

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

February 17, 2005

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a work session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 17, 2005, in the 4th Floor Boardroom of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present were: Mr. Kenny Bush, Ms. Sondra Parker Caillavet, Mr. Hal Gage, Mr. Bill Jones, Dr. Lavon Fluker-Reed, Ms. Rebecca Harris, Mr. Claude Hartley, and Ms. Rosetta Richard. Mr. Frank E. Melton joined the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Rosetta Richard, Chair. Ms. Richard noted the statement on the agenda that cellular telephones and pagers are not permitted during Board meetings.

Dr. Henry Johnson gave the following report from the State Superintendent of Education:

- Reported that he participated in the Business Roundtable Forum on *No Child Left Behind* hosted by the National Press Club along with Senator Robert Kennedy, Congressman Mike Castle, and Secretary Margaret Spellings.
- Reported on his visit to West Lowndes Elementary School and later that afternoon to Mississippi State University to meet with Coach Sylvester Croome.
- Reported that he spoke at the America's Choice National Conference reflecting on the work of America's Choice in our state.
- Reported that a Press Conference would be held at 1:00 p.m. in the Mississippi Department of Education Boardroom to announce support for full funding of education and particularly in support of House Bill 1646

Mr. Steve Williams and Ms. Joy Milam distributed and gave a Legislative Update (copy on file).

Mr. Williams and Dr. Beth Sewell discussed the revision of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2004*. Mr. Williams recommended approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process on Friday.

Ms. Richard gave Board members an opportunity to discuss items that had cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process.

Mr. Williams and Dr. Steve Hebbler discussed the revision of the Consolidated State Application Accountability Workbook, which has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process. Mr. Williams recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Daphne Buckley discussed the methodology for selecting the recipient of the Charles M. Deaton Service to Education Award. Dr. Buckley stated the purpose of the education award is to recognize and honor those who have demonstrated a strong commitment to improving and supporting public education in the State of Mississippi. Any individual, group, organization, club, business, etc., whose contribution to public education has made a positive difference in the lives of Mississippi students would be eligible.

Ms. Regina Ginn and Mr. Gary May discussed the methodology for awarding competitive grants to eligible local school districts for the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. The purpose of this program is to purchase additional fresh fruits and vegetables to be made available at no charge to students throughout the school day in one or more areas designated by the school. Ms. Ginn stated that funding would be restricted to 25 school sites. She recommended approval on Friday.

Ms. Ginn discussed the methodology for selection of school districts to receive grants to provide *Effective School and Classroom Management* training for teachers and administrators. The selected school districts will receive grants from funds allocated through the Safe Schools Program to provide training in discipline and classroom management strategies through the *Effective School and Classroom Management* module. Ms. Ginn recommended approval on Friday.

Mr. Derrick Lindsay discussed the contract award to Ciber, Inc., for the K-12 Network Support Services to provide onsite technical support for the Mississippi public school districts. This contract award will provide onsite technical support services for up to six Field Network Consultants to be located throughout the state, up to two Help Desk Network Consultants to be located in Jackson, and one Wide Area Network (WAN) Consultant, for Mississippi public school districts. Mr. Lindsay recommended approval on Friday.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:05 pm and reconvened at 1:35 pm.

Ms. Victoria Johnson gave a report on the Priority School Improvement Plans (copy on file).

Ms. Cindy Simmons, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) State Coordinator, gave an overview of the presentation she made for the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) in November 2004 (copy on file).

Dr. Rucker discussed the methodology to select high schools to participate in a pilot study for high school redesign. As part of the Mississippi Department of Education's school improvement efforts, a collaborative established with the Offices of Quality Professions, Vocational Education, Innovative Support, Accreditation, Academic Education, and the SERVE Policy Analyst will implement a high school redesign model and select four high schools to participate in the study. These high schools will be provided technical assistance and funding if available to implement the design for a three year period. Dr. Rucker recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Bonita Potter gave the annual report from the Office of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement (copy on file).

Dr. Potter discussed the awarding of the Mathematics and Science Partnerships Program Grants. The Mathematics and Science Partnerships Programs support improved student achievement in mathematics and science through enhanced training for mathematics and/or science teachers and enriched instruction for middle school students. The program will target the areas of middle grades mathematics and/or science in high-need school districts. Dr. Potter recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Potter discussed the recommendations on exceptions to student enrollment in grades 1-4. An interdepartmental committee met to consider request from districts for exceptions to the enrollment ratio of 1:27 and 1:50 in grades 1-4. Dr. Potter recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Potter discussed the revision of the Textbook Administration Handbook Rules and Regulations and recommended approval on Friday to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process.

Dr. Ron Love discussed the following appointments to the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science Advisory Board: Dr. Tressie Harper, School District Superintendent, Moss Point; Ms. Susan Hunt, Layperson, Biloxi Bay Chamber of Commerce; and Ms. Norma Oliver, Middle School Representative, McComb. Dr. Love recommended approval on Friday.

Ms. Ethel Carson discussed the appointment of Mr. James Hart to serve as the School Finance Officer, Office of Financial Accountability at an annual salary of \$64,731.96 to become effective March 1, 2005. She recommended approval on Friday.

Ms. Carson presented the report of personnel items for January 2005; no action was requested.

Mr. Richard gave members an opportunity to discuss consent agenda items.

At 2:45 a.m., Dr. Lavon Fluker-Reed made a motion for the Board to consider going into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Frank Melton and was approved on a vote of 9 to 0. Dr. Lavon Fluker-Reed then moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion regarding the employment at the Mississippi Department of Education of persons in specific positions in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7(4)(k). Mr. Frank Melton seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Board members present were Mr. Kenny Bush, Ms. Sondra Parker Caillavet, Mr. Hal Gage, Mr. Bill Jones, Dr. Lavon Fluker-Reed, Ms. Rebecca Harris, Mr. Claude Hartley, Mr. Frank Melton, and Ms. Rosetta Richard.

Dr. Henry Johnson, Steve Williams, Dr. Susan Rucker, Dr. Daphne Buckley, Dr. Bonita Potter, Charlene Pierce, and Kathy Boteler were also present.

Minutes of Executive Session

Board members and Dr. Johnson discussed personnel in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7(4)(k). No action was taken.

At 3:15 p.m. Dr. Lavon Fluker-Reed made a motion to return to regular session. Mr. Kenny Bush seconded the motion. The Board voted 9 to 0 to return to regular session.

Upon returning to regular session, Ms. Richard stated that the Board discussed personnel in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7(4)(k).

The meeting recessed at approximately 3:50 p.m.

Approved:

Rosetta Richard, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education

Henry L. Johnson
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education