



**Minutes of the  
Commission on School Accreditation  
Regularly Scheduled Meeting (Teleconference)  
Central High School Building  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room  
359 North West Street  
Jackson, Mississippi  
December 7, 2017  
10:00 a.m.**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation (CSA or Commission) took place at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 7, 2017 via teleconference. The Commission members present in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi included:

Heather Westerfield, Chair  
Sarah Foster

Attending via teleconference:

Kelle Barfield, Vicksburg, MS  
Roy Gill, Gulfport, MS  
Brian Harvey, Oxford, MS  
Michael Lindsey, Gulfport, MS  
Dr. Valencia Martin, Greenwood, MS  
Michael Miller, Pearl, MS  
Anthony Montgomery, Gulfport, MS  
Eddie Prather, Tupelo, MS  
Rob Tyner, Sumner, MS

The following members did not attend:

Sean Brewer  
Kenny Bush  
Ann Jones  
John Mistilis

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), Office of Accreditation staff members present included: Dr. Paula Vanderford, Chief, Division of Accountability/Executive Secretary, Dr. Jo Ann Malone, Executive Director, John Cartwright, Holley Haywood, Teresa Jones, and Michael Martin.

Other MDE staff present included: Alan Burrow, Walt Drane, Anna Furniss, and Jean Cook.

Also in attendance: Erin Meyer, Special Assistant Attorney General.

**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.

The following Commission members attended the meeting:

Heather Westerfield, Chair  
Kelle Barfield  
Sarah Foster  
Roy Gill  
Brian Harvey  
Michael Lindsey  
Dr. Valencia Martin  
Michael Miller  
Anthony Montgomery  
Eddie Prather  
Rob Tyner

The following Commission members did not attend:

Sean Brewer  
Kenny Bush  
Ann Jones  
John Mistilis

Ms. Westerfield announced that a quorum of the Commission did exist.

Ms. Westerfield called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**II. Adoption of Agenda**

Ms. Westerfield asked the Commission members to review the agenda they received previously. On a motion by Anthony Montgomery, seconded by Sarah Foster, the Commission unanimously approved the agenda.

Members voting aye: Kelle Barfield  
Sarah Foster  
Roy Gill  
Brian Harvey  
Michael Lindsey  
Dr. Valencia Martin  
Michael Miller  
Anthony Montgomery  
Eddie Prather  
Rob Tyner

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Sean Brewer  
Kenny Bush  
Ann Jones  
John Mistilis

Discussion: None

**III. Approval of the minutes of the October 17, 2017, Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation**

On a motion by Brian Harvey, seconded by Michael Lindsey, the Commission unanimously approved the approval of the minutes of the October 17, 2017 meeting.

Members voting aye: Kelle Barfield  
Sarah Foster  
Roy Gill  
Brian Harvey  
Michael Lindsey  
Dr. Valencia Martin  
Michael Miller  
Anthony Montgomery  
Eddie Prather  
Rob Tyner

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Sean Brewer  
Kenny Bush  
Ann Jones  
John Mistilis

Discussion: None

**IV. Approval to upgrade the accreditation status of the Calhoun County School District from PROBATION to ACCREDITED**

On a motion by Eddie Prather, seconded by Brian Harvey, the Commission unanimously approved the request to upgrade the accreditation status of the Calhoun County School District from PROBATION to ACCREDITED.

Members voting aye: Kelle Barfield  
Sarah Foster  
Roy Gill  
Brian Harvey  
Michael Lindsey  
Dr. Valencia Martin

Michael Miller  
Anthony Montgomery  
Eddie Prather  
Rob Tyner

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Sean Brewer  
Kenny Bush  
Ann Jones  
John Mistilis

Discussion: None

V. **Approval to upgrade the accreditation status of the Humphreys County School District from PROBATION to ACCREDITED.**

On a motion by Dr. Valencia Martin, seconded by Roy Gill, the Commission unanimously approved the request to upgrade the accreditation status of the Humphreys County School District from PROBATION to ACCREDITED.

Members voting aye: Kelle Barfield  
Sarah Foster  
Roy Gill  
Brian Harvey  
Michael Lindsey  
Dr. Valencia Martin  
Michael Miller  
Anthony Montgomery  
Eddie Prather  
Rob Tyner

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Sean Brewer  
Kenny Bush  
Ann Jones  
John Mistilis

Discussion: None

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

On a motion by Anthony Montgomery, seconded by Dr. Valencia Martin, the Commission unanimously approved the request to upgrade the accreditation status of the Kemper County School District from PROBATION to ACCREDITED.

Members voting aye: Kelle Barfield  
Sarah Foster  
Roy Gill  
Brian Harvey  
Michael Lindsey  
Dr. Valencia Martin  
Michael Miller  
Anthony Montgomery  
Eddie Prather  
Rob Tyner

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Sean Brewer  
Kenny Bush  
Ann Jones  
John Mistilis

Discussion: None

**VII. Discussion of Approval to upgrade the accreditation status of the Wayne County School District from PROBATION to ACCREDITED**

On a motion by Brian Harvey, seconded by Sarah Foster, the Commission unanimously approved the request to upgrade the accreditation status of the Wayne County School District from PROBATION to ACCREDITED.

