

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF TECHNOLOGY AND DISTRICT TRANSFORMATION
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
June 16, 2017

OFFICE OF CONSERVATORSHIP

05. Action: Reconstitute Aberdeen School District that is in conservatorship and approve the resolution from the State Board of Education by finding that satisfactory corrective action has taken place and by requesting that the Governor declare that the emergency no longer exists in the district [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Pursuant to Section 37-17-6 (12)(d) of the Mississippi Code, at the time that satisfactory corrective action has been taken in a school district in which a state of emergency has been declared, the State Board of Education may request the Governor to declare that the state of emergency no longer exists in the district. Pursuant to Section 37-17-13 (4) of the Mississippi Code the State Board of Education determined in June 2016 that the impairments in the district were substantially corrected and appointed five (5) individuals to the Board of the Aberdeen School District. In accordance with the foregoing code section, the reconstituted board has worked with the Conservator for the past year. These board members have drawn lots as prescribed by statute and are prepared to commence their respective terms of office on July 1, 2017. The State Board of Education shall notify the municipal governing authority of the terms of office and request that they provide for the election of the school board members at the end of said terms of office in accordance with applicable law.

This item references Goal 2 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2016-2020 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached



MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF EDUCATION

Rosemary G. Aultman, *Chair*

Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.
Executive Secretary

Jason Dean, *Vice-Chair*

MEMBERS

Kami Bumgarner
Charles McClelland
William H. Jones
John R. Kelly

MEMBERS

Johnny Franklin
Karen Elam
Arthur Bailey, Jr.

June 16, 2017

Honorable Phil Bryant
Governor
State of Mississippi
Post Office Box 139
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Governor Bryant:

On April 20, 2012, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6 you issued a Proclamation declaring that a state of emergency existed in the Aberdeen School District because of serious leadership, management and instructional concerns existing in the district and serious violations of accreditation standards, board policy and state laws which jeopardized the safety, security or educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of that district. Following the declaration of the state of emergency, the State Board of Education abolished the district, removed the school board, assumed control and administration of the schools formerly constituting the district, and appointed a Conservator to administer the district under the direction of the State Board of Education.

Mississippi Code Annotated § 37-17-6(12)(d) provides that when the State Board of Education determines that the deficiencies giving rise to the state of emergency have been satisfactorily corrected, the State Board of Education may notify you and ask you to declare that the state of emergency no longer exists. On behalf of the State Board of Education and the Office of Accreditation, I am proud to report that the emergency situation no longer exists in the Aberdeen School District.

In June of 2016, five individuals were appointed to form the new Board of the Aberdeen School District and they have worked with the Conservator during the past year to prepare them for assuming full responsibility of the district. The board members have since drawn lots in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-13(4) and each will assume their respective terms of office on July 1, 2017.

Please accept this correspondence with the attached Resolution as the State Board of Education's official request pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6(12)(d) that you lift the state of emergency declared for the Aberdeen School District.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent of Education.

Respectfully,

Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education

Enclosures

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2012, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6, the Honorable Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi declared a state of emergency existed in the Aberdeen School District because of serious leadership, management and instructional concerns existing in the district and serious violations of accreditation standards, board policy and state laws which jeopardized the safety, security and educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of this district as evidenced by Proclamation attached hereto as Exhibit "1" and incorporated herein by reference as a part of this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, upon the issuance of the declaration of the state of emergency in the Aberdeen School District, the Mississippi State Board of Education, acting in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6(12), appointed an Interim Conservator to be responsible for the administration, management and operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2012 pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-13, the Mississippi State Board of Education abolished the District assumed control and administration of the schools formerly constituting the district and appointed a conservator to administer the district under the direction of the Mississippi State Board of Education as evidenced by the Resolution attached hereto as Exhibit "2" and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, having been fully apprised that the corrective action recommended in order to remove the deficiencies has been satisfactorily taken by the district and, based on the recommendation of the Conservator and the State Superintendent of Education, the Mississippi State Board of Education finds that the deficiencies have been sufficiently corrected, and the reason for declaring the state of emergency no longer exists; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-13(4), in June 2016 the Mississippi State Board of Education reconstituted the Board of the Aberdeen School District with the appointment of five (5) new members of the board to work with the Conservator for one (1) year prior to assuming their terms of office; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-13(4), the reconstituted members of the Board of the Aberdeen School District determined their respective terms of office by the drawing of lots and are prepared to assume full responsibility for the District and commence their terms of office on July 1, 2017, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6(12)(d), the Mississippi State Board of Education, with the concurrence of the Office of Accreditation, as evidenced by the report attached hereto as Exhibit "3" and incorporated herein by reference as a part of this Resolution, does hereby request the Governor of the State of Mississippi to dissolve and lift the emergency declaration for the Aberdeen School District;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-17-6(12)(d) and 37-17-13(4) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, the Mississippi State Board of Education, with the concurrence of the Office of Accreditation, does hereby request the Governor of the State of Mississippi to dissolve and lift the emergency declaration for the Aberdeen School District.

