

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

March 19, 2015

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a work session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2015, in the 4th Floor Boardroom of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present were: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Dr. Karen J. Elam, Mr. Johnny Franklin, Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Mr. William H. Jones, Dr. John R. Kelly, and Mr. Charles McClelland. Board member absent was: Ms. Kami Bumgarner. Mr. Richard Morrison joined the meeting at 11:21 a.m. Mr. Charles McClelland left the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

The work session was called to order by Dr. John R. Kelly, Chair. Dr. Kelly noted the statement on the agenda that cellular telephones and pagers are not permitted during the work session.

Dr. Kelly welcomed Dr. Laurie Smith, Governor's Office, Ms. Erika Berry, Lt. Governor's Office, and Dr. Lisa Karmacharya, Executive Director for Mississippi Association of School Administrators (MASA).

Dr. Kelly stated that Tab 05 would be discussed after Tab 14 so most of the Board members would be present for the discussion.

01. Dr. Carey M. Wright gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:

- Dr. Wright stated that she met with the Superintendent's Advisory Council and received great feedback on the revisions of policies. Dr. Wright stated that she meets with the group each month.
- Dr. Wright stated that she had met with the Early Learning Collaboratives and wanted to thank Dr. Jill Dent, Ms. Robin Lemonis, and Mr. Nathan Oakley for their work. The meeting generated a lot of positive feedback from the directors of the Collaboratives. The directors stated they appreciate the support from the Mississippi Department of Education and are very pleased with growth they are seeing in the children enrolled in their programs.
- Dr. Wright stated information from Mississippi KIDS COUNT and the 2015 Fact Book from KIDS COUNT was at their seat. The Mississippi Department of Education partnered with KIDS COUNT for the study which shows chronic absenteeism is high in kindergarten. Dr. Linda H. Southward, Director, Mississippi KIDS COUNT is a great partner to work with through Mississippi State University.
- Dr. Wright stated a need for a Special-Called Board meeting on May 7 to approve released scores.
- Dr. Wright stated that a press release was sent to the newspapers yesterday on the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the assessments. She stated that it was to be a fair and transparent process.

- Dr. Wright stated that starting this month and each month thereafter she will have a Spotlight on good things happening in Mississippi. The first Spotlight is on Clarke County Early Learning Collaborative. Dr. Wright introduced Ms. Erica Jones from the Atlanta Regional Head Start Office/Regional IV – Office of Head Start; Dr. Daphne Babrow from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Head Start – Program Specialist – Region IV; and Dr. Cathy Gaston, Early Head Start Deputy Director – Jackson area. Dr. Jill Dent, Director of Early Childhood, Mississippi Department of Education, has been working with the Clarke County Early Learning Collaborative and introduced Ms. Lacia Donald, Collaborative Leader, Quitman Consolidated School District, Mr. James Bounds, Principal, Quitman Lower Elementary School, and Dr. Suzanne Hawley, Superintendent, Quitman Consolidated School District. Dr. Dent stated that Clarke County Early Learning Collaborative was one of eleven communities to receive an Early Learning Collaborative grant. Ms. Donald spoke about working with the Head Start, local day care centers, libraries, and the community to prepare the children in the county for school. She asked the Board for their voice not only for their county but for all children across the state.

Mr. Johnny Franklin and Dr. Karen J. Elam left the Board meeting at 10:36 a.m. to be confirmed by the Senate.

02. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair, School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee reported the subcommittee met prior to today's work session to discuss the graduation requirement item and the days missed due to inclement weather item that will be brought before the Board today.

Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Chair, Academic Achievement PreK-12 Subcommittee reported the subcommittee met yesterday to discuss the innovative schools across the state and the graduation requirements item.

03. Mr. Pat Ross and Mr. Mike Kent reported on the school district consolidation of Clay County/West Point. Mr. Kent stated the Mississippi Department of Education has conducted six on-site technical assistance/guidance sessions along with numerous telephone conference calls; the new consolidated board members have been elected and are working on tasks that need to be completed before the consolidation is final; the county elected officials have been included in all meetings; and the consolidation process is on schedule for July 1, 2015 (copy attached).
04. Mr. Ross and Dr. Jamilliah Longino reported on the selection for Office of School Improvement contract workers. Dr. Longino presented a PowerPoint detailing the way the contractors are being selected now and how they will be selected in the future (copy attached). The Board discussed the process used now and how it will change (copy attached).

