



**Minutes of the
Commission on School Accreditation
Regularly Scheduled Teleconference Meeting
Central High School Building
4th Floor Board Room
359 North West Street
Jackson, Mississippi
June 15, 2017
10:00 a.m.**

The regularly scheduled teleconference meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation (CSA or Commission) took place at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 15, 2017. The Commission members present in the 4th Floor Board Room of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi included: Sean Brewer, Sarah Foster, Roy Gill, Dr. Valencia Martin, Michael Miller, John Mistilis, Eddie Prather, Rob Tyner, and Heather Westerfield. Attending via teleconference: Dr. Lee Childress, Chair, Ann Jones, Anthony Montgomery. Not attending: Chuck Blackwell, Kenny Bush, and Michael Lindsey.

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), Office of Accreditation staff members present included: Dr. Paula Vanderford, Chief Accountability Officer/Executive Secretary, Erin Meyer, Special Assistant Attorney General, Jo Ann Malone, Executive Director, Office of Accreditation, John Cartwright, Holley Haywood, Teresa Jones, Michael Martin, and Katrina McDowell.

Other MDE staff members present included: Dr. Kim Benton, Dr. Debra Burson, Gretchen Cagle, Patrice Guilfoyle, Dr. Nathan Oakley, Jean Massey, Dr. Cory Murphy, Dr. John Q. Porter, and Dr. Armerita Tell.

I. Announcement of Quorum and Call to Order

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

The following Commission members attended the meeting:

Dr. Lee Childress, Chair – via teleconference, Corinth, Mississippi
Sean Brewer – Fourth Floor Board Room, Jackson, Mississippi
Sarah Foster – Fourth Floor Board Room, Jackson, Mississippi
Roy Gill – Fourth Floor Board Room, Jackson, Mississippi
Ann Jones - via teleconference, Jackson, Mississippi*
Dr. Valencia Martin – Fourth Floor Board Room, Jackson, Mississippi
Michael Miller – Fourth Floor Board Room, Jackson, Mississippi
John Mistilis – Fourth Floor Board Room, Jackson, Mississippi
Anthony Montgomery – via teleconference, Gulfport, Mississippi
Eddie Prather – Fourth Floor Board Room, Jackson, Mississippi

* Ann Jones joined the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

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Rob Tyner – Fourth Floor Board Room, Jackson, Mississippi
Heather Westerfield – Fourth Floor Board Room, Jackson, Mississippi

The following Commission members did not attend:

Chuck Blackwell
Kenny Bush
Michael Lindsey

Dr. Childress announced that a quorum of the Commission existed at the locations stated for the purpose of conducting a meeting via teleconference.

Dr. Childress called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Childress asked the Commission members to review the revised agenda that reflected the addition of items VIII and IX. On a motion by Sean Brewer, seconded by Roy Gill, the Commission unanimously approved the revised agenda.

Members voting aye: Sean Brewer
Sarah Foster
Roy Gill
Dr. Valencia Martin
Michael Miller
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner
Heather Westerfield

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Chuck Blackwell
Kenny Bush
Michael Lindsey
Ann Jones

III. Approval of the minutes of the February 2, 2017, Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation

Dr. Childress asked the Commission members to review the minutes from the February 2, 2017, regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation they received

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previously. Roy Gill requested that the minutes for items IV and V be revised to indicate the alternate courses approved by the Commission.

On a motion by John Mistilis, seconded by Rob Tyner the Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the February 2, 2017, meeting of the Commission with the revisions requested by Roy Gill.

Members voting aye: Sean Brewer
Sarah Foster
Roy Gill
Ann Jones
Dr. Valencia Martin
Michael Miller
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner
Heather Westerfield

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Chuck Blackwell
Kenny Bush
Michael Lindsey

IV. Discussion of the proposed graduation requirements for incoming ninth graders effective school year 2018-2019 and revisions to State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.5

The Offices of Secondary Education (Jean Massey) and Special Education (Gretchen Cagle) presented the proposed graduation requirements and revisions to Process Standard 14, Appendix A and Appendix G of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2016* and revisions to State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.5.

The proposed revisions will provide students the opportunity to earn an endorsement with their high school diploma and ensure that the majority of students with disabilities earn a traditional diploma. The proposal follows a statewide effort to increase college and career opportunities for all students and a new state law that eliminates the Mississippi Occupational Diploma (MOD) option for students with disabilities starting with freshmen entering high school in School Year 2017-2018.

The proposed diploma options include a traditional diploma for all students and an alternate diploma option for students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities. Students will also have an opportunity to earn additional credits to qualify for a traditional diploma with a Career and Technical Education (CTE) endorsement, an academic endorsement or a distinguished academic endorsement. Students can earn more than one (1) endorsement.

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The proposed diploma options would be effective for entering ninth graders in School Year 2018-2019. Students entering Grades 10, 11 and 12 in School Year 2017-2018 who are currently in a course of study that leads to the MOD option must receive parental permission to remain on the MOD track. Otherwise, their Individualized Education Program (IEP) team would be encouraged to consider a course of study that leads to a traditional diploma.

Other students with an IEP may exit high school with a traditional diploma, with or without an endorsement, or with a Certificate of Completion. The Certificate of Completion is granted to students who have reached the maximum age of service under *the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*, which in Mississippi is age 20, and have not been able to meet the requirements for a traditional diploma. The Certificate of Completion is not equivalent to a high school diploma.

