

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

June 19, 2025

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 19, 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, Mr. Bill Jacobs, Mr. Matt Mayo, Mr. Matt Miller, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Mr. Mike Pruitt, Ms. Billye Jean Stroud, and Ms. Mary Werner. Board member attending virtually: Dr. Wendi Barrett (Cancun, Mexico). Student Representative absent: 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. Mike Pruitt led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Glen V. East gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Ms. Billye Jean Stroud, seconded by Mr. Matt Mayo, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of May 15, 2025 Board meeting, minutes of Work Session Board meeting on May 15, 2025, and minutes of Special-Called Board meeting on May 27, 2025.
- IV. On a motion by Mr. Bill Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Mike Pruitt, 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

Mississippi Rural Teacher of the Year

Dr. Lindsay Colyer

Mississippi School of the Arts

Community Engagement Council of Distinction Award

Clarksdale Municipal School District

Literacy Coach Academy of Mississippi Graduates – Cohort 2

Amanda Allen
Quitman County School District

Lequanda Isom
Marshall County School District

Savanna MacInnis
Ocean Springs School District

Jessica Malone
Desoto County School District

Tina Moore
South Panola School District

Leah Peacock
Desoto County School District

Vanessa Person
Water Valley S

Kimberly Pierce
Tate County School District

Joelle Raynes
Stone County School District

Shannon Robinson
Jackson Public School District

Lana Stephens
Simpson County School District

- VI. Dr. Lance Evans gave the following report as the State Superintendent of Education:
- Dr. Evans stated the Board had a productive work session with Studer Education yesterday. Dr. Evans stated the next step is to get input about our core values for education from stakeholders groups including teachers, students, administrators, legislators, and business leaders.
 - Dr. Evans stated MDE's appropriations bill for FY26 is due to be signed by the Governor today. Dr. Evans stated the bill includes just under \$3 billion in funding for school districts and charter schools and fully funds the

Mississippi Student Funding Formula (MSFF). Dr. Evans stated some highlights include:

- \$3.5 million for the Mississippi Teacher Residency program;
 - \$2.2 million for a statewide synchronous learning project;
 - \$1 million increase for National Board Certification for teachers;
 - \$2 million increase to the Education Scholarship Account (ESA) program; and
 - The three special schools received slight increases, and the Mississippi School for the Deaf and the Blind (MSDB) received an additional \$1 million to purchase Braille materials.
- Dr. Evans stated the U.S. Department of Education approved MDE's request to continue funding the PAPER online tutoring platform through the original late liquidation date of March 31, 2026. Dr. Evans stated that our request to continue funding six other projects, which include school improvement and professional development coaches for teachers and administrators and other supports for educators and schools. Dr. Evans stated MDE is reviewing the district extension requests and will submit them together to the U.S. Department of Education.
- Dr. Evans stated he spoke at stakeholder meetings:
 - State Teachers of the Year;
 - Superintendent Advisory Council; and
 - AccelerateMS.
- Dr. Evans stated he spoke at the following:
 - Making Connections Conference as the keynote about the state's progress in education and current and future initiatives to build upon our momentum;
 - Studer Education Higher Education Conference spoke on a panel about educational change in higher education and K-12 systems and what we need to be thinking about for how we operate in the future; and
 - SuperTalk Radio interviewed me about Mississippi's rising national ranking for education from No. 48 in 2014 to No. 16 in 2025.

VII. Report of the Chair

- Mr. East called Mr. Bill Jacobs and Ms. Mary Werner to the front to present a gift from the Board to Ms. Sonya Amis. Mr. Jacobs read a Resolution (copy attached) for Ms. Amis for her 28-year service to the MDE and the Board.

VIII. Report of Student Representative

Mr. East stated no reports this month since Mr. Crosby Parker is in Washington, D.C. representing Mississippi at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Leadership Council. Mr. East stated that the Board met yesterday and had the honor to interview four outstanding finalists. Mr. East

stated that it started with 30 applications and was narrowed down to four and the Board chose Ms. Michelle Xie, Junior Student Representative, from Lamar County School District and Mr. Pierce Denham, Alternate Junior Student Representative, from Lamar County School District. Mr. East stated the Junior Student Representative will serve a two-year term on the State Board starting July 1, 2025 until June 30, 2027.

