

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

January 17, 2019

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 17, 2019, in the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Mr. Buddy Bailey, Dr. Jason S. Dean, Dr. Karen J. Elam, Mr. Johnny Franklin, Dr. John R. Kelly, Ms. Brittney Rye, and Mr. Sean Suggs. Mr. Charles McClelland joined the meeting at 10:04 a.m. Dr. Carey M. Wright was also present.

- I. Dr. Jason S. Dean, Chair, called the Board meeting to order. Dr. Dean noted that cellular telephones and pagers are not permitted during the meeting. Dr. Dean stated that the meeting was being live streamed.
- II. Ms. Brittney Rye led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Buddy Bailey gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2018, Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board voted unanimously to add a discussion item for the Mississippi School for the Blind and the Mississippi School for the Deaf. Dr. Dean stated this would be item 06 and the consent agenda would move to item 07.

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

- V. Recognition Ceremony

2018 National Blue Ribbons Schools

Center Hill Middle School
DeSoto County School District

Eastside Elementary School
Clinton Public School District

North Bay Elementary School
Biloxi Public School District

- VI. Dr. Carey M. Wright gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:
 - Dr. Wright stated that the orange packet in front of the Board members, on the left-hand side is the Superintendent's Annual Report. Dr. Wright

recognized and thanked Ms. Melissa Banks for the graphic work on the publication. Dr. Wright stated the graphic work is in addition to her regular job here at the Department. Dr. Wright stated on the right-hand side is Quality Counts which is published by Education Week. Dr. Wright stated this is the first of their three reports and Mississippi was recognized for its successes. Dr. Wright stated that Mississippi has moved from a D- two years ago to a C- last year to a C this year and Mississippi is moving in the right direction. Dr. Wright stated this is a national publication that will go out today.

- Dr. Wright stated that she went to the Houston School District's convocation to deliver remarks. Dr. Wright stated they had the district's entire staff in attendance and she praised them for all the work they are doing.
- Dr. Wright stated that she just finished a call with Bellwether. Dr. Wright stated they are a national non-profit and they are doing a case study on Mississippi because of our successes. Dr. Wright stated this goes along with the national case study done by the National Assessment Governing Board and the case study that is being done now by the Foundation for Excellence in Education. Dr. Wright stated that a lot of people are talking about Mississippi for the work being done and there is a lot to be proud of about what is happening across our state.
- Dr. Wright stated that the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) starts at the end of this month and districts will be selected and students within the districts will be selected at random to participate. Dr. Wright stated that she has created a video along with the Communication Team to be sent out to the district superintendents and principals to share with their teachers.
- Dr. Wright stated the Spotlight for this Board meeting is "Educating the Whole Child – Center Hill Middle School, DeSoto County School District." Dr. Wright stated the video features Center Hill Middle School in the DeSoto County School District, which is one of Mississippi's three National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2018. Dr. Wright stated that Center Hill was chosen to spotlight because it was a great example of an exemplary middle school. Dr. Wright stated that middle schools have unique challenges because they are the bridge between elementary and high school. Dr. Wright stated that Center Hill is very effective in taking a "whole child" approach with their students to meet their social, emotional, and academic needs. Dr. Wright recognized Mr. Larry Hood, Principal of Center Hill Middle School and thanked him for allowing the Department to spotlight Center Hill. Dr. Wright congratulated Center Hill Middle School and stated you are doing a great job preparing your students for success in high school and beyond.

- VII. Dr. Jason S. Dean as the Chair of the State Board stated he is finalizing the Workforce Subcommittee and will have the final list of subcommittees at the February Board meeting. Dr. Dean stated he has requested a tour of the Mississippi School for the Blind and the Mississippi School for the Deaf that will

take place on March 20, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. to be led by the schools' Superintendent, Ms. Wendy Rogers, to learn more about the schools. Dr. Dean stated that he has asked the Department staff to consider identifying a school to travel to and have the Board meeting at in March or April. Dr. Dean stated it should be a rural low performing or underperforming school within 30 to 45 minutes from Jackson so the Board can see what they are dealing with day in and day out. Dr. Dean reported on the State Superintendent evaluation process timeline which is done annually and administered by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) to provide the evaluation tool. Dr. Dean read into the minutes the timeline and asked everyone to hold themselves accountable to meeting the deadlines. Dr. Dean stated that on January 17, the State Superintendent presents the Strategic Plan; January 18, the evaluation document will be emailed to each Board member; the evaluation period is through February 1 with the period of evaluation closing on February 2; the evaluation results will be submitted to the Board Chair on February 8; and evaluation results will be discussed on February 21, 2019.

