

Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

February 14, 2008

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met in a work session at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 14, 2008 in the 4th Floor Boardroom of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members present were: Ms. Sondra Parker Caillavet, Mr. Hal Gage, Dr. O. Wayne Gann, Ms. Rebecca Harris, Mr. Claude Hartley, Mr. Bill Jones, Mr. Charles McClelland, Ms. Rosetta Richard, and Dr. David Sistrunk.

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

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

- Reported that the North Panola School District has been directed to meet specific goals within a definite timeframe. If not met, the possibility of conservatorship would be brought to the Board.
- Gave an update on the 2008 Legislative Session.
- Noted that U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings would address the Board later in the meeting.

Mr. Derrick Lindsay discussed renewing the contract with Ciber, Inc., for two (2) additional one-year terms, to provide technical support and training for Mississippi public school districts that are connected to the K-12 Network with onsite technical support and training services. It provides for Field Network Consultants to be located throughout the State, and a Helpdesk Network Consultant to be located in Jackson. Mr. Lindsay requested approval on Friday.

Mr. Hartley welcomed Nancy Loome, Executive Director, The Parents Campaign; Greg Ladner, Superintendent Pearl School District; and Dr. Lynn House, Director of the Office of Academic and Student Affairs, Institutions of Higher Learning, to the meeting.

Mr. Mike Mulvihill and Mr. James Sardin discussed establishing the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education State Plan. In August 2006, the Carl D. Perkins Act was reauthorized. This act is now formally known as the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Act of 2006. To ensure an orderly transition from the 1998 Perkins Act provisions to the new 2006 Perkins Act, the Secretary of Education required each state to prepare and submit plans. The State of Mississippi chose the one-year Transition Plan option. Key components of the one-year Transition Plan are: increased articulation with community colleges;

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February 15, 2008

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

- I. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Claude Hartley, Chair.
- II. Dr. David Sistrunk led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Ms. Rosetta Richard gave the invocation.
- II. On a motion by Dr. David Sistrunk, seconded by Mr. Charles McClelland, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting of January 17-18, 2008.
- III. On a motion by Ms. Rosetta Richard, seconded by Dr. David Sistrunk, the Board voted unanimously to remove item 16 from the agenda.

On a motion by Dr. David Sistrunk, seconded by Ms. Rosetta Richard, the Board unanimously approved the amended agenda.
- V. In the Chair's Report Dr. David Sistrunk requested copies of evaluations of the superintendent and principals in the North Panola School District.
- VI. Approval of Action Items
(Items below are numbered to correspond to the items as discussed on Thursday, February 14, 2008.)
04. On a motion by Ms. Rosetta Richard, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board unanimously approved to renew the contract with Ciber, Inc., for two (2) additional one-year terms to provide technical support and training for Mississippi public school districts (copy attached).
(Office of Business and Support Services)
05. On a motion by Ms. Rosetta Richard, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board voted unanimously to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to establish the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education State Plan (copy attached).
(Office of Business and Support Services)

06. On a motion by Ms. Rosetta Richard, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board unanimously approved the construction of an area vocational center at Calhoun County School District utilizing local funds (copy attached).
(Office of Business and Support Services)
07. On a motion by Ms. Rosetta Richard, seconded by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, the Board voted unanimously to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to revise The Mississippi Secondary and Postsecondary Curriculum Frameworks (copy attached).
(Office of Business and Support Services)
08. On a motion by Ms. Sondra Parker Caillavet, seconded by Ms. Rebecca Harris, the Board unanimously approved the revisions to State Board Policy 2100 Class Size. The policy has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Programs and Services)
09. On a motion by Ms. Sondra Parker Caillavet, seconded by Ms. Rebecca Harris, the Board unanimously approved to allow a Carnegie unit for Geometry in the 8th grade (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Programs and Services)
10. On a motion by Ms. Sondra Parker Caillavet, seconded by Ms. Rebecca Harris, the Board unanimously approved to allow a Carnegie unit for Foreign Language in the 8th grade (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Programs and Services)
11. On a motion by Ms. Sondra Parker Caillavet, seconded by Ms. Rebecca Harris, the Board voted unanimously to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to establish a credit recovery policy for local education agencies (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Programs and Services)
12. On a motion by Ms. Sondra Parker Caillavet, seconded by Ms. Rebecca Harris, the Board unanimously approved to contract with MGT of America for evaluation services for Mississippi Reading First Initiative (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Programs and Services)
13. On a motion by Ms. Sondra Parker Caillavet, seconded by Ms. Rebecca Harris, the Board unanimously approved to contract with Norman L. Webb, Ph.D., to conduct a curriculum alignment study (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Programs and Services)
14. On a motion by Ms. Sondra Parker Caillavet, seconded by Ms. Rebecca Harris, the Board unanimously approved to contract with SERVE to assist