Ms. Massey also discussed the proposed revisions to State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.5. The revisions are necessary to reflect approved dual enrollment and Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) requirements as assessment options in lieu of passing the end-of-course assessment effective School Year 2017-2018.

If the proposed graduation requirements and revision to Rule 36.5 are approved by the Commission, the item will be presented to the State Board of Education on July 13, 2017, to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process. Oral proceedings will also be scheduled during the public comment period.

V. Approval to submit request to the State Board of Education to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process to amend *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2016* Process Standard 14, Appendix A, and Appendix G to include the proposed graduation requirements effective school year 2018-2019

On a motion by Eddie Prather, seconded by Ann Jones, the Commission unanimously approved the request to petition the State Board of Education to begin the APA process to amend *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2016* Process Standard 14, Appendix A, and Appendix G to include the proposed graduation requirements effective school year 2018-2019.

Members voting aye: Sean Brewer
Sarah Foster
Roy Gill
Ann Jones
Dr. Valencia Martin
Michael Miller
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner
Heather Westerfield

Members voting nay: None

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Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Chuck Blackwell
Kenny Bush
Michael Lindsey

VI. Approval to submit request to the State Board of Education to begin the APA process to amend State Board Policy Rule 36.5 to reflect approved dual enrollment and ASVAB requirements as assessment options in lieu of passing the end-of-course assessments effective school year 2017-2018

On a motion by John Mistilis, seconded by Rob Tyner, the Commission unanimously approved the request to petition the State Board of Education to begin the APA process to amend State Board Policy Rule 36.5 to reflect approved dual enrollment and ASVAB requirements as assessment options in lieu of passing the end-of-course assessments effective school year 2017-2018.

Members voting aye: Sean Brewer
Sarah Foster
Roy Gill
Ann Jones
Dr. Valencia Martin
Michael Miller
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner
Heather Westerfield

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Chuck Blackwell
Kenny Bush
Michael Lindsey

On a motion made by Roy Gill, seconded by Sarah Foster, the Commission unanimously approved the request for the Offices of Accreditation, Secondary Education, and Special Education to provide the public comments to the Commission following the APA process prior to submission to the State Board of Education for final approval.

Members voting aye: Sarah Foster
Roy Gill
Ann Jones
Dr. Valencia Martin

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Michael Miller
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner
Heather Westerfield

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Chuck Blackwell
Kenny Bush
Michael Lindsey
Sean Brewer **

VII. Discussion and/or approval to allow Carnegie unit credit in the areas of science, technology, and computer science for Project Lead The Way (PLTW) courses that meet curriculum alignment requirements (Jean Massey)

On a motion by Heather Westerfield, seconded by Dr. Valencia Martin, the Commission unanimously approved the request to allow Carnegie unit credit in the areas of science, technology, and computer science for Project Lead The Way (PLTW) courses that meet curriculum alignment requirements.

Members voting aye: Sean Brewer
Sarah Foster
Roy Gill
Ann Jones
Dr. Valencia Martin
Michael Miller
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner
Heather Westerfield

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Chuck Blackwell
Kenny Bush
Michael Lindsey

** Mr. Brewer stepped out of the meeting during this action item and did not cast a vote.

VIII. Approval of the Commission meeting dates for 2017-2018

On a motion made by Roy Gill, seconded by Sean Brewer, the Commission unanimously approved the meeting dates for the Commission on School Accreditation for School Year 2017-2018. The dates approved were August 3, 2017, October 17, 2017, December 7, 2017, February 1, 2018, April 5, 2017 and June 7, 2018.

Members voting aye: Sean Brewer
Sarah Foster
Roy Gill
Ann Jones
Dr. Valencia Martin
Michael Miller
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner
Heather Westerfield

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Chuck Blackwell
Kenny Bush
Michael Lindsey

IX. Election of the 2017-2018 Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission on School Accreditation

Eddie Prather nominated Heather Westerfield to serve as the Chair. Sarah Foster seconded the nomination. Roby Tyner moved to close nominations and Roy Gill seconded the motion.

Members voting aye: Sean Brewer
Sarah Foster
Roy Gill
Ann Jones
Dr. Valencia Martin
Michael Miller
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner

Members voting nay: None

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Members abstaining: Heather Westerfield

Members absent: Chuck Blackwell
Kenny Bush
Michael Lindsey

Ann Jones nominated Eddie Prather to serve as the Vice-Chair. Sean Brewer seconded the motion. Dr. Valencia Martin moved to close nominations, and Roy Gill seconded the motion.

Members voting aye: Sean Brewer
Sarah Foster
Roy Gill
Ann Jones
Dr. Valencia Martin
Michael Miller
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Rob Tyner
Heather Westerfield

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: Eddie Prather

Members absent: Chuck Blackwell
Kenny Bush
Michael Lindsey

X. Other Business

Dr. Vanderford expressed her gratitude for the years of service Dr. Childress and Mr. Blackwell have provided to the Commission.

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Ann Jones, seconded by Dr. Valencia Martin, the Commission unanimously adjourned the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

Members voting aye: Sean Brewer
Sarah Foster
Roy Gill
Ann Jones
Dr. Valencia Martin
Michael Miller
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery

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Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner
Heather Westerfield

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Chuck Blackwell
Kenny Bush
Michael Lindsey

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION:

8 15 17
(Month) (Day) (Year)


Chair of the Commission


Executive Secretary of the Commission