06. Mr. Ross, Dr. Paula Vanderford, and Ms. Staci Curry discussed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Renewal Request before it is submitted. Ms. Curry presented the changes that have been made from the meetings with the offices in the Department (copy attached). Mr. Ross recommended approval on Friday.
07. Mr. Ross and Dr. Vanderford discussed beginning the Administrative Procedure Act process: To revise Accreditation Policy 3.1.3 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2014* – Internal Review of Preliminary Accountability Results and establish Accreditation Policy 3.1.4 – Review or Appeal of Final Accountability Results. Mr. Ross recommended approval on Friday.
08. Mr. Ross, Dr. Vanderford, and Mr. Tollie Thigpen reported from the Accountability Task Force meetings held on March 17-18, 2015. The 2015 Accountability Task Force (ATF) continued its review of the accountability system. The ATF completed the development of a set of recommendations for changes to be made to the system to improve on its accuracy in performance. The recommendations will be presented to the Board in the near future.
09. Dr. Kim Benton and Mr. Marcus Cheeks discussed the methodology to present Title I Distinguished School monetary awards in accordance with *Section 1117(b)* of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (copy attached). Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.
10. Dr. Benton and Ms. Jean Massey discussed awarding discretionary grants to school districts to implement innovative programs (copy attached). Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.
11. Dr. Benton and Ms. Trecina Green discussed contracting with Connections Education, LLC for the operation of the Mississippi Virtual Public School System (copy attached). The Board discussed the Mississippi Virtual Public School System. Dr. Benton recommended approval on Friday.

Mr. Richard Morrison joined the meeting at 11:21 a.m.

12. Mr. Todd Ivey and Ms. Toni Kersh discussed the methodology to award grants to sponsoring school districts to enhance the educational environment and/or programming for compulsory school age individuals detained in Juvenile Detention Centers (copy attached). The Board discussed the funding for the Juvenile Detention Centers. Mr. Ivey recommended approval on Friday.
13. Mr. Ivey and Dr. Cerissa Neal discussed the educator certification licensure requirements as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development on March 6, 2015 (copy attached). Mr. Ivey recommended approval on Friday.

- A. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To approve New Supplemental Licensure Endorsement Code 646 – Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure Development
- B. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To approve five new supplemental 900 level endorsement codes for secondary education as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure Development: 926 – Project Lead the Way (PLTW) – Biomedical Health Science; 927 – Project Lead the Way (PLTW) – Middle School Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM); 928 – Project Lead the Way (PLTW) – High School Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM); 929 – Southern Region Education Board (SREB) – Math Ready; and 930 – Southern Region Education Board (SREB) – Literacy Ready.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:30 a.m. and reconvened at 12:30 p.m. Mr. Charles McClelland did not return to the meeting after lunch. Mr. Johnny Franklin and Dr. Karen J. Elam joined the meeting after lunch.

- 14. Mr. Ross, Dr. Vanderford, and Ms. Raina Lee discussed the days missed by school districts as a result of inclement weather during 2014-2015 school year. The Board discussed the requests from the districts of days missed. A motion and guidance will be provided for Board approval on Friday.
- 05. Mr. Ross, Dr. Vanderford, Ms. Massey, and Mr. Thigpen discussed a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise State Board of Education policies related to graduation requirements: A. State Board Policy 3801 – Policies for Subject Area Testing; B. State Board Policy 3802 – Policies for Carnegie Unit Credit; and C. State Board Policy 3803 – Assessments Required for Graduation. The Board discussed the graduation requirements policies. Mr. Ross recommended approval on Friday.
- 15. Dr. Kelly gave the Board an opportunity to discuss the following consent agenda items.
 - A. Discussion of monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits (Todd Ivey)
 - B. Discussion of a new school site for the Simpson County School District (Pat Ross)
 - C. Discussion to modify contract with Assessment Solutions Group (ASG) to provide consultative services as it relates to the English Language Arts and Mathematics Grades 3 – 8 Assessments; End of Course in Algebra I and

English II Assessments; and Cost Options for Geometry and Algebra II Assessments RFP (Kim Benton)

- D. Discussion to modify contract with Measured Progress to provide services to the Mississippi Department of Education relative to the Mississippi Alternate Assessment of Extended Science Frameworks (MAAESF) (Kim Benton)
- E. Discussion to modify contract with University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc. (KUCR) on behalf of Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation (CETE) to administer Online Alternate Assessments for English Language Arts and Mathematics (Kim Benton)

There was no discussion on the consent agenda.