Enhancing Education Through Technology (E2T2) staff in reviewing district technology plans and providing personnel to interview recipients for the E2T2 competitive grant (copy attached).

(Office of Instructional Programs and Services)

15. On a motion by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, seconded by Mr. Hal Gage, the Board voted to begin the Administrative Procedures Act Process to approve a Change to the Licensure Guidelines for all Endorsement codes for Foreign Languages from Secondary grades 7-12 to Special Subjects grades K-12 as Recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure Development (copy attached).

(Office of Quality Professionals and Special Schools)

Mr. Claude Hartley called for the vote. The motion was approved on the following vote:

Members voting aye: Mr. Hal Gage
 Dr. David Sistrunk
 Mr. Charles McClelland
 Mr. Bill Jones
 Ms. Rebecca Harris
 Dr. O. Wayne Gann
 Ms. Sondra Parker Caillavet

Members voting nay: Ms. Rosetta Richard

- VII. On a motion by Dr. O. Wayne Gann, seconded by Dr. David Sistrunk, the Board unanimously approved the following consent items:
- B. Approval of methodology for awarding competitive grants to eligible local school districts for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (copy attached).
(Office of Business and Support Services)
- C. Approval of methodology for awarding competitive /discretionary grants from the Office of Healthy Schools (copy attached).
(Office of Business and Support Services)
- D. Approval to accept procurement authorization from the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS) for Ciber, Inc., professional services (copy attached).
(Office of Business and Support Services)

- E. Approval of new school site for the Hancock County School District (South Hancock Elementary School) (copy attached).
(Office of Business and Support Services)
- F. Approval of new school site for the Hancock County School District (West Hancock Elementary School) (copy attached).
(Office of Business and Support Services)
- G. Approval of contract modification with Joy Connor to provide consultative services relative to serving as team leader for the Program Improvement Monitoring Process (copy attached).
(Office of Instructional Programs and Services)
- H. Approval of school districts with need for administrators to participate in the Mississippi School Administrator Sabbatical Program (copy attached).
(Office of Quality Professionals and Special Schools)
- VIII. Recognition Ceremony was held as follows:
- National Council of Teachers of English Achievement Awards in Writing Mississippi Student Receiving Certificate for Superior Writing
Andrew Paul
Clinton High School (Mr. Andrew Paul was unable to attend and will be recognized at a later date)
- IX. State Board of Education

Ms. Sondra Parker Caillavet reported the she attended the Accountability Task Force meeting in Jackson recently and also addressed the Leadership Gulf Coast in February.

Ms. Rosetta Richard reported that she attended the National Association of State Boards of Education meeting in January on the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and that she also attended on February 13 the Institutions for Higher Learning Summit in Jackson.

On a motion by Ms. Sondra Parker Caillavet, seconded by Ms. Rebecca Harris the Board unanimously approved Ms. Rosetta Richard to attend the Kellogg Foundation meeting in April.

