

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

March 20, 2025

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 20, 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, 4th Floor Boardroom, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members physically present included: Mr. Glen V. East, Dr. Wendi Barrett (joined the meeting at 10:06 a.m.), Mr. Bill Jacobs (joined the meeting at 10:08 a.m.), Mr. Matt Mayo, Mr. Matt Miller, and Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee. Board member attending virtually: Ms. Mary Werner (Saltillo, Mississippi). Board members absent: Mr. Mike Pruitt and Ms. Billye Jean Stroud. Student Representative attending virtually: Ms. Kate Riddle (Oxford, Mississippi). Student Representative present: 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. Matt Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Glen V. East gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of February 20, 2025 Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Mr. Matt Mayo, 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 acknowledged the news report about President Trump's plans to sign an executive order to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Evans stated MDE will continue to provide support and technical assistance to districts as needed to ensure all Mississippi students have access to quality education opportunities.
 - Dr. Evans stated there are many bills in conference, including the MDE Appropriation bill and March 27 is the deadline to concur on general bills. He stated that Sunday, April 6 is Sine Die.
 - Dr. Evans stated that Mr. Bill Jacobs has been reconfirmed as a State Board of Education member and Ms. Erin Meyer was confirmed to the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board.

- Dr. Evans stated he, Mr. Bill Jacobs, Ms. Holly Spivey, Mr. Mike Pruitt, and Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee met with Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann for a lunch meeting to discuss several education initiatives.
- Dr. Evans stated the second meeting of the Superintendent's Advisory Council met and discussed proposed changes to the accountability system, potential education legislation, and to get feedback on MDE initiatives.
- Dr. Evans stated he had meetings with partner organizations and stakeholders, including:
 - Mississippi Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (MACTE); and
 - Leveling Up Mississippi.
- Dr. Evans stated he had a speaking engagement at the Mississippi School Boards Association Conference.
- Dr. Evans stated he hosted members of the Pearl River High School Student Council as part of their field trip to the Capitol. Dr. Evans stated he shared information about the role of MDE and the State Board in supporting school districts throughout the state.
- Dr. Evans stated he and Mr. John Ferrell visited the Golden Triangle Early College High School (GTECHS) on the Mayhew campus of East Mississippi Community College (EMCC). Dr. Evans stated that GTECHS opened in the fall of 2015 as Mississippi's first early college high school and is the result of a partnership between MDE, Mississippi State University, and EMCC.
- Dr. Evans stated he, Mr. John Ferrell, Ms. Wendy Clemons, and Ms. Heather Morrison visited with the Junior Achievement of Memphis, and they will be opening a branch in Mississippi. Dr. Evans stated the primary reason for the visit is MDE is working with workforce development and financial literacy. Dr. Evans stated that Junior Achievement's work centers around early learning through high school financial literacy and a lot of the programming they have can be implemented across our state to utilize their resources.
- Dr. Evans stated MDE is conducting interviews for the Chief Operations Officer position.
- Dr. Evans stated this would be Dr. Donna H. Boone's last Board meeting. He thanked Dr. Boone for her service to MDE over the past two years.
- Dr. Evans thanked Ms. Tamala Matthews for her service to MDE. He stated this would be her last day at MDE.

VII. Report of the Chair

- Mr. East stated that he, Ms. Kate Riddle, and Mr. Crosby Parker attended the Mississippi School Board Association meeting. Mr. East stated he made a presentation at the opening session.

VIII. Report of Student Representatives

Ms. Kate Riddle spoke on the importance of student leadership at the district level as well as highlighting her experience participating in the Mississippi School Board Association's Student Leadership Panel and the upcoming Council of School Systems and Boards Association Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr. Crosby Parker provided an update on the mentoring program and his experience of speaking on a student panel at the Mississippi School Board Association's annual meeting.

IX. No Report on State Board of Education Subcommittee meetings.

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Action: Approval and renewal of Districts and Schools of Innovation for 2025- 2026 [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board unanimously approved item 01. (copy attached).

02. Action: Approval of the MDE Contract [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Monique Corley)

- 02.A. Action: Multi-year contract with East Mississippi Center for Education Development to serve as fiscal agent for Career and Technical Education Office of Workforce Development and Future Farmers of America [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Ferrell)

On a motion by Mr. Matt Mayo, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board unanimously approved item 02.A. (copy attached).

03. 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 one 2024-2025 certified personnel contract adjustment for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Donna Boone)

- D. Approval to modify the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind school calendar for 2024-2025 due to the date change for graduation (Donna Boone)
- E. [PULLED]
- F. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise the *Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three- and Four-Year-Old Children (2025)* (Donna Boone)
- G. Approval of Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) for Districts assigned a PROBATION or WITHDRAWN status in accordance with Accreditation Policy 2.8.1(Paula Vanderford)
- H. Approval to revise selected Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks in Career and Technical Education (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comments) (John Ferrell)
 - 01. Business Marketing, and Finance
 - 02. Carpentry
 - 03. Contemporary Health
 - 04. Culinary Arts
 - 05. Cyber Foundations I
 - 06. Cyber Foundations II
 - 07. Exploring Careers
 - 08. Exploring Computer Science
 - 09. 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
- I. Approval to establish selected Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks in Career and Technical Education (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comments) (John Ferrell)
 - 1. Introduction to Drone Technology
 - 2. Multimedia—Digital Audio Production
 - 3. Multimedia—Sports Journalism and Broadcasting

- J. Approval for the Achievement School District to sell the old Yazoo City Jr. High School Building (John Ferrell)
- K. Approval to readopt the *2016 Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics* (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Donna Boone)
- L. Approval of 2025-2026 certified personnel contracts for the Mississippi School of the Arts and the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Donna Boone)
- M. Approval of temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Mississippi Admin. Code 7-3: 24. State Board Policy Chapter 24, Rule 24.1 – Contracts, Teachers (Erin Meyer)

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Mr. Matt Mayo, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., F., G., H., I., J., K., L., and M. (copy attached).

XI. Consideration of Executive Session

Mr. Matt Miller moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session. Mr. Matt Mayo seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Mr. Glen V. East asked for legal counsel to remain in the room.

Mr. Matt Miller, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(b) for discussion of strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation, ongoing litigation, or issuance of an appealable order and Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k) for discussion of discrete personnel matters. Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote. Ms. Jennifer Nichols 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 discrete personnel matters and strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation, ongoing litigation, or issuance of an appealable order.

- 01. On a motion by Mr. Matt Mayo, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board voted unanimously to affirm the decision of the Office of Educator Misconduct (OEM) to suspend license.

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02. Mr. David Minton served as Attorney General Council during the discussion of this item. On a motion by Mr. Matt Mayo, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board upheld policy to dismiss appeal.
03. The Board reviewed reassignment of MSDDB employee. On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board upheld the Superintendent's decision to reassign.

On a motion by Mr. Matt Mayo, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board unanimously voted to come out of Executive Session.

The public came back into the Board meeting.

XII. State Board of Education

1. No report on meetings attended.
2. No requests to attend a meeting

XIII. Other Business

01. On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Mr. Matt Mayo, the Board voted unanimously to recommend to the Mississippi Legislature that it consider relocating the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (MSMS) to Mississippi State University (MSU) starting in the 2026-27 school year. No changes to the location or operation of MSMS will occur without legislative action and appropriation of necessary funding.

Mr. East stated the April Board meeting will be held on April 17, 2025 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 Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

Approved:



Glen V. East, Board Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Lance Evans
Executive Secretary
Mississippi