

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

October 10, 2019

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 10, 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, Dr. John R. Kelly, and Mr. Sean Suggs. Student Representative present: Ms. Shelby Dean. Board members absent: Mr. Charles McClelland and Ms. Brittney Rye. Student Representative absent: Mr. Omar G. Jamil. Dr. Carey M. Wright was also present.

- I. Dr. Jason S. Dean called the Board meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. 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. Dr. Jason S. Dean led the Pledge of Allegiance and Dr. John R. Kelly gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2019, Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.
- V. Recognition Ceremony

ACT Achievement

Kristen Rhodes, 6th grade
Huey Porter Middle School
Canton Public School District

- VI. Dr. Carey M. Wright gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:
 - Dr. Wright thanked the Board for their support as she has gone through the Broad Academy. Dr. Wright stated that it has been 18 months and was a very rewarding professional development experience.
 - Dr. Wright stated that this past weekend she was in Ashville, North Carolina attending the Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Southeast Governing Board meeting. Dr. Wright stated that we share a lot of information back and forth and they also do research for us upon request. Dr. Wright stated that she is serving as the Vice Chair.
 - Dr. Wright stated that MDE has started the Celebration of Excellence Tours and she wanted to thank Mr. Buddy Bailey for being at the Rankin County School District celebration, Dr. Jason S. Dean for being at the Madison

County School District celebration, and Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman for being at the Clinton School District celebration. Dr. Wright stated that she has completed six out of 31 celebrations. Dr. Wright encouraged any of the Board members that can to attend one of the celebrations in their area. Dr. Wright stated she wanted to commend our Chair of the House Education Committee, Representative Richard Bennett, since he has been at every one of the celebrations so far and he is speaking eloquently about the power of public education. Dr. Wright stated the Speaker came to Madison and Clinton to be a part of their celebrations. Dr. Wright stated that it is good to see the Legislature recognizing the hard work of the districts and we have a lot to celebrate here in Mississippi.

- Dr. Wright stated the Spotlight for this Board meeting is “21st Century Community Learning Centers.” Dr. Wright stated the spotlight features the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program, which funds high-quality after-school programs. Dr. Wright stated that this program is federally funded and provides academic enrichment activities after school, particularly in low-performing schools. Dr. Wright stated the program enables schools to expand on the work that students do during the school day and allows parents to check out learning materials to support students at home. Dr. Wright stated that currently we have 36 - 21st Century programs across 28 counties that will receive funding this year. Dr. Wright recognized the members of the MDE Team that leads this work: Mr. Chris Norwood, 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coordinator; Ms. Aisha McGee, 21st Century Specialist; and Ms. Farrah Nicholson, Office Director who provides immediate oversight of the program. Dr. Wright stated it is wonderful to see children continuing to learn after school and parents getting much needed support. Dr. Wright thanked the MDE Team for all their hard work!

VII. Dr. Jason S. Dean, Chair of the State Board, gave the following report:

- Dr. Dean stated Mr. Johnny Franklin who has been on the Board for several years sent in his letter of resignation. Dr. Dean stated that Mr. Franklin has been helping the boys and girls of this state for decades. Dr. Dean stated that this is a Governor’s appointment so we will wait and see what happens.

VIII. Report on State Board of Education Subcommittee Meetings.

Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, Chair of the Academic Achievement PreK-12 Subcommittee, stated the Subcommittee met this morning and that Dr. Karen J. Elam has joined the Subcommittee in Mr. Franklin’s place. Ms. Aultman stated that Ms. Suzanne Hirsch, Executive Director of the Mississippi School of the Arts, gave a comprehensive update on Senate Bill 2625 that will be implemented July 2020, and this bill brings the Mississippi School of the Arts into being a school instead of a state agency. Ms. Aultman stated that Ms. Hirsch outlined the plan for the implementation and is moving in the direction of implementation in July

2020. Ms. Aultman reported that professional development had 2,170 participants from July through September and online courses are exploding. Ms. Aultman stated that the School Improvement template was given out for individual school improvement and they will refine it for districts that are failing and can discuss their long-term strategies.

Mr. Sean Suggs, Chair of the Workforce/Career and Technical Education Subcommittee, stated they met this morning and Ms. Wendy Clemons reported she attended the Imagine the Possibilities in Tupelo with 7,000 eighth graders with over 100 companies over a two- and half-day period. Mr. Suggs stated that he is excited about what is going on in northeast Mississippi about exposing the eighth graders to careers and technical fields. Mr. Suggs shared that Dr. Nathan Oakley mentioned a visit to the Gulfport High School with the Career Academies and there are some processes MDE can use across the state. Mr. Suggs stated they covered more of a strategic plan with six key tasks that we would like to do over the next year or so such as: completion of the Perkins V State Plan, regional and local needs assessments, development of state career and technical task force, communication strategy for rebranding, program quality, and CTE partnerships. Mr. Suggs stated that MDE will have regional meetings across the state and plan to have these completed by the end of January 2020.