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

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Action: Approval to eliminate the administration of, and graduation requirement for, the U.S. History end-of-course assessment beginning with the 2025-2026 school year [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]

(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford and Wendy Clemons)

A. State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.4 – Assessments Required for Graduation

B. State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.5 – Additional Assessment Options for Meeting End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment Requirements

C. *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2024* specifically, Appendices A-5 – A-9 and F, and the Glossary

On a motion by Ms. Billy Jean Stroud, seconded by Mr. Matt Mille, the Board unanimously approved item 01. (copy attached).

02. Action: Revise English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) score requirements for English learners (EL) to exit EL status [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Mr. Matt Mayo, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved item 02. (copy attached).

03. Action: Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2024* specifically the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System, Section 4, *Participation Rates*, Section 6, *Growth*, Section 9, *Acceleration*, Section 10, *Banking Scores: End-of-course, subject area assessments taken before 10th grade*, Section 16, *Students with Disabilities*, Section 18, *Invalid Test Scores*, Section 22, *Schools without Tested Subjects or Grades*, Section 23, *State and Other Special Schools*, Section 25, *College and Career-*

Readiness Indicator, Section 26, Senior Snapshot, and Section 27, Other
[Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public
comments) (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board
unanimously approved item 03. (copy attached).

04. Information: Report on Oral Proceeding regarding Miss. Admin. Code 7-3:
100.1, State Board Policy, Chapter 100, Rule 100.1, “Compliance with
State Law Regarding Diversity Equity and Inclusion Prohibitions,
Complaint Process, and Investigations” [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE
Strategic Plan] (Erin Meyer and Mike Kent)

Ms. Erin Meyer and Mr. Michael D. Kent reported on the oral proceedings
regarding Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 100.1, State Board Policy, Chapter 100, Rule
100.1, “Compliance with State Law Regarding Diversity Equity and Inclusion
Prohibitions, Complaint Process, and Investigations”.

05. Action: Approval to establish Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: 100.1, State Board
Policy, Chapter 100, Rule 100.1, “Compliance with State Law Regarding
Diversity Equity and Inclusion Prohibitions, Complaint Process, and
Investigations” [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public
comments) (Erin Meyer)

On a motion by Mr. Mike Pruitt, seconded by Mr. Matt Mayo, the Board
unanimously approved item 05. (copy attached).

06. Action: Approval of the MDE Contracts [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE
Strategic Plan] (Kym Wiggins)
- 06.A. Action: Contract with Powerful Cleaning, LLC to provide services
for the Administration Building located at the Mississippi Schools for
the Deaf and the Blind (MSDB) [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan]
(Wendy Clemons)
- 06.B. Action: Modify contract with EMS LINQ, LLC to capture data for
non-congregate meal service options in the Child Nutrition
Management System Software (MARS) [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic
Plan] (Paula Vanderford)
- 06.C. Action: Modify contract with Business Computer of Memphis to
continue providing services and products for School Based

Administrative Claiming (SBAC) and school nurse database [Goal 1 - MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

- 06.D. Action: Contract with Michael D. Kent to perform the administrative duties for the Office of School and District Transformation, work with school districts to consolidate, work with districts in Districts of Transformation, serve as a hearing officer for MDE, and special assignments [Goals 4 and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Ferrell)
- 06.E. Action: Modify the contract with Applied Enterprise Management Corporation to provide CEDS Generate Consulting Services [Goal 5 – MBE Strategic Plan] (John Kraman)
- 06.F. Action: Approve the award to Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) for Fiscal Year 2026 to administer statewide assessments for the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program, (MAAP), including alternate assessment program (MAAP-A) [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Ms. Billye Jean Stroud, the Board unanimously approved items 06.A., 06.B., 06.C., 06.D., 06.E., and 06.F. (copy attached).

- 07. Action: Approval of the MDE Grant Awards [Goals 1, 2, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Kym Wiggins)
 - 07.A. Action: Award competitive grants for the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Wendy Clemons)
 - 07.B. Action: Modify to extend grant for Holmes County Consolidated School District for one additional year for State Systemic Improvement Plan (K-3) Literacy Coach Educator-in-Residence [Goals 1 and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Wendy Clemons)
 - 07.C. Action: Award competitive grants for the Mississippi Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) Grant FY26 (2025-2026) [Goal 2 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)
 - 07.D. Action: Modify to extend grant for Ocean Springs School District for one additional year for Special Education Teacher Mentor Program Coordinator Educator-in-Residence [Goals 1 and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Wendy Clemons)

On a motion by Mr. Matt Mayo, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved items 07.A., 07.B., 07.C., and 07.D. (copy attached).

08. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Wendy Clemons)
- B. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Wendy Clemons)
- C. Approval of certified personnel for the Mississippi School of the Arts, Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, and Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (Wendy Clemons)
- D. Approval of contract with American Sentry Services to provide security services for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Wendy Clemons)
- E. Approval of the 2025-2026 Mississippi School of the Arts and Brookhaven School District Memorandum of Agreement (Wendy Clemons)
- F. Approval of contract with American Sentry Security System to provide unarmed security services on the campus of the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind for the 2025-2026 fiscal school year (Wendy Clemons)
- G. Approval of the 2025-2026 Student Handbooks for the State Schools (Wendy Clemons)
 - 1. Mississippi School of the Arts
 - 2. Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind
 - 3. Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science
- H. Approval of the 2025-2026 Employee Handbooks for the Mississippi School of the Arts and the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Wendy Clemons)
- I. Approval to create State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.7 – Early Graduation Policy
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments) (Wendy Clemons)

- J. Approval to establish a qualifying score for the revised version of Praxis Subject Assessments: Technology and Engineering Education (5053) and Middle School Social Studies (5589) as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (Paula Vanderford)
- K. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Title 7 of the Miss. Admin. Code: Part 142: Career and Technical Education (CTE) Licensure Guidelines K-12: To revise the “Special Notes” section to include a sixth (6th) “Special Note” that would establish criteria for obtaining certain Career and Technical Education (CTE) License types after an Initial Standard Renewable CTE License has been Granted: These Criteria will be referenced as applicable throughout the Official CTE Guidelines Document and shall Only Apply to certain CTE Licensure Pathways (Paula Vanderford)
- L. Approval of the appointments to the Commission on School Accreditation (Paula Vanderford)
- M. Approval to establish Miss. Admin. Code Title 7: Part 247: Mississippi Driver Education and Training Program Curriculum. (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- N. Approval to revise student teacher ratio requirements beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and begin the Administrative Procedures Act process for the following:
 - A. To revise State Board Policy Chapter 19, Rule 19.1 – Class Size
 - B. To revise the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2024* specifically, Process Standards 2, 28.1, 28.2, 28.3, and 28.4, and the Glossary
 - C. To revise the *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2024* specifically, Process Standards 2, 24, 24.1, 24.2, 24.3, and 24.4, and the Glossary
 - D. To establish Process Standards 28.6 and 28.7 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2024*

- E. To establish Process Standards 24.7 and 24.8 of the *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2024* (Paula Vanderford)
- O. Approval of Blue Mountain Christian University's request to delete four (4) approved supplemental endorsements in the areas of Physics 7-12 (189), Mild/Moderate Disability K-12 (221), Mild/Moderate Disability K-8 (223), and Mild/Moderate Disability 7-12 (224) (Paula Vanderford)
- P. Approval of Belhaven University's request to modify course prefixes and equivalent coursework within its existing English as Second Language (K-12) approved supplemental endorsement program (Paula Vanderford)
- Q. Approval of Belhaven University's request to modify course prefixes within its licensure-track Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with Teaching English to Students of Other Languages (TESOL) (English as a Second Language) Supplemental Licensure Endorsement (K-12) program (Paula Vanderford)
- R. Approval of Delta State University's request to delete three (3) approved traditional teacher educator preparation licensure-track Bachelor of Science programs in Chemistry 7-12 (185), Speech Associate K-12 (216), and Family & Consumer Science 7-12 (321); three (3) approved licensure-track Master of Education programs in English 7-12 (119), Physical Education K-12 (144), and Social Studies 7-12 (192); two (2) approved licensure-track Specialist in Education programs in Elementary Education K-6 (120) and School Counseling K-12 (436); and one (1) approved supplemental endorsement in Severe Disability K-12 (222) (Paula Vanderford)
- S. Approval of Mississippi College's request to modify coursework credit hours for two (2) courses within its licensure-track Specialist in Education degree program in the area of Administration (K-12) (Paula Vanderford)
- T. Approval of Mississippi State University's request to modify course titles, required courses, and equivalent coursework within its Mild/Moderate (7-12) supplemental endorsement (Paula Vanderford)
- U. Approval of Mississippi State University's request to modify course titles, required courses, and equivalent coursework within its