Ms. Rosetta Richard will attend the National Association of State Boards of Education Legislative Conference on March 13-14, 2008. Mr. Claude Hartley asked if anyone else would like to attend this meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Hal Gage, seconded by Ms. Rebecca Harris, the Board approved two Board members to attend the National Association of State Board of Education Legislative Conference in March in addition to Ms. Rosetta Richard.

On a motion by Ms. Rosetta Richard, seconded by Ms. Sondra Parker Caillavet the Board unanimously approved the National Association of State Boards of Education membership dues.

On a motion by Ms. Rebecca Harris, seconded by Ms. Sondra Parker Caillavet, the Board unanimously approved to amend the March Board meeting date to March 17-18, 2008.

- X. On a motion by Mr. Charles McClelland, seconded by Ms. Rebecca Harris, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Approved:

Claude Hartley, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education

Hank M. Bounds
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education

enhanced professional development; career pathways; and accountability. Mr. Mulvihill recommended approval on Friday to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process.

Mr. Mulvihill and Mr. Sardin discussed the construction of an area Vocational Center at Calhoun County School District utilizing local funds. The request for an area vocational center is carried out through a two-phase process. In Phase One, the district would make a preliminary request to the Office of Compliance and Reporting to be approved or disapproved by the Vocational Education Administrative Team. If approved, Phase Two requires the district to submit a final application for the State Board of Education's approval. Mr. Mulvihill recommended approval on Friday.

Ms. Robin Parker, RCU, Mississippi State University and Mr. Sardin discussed the revision of the *Mississippi Secondary and Postsecondary Curriculum Frameworks* that are revised on a four to five-year cycle. Each curriculum framework follows the established format for secondary or postsecondary vocational and technical programs. Ms. Sardin recommended approval on Friday to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process.

Dr. Bounds welcomed U.S. Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings to the Board meeting. Dr. Bounds thanked Secretary Spellings for her hard work in securing additional resources for education after Hurricane Katrina.

Secretary Spellings noted that she is in the process of visiting states to discuss strides in student achievement and the reauthorization of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. Mississippi was the ninth such visit since the beginning of the year. She stressed that while the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* was very strong legislation based on what was known at the time, there is room for improvement based on what has been learned during the implementation of NCLB.

Secretary Spellings noted that, based on what we have learned through the implementation of both federal and state accountability models across the country, some changes to NCLB could be beneficial to schools and, most importantly, the students. Some of the changes she suggested included using a growth component and differentiated consequences.

The meeting recessed at 9:35 a.m. and reconvened at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Hartley and Dr. Bounds attended a meeting with Governor Barbour and Secretary Spellings and did not return to the Board meeting. Mr. Bill Jones, Vice Chair, chaired the meeting.

Dr. Kris Kaase discussed the revisions to State Board Policy 2100 Class Size. Mississippi Code 37-151-77 states that each school district shall not exceed a

pupil-teacher ration of 27:1 in Grades 1-4. Any local district may apply to the State Board of Education for approval of a waiver to this section by submitting and justifying an alternative educational program to serve the needs of enrollment in Grades 1-4. The policy is being revised to indicate that the exemptions will be considered by the State Board of Education following review of Department staff. The policy is also being revised to indicate that school districts may appeal the denial of an exemption by submitting a request within 14 days of receipt of notification. The Policy has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comments. Dr. Kaase recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Kaase discussed allowing a Carnegie unit for all eighth grade students passing geometry. A report on the Oxford School district Pilot Program to offer geometry in the 8th grade was presented to the Commission on School Accreditation on June 1, 2006. The Commission voted unanimously to continue the Pilot Program for the 2006-2007 school year. Dr. Kaase requested approval on Friday.

