

## Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

August 14, 2008

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a work session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 14, 2008 in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present were: Mr. Hal Gage, Mr. Claude Hartley, Mr. Bill Jones, Mr. Charles McClelland, and Ms. Rosetta Richard. Board members absent were: Ms. Sondra Parker Caillavet, Dr. O. Wayne Gann and Dr. David Sistrunk.

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

Mr. Jones recognized Senators Lee Yancy, Videt Carmichael, and Doug Davis and welcomed them to the meeting.

Dr. Hank Bounds gave the following report from the State Superintendent of Education:

- Reviewed Strategy #1 of the Five-Year Strategic Plan and urged the Board to continue to review and discuss the current Strategic Plan throughout the remainder of this year. He asked that the Board consider revising the current plan's priorities at the end of the year.
- Recognized MDE staff who presented the following reports:
  - Ms. Caron Blanton, Director of Legislative Services, presented findings from the report, "Review of Research: How Leadership Influences Student Learning." She reported that the study concluded that leadership matters and it is second only to teaching among school-related factors in its impact on student learning. Commissioned by The Wallace Foundation and conducted by the University of Minnesota and the University of Toronto, the study concluded that both district and school leadership provide a critical bridge between most educational reform initiatives, and having those reforms make a genuine difference for all students, noting that improving leadership is a key to the successful implementation of large-scale reforms.
  - Mr. Martez Hill, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Policy and Operations, provided a brief overview of *The Lighthouse Inquiry: School Board/Superintendent Team Behaviors in School Districts with Extreme Differences in Student Achievement*, a study by the

## Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

August 15, 2008

The regular meeting of the Mississippi Board of Education was held at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, August 15, 2008, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present were: Mr. Hal Gage, Mr. Claude Hartley, Mr. Bill Jones, Mr. Charles McClelland, and Ms. Rosetta Richard. Board members absent were: Ms. Sondra Parker Caillavet, Dr. O. Wayne Gann, and Dr. David Sistrunk.

- I. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bill Jones, Chair.
- II. Mr. Hal Gage led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Ms. Rosetta Richard gave the invocation.
- III. On a motion by Mr. Claude Hartley, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting of July 24-25, 2008.
- IV. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Mr. Claude Hartley, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Dr. Hank Bounds recognized Dr. Lonnie Edwards, newly appointed superintendent of Jackson Public School District, and Board members Mr. Delmer Stamps, Mr. Sollie Norwood and Mr. Jonathan Larkin.

Dr. Pamela Finney, Research Management Leader for the SERVE Research Center, was recognized and welcomed to the meeting by Ms. Rosetta Richard.

- V. In the Chair's Report, Mr. Jones recognized Representative and Mrs. Johnny Stringer and Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Fairchild to the Board meeting. Members of Mr. Jones' immediate family and other personal friends were recognized and welcomed to the meeting.
- VI. Other Action Items
  02. On a motion by Ms. Rosetta Richard, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the methodology to award competitive one-year grants for the Dyslexia Program in support of districts' implementation of scientifically research-based multisensory reading programs (copy attached).  
**(Office of Instructional Programs and Services)**

03. On a motion by Ms. Rosetta Richard, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the request to award competitive grants for the Dyslexia Program in support of districts' implementation of scientifically research-based programs (copy attached).  
**(Office of Instructional Programs and Services)**
04. On a motion by Ms. Rosetta Richard, seconded by Mr. Hal Gage, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of chairman of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development (copy attached).  
**(Office of Quality Professionals and Special Schools)**
05. On a motion by Mr. Claude Hartley, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the methodology for awarding non-competitive grants for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program to selected elementary schools (copy attached).  
**(Office of Policy and Operations)**
06. On a motion by Mr. Claude Hartley, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the allocation of funds to school sites under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDE) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (copy attached).  
**(Office of Policy and Operations)**
07. On a motion by Mr. Claude Hartley, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the request to increase the annual salary of Dr. Teresa Johnson, Director (Educ-Bureau Director II) of the Office of Reading, Early Childhood and Language Arts to \$84,000.00 to become effective September 1, 2008 (copy attached).  
**(Office of Policy and Operations)**
08. On a motion by Mr. Claude Hartley, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the request to increase the annual salary of Ms. Trecina Green, Director (Educ-Bureau Director II) of the Office of Curriculum and Instruction to \$84,000.00 to become effective September 1, 2008 (copy attached).  
**(Office of Policy and Operations)**
09. On a motion by Mr. Claude Hartley, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the request to increase the annual salary of Ms. Toni Kersh, Director (Educ-Bureau Director II) of the Office of Alternative Education, Counseling and Compulsory School Attendance to \$84,000.00 to become effective September 1, 2008 (copy attached).  
**(Office of Policy and Operations)**