Dr. Jason S. Dean, Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, stated they met and started reviewing the approved budget requests to get action oriented, and see how many can be translated into law. Dr. Dean stated that MDE intends to bring back up the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Platform that Dr. Elam and Dr. Murphy and team developed. Dr. Dean stated the Board and MDE wants to be supportive of the new Governor and when the campaign talking points are translated into legislation either through committees or during the State of the State, we want to make sure our budget information is included in the legislative agenda. Dr. Dean stated that in November and December MDE will fine tune the requests.

IX. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

Dr. Jason S. Dean clarified that for Action Item 01, the State Board will adhere to the same process followed in January of 2019, during the appeals of the 2017-2018 accountability results. In accordance with Policy 3.1.4, the superintendents of the appealing districts addressed the Commission on School Accreditation at their meeting last week, October 3, 2019. Following the decisions of the Commission on School Accreditation on those appeals, these superintendents have also requested to address the State Board, as the State Board makes the final decision on the appeals. Each superintendent shall be permitted 10 minutes to address the Board. After each presentation by the district, the MDE shall be permitted 10 minutes to address the Board. A timekeeper will provide the district, and the MDE with notice when 1-minute remains. No additional time shall be

provided. Following the presentations, the State Board of Education members will be allowed to ask questions of either the superintendent or the MDE. Board members please do not interrupt the district or the MDE during their allotted time.

Dr. Dean explained that the Board will hear briefly from Dr. Jo Ann Malone, Executive Secretary of the Commission on School Accreditation, who will provide a summary of the actions taken by the Commission. Then the Board will hear from the North Bolivar Consolidated School District, followed by the MDE. After questions of either party, the State Board will take action on the district's appeal. Next, the Board will hear from the George County School District, followed by the MDE. After questions of either party, the State Board will take action on the district's appeal.

01. Action: Consideration of appeals of final accountability results in accordance with Policy 3.1.4 of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, 2019* [Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

- 01.A. North Bolivar Consolidated School District
 - Northside High School

Dr. Jo Ann Malone, Executive Secretary, of the Commission on School Accreditation gave a summary of the actions taken by the Commission.

Mr. Maurice Smith, Superintendent, North Bolivar Consolidated School District presented a PowerPoint about why the district is appealing the final accountability rate due to the consolidation of three failing schools into one.

Mr. Alan Burrow rebutted the information presented.

The Board had questions for the Department and for Mr. Maurice Smith and they were answered.

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board voted 4 to 1 to remand the appeal to the Commission on School Accreditation for additional discussion.

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board voted 4 to 1 to clarify the Business Rule 20.1 and 20.2 when there is a consolidation.

Members voting aye: Mr. Buddy Bailey
Dr. Karen J. Elam
Dr. John R. Kelly
Mr. Sean Suggs

Member voting nay: Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman

Members absent: Ms. Brittney Rye
Mr. Charles McClelland

- 01.B. George County School District
- i. Benndale Elementary School
 - ii. George County Middle School – Star Academy Students
 - iii. George County Middle School – Transfer Students

Dr. Jason S. Dean stated this appeal came to MDE in three separate recommendations from the Commission on School Accreditation – (i) Benndale Elementary School, (ii) the Star Academy Students at George County Middle School, and (iii) the Transfer Students at George County Middle School.

Ms. Pam Touchard, Superintendent, George County School District presented information of students in question.

Mr. Alan Burrow and Dr. Paula Vanderford rebutted the information presented.

The Board had questions for the Department and for Ms. Pam Touchard and they were answered.

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board voted unanimously to affirm the Commission on School Accreditation's recommendation of the George County School District's accountability appeal for Benndale Elementary School.

On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board voted unanimously to deny the Commission on School Accreditation's recommendation of the George County School District's accountability appeal for George County Middle School – Star Academy Students.

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, the Board voted unanimously to deny the Commission on School Accreditation's recommendation of the George County

School District's accountability appeal for George County Middle School – Transfer Students.

Mr. Joseph Runnels, Legal Counsel for the Board, stated that a 1995 decision of the Mississippi Supreme Court which provides that there is a presumption that boards, and commissions work best when they follow their established polices and rules. Mr. Runnels stated that if the Board wants to provide rules for exceptions then the Board needs to provide rules for exceptions, otherwise one invites challenges and encourages appeals.