THIS THE 16TH DAY OF JUNE, 2017.

Rosemary Aultman, Chair
Mississippi State Board of Education

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

COUNTY OF HINDS

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

This day personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority of law in and for the above named county and state, the within named Rosemary Aultman and Carey M. Wright who acknowledged that they signed the above and foregoing instrument of writing on the day and year therein mentioned for the purposes therein shown as their voluntary act and deed.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND OFFICIAL SEAL on this, the 16TH day of June, A.D. 2017.

NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



A PROCLAMATION

By The

GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Miss. Code Ann. Section 37-17-6 (1972), the Mississippi Board of Education (hereinafter "the Board") met on April 20, 2012, to determine whether there was sufficient cause to believe that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Aberdeen School District, which jeopardizes the safety, security, and educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of this District; and

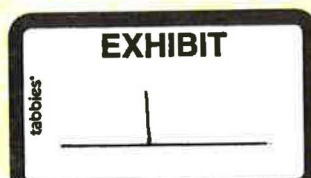
WHEREAS, the Office of Accreditation, Mississippi Department of Education, presented information to the Commission on School Accreditation regarding serious violations of accreditation standards, violations of state and federal law, and a continued pattern of poor student performance in the District; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. Section 37-17-6(11)(b) (1972), the Commission on School Accreditation found that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Aberdeen School District and that this extreme emergency jeopardizes the safety, security, and educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of this District because of serious violations of accreditation standards, violations of state law and federal law, and a continued pattern of poor student performance, which without intervention could result in the continuation of an inadequate and unstable educational environment, thereby denying the students of this District the opportunity to learn, to excel, and to obtain a free and appropriate public education; and

WHEREAS, the information presented to the Board by the Office of Accreditation of the Mississippi Department of Education, and the April 18, 2012 Resolution of the Commission on School Accreditation, were considered by the Mississippi Board of Education at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 20, 2012; and

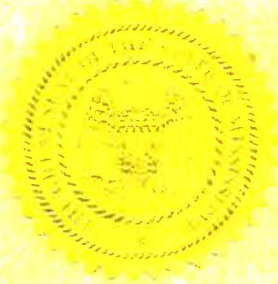
WHEREAS, following due deliberation, the Board found that there is sufficient cause to believe that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Aberdeen School District brought on by serious violations of accreditation standards, violations of state and federal law, and a continued pattern of poor student performance, which jeopardize the safety, security, and educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of this District, and which, without intervention by the Board, could result in the continuation of an inadequate and unstable environment, thereby denying the students of this District the opportunity to learn, to excel, and to obtain a free and appropriate public education; and

WHEREAS, following due deliberation, the Board further found that Miss. Code Ann. Section 37-17-6(11)(c)(vii) (1972), authorizes the Board to take such action as prescribed in Section 37-17-13 when a state of emergency is declared under Section 37-17-6(11)(b); and that Section 37-17-13 provides that the Board may abolish the school district and its existing school board and superintendent of schools; and that Section 37-17-13 moreover provides that, at such time as the impairments have been substantially corrected, the Board shall reconstitute, reorganize or change or alter the boundaries of the district and shall notify the appropriate governing authority of its action and request the election or appointment of school board members and a superintendent to govern the district in the manner provided by law; and



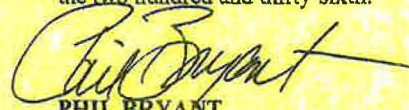
WHEREAS, by Resolution adopted by the Mississippi Board of Education on April 20, 2012, as delivered to me, as Governor of the State of Mississippi, the Board requests that a State of Emergency be declared in the Aberdeen School District immediately in order to place the District under the jurisdiction of the Board for the implementation of the corrective actions provided for by Sections 37-17-6(11)(b), 37-17-6(11)(c)(vii) and 37-17-13;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, in response to the Resolution and request of the Mississippi Board of Education, made under the authority of Miss. Code Ann. Section 37-17-6(11)(b) (1972), and by virtue of the authority vested in me by Section 123 of the Mississippi Constitution of 1890, Miss. Code Ann. Section 7-1-5 (1972), and Section 37-17-6(11)(b) (1972), do hereby issue this Proclamation to declare that, due to serious violations of accreditation standards, violations of state and federal law, and a continued pattern of poor student performance, which jeopardize the safety, security, and educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of this District, a state of extreme emergency exists in the Aberdeen School District.




IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol, in the City of Jackson, this the 20th day of April, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twelve and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-sixth.


PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR


C. DELBERT HOSEMANN, JR.
SECRETARY OF STATE

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 37-17-6 (11)(b) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, the Mississippi Board of Education met in a regularly scheduled meeting on April 19, 2012 and April 20, 2012 to determine whether there was sufficient cause to believe that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Aberdeen School District which jeopardizes the safety, security, and educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of this District; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Accreditation, Mississippi Department of Education, presented certain information to the Board regarding the Aberdeen School District's impairments related to serious violations of accreditation standards, violations of state and federal law, and a continued pattern of poor student performance a copy of which is attached as Exhibit "A" and incorporated by reference as though a part of this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Board is in receipt of a Resolution from the Commission on School Accreditation dated April 18, 2012, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit "B" and incorporated by reference as though a part of this Resolution, in which the Commission has determined that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Aberdeen School District brought on by serious violations of accreditation standards, violations of state and federal law, and a continued pattern of poor student performance;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mississippi Board of Education finds the following:

1) The Board finds that there is sufficient cause to believe that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Aberdeen School District brought on by serious findings regarding serious violations of accreditation standards, violations of state and federal law, and a continued pattern of poor student performance, which jeopardizes the safety, security, and educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of this District, and which, without intervention by the Mississippi Board of Education, could result in the continuation of an inadequate and unstable educational environment, thereby denying the students of this District the opportunity to learn, to excel, and to obtain a free and appropriate public education.

2) The Board further finds that Section 37-17-6 (11)(c)(vii) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, authorizes the Mississippi Board of Education to take such action as prescribed in Section 37-17-13 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, when a state of emergency is declared under Section 37-17-6 (11)(b); that Section 37-17-13 provides that the Board may abolish the school district and its existing school board and superintendent of schools; and, that Section 37-17-13 provides that, at such time as the impairments have been substantially corrected, the Board shall reconstitute, reorganize or change or alter the boundaries of the district and, in appropriate cases, shall notify the appropriate



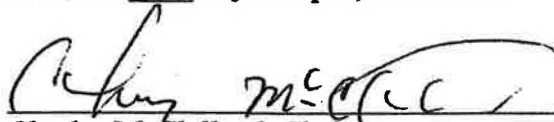
governing authority of its action and request the election or appointment of school board members and a superintendent to govern the district in the manner provided by law.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, based upon the extreme emergency situation that exists in the Aberdeen School District which jeopardizes the safety, security, and educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of the District and such emergency is believed to be related to serious violations of accreditation standards, violations of state and federal law, and a continued pattern of poor student performance, which, without the intervention of the Mississippi Board of Education, could result in the continuation of the inadequate and unstable educational environment, thereby denying the students of this District the opportunity to learn, to excel, and to obtain a free and appropriate public education, the Mississippi Board of Education does hereby request of the Honorable Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, that a state of emergency be declared effective immediately in the Aberdeen School District pursuant to Section 37-17-6 (11)(b) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended.

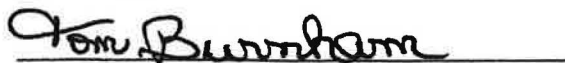
FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, based upon the extreme emergency situation brought on by the serious violations of accreditation standards, violations of state and a federal law, and a continued pattern of poor student performance and contingent upon the Proclamation of the Honorable Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, declaring a state of emergency in this District, the Mississippi Board of Education does hereby abolish the Aberdeen School District pursuant to Section 37-17-13 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, effective on the date of the Proclamation of the Governor.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, pursuant to Section 37-17-13 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, and contingent upon the Proclamation of the Honorable Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, declaring a state of emergency in the Aberdeen School District, the Mississippi Board of Education will exercise all powers which were held by the previously existing school board and the previously existing superintendent of schools.

WITNESS OUR SIGNATURES on this, the 20th day of April, A.D. 2012.



Charles McClelland, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Tom Burnham, Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education

COUNTY OF HINDS

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

This day personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority of law in and for the above named county and state, the within named Charles McClelland and Tom Burnham who acknowledged that they signed the above and foregoing instrument of writing on the day and year therein mentioned for the purposes therein shown as their voluntary act and deed.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND OFFICIAL SEAL on this, the 20th day of April, A.D. 2012.

Elizabeth Dungan
NOTARY PUBLIC

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES:



MEMORANDUM

To: Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., State Superintendent
Executive Director, Mississippi Board of Education

From: Paula Vanderford, Ph.D., Executive Secretary
Commission on School Accreditation

Date: June 5, 2017

Subject: Aberdeen School District (4820)

Based on the current *Accreditation Record Summary* for the Aberdeen School District, it is evident that the District has substantially corrected the impairments related to issues of noncompliance with the process standards published in the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2010*.

In accordance with Accreditation Policy 2.3 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2014*, the Office of Accreditation made a recommendation to the Commission on School Accreditation on the October 14, 2014, that the accreditation status for the 2014-2015 school year for Aberdeen School District be upgraded from PROBATION to ACCREDITED. The District's accreditation status currently remains ACCREDITED in accordance with Accreditation Policy 2.3 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2016*.