10. On a motion by Mr. Claude Hartley, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the request to increase the annual salary of Ms. Cynthia Simmons, Director (Educ-Bureau Director II) of the Office of Student Assessment to \$84,000.00 to become effective September 1, 2008 (copy attached).  
**(Office of Policy and Operations)**
11. On a motion by Mr. Claude Hartley, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Stanley Gipson to serve as School Finance Officer for the Office of School Financial Services at an annual salary of \$70,570.57 to become effective October 1, 2008 (copy attached).  
**(Office of Policy and Operations)**
12. On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Mr. Claude Hartley, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Ms. Linda Reeves to serve as Financial Advisor for the Shaw School District (copy attached).  
**(Office of Legislation and Budget)**
- VII. On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Ms. Rosetta Richard, the Board unanimously approved the following consent items (copies attached):
  - A. Approval to accept procurement authorization from the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS) for Ardent Technologies, Inc., professional services  
**(Office of Policy and Operations)**
  - B. Approval to award the Talent Search Grant to Newton Municipal School District  
**(Office of Student Performance)**
  - C. Approval to renew the contract with Mississippi Society for Disabilities for the provision of Language/Speech services on the campus of the Mississippi School for the Blind  
**(Office of Quality Professionals and Special Schools)**
  - D. Approval to contract with LSU Health Science Center School of Allied Health Professionals, Human Development Center to provide consultative services relative to the *Modified Mattie T. Consent Decree*  
**(Office of Instructional Programs and Services)**

- E. Approval to contract with Dr. Marilyn Friend to provide consultative services relative to the *Modified Mattie T. Consent Decree*  
**(Office of Instructional Programs and Services)**
  
- F. Approval to award the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds to Jobs for Mississippi Graduates, Inc. (JMG)  
**(Office of Student Performance)**
  
- G. Approval to modify the contract with Oak Hill Technology, Inc., to add services related to English II professional development  
**(Office of Instructional Programs and Services)**

VIII. Recognition Ceremony was held as follows:

- **Mr. Bill Jones**  
Mississippi Board of Education Chair  
2008-2009 Fiscal Year
  
- **Ms. Victoria Monroe**  
Academic Achievement  
Mississippi School for the Deaf
  
- **Ms. Suzanne Holloway**  
Finalist for Administrator of the Year, District 2  
Clinton Public School District
  
- **Ms. Teri White**  
Finalist for Administrator of the Year, District 3  
South Pike School District
  
- **Ms. Pamela Manners**  
Finalist for Administrator of the Year, District 4  
Biloxi Public School District
  
- **Dr. Terry Harbin**  
State Administrator of the Year, District 1  
Tupelo Public School District
  
- **Major Frank Branch**  
The United States Army Cadet Commands  
2008 Instructor of the Year

IX. State Board of Education

01. Mr. Bill Jones reported that he recently attended a meeting of the Blue Ribbon Committee for Redesigning Teacher Preparation and indicated that the committee is preparing a report to be presented in the near future to a joint meeting of the Mississippi Board of Education and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning.
02. On a motion by Mr. Claude Hartley, seconded by Mr. Hal Gage, the Board unanimously approved a request to allow a maximum of four State Board of Education members to attend the NASBE 2008 Annual Conference scheduled for October 16-18, 2008, in Arlington, VA.

X. Other Business:

Ms. Rosetta Richard advised the Board that NASBE is currently seeking candidates for the office of president-elect.