- approved Mild/Moderate (K-8) supplemental endorsement
(Paula Vanderford)
- V. Approval of Mississippi State University's request to modify required courses within its approved Severe Disability (K-12) supplemental endorsement (Paula Vanderford)
 - W. Approval of Mississippi State University's request to modify its approved licensure-track Bachelor of Science in Mild/Moderate Disability (K-12) (Paula Vanderford)
 - X. Approval of Mississippi University for Women's request to establish a traditional teacher education preparation licensure-track Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood (PreK-K) program (Paula Vanderford)
 - Y. Approval of Mississippi University for Women's request to establish a licensure-track Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Elementary Education (K-6) program (Paula Vanderford)
 - Z. Approval of The University of Southern Mississippi's request to establish a traditional teacher education preparation licensure-track Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education (BSSE) (7-12) program leading to a license with the major emphasis area in Biology 7-12 (181), Chemistry 7-12 (185), English 7-12 (119), Mathematics 7-12 (154), Physics 7-12 (189), or Social Studies 7-12 (192) and additional content to include a full year of teaching Residency (Paula Vanderford)
 - AA. Approval of William Carey University's request to remove one (1) approved traditional teacher educator preparation licensure-track Bachelor of Science program in Physical Education K-12 (144) and one (1) approved licensure-track Master of Science program in School Psychometry K-12 (213) (Paula Vanderford)
 - AB. Approval of William Carey University's request to modify a course title within its approved Child Development (PreK-K) supplemental endorsement (Paula Vanderford)
 - AC. Approval of William Carey University's request to modify the required courses within its approved Emotional Disability (K-12) supplemental endorsement (Paula Vanderford)
 - AD. Approval of William Carey University's request to modify course numbers within its approved Science, Technology, Engineering,

and Mathematics (STEM) (K-12) supplemental endorsement
(Paula Vanderford)

- AE. Approval of the corrected industry certifications list that will calculate in the Acceleration component of Accountability Model for the 2025-2026 school year (John Ferrell)
- AF. Approval of Mississippi College's request to modify course titles and the approved course list for its licensure-track Media Arts (K-12) supplemental endorsement (Paula Vanderford)
- AG. Approval of Engagement Letters between the Mississippi School of the Arts and the Lowery, Payn, and Leggett Accounting Firm for audit services (Wendy Clemons)
- AH. Approval of contract with Apple to secure three-year Education Term Pricing Contract for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Wendy Clemons)
- AI. Approval of a temporary rule and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act Process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7 – 4: Part 4: Licensure Guidelines K-12 to remove references to and associated requirements related to the Highly Qualified Teacher Status as formerly defined and required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Paula Vanderford)
- AJ. [PULLED]

On a motion by Mr. Matt Mayo, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., F., G., H., I., J., K., L., M., N., O., P., Q., R., S., T., U., V., W., X., Y., Z., AA., AB., AC., AD., AE., AF., AG., AH., and AI. (copy attached).

XI. Consideration of Executive Session

Due to conflict Mr. David Minton represented the Board during the 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.

Following discussion, Mr. Miller moved that the Board return to an open session. Mr. Mayo seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

In open session 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. Mr. Matt Mayo 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 heard an update from MDE General Counsel Erin Meyer regarding the HB1193 litigation.

The Board then heard oral presentations in the matter of Educator License No. 237037. The Appellant Antoine Bourne was represented by Ms. Lisa Ross and the Office of Educator Misconduct was represented by Mr. Joseph Runnels. The Board then deliberated on the merits of the oral presentations and the record on review.

Following the deliberations, Mr. Matt Mayo moved that the Board affirm November 13, 2024, decision of the Licensure Sub-Committee to suspend License No. 237037, held by Antoine Bourne, for a period of eight (8) years. Additionally, the Board upheld the requirement that Mr. Bourne participate in a minimum of two (2) three credit hour courses on ethics and student-teacher relationships. The decision of the State Board is final.

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

The public came back into the Board meeting and Mr. East reported that during the Executive Session the Board met to consider the appeal of Antoine Bourne, Educator License No. 237037, and voted to affirm the decision of the hearing subcommittee of the Commission of Teacher and Administration Education Certification and Licensure.

XII. State Board of Education

1. No report on meetings attended.
2. On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved for any Board member to attend the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents (MASS) Conference in July.

June 19, 2025

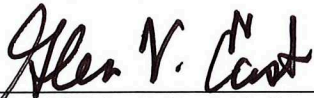
XIII. Other Business

Mr. East stated the July Board meeting will be held on July 17, 2025 in Jackson, Mississippi at the Central High School Building in the 4th Floor Boardroom starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Ms. Billye Jean Stroud, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

Approved:



Glen V. East, Board Chair
Mississippi Board of Education



Lance Evans
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education