

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

November 7, 2024

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 7, 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, Mr. Mike Pruitt, and Ms. Billye Jean Stroud. Board members attending virtually: Dr. Wendi Barrett (Ocean Springs, Mississippi) and Ms. Mary Werner (Saltillo, Mississippi). Student Representative present: Mr. Crosby Parker. Student representative attending virtually: Ms. Kate Riddle (Oxford, Mississippi). 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. Matt Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Mike Pruitt gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of October 17, 2024 Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Mr. Matt Mayo, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board approved the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Matt Mayo, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, 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, Dr. Felicia Gavin, Dr. Paula Vanderford, Dr. Cory Murphy, Dr. Courtney Van Cleve, and Ms. Holly Spivey met with the Senate Education Committee to discuss MDE priorities, Mississippi Student Funding Formula, teacher shortage and retention survey, and ACT preliminary report.
 - Dr. Evans stated he met with Rep. Sam Creekmore, Senator David Parker, and state health and mental health department leaders about potential peer support training resources for students.

- Dr. Evans stated he had a follow-up meeting regarding proposal for a financial literacy program for students with Secretary of State Michael Watson.
- Dr. Evans stated he attended the Madison County Schools Legislative Breakfast where local school leaders discussed educational priorities with legislative delegation.
- Dr. Evans stated he met with Mississippi National Guard representatives, Rep. Kevin Felsher, and two district superintendents about implementing House Bill 1341, which allows active-duty military families to attend the school of their choice.
- Dr. Evans stated the first Student Advisory Council meeting was held with 107 members. Dr. Evans stated students heard from Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann, House Speaker Jason White, Senator Rod Hickman, House Education Committee Vice-Chair Kent McCarty, and various MDE staff. Dr. Evans stated the students were assigned research projects on various topics that will be presented at a later time. Dr. Evans thanked Ms. Kate Riddle and Mr. Crosby Parker for their leadership on the Council.
- Dr. Evans stated he attended and presented at Labor Force Participation Study Group at Delta State University at Senator Daniel Sparks' invitation about CTE and workforce development in K-12. Dr. Evans stated Senator Sarita Simmons and Delta State President Dr. Daniel Ennis attended the event. Dr. Evans stated the event included a roundtable with 13 Delta-area superintendents who discussed some potential issues.
- Dr. Evans attended the Mississippi Association of School Administrators (MASA) Fall Leadership Conference and discussed plans to revise the Strategic Plan, accountability model revision timeline, and plans to strengthen administrator training. Dr. Evans thanked Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee for the invitation.
- Dr. Evans stated he was interviewed by WJTV about cell phone legislation.
- Dr. Evans stated he visited Wilkinson County School District and Greenville Public School District. Dr. Evans stated a comprehensive review was conducted with district leadership teams as part of a new pilot process for supporting low-performing schools.
- Dr. Evans stated he visited Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (MSMS) in August and will visit the DuBard School for Language Disorders soon.
- Dr. Evans stated he attended the Education Achievement Council meeting and received updates from postsecondary sector representatives including community colleges, Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL), private institutions, and Ascent to 55%.
- Dr. Evans stated the first K-12 Workforce Development Task Force meeting was held on October 29, 2024 with 30 to 40 superintendents, CTE directors, teachers, MDE staff, legislators, and representation from the business and

industry to start the process of creating a K-12 Workforce Development plan statewide.

- Dr. Evans stated he met with Dr. Nathan Oakley and Dr. Kymyona Burk from ExcelinEd and had a good meeting with them.
- Dr. Evans stated that Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) is looking to renovate their Auditorium and the MSA Foundation is seeking to raise \$240,000.00 with a completion date of August 2025.
- Dr. Evans stated we have an information update for the Literacy Based Promotion Act and he invited Dr. Donna H. Boone and Dr. Michelle Nowell to the table. Dr. Boone and Dr. Nowell gave an update to the Board on performance and student retention and next steps were provided.

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

- Mr. East stated the superintendents from across the state have been invited to MDE on December 3, 2024 for a meeting to provide information about legislative priorities and meet MDE staff.

VIII. Report from Student Representatives

Ms. Kate Riddle reported on different kinds of literacy.

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

IX. Report on State Board of Education Subcommittee meetings

Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Chair, School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee, stated they met this morning to discuss ACT reports, and they are improving.

Mr. Bill Jacobs, Chair, Internal Accountability Subcommittee, stated they met this morning to discuss the migrant program evaluation and then went into Executive Session.

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Information: Spring 2024 Act Results [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

Dr. Paula Vanderford and Dr. Jackie Sampsell gave an update on the Spring 2024 ACT Results.

02. Information: Report on Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) achievement gap results by subgroup [Goals 1, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

Dr. Paula Vanderford and Mr. Timothy Smith gave a report on Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) achievement gap results by subgroup.

03. Action: Approval of the recommended cut scores on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment for minimum readiness for kindergarten effective 2024-2025 school year [Goals 1 and 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved item 03. (copy attached).

04. Action: Approval of the MDE Contracts [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

04.A. Action: Contract with Cambium Assessment, Inc. for Fiscal Year 2025 to administer an English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

04.B. Action: Modify contract with Forvis dba Forvis Mazars, LLP to provide accounting services to monitor ESSER programs [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

On a motion by Mr. Matt Mayo, seconded by Mr. Mike Pruitt, the Board unanimously approved items 04.A. and 04.B. (copy attached).

05. 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 to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise the *Textbook and Instructional Materials Administration Handbook: Rules and Regulations for the Adoption, Distribution, Care and Use of Textbooks and Instructional Materials in Mississippi* in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-43-1 and Miss. Code Ann. § 37-43-19 (Donna Boone)
- D. Approval of the methodology to award Title IV, Part B Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program under the Every Student Success Act (ESSA) supplement grant funds (Donna Boone)

November 7, 2024

- E. Approval to revise 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 (Donna Boone)
- F. Approval of revised methodology to award grant dollars in support of local improvement efforts for Title I section 1003 of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA) as reauthorized by the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) (John Ferrell)
- G. Approval to contract with Swift Recreation to construct a fully accessible and inclusive playground for students at the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Donna Boone)

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

XI. No Executive Session.

XII. State Board of Education

- 1. No report on meetings attended.
- 2. On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Mr. Matt Mayo, the Board unanimously approved for Mr. Mike Pruitt and other Board members to tour the campus of the Mississippi School of the Arts and the DuBard School for Language Disorders.


XIII. Other Business

Mr. East stated the December Board meeting will be held on December 19, 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. Matt Miller, seconded by Ms. Billie Jean Stroud, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Approved:



Glen V. East, Board Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Lance Evans
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education