VIII. Dr. Jason S. Dean, Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, stated that they walked through the timeline of the Legislative schedule and the timeline for the bills to be dropped. Dr. Dean stated they are working through the Education meetings and asked that anyone that could attend any meeting please do so. Dr. Dean stated they talked through some of our legislative priorities and the importance of them to ensure that the bills dropped support them. Dr. Dean stated they will meet with the Lt. Governor this afternoon to urge along the legislative priorities, remind him we are here to support, and ensure that the voice of education is heard.

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair of the Academic Achievement PreK-12 Subcommittee, stated they met yesterday, and Dr. Nathan Oakley gave an update on professional development. Ms. Aultman stated that 4,616 educators across the state participated in professional development with 255 participating in online professional development and 40 percent of the districts that we serve participated. Ms. Aultman stated that a number of these educators that participated are from our low performing school districts. Ms. Aultman stated that the *Access for All Guide* was developed by a collaboration from across the Department. Ms. Aultman stated the *Guide* is for all administrators and teachers with strategies and support for struggling learners. Ms. Aultman stated that training will be provided across the state beginning in February. Ms. Aultman stated the roll out of the *Guide* is today by webinar and this is an exciting piece of documentation.

Dr. John R. Kelly, Chair of the School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee, met today and the discussion was around the final accountability appeal for Corinth School District, Harrison County School District, and Pascagoula-Gautier School District. Dr. Kelly stated the last two are special

schools. Dr. Kelly stated that this is the first agenda item and the Board will hear more about it later in the meeting. Dr. Kelly stated they heard an audit report of school districts, junior colleges, and four-year colleges and universities. Dr. Kelly stated that findings in some of the districts were for finances and help will be given to these districts. Dr. Kelly stated an update was provided on the student representatives on the State Board of Education. Dr. Kelly stated that the Board elected to have school students become a part of the Board. Dr. Kelly stated the information has gone out to the schools and a committee will review the applications and Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman will represent the Board on the committee. Dr. Kelly stated that 10 students will be brought to the Subcommittee for the selection of two students to be on the Board.

IX. and X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

Regarding the consideration of the appeals of the final accountability results, on a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved giving the Department 10 minutes for a presentation, the Superintendent of each district 10 minutes for a presentation, giving the Department 10 minutes for rebuttal, and then allowing a question and answer period.

01. Action: Consideration of appeals of the final accountability results in accordance with Policy 3.1.4 of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, 2018* [Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

01.A. Corinth School District

Dr. Paula Vanderford and Dr. Nathan Oakley discussed Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6 (4)(g), Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6 (5), Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Timeline, ESSA Requirements, and Assessment Flexibility under ESSA.

Dr. Lee Childress, Superintendent of Corinth School District, presented information and timelines about the Districts of Innovation.

Dr. Nathan Oakley rebutted the information presented.

The Board had questions for Dr. Childress and the Department, and they were answered.

On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board voted 6 to 2 to affirm the Commission on School

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted 7 to 1 to defer the recommendation of the Harrison County School District's accountability appeal to a later date following any legislative action.

Members voting aye: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman
 Mr. Buddy Bailey
 Dr. Karen J. Elam
 Mr. Johnny Franklin
 Dr. John R. Kelly
 Ms. Brittney Rye
 Mr. Sean Suggs

Member voting nay: Mr. Charles McClelland

01.C. Pascagoula-Gautier School District

Mr. Wayne Rodolfich presented information about the center in the Pascagoula-Gautier School District.

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted 7 to 1 to defer the recommendation of the Pascagoula-Gautier School District's accountability appeal to a later date following any legislative action.

Members voting aye: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman
 Mr. Buddy Bailey
 Dr. Karen J. Elam
 Mr. Johnny Franklin
 Dr. John R. Kelly
 Ms. Brittney Rye
 Mr. Sean Suggs

Member voting nay: Mr. Charles McClelland

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:32 p.m. and reconvened at 1:21 p.m.

02. Dr. Vanderford and Mr. Alan Burrow gave a report of the 2019 graduation rates for the state, district, and school levels [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (copy attached). Mr. Sean Suggs asked if trend data could be presented next year.

January 17, 2019

03. Dr. Felicia Gavin discussed approval of the Mississippi Department of Education Contracts [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Mr. Johnny Franklin had a question on Tab 03.C. and Mr. John Kraman answered the question. Dr. Gavin recommended approval.

03.A. Action: Monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

03.B. Action: Contract to renew and expand services with Harris, Mackessey & Brennan (HMB), the vendor for the state's online application system (MCAPS) for grant programs administered by the Mississippi Department of Education [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)

03.C. Action: Contract with GuideSoft Inc., d/b/a Knowledge Services under the terms of the Master Consulting Services Agreement to provide for the acquisition of Information Technology Consulting Services [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board unanimously approved the Mississippi Department of Education Contracts (items 03.A., 03.B., and 03.C.) (copy attached).

