

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

September 15, 2016

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 15, 2016, in the 4th Floor Boardroom at Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present were: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Mr. Buddy Bailey, Dr. Karen J. Elam, Mr. Johnny Franklin, Dr. John R. Kelly, and Mr. Charles McClelland. Board members absent were: Ms. Kami Bumgarner, Dr. Jason S. Dean, and Mr. William H. Jones. Dr. Carey M. Wright was also present.

- I. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair, called the Board meeting to order. Ms. Aultman noted the statement on the agenda that cellular telephones and pagers are not permitted during the meeting.
- II. Dr. Karen J. Elam led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Johnny Franklin gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of August 18, 2016.
- IV. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the agenda.
- V. Recognition Ceremony

2016 August Employee of the Month

Karla M. Everett

Secretary Principal – Southern District

Office of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement

2016 September Employee of the Month

Alice Ball

Administrative Assistant III

Office of Child Nutrition

- VI. Dr. Carey M. Wright gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:
 - Dr. Wright stated the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) stakeholder meetings are being held across the state through October. Dr. Wright stated these are open meetings to gather feedback on the types of changes they would like to see that would better inform them on whether students and their

schools are successful. Dr. Wright noted that an advisory group will be established to look at the information received from the meetings so the Department can review and submit our ESSA plan in March.

- Dr. Wright stated the Regional Superintendents Meetings have been held around the state informing the public on the accountability model, Academic updates, and updates from Dr. Porter's office. Dr. Wright stated the final meeting will be held in Oxford on September 30 and invited Board members to attend if their schedule permitted.
- Dr. Wright stated she met with Representative Jerry A. Turner and Senator John A. Polk to share information about the Department's Request for Proposals (RFP) process.
- Dr. Wright stated she spoke at the Special Education Directors Meeting and discussed the role subgroups will have with ESSA. Dr. Wright stated that subgroups will play a large part and will be used for all students.
- Dr. Wright stated she attended the K-12 Legislative Budget Working Group dealing with personnel and the next meeting will deal with contracts.
- Dr. Wright stated the Regional Education Laboratory Southeast meeting she attended was dealing with best practices in literacy, math and early childhood. Dr. Wright stated that they highlighted our LETRS training and that Mississippi was highlighted by other states for the amazing things and work that is being done in our state.
- Dr. Wright stated that the third grade summative results had a 92% pass rate after the final administration. Dr. Wright stated this was the same as last year.
- Dr. Wright stated the Governor has issued budget cuts to agencies to cover the accounting error. Dr. Wright stated the cut is 1.6% for agencies but the Department was cut 3% for a total of \$4.9 million. Dr. Wright stated by September 30 the Department has to let the Governor know where the cuts will be made in the agency.
- Dr. Wright recognized Mr. Todd Ivey since he is retiring in December. Dr. Wright stated he will be missed by the Department and the Legislature. Dr. Wright stated she wishes him well.
- Dr. Wright stated the Spotlight for this Board meeting is Mississippi Schools Reduce Chronic Absenteeism since this is attendance awareness month. Dr. Wright stated that the Petal School District and the Vicksburg-Warren School District have the lowest chronic absentee rates in the state. Dr. Wright recognized and thanked Ms. Toni Kersh, Director of the Office of School Attendance Enforcement, for her work for children. Dr. Wright stated the Attendance Awareness Contest was held recently across the state and approximately 150 students submitted entries in a literary piece, poster or video. Dr. Wright stated the winners are as follows:
 - Literary – David Brown, 10th grade, South Pike High School, South Pike School District; Sarah Robinson, 8th grade, Iuka Middle School, Tishomingo County School District;

- Poster – Jack Durr, 3rd grade, Northside Elementary School, Pearl Public School District; Sydney Graham, 7th grade, Rankin County School District;
- Video – Alcorn Career and Technology Center, Alcorn County School District; Andre Taylor, Jr, Grace Christian Elementary School, Hattiesburg Public School District; Hannah Thompson, Jacqueria Bailey, Nicholas McGlorthan, Cameron Horton, and Eric Vaughn-Brown, Jackson Public School District.

VII. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman as the Chair of the State Board thanked Dr. Wright for her report and thanked the Department for the work they are doing.

VIII. Dr. Karen J. Elam stated that the Academic Achievement PreK-12 Subcommittee met yesterday. Dr. Elam stated the Family Success Guides were handed out for PreK – Grade 8. Dr. Elam stated each guide is for a different grade and will help parents with suggestions to work with their children. Dr. Elam recognized Ms. Robin Lemonis for leading the effort for these publications. Dr. Elam stated the Early Warning System Guidance Document has been sent to the districts and training will be provided later. Dr. Elam thanked Ms. Gretchen Cagle for the work on the Mississippi Special Education Advisory Panel. Dr. Elam recognized Ms. Cagle and her team for being awarded the State Personnel Grant from the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education for five years totaling \$5.25 million. Dr. Elam stated that the grant from the Department was rated the second highest out of seven grants awarded.

Dr. John R. Kelly reported from the Accountability Subcommittee that Dr. J. P. Beaudoin will bring to the Board today the changes to the business rules and the results of the ACT test. Dr. Kelly also reported that from the Office of Educational Accountability a contract will be brought to the Board today for conducting the financial audits and the Single Audit of the Department.

Mr. Buddy Bailey reported from the Data Visualization Subcommittee. Mr. Bailey stated the subcommittee met today to talk about dashboard reports and how to present data to tell a story and be visually pleasing.

