

## Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

January 16, 2025

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2025, 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, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members physically present included: Mr. Glen V. East, Dr. Wendi Barrett, Mr. Bill Jacobs, Mr. Matt Mayo, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Ms. Billye Jean Stroud, and Ms. Mary Werner. Board member attending virtually: Mr. Matt Miller (Hattiesburg, Mississippi). Board member absent: Mr. Mike Pruitt. Student Representative present: Mr. Crosby Parker. Student representative absent: Ms. Kate Riddle. 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. Glen V. East led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. East gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of December 19, 2024 Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board approved the Consent Agenda.

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

- V. Recognition Ceremony

### **2025 National Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Distinguished Schools**

W.J. Quarles Elementary School  
Long Beach School District

Northside Elementary School  
Clinton Public School District

- VI. Dr. Lance Evans gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:
  - Dr. Evans stated that the Legislative Session started on January 7 and every legislator received a copy of the new Mississippi Superintendent's

Annual Report and you have a copy at your table. Dr. Evans stated he spoke at the Senate Appropriation K-12 Budget Hearing and at the House Appropriations Hearing. Dr. Evans stated he, Mr. John Ferrell, Mr. Brett Robinson, and Ms. Holly Spivey met with legislators, AccelerateMS Executive Director Dr. Courtney Taylor, and Itawamba Community College President Dr. Jay Allen about CTE and Dual Credit Programming.

- Dr. Evans stated he had several meetings with partner organizations and stakeholders, including:
  - Mississippi Department of Public Safety Commissioner Sean Tindell about the budget for SB2695, Driver Education bill, passed in the 2024 Legislative Session;
  - ExcelinEd about literacy and college and career pathways and their school choice policy leaders;
  - National Center on Education and the Economy Collaboration (NCEE) to collaborate to implement the Mississippi Superintendent Institute to build the capacity of district leaders across the state.
- Dr. Evans stated he spoke at the 2025 Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) Capitol Day along with MEC President Scott Waller to share education goals and priorities in the state, especially as they relate to workforce development.
- Dr. Evans stated he was on SuperTalk Radio live from MEC Capital Day and was interviewed by The Clarion-Ledger about school choice and education priorities for the Legislative Session.
- Dr. Evans stated he visited the Achievement School District to work on planning for Yazoo City School District and Humphreys County School District to operate separately.
- Dr. Evans recognized MDE's Office of Early Childhood Education which is celebrating its 10-year anniversary today at 1:00 p.m. in the North Atrium. Dr. Evans stated The Early Learning Collaborative Act helped launch this office with one staff member and now they have 72 staff members and 46 contractors. Dr. Evans stated the team has gone from managing \$3 million in state funds annually for 11 Early Learning Collaboratives to more than \$47 million for 40 collaboratives, 24 State-Invested Pre-K programs, and 21 blended pre-K classrooms. Dr. Evans stated the first year they served 1,400 pre-k students and this year they serve more than 8,300. Dr. Evans stated the Early Childhood Office helps build the state's childhood education infrastructure by providing training, resources, and coaching support. Dr. Evans recognized and thanked Dr. Jill Dent who has led the Office of Early Childhood since its inception 10 years ago.

VII. Report of the Chair

- Mr. East thanked MDE staff for their work and Ms. Holly Spivey, Dr. Evans, and others for their work with the Legislature.

VIII. Report of Student Representative

Mr. Crosby Parker spoke on starting a new mentoring program at another local high school. Mr. Parker spoke on what it takes to get a mentoring program set up so they can have their first meeting soon.

