

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

May 16, 2024

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 16, 2024, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5 for the purpose of conducting a regularly scheduled Board meeting.

The public accessed this meeting via livestream or in-person at the Central High School Building, 4th Floor Boardroom, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members physically present included: Mr. Glen V. East, Mr. Bill Jacobs, Mr. Matt Mayo, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Mr. Matt Miller, and Mr. Mike Pruitt. Board member participating virtually: Dr. Wendi Barrett (Ocean Springs, Mississippi). Board members absent: Ms. Mary Werner and Ms. Billye Jean Stroud. Student Representative absent: Ms. Kate Riddle. Dr. Raymond C. Morgigno, Interim State Superintendent, was also present.

- I. Mr. Glen V. East called the Board meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., after determining that a quorum of the Board existed for the purpose of conducting a meeting.
- II. Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Matt Miller gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Mr. Bill Jacobs, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of April 18, 2024 Board meeting and minutes of Special-Called Teleconference Board meeting on May 1, 2024.
- IV. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously adopted the Consent agenda as presented.

On a motion by Mr. Mike Pruitt, seconded by Mr. Matt Mayo, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

- V. Recognition Ceremony

2024 Mississippi Rural Teacher of the Year

Todd Willis

Tate County School District

- VI. Dr. Raymond C. Morgigno gave the following report as the Interim State Superintendent of Education:
 - Dr. Morgigno stated he attended the Accountability Task Force meeting.
 - Dr. Morgigno stated the six Regional Superintendent meetings were held across the state and Mr. Matt Miller joined the meeting in Hattiesburg.

- Dr. Morgigno stated the Teacher Advisory Council meetings were held in Oxford, Clinton, and Gulfport. Dr. Morgigno stated that some of the final research projects from the Student Advisory Council members were shared with the teachers.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he spoke at the 2024 Mississippi Administrator of the Year and the Teacher of the Year Celebration. Dr. Morgigno stated the Administrator of the Year is Anita Wansley, Principal at Northeast Elementary School in the Lauderdale County School District and the Teacher of the Year is Shauna Waters, teacher at West Lauderdale High School in the Lauderdale County School District. Dr. Morgigno congratulated both and thanked the MDE team that put this celebration together.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he spoke at the Gulfport Rotary Club, and he stated that Mr. Glen V. East attended the meeting.

VII. Mr. Glen V. East, Chair of the State Board, gave the following report:

- Mr. East thanked Dr. Raymond C. Morgigno for speaking at the Gulfport Rotary Club and stated he also met with the South Mississippi Superintendents to give an update.

VIII. No Report from Student Representative.

IX. Report on State Board of Education Subcommittee meeting

Mr. Bill Jacobs, Chair, Internal Accountability Subcommittee, stated that on May 1 and 2, 2024 the subcommittee interviewed the 10 semifinalists and chose the top three highest scoring finalists to be interviewed by the Board on June 19, 2024, starting at 8:30 a.m. Mr. Jacobs stated the three finalists are: Crosby Parker, Gulfport School District, Gulfport High School; Annsley Coleman, New Albany School District, New Albany High School; and Zenaida Caquias, Gulfport School District, Gulfport High School. Mr Jacobs stated the Board will select a junior student representative and an alternate after the interviews and the student representative will begin their term on July 1, 2024 and end on April 30, 2026. Mr. Jacobs stated that all the students that applied for the Junior Student Representative will be added to the Student Advisory Council.

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Information: Spring 2024 Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) 3rd Grade Initial Reading Summative Assessment Results [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

Dr. Paula Vanderford and Dr. Donna H. Boone gave the Spring 2024 Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) 3rd Grade Initial Reading Summative Assessment Results.

02. Action: Approval of the MDE Contracts [Goals 1, 2, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
- 02.A. Action: Contract with Gay, Jones, and Kuhn PLLC to provide supplementary legal counsel and policy and guidelines support to the Office of Special Education relative to the enforcement of and compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)
- 02.B. Action: Contract with Mississippi Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs) to provide a variety of education-related services allowable under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) Program to participating non-public schools [Goals 1, 2, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)
- 02.C. Action: Renew the contract with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) for Fiscal Year 2025 to administer the English Language Arts and Mathematics in grades 3-8, Science Grades 5 & 8; and High School Algebra 1, English II, and Biology 1 as part of the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program - Alternate, (MAAP-A) for students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (SCD) [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)
- 02.D. Action: Renew the contract with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) for Fiscal Year 2025 to administer the English Language Arts and Mathematics in Grades 3-8, End-of-Course (EOC) in Algebra I, English II, and options for Geometry and Algebra II as part of the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program, (MAAP) [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)
- 02.E. Action: Award Contract to Tann, Brown, and Russ Co., PLLC for Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP), or its replacement or equivalent, calculations for Fiscal Years 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, and 2030 and the Recalculation of Base Student Cost as outlined in law [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Mr. Matt Mayo, seconded by Mr. Mike Pruitt, the Board unanimously approved items 02.A., 02.B., 02.C., 02.D., and 02.E. (copy attached).

03. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Donna Boone)
- B. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Donna Boone)
- C. Approval of the 2024-2025 Student Handbook for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Donna Boone)
- D. Approval of the 2024-2025 Employee Handbook for the Mississippi School of the Arts for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Donna Boone)
- E. Approval of industry certifications that will calculate in the Acceleration component of the Accountability Model for the 2024-2025 School Year (Donna Boone)
- F. Approval of the methodology to allocate Positive Behavior Specialist (PBS) funds to local educational agencies (Donna Boone)
- G. Approval of contract with Aladdin Food Management Services, LLC to provide food services to the students and staff at the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Donna Boone)
- H. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act Process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 3: State Board Policy Chapter 14, Rule 14.6, to establish Rule 14.6.2(4) and 14.6.2(5) and amend Rule 14.6.3(10) related to Disciplinary Process Policy (Paula Vanderford)
- I. Approval of formula grants to school districts for the purpose of providing reimbursement for the Textbook Inventory Management System (TIMS) (Donna Boone)

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., F., G., H., and I. (copy attached).

XI. Consideration of Executive Session

Mr. Matt Miller moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session. Mr. Matt Mayo seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Mr. Glen V. East asked for Ms. Lindsay Dowdle, AG Counsel, and legal counsel to remain in the room.

Mr. Matt Miller, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k) for discussion of discrete personnel matters and Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(b) for strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation, ongoing litigation, or issuance of an appealable order. Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote. Ms. Jennifer Nichols 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 and strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation, ongoing litigation, or issuance of an appealable order.

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Mr. Matt Mayo, the Board unanimously voted to come out of Executive Session.

The public came back into the Board meeting and Mr. East stated that the Board approved the appointment of Mr. LaMarlon Wilson as the Superintendent of the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

01. On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board voted unanimously to approve settlement authority up to \$45,000.00 in the litigation against the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (MSDB).
02. On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Erin Meyer or Mr. Matt Miller to serve as a representative on behalf of the MDE for purposes of litigation against the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (MSDB).
03. On a motion by Mr. Bill Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Mike Pruitt, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Michael D. Kent as a hearing officer for a certified employee's termination hearing.
04. On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. LaMarlon Wilson to serve as the Superintendent for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind at an annual salary of \$115,000.00.

XII. State Board of Education

1. Mr. Matt Miller stated he attended the Regional Superintendents meeting in Hattiesburg where MDE department heads presented, and he thought it was

important for the superintendents to see the staff and hear the updates from them. Mr. Miller stated that he attended his first meeting virtually of the Government Affairs Committee for the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) last week about CTE and it was interesting. Mr. Miller stated that Mississippi is ahead of several states with the strides CTE is making.

2. Mr. East asked for a motion for Ms. Billye Jean Stroud to attend the NASBE New Member Orientation Institute in Washington, DC on July 9-10, 2024. On a motion from Mr. Matt Mayo, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board unanimously approved for Ms. Billye Jean Stroud to attend the NASBE meeting.
3. On a motion by Mr. Bill Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Mike Pruitt, the Board unanimously approved the meeting dates for Fiscal Year 2025.

XIII. Other Business

Mr. Glen V. East stated the State Board will have a work session for the Finalist Interviews for Junior Representative and the Fiscal Budget meeting on June 19, 2024 in Jackson, MS at the Central High School Building starting at 8:30 a.m. Mr. East stated that Mr. Matt Miller will be serving as Acting Chair in his absence.

Mr. East stated the June Board meeting will be held on June 20, 2024, in Jackson, MS at the Central High School Building in the 4th Floor Boardroom starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Bill Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Matt Mayo, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

Approved:



Matt Miller, Acting Board Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Raymond C. Morgigno
Interim Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education