16. Executive Session

Mr. William H. Jones moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session with respect to prospective litigation, personnel issues, and investigative proceedings in accordance with Mississippi Code Sections 25-41-7 (4)(a), (b), (d), and (k). The motion was seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, and the motion passed on a vote of 6 to 0.

Mr. William H. Jones, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of a strategy session or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation involving the Department and the issuance of appealable order in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(b), discussion with respect to investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(d), and discussion of discrete personnel matters related to the job performance of persons holding specific positions in the Department of Education in accordance with Mississippi Code Sections 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k) and transaction of business related thereto. Mr. Richard Morrison seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 6 to 0.

Dr. Kelly stated the following to remain in the Executive Session: Dr. Carey M. Wright, Executive Leadership Team, Ms. Raina Lee, Mr. Joe Runnels, Ms. Heather Deaton, Ms. Beebe Garrard, Ms. Toni Kersh, Ms. Gretchen Cagle, Dr. Bill Welch, Mr. Walt Drane, Mr. Marcus Cheeks, and Mr. Mike Kent. Ms. Lee informed the public of the Board's vote to go into Executive Session for the above-stated reasons.

Minutes of the Executive Session

The Board discussed a strategy session or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation involving the Department and the issuance of appealable order in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(b), discussion with respect to investigative

proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or violation of law in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7 (4)(d), and discussion of discrete personnel matters related to the job performance of persons holding specific positions in the Department of Education in accordance with Mississippi Code Sections 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k) and transaction of business related thereto.

The Board took action on the following items during the Executive Session:

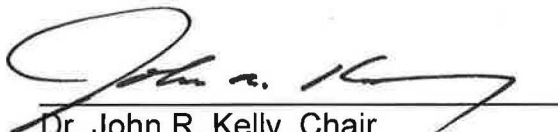
1. On a motion by Mr. Richard Morrison, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved on a 6 to 0 vote to appoint Mr. Michael Gibbons as Education Bureau Director II in the Office of Special Education to serve as the Director of Fiscal Services at a salary of \$84,000.00.
2. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved on a 6 to 0 vote to appoint Mr. Marcus Cheeks as Education Bureau Manager to serve in the Office of Federal Programs at a salary of \$100,000.00.
3. On a motion by Mr. William H. Jones, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved on a 6 to 0 vote the increase in salary of Mr. Cliff Triplet as Education Bureau Director II as the Infrastructure and Support Director within the Office of Technology and Strategic Services (OTSS) at a salary of \$84,000.00.

On a motion by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the motion passed on a vote 6 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

The public returned to the meeting.

Dr. Kelly adjourned the meeting at 2:59 p.m.

Approved:


Dr. John R. Kelly, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education


Dr. Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

March 20, 2015

The regular meeting of the Mississippi Board of Education was held at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, March 20, 2015, in the 4th Floor Boardroom of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present were: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Dr. Karen J. Elam, Mr. Johnny Franklin, Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Mr. William H. Jones, Dr. John R. Kelly, Mr. Richard Morrison, and Mr. Charles McClelland. Board member absent was: Ms. Kami Bumgarner.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. John R. Kelly, Chair. Dr. Kelly noted the statement on the agenda that cellular telephones and pagers are not permitted during the Board meeting.

- I. Mr. Richard Morrison led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Dr. O. Wayne Gann gave the Invocation.
- II. On a motion by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board approved the minutes of February 19-20, 2015 Board meeting.
- III. On a motion by Mr. William H. Jones, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously approved to add Items 14.A. and 14.B. to the agenda:
 14. Approval of days missed by school districts as a result of inclement weather during the 2014-2015 school year
 - A. Approval of waiver requests in accordance with MS Code Section 37-13-63(2)
 - B. Approval of school district exemptions in accordance with MS Code Section 37-13-64

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as amended.