Members voting aye: Kelle Barfield  
Sarah Foster  
Roy Gill  
Brian Harvey  
Michael Lindsey  
Dr. Valencia Martin  
Michael Miller  
Anthony Montgomery  
Eddie Prather  
Rob Tyner

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Sean Brewer  
Kenny Bush  
Ann Jones  
John Mistilis

Discussion: None

**VIII. Report of the Internal Review Committee on appeals to the Final Accountability Results in accordance with Accreditation Policy 3.1.3 of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2016**

Alan Burrow, Director of School and District Performance, provided an explanation of the appeal by the Copiah County School District to the 2017 Final Accountability Results.

Discussion: Sarah Foster asked for clarification on the appeals process and expressed concern about some of the business rules as they pertain to schools with a K-2 configuration. Dr. Vanderford explained that the Accountability Task Force is currently reviewing the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System for possible revisions.

**IX. Approval of the decision of the Internal Review Committee regarding the appeal by the Copiah County School District to the Final Accountability Results in accordance with Accreditation Policy 3.1.3 of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2016**

On a motion by Roy Gill, seconded by Eddie Prather, the Commission approved the decision of the Internal Review Committee on the appeal by the Copiah County School District to the Final Accountability Results in accordance with Accreditation Policy 3.1.3 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2016*.

Members voting aye: Kelle Barfield  
Roy Gill  
Brian Harvey  
Michael Lindsey  
Dr. Valencia Martin  
Michael Miller  
Anthony Montgomery  
Eddie Prather  
Rob Tyner

Members voting nay: Sarah Foster

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Sean Brewer  
Kenny Bush  
Ann Jones  
John Mistilis

Discussion: None

**X. Consideration of the December 5, 2017 Accountability Task Force recommendations to revise the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System**

Walt Drane, Executive Director, described three areas in the business rules for the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System for which the Accountability Task Force is requesting approval to submit a request to the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process to revise:

1. English Learners – Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) now requires a component.

Discussion: Dr. Vanderford explained that the request is for approval of the methodology. Mrs. Westerfield asked where in the accountability calculations the points would fall that would result in a + or -. Mr. Drane explained that the details of the business rules (i.e., how many points to obtain a + or – would be included in later discussions). Dr. Vanderford also explained that these recommendations are subject to United States Department of Education (ED) approval and that if approved, would be in place for a minimum of three years.

2. Growth - Some districts have indicated a desire for more incentive for students moving to or maintaining advanced levels of performance, or for increasing two levels.

Discussion: None

3. College and Career Readiness Indicator – Students graduating early are not captured in the Senior Snapshot.

Discussion: Alan Burrow explained how students who are graduating early are not captured in the Senior Snapshot using the current methodology. Therefore, schools and districts are not receiving credit in the graduation calculations for those students. If the Senior Snapshot calculation methodology is modified to capture these students, the participation rate calculations will also likely increase as a result.

**XI. 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**

On a motion by Michael Lindsey, seconded by Brian Harvey, the Commission unanimously approved the request to ask the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process to revise the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System

Members voting aye: Kelle Barfield  
Sarah Foster  
Roy Gill  
Brian Harvey

Michael Lindsey  
Dr. Valencia Martin  
Michael Miller  
Anthony Montgomery  
Eddie Prather  
Rob Tyner

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Sean Brewer  
Kenny Bush  
Ann Jones  
John Mistilis

Discussion: Dr. Vanderford explained that this request will be on the January agenda for the State Board of Education.

## **XII. Other Business**

Dr. Vanderford informed the Commission that the next meeting of the Accountability Task Force is scheduled for January 16, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. and the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission is February 1, 2018. Dr. Vanderford explained that due to ESSA deadlines, there may be a need for a special-called meeting of the Commission before the February 1, 2018 regularly scheduled meeting.

## **XIII. Adjournment**

On a motion by Anthony Montgomery, seconded by Kelle Barfield, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Members voting aye: Kelle Barfield  
Sarah Foster  
Roy Gill  
Brian Harvey  
Michael Lindsey  
Dr. Valencia Martin  
Michael Miller  
Anthony Montgomery  
Eddie Prather  
Rob Tyner

Members voting nay: None

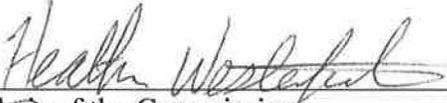
Members abstaining: None

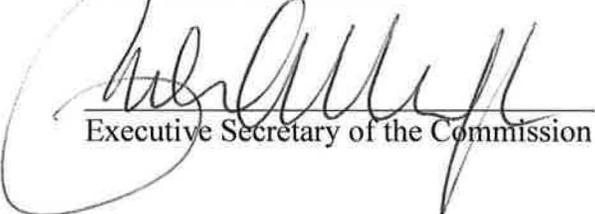
Commission on School Accreditation-MINUTES  
December 7, 2017

Members absent: Sean Brewer  
Kenny Bush  
Ann Jones  
John Mistilis

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION:

2      1      2018  
(Month)      (Day)      (Year)

  
Chair of the Commission

  
Executive Secretary of the Commission