award grant dollars to school districts in support of the implementation of dyslexia programs
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)
- C. Approval of methodology to award competitive grants to Early Learning Collaboratives to support Pre-Kindergarten programs
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)
- D. Approval of State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 80, Rule 80.4 - Every Student Succeeds Act: Equitable Services Dispute Resolution Policy (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comment)
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)

² Unless otherwise noted, the Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

- E. Approval of a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to include revisions to the Alternative Qualifications for Prospective Local Superintendents of Education
(Office of Chief Accountability Officer)

Members voting aye: Mr. Buddy Bailey
Dr. Jason S. Dean
Dr. Karen J. Elam
Dr. John R. Kelly
Mr. Charles McClelland
Mr. Sean Suggs

Member voting nay: Mr. Johnny Franklin

Member abstaining: None

Member absent: Ms. Kami Bumgarner

- F. Approval of a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to include revisions to the Special, Non-renewable License for Traditional Teacher Preparation Program Completers
(Office of Chief Accountability Officer)
- G. Approval to adjust the passing score for Praxis Subject Assessment *Mathematics: Content Knowledge* (Test Code 5161) as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development
(Office of Chief Accountability Officer)
- H. Approval of statutory revisions to State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 23, Rule 23.1 – Contracts
(Office of Chief Operations Officer)

Members voting aye: Mr. Buddy Bailey
Dr. Jason S. Dean
Dr. Karen J. Elam
Dr. John R. Kelly
Mr. Charles McClelland
Mr. Sean Suggs

Member voting nay: Mr. Johnny Franklin

Member abstaining:	None
Member absent:	Ms. Kami Bumgarner

XI. Consideration of Executive Session

Dr. Jason S. Dean moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session. Mr. Charles McClelland seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a vote of 7 to 0. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman asked Dr. Carey M. Wright, Ms. Raina Lee, Ms. Erin Meyer, and the Executive Leadership Team to remain in the Executive Session.

Dr. Jason S. Dean, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss discrete personnel matters related to the job performance of persons holding specific positions in the Department of Education in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k), discussion of a strategy session or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation involving the Department and the issuance of an appealable order in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(b), and discussion with respect to investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(d). Mr. Buddy Bailey seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 7 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 related to the job performance of persons holding specific positions in the Department of Education in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k), discussed a strategy session or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation involving the Department and the issuance of an appealable order in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(b), and discussed with respect to investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(d).

On a motion by Dr. Jason S. Dean, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted 7 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.

01. On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board voted to approve the appointment of Ms. Andrea Kelly as a School Finance Officer to serve as Internal Auditor in the Office of Educational Accountability at a salary of \$69,670.57.

XII. State Board of Education

1. There was no report of meetings attended.
2. Dr. John R. Kelly requested approval to attend the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) New Member Institute on June 7-9, 2018, in Alexandria, Virginia.

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board unanimously approved for Dr. John R. Kelly to attend the NASBE New Member Institute on June 7-9, 2018, in Alexandria, Virginia.

Dr. Jason S. Dean requested approval to attend the NASBE New Member Institute on June 7-9, 2018, in Alexandria, Virginia.

On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board unanimously approved for Dr. Jason S. Dean to attend the NASBE New Member Institute on June 7-9, 2018, in Alexandria, Virginia.

3. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board unanimously approved the meeting dates for Fiscal Year 2019 (copy attached).
4. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved to change the previously approved State Board of Education Budget Meeting date of June 22, 2018 to June 20, 2018 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Dr. Karen J. Elam asked if the Board could have a half-day retreat maybe in October to review the State Board of Education Strategic Plan. Dr. Wright stated that was a possibility.

Dr. John R. Kelly stated that back in November, he approached the Board about exploring the possibility of having student representatives on the State Board of Education. He sees two real benefits. First of all, it is a real leadership opportunity for students if they were to have this experience and the Board might be informed to make better decisions particularly around issues that involve students. Dr. Kelly stated that information was obtained from the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) stating that 15 states currently use students on their State Board of Directors and these states are Alaska, California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington, and

Massachusetts. Dr. Kelly stated that in 10 of the 15 states, the Governor's Office assigns the students. Dr. Kelly stated that the other five are assigned by statewide student council associations or assigned by the Board. Dr. Kelly stated that he thought it should be a competitive process to get students from all over the state of Mississippi. Dr. Kelly stated there were cases where there were one student representative and some had two student representatives. Dr. Kelly stated that where they had two student representatives, one was a junior and one was a senior and the senior would be the voting member. Dr. Kelly stated that in most of the states, the students do not vote at all and they are only in an advisory capacity. Dr. Kelly stated that this would not require the Department to make any changes with the Legislature to the charter on the way we do business. Dr. Kelly asked the Board to think about the next steps and how to proceed from here. Dr. Kelly stated that he was open to any ideas and needed to know if the Board wanted to pursue this or not.

Ms. Aultman stated that she thought it was a good idea and that we needed to inform the leadership. Ms. Aultman stated that we need to create a task force among the Board and some MDE staff to set out our guidelines and processes.

Dr. Wright stated that we could get something back to the Board by the end of the summer.

XIII. Other Business

The June Board meeting will be held June 21, 2018, in Jackson, Mississippi at the Central High School Building starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Dr. Jason S. Dean, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

Approved:



Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education