V. Report of the Chair

Dr. Kelly stated the Board voted yesterday in Executive Session on the following items:

1. Approve the appointment of Mr. Michael Gibbons as Education Bureau Director II in the Office of Special Education to serve as the Director of Fiscal Services.
2. Approve the appointment of Mr. Marcus Cheeks as Education Bureau Manager to serve in the Office of Federal Programs.

3. Approve the increase in salary of Mr. Cliff Triplet as Education Bureau Director II as the Infrastructure and Support Director within the Office of Technology and Strategic Services (OTSS).

Dr. Kelly stated the Board would present the recognition portion of the agenda and then approve the action items that were discussed yesterday in the Board work session.

VII. Recognition Ceremony

2014-2015 JROTC Legion of Valor Recipients

Cadet/Major Rutchelyn Elizar
Florence High School Army JROTC

Cadet/Colonel Myuna McNair
Lanier High School Army JROTC

Cadet/Lieutenant Colonel Abbie Lee
McLaurin High School Army JROTC

Cadet/Major Matthew Edwards
Gulfport High School Marine Corps JROTC

2015 March Employee of the Month

Michael Jones
Office of Accounting
Support Tech

Board Retirement Recognition

Kathy Boteler
Attorney, Attorney General's Office

Dr. Wright recognized Ms. Kathy Boteler for her 12 years of service to the Mississippi Department of Education. Ms. Boteler had represented the Board for the past seven years. She had represented the Licensure Commission and was a member of the Task Force that drafted the Educator Code of Ethics and she represented the Accreditation Commission when conservatorships were established in numerous school districts and the school districts were subsequently reconstituted. Additionally, she advised the Department in the consolidation of school districts. She is a former educator and her passion for public education has been evident in all aspects of her public service to Mississippi. Ms. Boteler has made a positive mark on public education.

Mr. Charles McClelland recognized Mr. Claude Hartley who was attending the State Board meeting. Mr. McClelland stated that Mr. Hartley had previously been a State Board member.

VI. Approval of Action Items

(Items below are numbered to correspond to the items as discussed on Thursday, March 19, 2015.)

05. On a motion by Mr. Richard Morrison, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board approved a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise State Board of Education policies related to graduation requirements (copy attached).

(Office of Chief School Performance Officer)

- A. State Board Policy 3801 – Policies for Subject Area Testing
- B. State Board Policy 3802 – Policies for Carnegie Unit Credit
- C. State Board Policy 3803 – Assessments Required for Graduation

Members voting aye:
Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman
Dr. Karen J. Elam
Dr. O. Wayne Gann
Mr. William H. Jones
Mr. Charles McClelland
Mr. Richard Morrison

Member voting no: Mr. Johnny Franklin

Member absent: Ms. Kami Bumgarner

06. On a motion by Mr. William H. Jones, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously approved to submit the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Renewal Request (copy attached).

(Office of Chief School Performance Officer)

07. On a motion by Mr. William H. Jones, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedure Act process: To revise Accreditation Policy 3.1.3 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2014* – Internal Review of Preliminary Accountability Results and establish Accreditation Policy 3.1.4 – Review or Appeal of Final Accountability Results (copy attached).

(Office of Chief School Performance Officer)

09. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved the methodology to present Title I Distinguished School monetary awards in accordance with *Section 1117(b)* of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (copy attached).
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)
10. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to award discretionary grants to school districts to implement innovative programs (copy attached).
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)
11. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Richard Morrison, the Board unanimously approved to contract with Connections Education, LLC for the operation of the Mississippi Virtual Public School System (copy attached).
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)
12. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. William H. Jones, the Board unanimously approved the methodology to award grants to sponsoring school districts to enhance the educational environment and/or programming for compulsory school age individuals detained in Juvenile Detention Centers (copy attached).
(Office of Chief Operations Officer)
13. On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. William H. Jones, the Board unanimously approved the educator certification licensure requirements as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development on March 6, 2015 (copy attached).
(Office of Chief Operations Officer)
 - A. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To approve New Supplemental Licensure Endorsement Code 646 – Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure Development
 - B. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To approve five new supplemental 900 level endorsement codes for secondary education as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure Development: 926 – Project Lead the Way (PLTW) – Biomedical Health Science; 927 – Project Lead the Way (PLTW) – Middle School Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM); 928 – Project Lead the Way (PLTW) – High School Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM); 929 – Southern Region Education Board (SREB) – Math Ready; and 930 – Southern Region Education Board (SREB) – Literacy Ready.