02. Action: Approval of the MDE Contracts [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Felicia Gavin recommended approval.
 - 02.A. Action: Monthly contracts with former State Employees receiving retirement benefits [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
 - 02.B. Action: Renew competitive contracts to various manufacturers to provide food products to contracted distributors in the Statewide Food Purchasing Program (All 7 Regions in the State) [Goal 1 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
 - 02.C. Action: Modify contract for Interim Superintendent for Tunica County School District [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Washington Cole)

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board unanimously approved items 02.A., 02.B., and 02.C. (copy attached).

03. Action: Approval of the MDE grant awards [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]. Dr. Felicia Gavin recommended approval.
 - 03.A. Action: Award competitive grants for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)
 - 03.B. Action: Award competitive grants for the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Nathan Oakley)
 - 03.C. Action: Award grant to Mississippi School Boards Association to conduct basic and continuing education for local school boards, and conduct training for school board members and school superintendents in failing school districts, as required by Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-4 [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board unanimously approved items 03.A., 03.B., and 03.C. (copy attached).

04. Action: Approval as required by Mississippi Code Ann. § 37-153-15, the enclosed list of qualifying industry certification as approved by the State Workforce Investment Board [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]
(Nathan Oakley)

On a motion by Dr. John R. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously approved as required by Miss. Code Ann. § 37-153-15, the enclosed list of qualifying industry certification as approved by the State Workforce Investment Board (copy attached).

05. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Framework for Fire Science in Career and Technical Education (Nathan Oakley)
- B. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise selected Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks in Career and Technical Education (Nathan Oakley)
- C. Approval to establish State Board Policy Part 3, Chapter 28, Rule 28.8 – Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comment) (Nathan Oakley)
- D. Approval to establish State Guidelines for the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comment) (Nathan Oakley)
- E. Approval of methodology for renewal of Title IV, Part B 21st Century Community Learning Centers Programs (Nathan Oakley)
- F. Approval of an Accredited-Temporary Status for Oxford University School (Paula Vanderford)
- G. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-4: Part 4: *Licensure Guidelines K-12* to modify the number of coursework credit hours required for adding a supplemental endorsement to a three-year or five-year license from twenty-one (21) coursework credit hours to eighteen (18) coursework credit hours (Paula Vanderford)

- H. Approval of educator preparation programs as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development September 6, 2019 (Paula Vanderford)
- I. Approval of Statewide Purchasing Program fee structure for School Year 2019-2020 (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. John R. Kelly, the Board voted unanimously to approve items A., B., C., D., E., F., G., H., and I. (copy attached).

X. Consideration of Executive Session

Mr. Buddy Bailey moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session. Dr. John R. Kelly seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a vote of 5 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 in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-41-7(4)(a) and (k) related to: (1) the approval of a salary adjustment for the Executive Director of the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (MSMS) and (2) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as School Finance Officer for the Mississippi School of the Arts. Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 5 to 0. Ms. Erin Meyer informed the public of the Board's vote to go into Executive Session for the above stated reason.

Minutes of the Executive Session

During the Executive Session, the Board discussed personnel matters in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-41-7(4)(a) and (k) related to: (1) the approval of a salary adjustment for the Executive Director of the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (MSMS) and (2) the approval of the appointment of an Educ-Bureau Director II to serve as School Finance Officer for the Mississippi School of the Arts.

On a motion by Mr. Buddy Bailey, seconded by Mr. Sean Suggs, the Board voted 5 to 0 to come out of Executive Session.

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 Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board voted unanimously to approve the salary adjustment for Dr. Germain McConnell, Executive Director of the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (MSMS) at a salary of \$115,000.00.

02. On a motion by Dr. Karen J. Elam, seconded by Mr. Buddy Bailey, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Nicholas Bridge to serve as the School Finance Officer for the Mississippi School of the Arts at a salary of \$69,670.57.

XI. State Board of Education

1. Dr. John R. Kelly stated it was a local convening and he is pleased to report the Gulfport School District in conjunction with Long Beach, Biloxi, and Harrison County have reached a partnership with Ingalls Shipbuilding and the Ingalls Shipbuilding Academy is now operational at a school that was closed last school year in Gulfport. Dr. Kelly stated that they have a commitment with Mississippi Power to come on and teach energy and one from the Gulf Coast Homebuilders Association to teach all the trades related to construction.
2. There were no requests to attend a meeting.

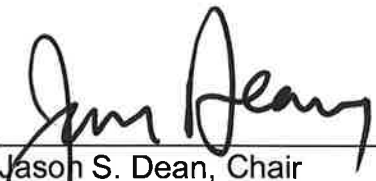
XII. Other Business

The November Board meeting will be held on November 7, 2019, in Jackson, Mississippi at the Central High School Building starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Rosemary G. Aultman, seconded by Dr. Karen J. Elam, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

Approved:



Jason S. Dean, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Carey M. Wright
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education