04. Dr. Gavin discussed approval of the Mississippi Department of Education grant awards [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Gavin recommended approval.

04.A. Action: Award competitive grants for a special project appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature and identified as the Mary Kirkpatrick-Haskell, Mary Sprayberry School Nurse Program in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-14-3 [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board unanimously approved the Mississippi Department of Education grant awards (copy attached).

05. Dr. Gavin introduced Mr. Bill Early and Ms. Aires Coleman from CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP. Mr. Early and Ms. Coleman stated that they audited selected financial statements and there were no findings. They stated they are working on a single audit on selected federal programs that are selected by the State Auditor's Office and the audit is currently under way. [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan].

Mr. Sean Suggs left the meeting at 1:34 p.m.

Dr. Karen J. Elam, as a matter of personal privilege, stated she thanked and applauded Dr. Gavin for the work she has done turning things around. Dr. Elam stated it made their jobs easier. Dr. Gavin stated that it took the team to turn things around. Dr. Gavin introduced Ms. Elisha Campbell, Ms. Shelia Franklin-Buie, and Ms. Jeanne Tate.

06. Mr. Johnny Franklin discussed the classification information for the Mississippi School for the Blind and the Mississippi School for the Deaf. The Board discussed and had questions that were answered.
07. Dr. Dean gave the Board an opportunity to discuss the following consent agenda items.
 - A. Approval to revise the 2018-2019 anti-bullying policy for the Mississippi School of the Arts, Mississippi School for the Blind, Mississippi School for the Deaf, and Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (Nathan Oakley)
 - B. Approval of methodology to award competitive grants to school districts to support kindergarten through 3rd grade literacy instruction and intensive intervention during Summer Reading Camps (Nathan Oakley)
 - C. Approval of methodology to award grants to school districts, public institutions of higher learning, community colleges, and state agencies to participate in a Mississippi Department of Education Educators-in-Residence program (Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously approved the consent agenda items A., B., and C. (copy attached).

XI. Consideration of Executive Session

Mr. Buddy Bailey moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a vote of 7 to 0. Dr. Jason S. Dean asked Dr. Carey M. Wright, Ms. Erin Meyer, and the Executive Leadership Team to remain in the Executive Session.

Mr. Buddy Bailey, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters related to the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as the Security and Privacy Officer within the Office of Technology and Strategic Services in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k); to discuss personnel matters related to the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as the Public Relations Director within the Office of Communications and Government Relations in

accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k); to discuss personnel matters related to the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as Director of Educator Licensure in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k); and to discuss personnel matters related to the State Superintendent of Public Education in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k). Dr. John R. Kelly seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 7 to 0. Ms. Erin Meyer 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 personnel matters related to the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as the Security and Privacy Officer within the Office of Technology and Strategic Services in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k); discussed personnel matters related to the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as the Public Relations Director within the Office of Communications and Government Relations in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k); discussed personnel matters related to the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as Director of Educator Licensure in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k); and discussed personnel matters related to the State Superintendent of Public Education in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k).

Mr. Charles McClelland left the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman left the meeting at 2:33 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board voted 5 to 0 to come out of Executive Session at 2:51 p.m.

The public came back into the Board meeting and Dr. Dean reported the actions taken during the Executive Session.

01. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Virgil Vaughn as Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as a Security and Privacy Officer within the Office of Technology and Strategic Services at a salary of \$84,000.00.
02. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Jean Cook as Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as the Public Relations Director within the Office of Communications and Government Relations at a salary of \$84,000.00.

January 17, 2019

03. On a motion by Mr. Johnny Franklin, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Krystal Cormack as Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as Director of Educator Licensure in the Office of Teaching and Leading at a salary of \$84,000.00.
04. Dr. Carey M. Wright gave an update on the progress of the Mississippi Board of Education's Five-Year Strategic Plan for 2016-2020 so the Board members would be prepared to complete the Mississippi Board of Education Chief Evaluation Tool for the 2017-2018 school year.

XII. State Board of Education

1. There were no meetings attended.
2. There were no requests to attend a meeting.

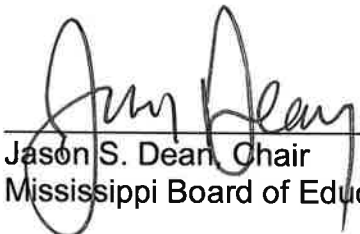
XIII. Other Business

The February Board meeting will be held February 21, 2019, in Jackson, Mississippi at the Central High School Building starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Johnny Franklin, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

Approved:



Jason S. Dean, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education