

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

December 18, 2009

The regular meeting of the Mississippi Board of Education was held at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, December 18, 2009, 4th Floor Boardroom of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present were: Ms. Kami Bumgarner, Mr. Hal Gage, Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Mr. Claude Hartley, Mr. William H. Jones, Mr. Charles McClelland, Dr. Sue Matheson, Ms. Martha Murphy, and Ms. Rosetta Richard.

- I. The meeting was called to order by Mr. William H. Jones, Chair.
- II. Mr. Hal Gage led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Dr. O. Wayne Gann gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Mr. Claude Hartley, seconded by Dr. Sue Matheson, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the meetings of November 18-19, 2009.
- IV. On a motion by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board voted unanimously to amend the agenda to add item 19 - Approval of appointment of a Deputy State Superintendent.

On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Dr. Sue Matheson, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as amended.

- V. Mr. Jones gave the following Chair's Report:
 - Noted that the United States Census 2010 Package is available for review in the Superintendent's office;
 - Noted that members of the Board received information from the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) regarding Assessment and Accountability and the role of school-community partnerships in dropout prevention;
 - Noted that the *MPE Journal* includes information regarding the percentage of the state budget education will receive;
 - Requested that Board members read the Mississippi Performance Level Descriptors handout; and
 - Reminded Board members that the Barr Elementary School Choir will provide a program of Christmas carols in the North Atrium immediately following the Board meeting.

- VI. Approval of Action Items
(Items below are numbered to correspond to the items as discussed on Thursday, December 17, 2009.)
04. On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Mr. Claude Hartley, the Board unanimously approved the nonpublic school accreditation statuses for School Year 2009-2010 (copy attached).
(Office of Student Performance)
07. On a motion by Dr. Sue Matheson, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board unanimously approved to modify grant awards for the FFY'08 Even Start Family Literacy Program (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Programs and Services)
09. On a motion by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, seconded by Ms. Rosetta Richard, the Board unanimously approved to revise State Board Policy 902 - GED Option Guidelines. The item cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments that were presented to the Board (copy attached).
(Office of Student Performance)
10. On a motion by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, seconded by Ms. Rosetta Richard, the Board unanimously approved to modify the contracts with the Regional Educational Service Agencies (RESAs) to conduct administrative training for administrators across the state as directed by the Mississippi Department of Education (copy attached).
(Office of Student Performance)
11. On a motion by Ms. Rosetta Richard, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the estimate of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program Base Student Cost for Fiscal Year 2011 (copy attached).
(Office of Policy and Operations)
12. On a motion by Dr. Sue Matheson, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the methodology for awarding grants to Mississippi colleges, universities, educational consortiums and other educational service providers to support activities that recruit, retain, and enhance Mississippi educators (copy attached).
(Office of Quality Professionals and Special Schools)
13. On a motion by Dr. Sue Matheson, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved to modify the language in the Brookhaven School District (BSD) Interlocal Agreement to include the use of BSD school buses by the Mississippi School of the Arts during the 2009-2010 school year (copy attached).
(Office of Quality Professionals and Special Schools)

14. On a motion by Dr. Sue Matheson, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the contract with Teachers-Teachers.com to develop an online recruitment system and provide support services (copy attached).
(Office of Quality Professionals and Special Schools)
15. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Melissa Barnes to serve as Education Bureau Director of the Office of School Financial Services at an annual salary of \$84,000.00 to become effective January 1, 2010 (copy attached).
(Office of Policy and Operations)
16. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Cassandra Moore to serve as Education Bureau Director of the Office of Human Resources at an annual salary of \$84,000.00 to become effective January 1, 2010 (copy attached).
(Office of Policy and Operations)
17. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Joshua Shoemaker to serve as Education Bureau Director of the Office of Internal Accountability at an annual salary of \$69,670.57 to become effective January 1, 2010 (copy attached).
(Office of Policy and Operations)
18. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board unanimously approved the Mississippi Department of Education to reallocate the Jackson Public School District's unused 2009 Qualified School Construction Bond Allocation subject to being lawfully accomplished at time of reallocation (copy attached).
(Office of Policy and Operations)
19. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Lynn House to serve as a Deputy State Superintendent (copy attached).
(Office of Policy and Operations)
- VII. On a motion by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, seconded by Mr. Claude Hartley the Board unanimously approved the following consent items (copy attached):
 - A. Approval of Fiscal Year 2010 contracts with the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS) retirees receiving retirement benefits
(Office of Policy and Operations)
 - B. Approval of report of Fiscal Year 2010 contracts executed in November 2009
(Office of Policy and Operations)