14. On a motion by Mr. William H. Jones (see below), seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board approved the waiver requests in accordance with MS Code Section 37-13-63(2) (Item 14.A.) and school district exemptions (Item 14.B.) in accordance with MS Code Section 37-13-64 during the 2014-2015 school year (copy attached).

(Office of Chief School Performance Officer)

- A. Approval of waiver requests in accordance with MS Code Section 37-13-63(2)

Mr. William H. Jones moved that the Board approve the requested waivers from school districts to operate less than 180 days due to closures resulting from extreme weather conditions during the 2014-2015 school year in accordance with MS Code 37-13-63(2). Based on the authority of the State Board of Education provided in MS Code 37-13-63(2), the Board approves the following guidelines for the alteration of a school calendar:

- Districts closing schools for four days or less will be required to make up each school day missed (one day make up for one day missed for a total of four days or the actual number of days missed).
- Districts closing schools for more than four days will be required to make up all days missed. However, after the first four days are made up, the district has the option of making up the remaining days a day for a day or by adding a minimum of 60 minutes of instructional time to an existing school day.

- B. Approval of school district exemptions in accordance with MS Code Section 37-13-64

Mr. William H. Jones moved that in accordance with State Board of Education Policy 401, the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards 2014: Accreditation Policy 2.1 and Process Standard 13, that all school districts asserting exemption under MS Code Section 37-13-64 that provide true and accurate, supporting documentation to the Office of Accreditation that the local school board has empowered the superintendent of their district with the authority to declare a weather emergency prior to the closure of any school or schools within the school district for any weather related emergency.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam. The vote passed on the following:

Members voting aye:

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman
Dr. Karen J. Elam
Dr. O. Wayne Gann
Mr. William H. Jones
Mr. Charles McClelland

Mr. Richard Morrison

Member voting no: Mr. Johnny Franklin

Member absent: Ms. Kami Bumgarner

15. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board unanimously approved the following consent items: A, B, C, D, and E (copy attached):

A. Approval of monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits
(Office of Chief Operations Officer)

B. Approval of a new school site for the Simpson County School District
(Office of Chief School Performance Officer)

C. Approval to modify contract with Assessment Solutions Group (ASG) to provide consultative services as it relates to the English Language Arts and Mathematics Grades 3 – 8 Assessments; End of Course in Algebra I and English II Assessments; and Cost Options for Geometry and Algebra II Assessments RFP
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)

D. Approval to modify contract with Measured Progress to provide services to the Mississippi Department of Education relative to the Mississippi Alternate Assessment of Extended Science Frameworks (MAAESF)
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)

E. Approval to modify contract with University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc. (KUCR) on behalf of Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation (CETE) to administer Online Alternate Assessments for English Language Arts and Mathematics
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)

Dr. O. Wayne Gann left the Board meeting at 9:01 a.m.

VIII. State Board of Education

01. There was no report of meetings attended.

March 20, 2015

02. Dr. Kelly stated that Dr. Karen J. Elam needed permission to travel to Washington, D.C. for the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) meeting on March 22-24, 2015.

On a motion by Mr. Richard Morrison, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved for Dr. Elam to attend the meeting in Washington, D.C.

IX. Other Business


Dr. John R. Kelly stated that the Board will have a Special-Called Board meeting on May 7, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. The Board will have a retreat on April 23-24, 2015 in south Mississippi to work on the Strategic Plan.

Dr. Kelly announced that the April Board meeting is April 16-17, 2015.

X. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

Approved:



Dr. John R. Kelly, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Dr. Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education