



**Minutes of the
Commission on School Accreditation
Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Central High School Building
4th Floor Board Room
359 North West Street
Jackson, Mississippi
October 17, 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 Tuesday, October 17, 2017. The Commission members present in the 4th Floor Board Room of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi included:

Heather Westerfield, Chair
Sean Brewer
Kenny Bush
Roy Gill
Brian Harvey
Michael Lindsey
Dr. Valencia Martin
Michael Miller
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner

Via teleconference: Kelle Barfield

The following Commission members did not attend: Sarah Foster and Ann Jones

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

Dr. Paula Vanderford, Chief, Office of Accountability/Executive Secretary
Raina Lee, Special Assistant Attorney General
Erin Meyer, Special Assistant Attorney General
Leah Kathryn Anzenberger, Special Assistant Attorney General
Dr. Jo Ann Malone, Executive Director, Office of Accreditation
Holley Haywood, Office of Accreditation
Teresa Jones, Office of Accreditation
Michael Martin, Office of Accreditation
Katrina McDowell, Office of Accreditation
Ken Stamps, Office of Accreditation

Other MDE staff present included: Walt Drane, Alan Burrow, Anna Furniss, Dr. Kim Benton, Patrice Guilfoyle, Brad Feaster, and Brenda Shelby

Deanne Saltzman, Special Assistant Attorney General served as Counsel to the Commission.

I. Announcement of Quorum and Call to Order

Heather Westerfield, Chair of the CSA, opened the Commission meeting, and announced that a quorum of the Commission existed.

Ms. Westerfield called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Mr. Eddie Prather gave the invocation.

Dr. Vanderford welcomed Deanna Saltzman, Special Assistant Attorney General, and explained that due to change in state statute, that a roll-call vote is no longer required for teleconference meetings.

II. Adoption of Agenda

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

Members voting aye:

Kelle Barfield
Sean Brewer
Kenny Bush
Roy Gill
Brian Harvey
Michael Lindsey
Dr. Valencia Martin
Michael Miller
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Sarah Foster
Ann Jones

III. **Approval of the minutes of the September 13, 2017, Special-Called Meeting of the Commission on School Accreditation**

On a motion by Roy Gill, seconded by Eddie Prather, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2017 meeting.

Members voting aye:

Kelle Barfield
Sean Brewer
Kenny Bush
Roy Gill
Brian Harvey
Michael Lindsey
Dr. Valencia Martin
Michael Miller
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Sarah Foster
Ann Jones

IV. **Discussion of Annual District Accreditation Statuses for School Year 2017-2018 and Districts with Deficiencies in accordance with Accreditation Policies 2.0, 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3 of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2016 (Dr. Jo Ann Malone)**

Eddie Prather referenced the number of districts with Standard 2 violations (Appropriate Licensed Staff) and asked what steps the MDE was taking to assist districts in recruiting licensed staff.

Rob Tyner requested that the accreditation status of West Tallahatchie be voted on separately due to a conflict of interest.

V. **Request for Approval of District Accreditation Statuses for 2017-2018**

On a motion by Brian Harvey, seconded by Kenny Brush, the Commission unanimously approved the District Accreditation Statuses for 2017-2018, for all districts with the exception of West Tallahatchie.

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Members voting aye:

Kelle Barfield
Sean Brewer
Kenny Bush
Roy Gill
Brian Harvey
Michael Lindsey
Dr. Valencia Martin
Michael Miller
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Sarah Foster
Ann Jones

On a motion by Michael Lindsey, seconded by Roy Gill, the Commission approved the West Tallahatchie District Accreditation Status for 2017-2018.

Members voting aye:

Kelle Barfield
Sean Brewer
Kenny Bush
Roy Gill
Brian Harvey
Michael Lindsey
Dr. Valencia Martin
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Eddie Prather
Michael Miller

Members voting nay: None

Members Recused: Rob Tyner

Members absent: Sarah Foster
Ann Jones

VI. Report of the Internal Review of Preliminary Accountability Results in accordance with Accreditation Policy 3.1.3 of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2016 (Alan Burrow and Walt Drane)

Alan Burrow reported the MDE received 799 requests from Districts for the Internal Review of Preliminary Accountability Results. The Internal Review Committee approved 294 requests, and denied 505 requests. The 505 denied included those requests that did not require a change because the requested action was already applied in the calculations.

Alan Burrow explained how schools without a science component (600-point schools) do not have a different scale but have their scores equated to the 700-point scale.

VII. Discussion of District/School Performance Reports and District/School Performance Classifications for School Year 2016-2017 (Alan Burrow and Walt Drane)

The Commission discussed growth calculations, use of the bridge and PARCC scores, and potential impact next year as a result of removing the bridge. Mr. Drane explained that the impact cannot be determined at this time. Dr. Vanderford reported that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has discussed the matter and how it will take time for it to level-off as well as the need for the Accountability Task Force to reexamine the High School component.

VIII. Request for Approval of District/School Performance Classifications for School Year 2017-2018 (based on School Year 2016-2017), with the Stipulation that the Information Continue to be Embargoed to the Public until October 19, 2017

On a motion by Brian Harvey, seconded by Sean Brewer, the Commission unanimously approved the District/School Performance Classifications for School Year 2017-2018 (based on the School Year 2016-2017), with the stipulation that the information continue to be embargoed to the public until October 19, 2017.

Members voting aye:

Kelle Barfield
Sean Brewer
Kenny Bush
Roy Gill
Brian Harvey
Michael Lindsey
Dr. Valencia Martin
Michael Miller
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner

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Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Sarah Foster
Ann Jones

IX. Other Business

Dr. Vanderford reported that the Accountability Task Force (ATF) will meet on December 5, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Roy Gill, CSA representative on the ATF, gave a report of the ATF and reminded Commission members that the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System would be reevaluated after three years of implementation. The English Learner component is now being considered by the ATF due to ESSA requirements. Additionally, the ATF is considering issues raised by the Districts regarding the system.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2017.

Eddie Prather thanked Mr. Drane and Mr. Burrows for the appeals process and said that districts were happy with it.

X. Adjournment

On a motion by Rob Tyner, seconded by Roy Gill, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

Members voting aye:

Kelle Barfield
Sean Brewer
Kenny Bush
Roy Gill
Brian Harvey
Michael Lindsey
Dr. Valencia Martin
Michael Miller
John Mistilis
Anthony Montgomery
Eddie Prather
Rob Tyner

Members voting nay: None

Members abstaining: None

Members absent: Sarah Foster
Ann Jones

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION:

10 17 2017
(Month) (Day) (Year)

Heath West

Chair of the Commission

Paula Alley
Executive Secretary of the Commission