



**Minutes of the
Commission on School Accreditation
Special-called Meeting
Central High School Building
Fourth Floor, Board Room
359 North West Street
Jackson, Mississippi
August 14, 2018
2:00 p.m.**

The special-called meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation (CSA or Commission) took place at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 14, 2018. The Commission members present in the Fourth Floor Board Room of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi included:

Heather Westerfield, Chair
Sean Brewer
Sarah Foster
Roy Gill

Attending via teleconference:
Kelle Barfield, Vicksburg, MS
Ann Jones, Jackson, MS
Dr. Valencia Martin, Greenwood, MS
Michael Miller, Pearl, MS
John Mistilis, Oxford, MS
Anthony Montgomery, Gulfport, MS

The following members did not attend:

Kenny Bush
Brian Harvey
Michael Lindsey
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), Office of Accreditation staff members/representatives present included:

Dr. Paula Vanderford, Chief Accountability Officer/Executive Secretary
Erin Meyer, Special Assistant Attorney General
Dr. Jo Ann Malone, Executive Director, Office of Accreditation
Teresa Jones, Office of Accreditation
Ken Stamps, Office of Accreditation
John Cartwright, Office of Accreditation

Dr. Nathan Oakley (Chief Academic Officer), Pete Smith (Chief Communications and Government Relations Officer), Alan Burrow and Anna Furniss also attended.

I. Announcement of Quorum and Call to Order

Heather Westerfield, Chair of the CSA, opened the Commission meeting and conducted a roll-call of the Commission members.

Heather Westerfield, Chair
Sean Brewer
Sarah Foster
Roy Gill

Attending via teleconference:
Kelle Barfield, Vicksburg, MS
Ann Jones, Jackson, MS
Dr. Valencia Martin, Greenwood, MS
Michael Miller, Pearl, MS
John Mistilis, Oxford, MS
Anthony Montgomery, Gulfport, MS

The following members did not attend:

Kenny Bush
Brian Harvey
Michael Lindsey
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner

Ms. Westerfield announced that a quorum of the Commission existed.

Ms. Westerfield called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

Sarah Foster gave the invocation.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Westerfield asked the Commission members to review the agenda they received previously. On a motion by Roy Gill seconded by Sean Brewer, the Commission unanimously approved the agenda.

III. Approval to downgrade the accreditation status of the Noxubee County School District from ACCREDITED to PROBATION

Dr. Paula Vanderford stated that based on the findings of the recent investigative audit conducted in the Noxubee County School District that the MDE recommends that the Commission downgrade the accreditation status of the Noxubee County School District from ACCREDITED to PROBATION.

On a motion by Sean Brewer, seconded by Sarah Foster, the Commission unanimously approved the request to downgrade the accreditation status of the Noxubee County School District from ACCREDITED to PROBATION.

IV. Discussion and consideration of proposed changes to the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System.

A. Reset the baseline scores in accordance with current State Board of Education policy for schools with Grade 12 effective school year 2017-2018 as recommended by the Mississippi Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

Alan Burrow explained how the issues of multiple assessments over multiple years has impacted the growth measurement and calculations of the results of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System. The TAC reviewed the preliminary results and recommends resetting the cut scores for the performance levels for schools with Grade 12. The Commission discussed the potential impact in future years.

B. Assign a grade classification to all schools in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6(5) and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Alan Burrow explained the proposed revisions to the following business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System:

3.1.1 – Minimum n-counts

22.3 – Schools with only a pre-kindergarten and/or kindergarten

23.2 – Mississippi School for the Blind and Mississippi School for the Deaf

Roy Gill asked for clarification on how the changes to rule 3.1.1 would impact the English Learner component and whether the average referenced in 22.3 is a weighted average. Roy Gill recommended that it be a weighted average. Dr. Vanderford explained that MSB and MSD would have a grade published but it would not be an official grade since they did not have any prior notice to this.

V. Approval to submit request to the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process to revise the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System.

A. On a motion by Roy Gill, seconded by Sarah Foster, the Commission voted to submit a request to the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Process Act process to revise the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability system to reset the baseline scores in accordance with current State Board of Education policy for schools with Grade 12 effective school year 2017-2018 as recommended by the Mississippi Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

Members voting aye: Kelle Barfield
Sarah Foster
Roy Gill
Ann Jones

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Dr. Valencia Martin
Michael Miller
Anthony Montgomery

Members voting nay: John Mistilis

Members abstaining: Sean Brewer

Members absent: Kenny Bush
Brian Harvey
Michael Lindsey
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner

- B. On a motion by Roy Gill, seconded by Sean Brewer, the Commission voted unanimously to submit a request to the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Process Act process to revise the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability system to assign a grade classification to schools in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6(5) and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) with the following additional edits: add Section 15 as an exception to Rule 3.1.1 and clarify that the average referenced in Rule 22.3 be a weighted average.

VI. Adjournment

On a motion by Sean Brewer, seconded by Sarah Foster, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION:

9 18 2018
(Month) (Day) (Year)



Chair of the Commission



Executive Secretary of the Commission