- XI. On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Mr. Claude Hartley, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Approved:

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William H. Jones, Chair  
Mississippi Board of Education

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Hank M. Bounds  
Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Board of Education

Iowa Association of School Boards. Mr. Hill indicated that the study revealed that the understanding and beliefs of school boards in high-achieving districts and the presence of seven conditions for productive change were markedly different from those of boards in low-achieving districts. The school boards' understanding and beliefs and their efforts to ensure the presence of specific conditions within the system appeared to be part of a district-wide culture focused on improvement in student learning.

- Ms. Leah Rupp, Legislative Staff Officer, Office of Communications, addressed the Board regarding an issue brief she had created for the Task Force to Study Underperforming Schools on best turnaround practices. She explained that Board members would receive the brief shortly and that it covered research and turning around underperforming school districts in a short period, usually in one to three years.
- Ms. Deborah Meador, Legislative Division Director, Office of Communications, addressed the group on how the Mississippi School Board and the Mississippi Department of Education provide assistance to districts in each of the seven Key Conditions for School Renewal in the *Iowa Association of School Boards Lighthouse Study*.

Dr. Kris Kaase discussed the methodology to award competitive one-year grants for the Dyslexia Program in support of districts' implementation of scientifically research-based multisensory reading programs. Dr. Kaase recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Kaase discussed the request to award competitive grants for the Dyslexia Program in support of districts' implementation of scientifically research-based programs. These competitive grants provide services to public school students with dyslexia and related disorders. Dr. Kaase recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Daphne Buckley discussed the appointment of chairman of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development. The appointments are recommended in accordance with the internal operating policies of the Commission and with Mississippi Code 37-3-2(2). Dr. Buckley recommended approval on Friday.

Mr. Shane McNeill discussed the methodology for awarding non-competitive grants for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program to selected elementary schools. Mr. McNeill recommended approval on Friday.

Mr. McNeill discussed the allocation of funds to school sites under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDE) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. Mr. McNeill recommended approval on Friday.

Mr. Jones recommended that the Board skip to Item 12.

Ms. Wanda Cummins discussed the appointment of a financial advisor for the Shaw School District. Ms. Cummins recommended approval on Friday.

Mr. Jones then gave the Board an opportunity to discuss the following consent items:

- Accepting procurement authorization from the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS) for Ardent Technologies, Inc., professional services (Shane McNeill)
- Awarding the Talent Search Grant to Newton Municipal School District (Sheril Smith)
- Renewing of contract with Mississippi Society for Disabilities for the provision of Language/Speech services on the campus of the Mississippi School for the Blind (Daphne Buckley)
- Contract with LSU Health Science Center School of Allied Health Professionals, Human Development Center to provide consultative services relative to the *Modified Mattie T. Consent Decree* (Kris Kaase)
- Contract with Dr. Marilyn Friend to provide consultative services relative to the *Modified Mattie T. Consent Decree* (Kris Kaase)
- Awarding the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds to Jobs for Mississippi Graduates, Inc. (JMG) (Sheril Smith)
- Modification of contract with Oak Hill Technology, Inc., to add services related to English II professional development (Kris Kaase)
- Report of Personnel Actions (Ethel Cain Carson)

At 11:05 a.m., Mr. Hal Gage moved to consider going into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Claude Hartley, and the motion passed on a vote of 4 to 0.



Mr. Gage then moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing discrete personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, and the motion passed on a vote of 4 to 0.

Minutes of Executive Session

During the Executive Session, the Board discussed discrete personnel matters relating to the operation of the Department of Education, including, but not limited to the appointment of personnel for specific offices and positions and the setting of salaries for these personnel pursuant to the reorganization of the Department of Education as approved by the Board at it's May meeting, in accordance with Mississippi Code Section 25-41-7(4)(a).

Ms. Rosetta Richard made a motion that the Board come out of Executive Session. Mr. Claude Hartley seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a vote of 4 to 0. The Board took no action during the Executive Session.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. in order for the Board to participate in a scheduled tour of the Nissan North America facility located in Canton, MS.

Approved:

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William H. Jones, Chair  
Mississippi Board of Education

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Hank M. Bounds  
Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Board of Education