- C. Approval to modify contract with Ken Swindol to provide training and technical assistance to local school districts with disproportionate representation of minority students identified with Specific Learning Disability (SLD) as well as for those under identifying students who may be Emotionally Disturbed (EmD) and to provide Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) training to selected school districts
(Office of Instructional Programs and Services)

- VIII. The Recognition Ceremony was held as follows:

2009 Milken Award Recipient

Mr. Scott Pfaff
Gulfport High School

2009 Mississippi Distinguished Principal

Dr. Janice Barton
Oak Grove Central Elementary

2009 Mississippi High School Principal of the Year

Mr. Freddie Joseph
Hernando High School

2009 Mississippi Middle School Principal of the Year

Mr. Michael Hogan, II
Petal Middle School

2009-2010 Mississippi Superintendent of the Year

Dr. Milton Kuykendall
DeSoto County School District

December 2009 MDE Employee of the Month

Ms. Bobbie Bell

Special Recognition MDE Employee

Ms. Wanda Cummins

- IX. State Board of Education

Mr. Claude Hartley reported that he along with Commander Michael Curry attended the Project PASS conference in Chicago, December 3-4, 2009. Mr. Hartley noted that the purpose of the Conference was to discuss the Partnership for All Students' Success (Project PASS) initiative, the US Army, and the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE).

Dr. O. Wayne Gann reported that he attended a ceremony at the Corinth School District to recognize three Corinth elementary schools. The USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Outstanding Nutrition Environment recognized the schools for achieving Gold-level.

Ms. Rosetta Richard requested that she and Mr. Claude Hartley receive approval to attend NASBE meetings scheduled for January, March, and June 2010. Dr. O. Wayne Gann made a motion for approval, seconded by Mr. Hal Gage. Ms. Rosetta Richard informed the Board that as many as four other Board members or Department staff could attend the NASBE meeting in Jacksonville, Florida on January 11-12, 2010. Dr. Sue Matheson amended the motion to approve the attendance of Ms. Richard and Mr. Hartley at the NASBE meetings scheduled for January, March, and June 2010 to include the approval of an additional four other Board members or Department staff to attend the NASBE meeting in Jacksonville, Florida on January 11-12, 2010. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hal Gage and the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

X. Other Business

Dr. Jordan introduced newly appointed employees: Melissa Barnes, Education Bureau Director of the Office of School Financial Services; Cassandra Moore, Education Bureau Director of the Office of Human Resources; and Joshua Shoemaker, Education Bureau Director of the Office of Internal Accountability.

Dr. Burnham noted that Dr. Lynn House was appointed as a Deputy State Superintendent.

Mr. Jones read a resolution from the Board honoring Dr. John W. Jordan for his service to the Department and to public education in Mississippi. On a motion by Mr. Claude Hartley, seconded by Ms. Rosetta Richard the Board voted unanimously to add the resolution to the minutes (copy attached).

Mr. Jones thanked the MDE staff for their support and assistance during the past five months. He also welcomed Dr. Burnham back to the MDE and congratulated him on being appointed State Superintendent of Education, effective January 1, 2010.

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Claude Hartley, seconded by Dr. Sue Matheson the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

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Approved:

William H. Jones, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education

Tom Burnham, Ed.D.
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education