IX. Report on State Board of Education Subcommittee meetings

Mr. Glen V. East, Chair, Academic Achievement PreK-12/Early Childhood Subcommittee, met via Teams yesterday. Mr. East stated the members present were Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee and Ms. Billye Jean Stroud. Mr. East stated that re-adoption of the Math and English Language Arts Standards was discussed. Mr. East stated the Standards were released for feedback last summer to K-12 teachers from across the state and the feedback received was vetted by a committee and minor changes were made to the Standards. He stated the Standards are on the agenda today to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process and will come back to the Board for final approval in March. Mr. East stated that the *Early Learning Guidelines Serving Classrooms of Three- and Four-Year Old Children* that went to the Board in December will come out of the APA in February to approve the temporary rule and adopt the change made for this school year to the assessment. Mr. East stated in March, the Guidelines will come before the Board to begin the APA process for comprehensive changes that will go into effect next school year.

Ms. Mary Werner, Chair, Workforce/Career and Technical Education Subcommittee, met this morning before the Board meeting. Ms. Werner stated that Mr. John Ferrell talked about support for two “F” school districts and the improvement plan to help them before the state takes them over. Ms. Werner stated that Mr. Ferrell and Mr. Brett Robinson will discuss the revisions to the Mississippi Perkins V State Plan later in the Board meeting today. Ms. Werner stated that a Workforce Development Coordinator will be hired using the Educator-in-Residence (EIR) method.

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Information: Progress on the Mississippi State Board of Education’s (SBE) Strategic Plan [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Lance Evans)

Dr. Lance Evans presented the progress on the Mississippi State Board of Education’s Strategic Plan.

02. Action: Revise the Mississippi Perkins V State Plan to include a budget for Fiscal Year FY2025 and State Determined Performance Levels

(SDPLs) for FY2025 – FY2029 [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]  
(John Ferrell)

On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board unanimously approved item 02. (copy attached).

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

03.A. Action: Contract with Mississippi State Department of Health to provide health inspectors for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Summer Food Service Program for the remainder of FY2025-FY2029 [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

03.B Action: Modify contract with the Tennessee Book Company to provide the Textbook Inventory Management System (TIMS 2.0) services for state-adopted textbooks, instructional materials, and/or fees to LEAs and accredited nonpublic schools [Goals 1 and 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

On a motion by Mr. Matt Mayo, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved items 03.A. and 03.B. (copy attached).

04. 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 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

(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Donna Boone)

D. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To readopt the *2016 Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics* (Donna Boone)

- E. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise selected Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks in Career and Technical Education (John Ferrell)

1. Business, Marketing, and Finance
2. Carpentry
3. Contemporary Health
4. Culinary Arts
5. Cyber Foundations I
6. Cyber Foundations II
7. Exploring Careers
8. Exploring Computer Science
9. Family and Consumer Science
10. Fire Science
11. Forestry
12. Horticulture
13. Information Technology Core
14. Interactive Media Technology (formerly Simulation and Animation Design)
15. Meat Science and Muscle Biology (Formerly Food Products)
16. Welding

- F. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish selected Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks in Career and Technical Education (John Ferrell)

1. Introduction to Drone Technology
2. Multimedia—Digital Audio Production
3. Multimedia—Sports Journalism and Broadcasting

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., and F. (copy attached).

XII. State Board of Education

1. No report on meetings attended.
2. On a motion by Mr. Matt Mayo, seconded by Ms. Billye Jean Stroud, the Board voted unanimously for Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee to attend the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Forum on Assessment and Accountability on February 18-21, 2025 in Dallas, Texas.

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board voted unanimously for Mr. Matt Mayo and any others to attend the

Mississippi Association of School Superintendents (MASS) and Mississippi Association of School Administrators (MASA) Conferences.

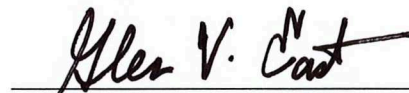
XIII. Other Business

Mr. East stated the February Board meeting will be held on February 20, 2025 in Jackson, MS at the Central High School Building in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Billye Jean Stroud, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Approved:



Glen V. East, Board Chair  
Mississippi Board of Education



Lance Evans  
Executive Secretary  
Mississippi