

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

October 17, 2024

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 17, 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, Dr. Wendi Barrett, Mr. Bill Jacobs, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Mr. Matt Miller, Mr. Mike Pruitt, and Ms. Mary Werner. Board members attending virtually: Mr. Matt Mayo (Carmel, Indiana) and Ms. Billye Jean Stroud (joined at 10:04 a.m. from New Albany, Mississippi). Student Representatives present: Ms. Kate Riddle and Mr. Crosby Parker. Dr. Lance Evans, 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. Mr. Bill Jacobs led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Matt Miller gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of September 17, 2024 Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Mr. Bill Jacobs, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board approved the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

- V. No Recognition Ceremony.
- VI. Dr. Lance Evans gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:
 - Dr. Evans stated he met with Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann to discuss some priorities for the upcoming Legislative session including chronic absenteeism, the teacher shortage, and district cell phone policies for students.
 - Dr. Evans stated he met with Rep. Willie Bailey and Rep. John Hines to discuss concerns with the Greenville School District.
 - Dr. Evans stated Rep. Sam Creekmore convened a meeting about student mental health support and district cell phone policies. Dr. Evans stated he,

Ms. Holly Spivey, Mr. Brian McGairty, Ms. Wendy Bailey from the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Dr. Daniel Edney from the Mississippi State Department of Health, and a representative (Leah Smith) from the Lt. Governor's office attended the meeting.

- Dr. Evans stated he attended the Pass Christian School District Celebration. Dr. Evans stated that the A-rated district and for the first time all schools in the district earned an A rating.
- Dr. Evans stated the Principal Advisory Council meeting was held in Canton with 19 returning members and 23 new members.
- Dr. Evans stated the fall meetings in Clinton and Oxford were completed for the Teacher Advisory Council. Dr. Evans stated they had great conversations.
- Dr. Evans thanked Clinton and Oxford for hosting our meetings.
- Dr. Evans stated he, Ms. Holly Spivey, and Mr. John Ferrell visited Mississippi State's Advanced Composites Institute, Rasper Flight Lab, Research and Curriculum Unit, and Communiversity, which is a collaboration with East Mississippi Community College that aligns educational opportunities with industry needs.
- Dr. Evans stated he had the following speaking engagements:
 - Mississippi Council for Exceptional Children Conference: This event attracted 350 educators, which include nearly every special education administrator in Mississippi.
 - Stennis-Capitol Press Forum: Provided updates about Mississippi's progress in education and the work of the Accountability Task Force, answered several questions from reporters on the topics of school choice, and he thanked Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee for attending the event.
- Dr. Evans stated he attended the Center for Assessment 2024 Reidy Interactive Learning Series along with MDE's Accountability Team. Dr. Evans stated the series focused on: effectiveness and consequences of using standardized assessments for high-stakes decisions; strategies to improve decision-making processes to better align with desired outcomes and minimize unintended effects; and addressing educational inequities and promoting post-secondary readiness. Dr. Evans stated this was very beneficial and he received good information.
- Dr. Evans stated he had numerous meetings with state and national partners:
 - Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB);
 - National Assessment of Educational Progress, NAPE Ambassador Mike Ward, former State Superintendent of North Carolina;
 - Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO);
 - Education Commission of the States (ECS); and
 - Region 7 Comprehensive Center (R7CC).
- Dr. Evans stated he, Mr. Glen V. East, Mr. Matt Miller, and Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee had two meetings of the Strategic Planning Subcommittee. Dr.

Evans stated an RFP for a consulting firm to assist with facilitating the strategic planning process will be released soon.

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

- Mr. East stated he had the privilege to work with Dr. Evans, Mr. Miller, and Dr. McGehee on the Strategic Planning Subcommittee and moving forward to work with stakeholders across the state on the Plan.

VIII. Report from Student Representatives

Ms. Kate Riddle reported on cell phones in the classrooms.

Mr. Crosby Parker gave an update on the mentoring program.

IX. Report on State Board of Education Subcommittee meetings

Mr. Matt Miller, Chair, Educator Quality, stated they met Tuesday to discuss educator misconduct evaluations.

Ms. Mary Werner, Chair, Workforce/Career and Technical Education Subcommittee, met this morning to discuss Credential Performance, CTE Budgeting Spending, Workforce Development Taskforce on October 29, CTE Emerging Program Course Code, and Technical Amendments.

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Information: Educator Workforce Development Update [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

Dr. Paula Vanderford and Dr. Courtney Van Cleve gave an update on Educator Workforce Development.

02. Information: Overview of the Mississippi Succeeds Report Card [Goals 1, 2, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)

Mr. John Kraman and Mr. Joshua Huwe gave an overview of the Mississippi Succeeds Report Card.

03. Information: MSIS Modernization Progress Report [Goals 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)

Mr. John Kraman and Mr. Joshua Huwe reported on MSIS Modernization progress.

04. Action: Approval of the MDE Contract [Goals 1, 2, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

04.A. Action: Renew contract with Reading and Language Art Center, Inc. D.B.A. Brainspring for Fiscal Year 2025 for Professional development training system based on the Orton Gillingham reading methodology [Goals 1, 2, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board unanimously approved item 04.A. (copy attached).

05. Action: Approval of the MDE grant awards [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

05.A. Action: Award renewability grants for the Nita M. Lowery 21st Century Community Learning Program [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved item 05.A. (copy attached).

06. 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 Mississippi School of the Arts Drone Policy (Donna Boone)
- D. Approval to establish one (1) new Career Pathway in the endorsement area of Unmanned Aircraft Systems; and to revise endorsement 506 Special Populations Personnel (postsecondary only) (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- E. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code Title 7: Part 107: *Educator Preparation Provider Process and Performance Review Guidelines* to revise certain existing criteria and establish new criteria for federal reporting, onboarding new providers, closing providers, and deleting programs (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)

- F. Approval of University of Southern Mississippi's request to modify its existing approved licensure-track program for Administrator K-12 (Paula Vanderford)
- G. Approval to revise the methodology of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act grants to support local educational agencies in providing supplemental services for homeless children and youth in accordance with Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 (Donna Boone)
- H. Approval of the Amendment to the Agreement between the Union County School District and New Albany School District for the Construction of the New Albany Center for Innovation (Erin Meyer)
- I. Adoption of the Resolution Approving the Action of the Holmes County Consolidated School District of the Landlord Consent and Estoppel related to the assignment of a Sand and Gravel Excavation Lease (John Ferrell)

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

XI. No Executive Session.

XII. State Board of Education

- 1. Ms. Mary Werner stated she visited ScholarSkills Learning Center in Tupelo, Mississippi. Ms. Werner stated this Center does a lot of SAT prep work with dyslexia students. Ms. Werner stated it was very impressive.
- 2. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved for Mr. Mike Pruitt and other Board members to tour the campus of the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

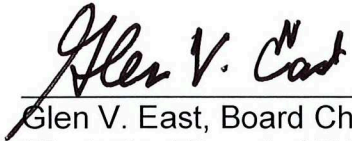
XIII. Other Business

Mr. East stated the November Board meeting will be held on November 7, 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 Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

Approved:



Glen V. East, Board Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Lance Evans
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education