IX. Discussion of Board Items

01. Dr. Kim Benton and Ms. Gretchen Cagle presented the Annual Report of the Mississippi Special Education Advisory Panel [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached). Dr. Benton recognized three of the Special Education Advisory Panel members present: Dr. Gwendolyn Williams, Chair, Mr. Roger Bullock, and Mr. Johnny McGinn. The Panel made

recommendations for Special Education to consider this year: addressing teacher quality for Special Education Alternative Route and reviewing teacher/student ratio.

02. Ms. Sonya Amis, Mr. Todd Ivey, and Mr. Brad Feaster discussed contracting with CliftonLarsonAllen LLP to conduct the FY 2016 and FY 2017 financial audit and Single Audit of the Mississippi Department of Education as directed by the Office of the State Auditor [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Ms. Amis recommended approval.
03. Dr. J. P. Beaudoin and Dr. Paula Vanderford discussed revising the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System to include the recommended cut scores beginning in school year 2015-2016 [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]. The item has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments that were presented to the Board. Dr. Beaudoin recommended approval.
04. Dr. Benton, Dr. Beaudoin, and Mr. Walt Drane presented information on ACT to meet federal assessment requirements [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached). The Board members discussed the use of ACT.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:03 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

05. Mr. Ivey and Ms. Donna Hales reported on determining contract worker rate of pay and evaluation process of contract workers [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached). The Board discussed the new process.
06. Ms. Aultman gave the Board an opportunity to discuss the following consent agenda items. The Board requested to discuss item A.

Ms. Cagle answered questions about contracts for the Office of Special Education.

- A. Monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits (Todd Ivey)
- B. Award competitive grants for the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program (Kim Benton)

- C. Begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise Appendix A of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards* to allow the substitution of Computer Science in lieu of the Business and Technology requirement for graduation (J.P. Beaudoin)
 - D. Accredited-Temporary Status for Millcreek School – Kosciusko (J.P. Beaudoin)
 - E. Revise the *Guidelines and Clarification of Requirements for Issuance of Career and Technical Education Licenses* and Endorsements as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comment) (J.P. Beaudoin)
 - F. Modify grant awards for the Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) Grant (J.P. Beaudoin)
- X. Approval of Action Items
- 02. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved contracting with CliftonLarsonAllen LLP to conduct the FY 2016 and FY 2017 financial audit and Single Audit of the Mississippi Department of Education as directed by the Office of the State Auditor [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached).
(Office of Educational Accountability)
 - 03. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved revising the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System to include the recommended cut scores beginning in school year 2015-2016 [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]. The item has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments that were presented to the Board (copy attached).
(Office of Chief of Research and Development)
 - 06. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board unanimously approved consent agenda items A, B, C, D, E, and F (copy attached).

- A. Monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits
(Office of Chief Operations Officer)
- B. Award competitive grants for the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program
(Office of Chief Academic Officer)
- C. Begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise Appendix A of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards* to allow the substitution of Computer Science in lieu of the Business and Technology requirement for graduation
(Office of Chief of Research and Development)
- D. Accredited-Temporary Status for Millcreek School – Kosciusko
(Office of Chief of Research and Development)
- E. Revise the *Guidelines and Clarification of Requirements for Issuance of Career and Technical Education Licenses* and endorsements as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comment)
(Office of Chief of Research and Development)
- F. Modify grant awards for the Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) Grant
(Office of Chief of Research and Development)

XI. Consideration of Executive Session

Dr. John R. Kelly moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session. Mr. Charles McClelland seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a vote of 5 to 0. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman asked Dr. Carey M. Wright, Ms. Raina Lee, Ms. Beebe Garrard, Ms. Erin Meyer, Ms. Chelsea Chicosky, Mr. Joseph Runnels, Mr. Quentin Ransburg, Ms. Elisha Campbell, and Executive Leadership Team to remain in the Executive Session.

Dr. John R. Kelly, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss discrete personnel matters related to the job performance of persons holding specific positions in the Department of Education, discussion of the issuance of an appealable order as issued by the Licensure Commission, and discussion with respect to

allegations of misconduct regarding the Office of Federal Programs in accordance with federal law and Mississippi Code Sections 25-41-7 (4)(a), (b), (d), and (k). Mr. Johnny Franklin seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 5 to 0. Ms. Beebe Garrard informed the public of the Board's vote to go into Executive Session for the above-stated reasons.

Minutes of the Executive Session

During the Executive Session, the Board discussed discrete personnel matters related to the job performance of persons holding specific positions in the Department of Education, discussed the issuance of an appealable order as issued by the Licensure Commission, and discussed with respect to allegations of misconduct regarding the Office of Federal Programs in accordance with federal law and Mississippi Code Sections 25-41-7 (4)(a), (b), (d), and (k).

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board voted 5 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

The public came back into the Board meeting and Ms. Aultman reported the action taken during the Executive Session.

01. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Yan Li as Education Bureau Director II to serve as Director within the Office of Data Management and Integration at a salary of \$92,000.00.
02. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board affirmed the May 12, 2016 decision of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development to suspend Licensure No. 203955 for one school year.

Members voting aye:
Mr. Buddy Bailey
Dr. Karen J. Elam
Mr. Johnny Franklin
Dr. John R. Kelly
Mr. Charles McClelland

Member voting nay: None

Members absent:
Ms. Kami Bumgarner
Dr. Jason S. Dean
Mr. William H. Jones

September 15, 2016

XII. State Board of Education

1. There was no report on meetings attended.
2. There was no request to attend a meeting.

XIII. Other Business

Mr. Charles McClelland stated he met with 22 superintendents at William Carey and they feel that the Department has a communication problem. The superintendents do not believe that we are all on the same page. Mr. McClelland stated he told them he would bring their concern to the Board.

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman stated the October Board meeting will be October 20, 2016 in Jackson, Mississippi at the Central High School Building starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:06 p.m.

Approved:



Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education