Dr. Kaase discussed allowing a Carnegie unit for all eighth grade students passing a Level I or Level II foreign language. The Hattiesburg School District was awarded a Foreign Language Assistance Program grant by the United States Department of Education (USDE) in 2004 to incorporate a foreign language program at the elementary level (grades K-6). The Hattiesburg School District was awarded a second grant by the USDE in 2005 to implement a foreign language program (Spanish) at the middle school level (grades 7-8) which allows further growth and a continuous teaching cycle of the language. In January 2008, the Commission voted unanimously to allow all students who take a Level I or Level II foreign language course in the 8th grade to receive a Carnegie unit. Dr. Kaase recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Kaase discussed establishing a credit recovery policy for local education agencies. Credit recovery allows a student to earn credit for a course that was previously failed. In a credit recovery program, an assessment is made of the student's strengths and weaknesses in regard to the course content. The purpose of the credit recovery policy is to provide guidance to local school districts with credit recovery programs and to ensure consistency in programs across school districts. The policy draft addresses the definition of credit recovery, along with guidelines regarding instructional methodology of credit recovery programs, curriculum content, grades, and admission to and removal from the program. The draft policy was presented to the Commission on School Accreditation in January 2008 and was unanimously approved. Dr. Kaase recommended approval on Friday to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process.

Dr. Kaase discussed the contract with MGT of America for Evaluation Services

for Mississippi Reading First Initiative. MGT of America will work with MDE to improve and/or maintain existing procedures for assessing student reading achievement, determine the degree of implementation for each component of the Mississippi Reading First Program, assess the impact of professional development on the growth teacher capacity, and analyze state, district, and school level data. The contract will provide quarterly progress reports and annual reports indicating progress of Reading First districts and schools. Dr. Kaase recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Kaase discussed the contract with Norman L. Webb, Ph.D., to conduct a curriculum alignment study. The purpose of this study is to verify the alignment of the assessments and standards through an independent review and to provide evidence that the state assessments meet the criteria as specified by the USDE. The study is required to meet the standards of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* and the USDE. Dr. Kaase recommended approval on Friday.

Ms. Paula Means discussed the contract with SERVE to assist Enhancing Education Through Technology (E2T2) staff in reviewing district technology plans and providing personnel to interview recipients for the E2T2 competitive grant. The contractor will provide four personnel to assist MDE in developing an applicant interview protocol; the interview process and the summer institute for the Enhancing Education Through Technology (E2T2) competitive grant. They will also conduct the E2T2 Summer Institute. Ms. Means recommended approval on Friday.

Dr. Daphne Buckley discussed a change to the Licensure Guidelines for all Endorsement codes for Foreign Languages from secondary grades 7-12 to special subjects grades K-12 as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure Development. This will allow teachers trained for a foreign language to teach elementary and secondary grades. Many Mississippi school districts want to offer foreign languages to elementary students, but do not currently have a way to certify these teachers. Dr. Buckley recommended approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process on Friday.

Dr. Buckley discussed a change to the Licensure Guidelines for the One-Year Interim Certificate as recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure Development. This recommendation will change the one-year license to a three-year non-renewable license. This license is requested by the local school district on an emergency basis to fill a teaching position in which there is no certified candidate. The current one-year Interim Certificate policy allows that the license can be renewed for an additional year if the teacher documents progress toward full certification and completion of a Mississippi Department of Education online professional

development course. Districts are continuing to request multiple one-year licenses without seeking certified teachers. Also the online professional development requirement does not lead to licensure. The proposed three-year interim license would allow additional time for the prospective teachers to complete a certification program. Dr. Buckley recommended approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process on Friday.

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

- B. Methodology for awarding competitive grants to eligible local school districts for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (Regina Ginn)
- C. Methodology for awarding competitive/discretionary grants from the Office of Healthy Schools (Regina Ginn)
- D. Accept procurement authorization from the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS) for Ciber, Inc., professional services (Regina Ginn)
- E. New school site for the Hancock County School District (South Hancock Elementary School) (Regina Ginn)
- F. New school site for the Hancock County School District (West Hancock Elementary School) (Regina Ginn)
- G. Contract modification with Joy Connor to provide consultative services relative to serving as team leader for the Program Improvement Monitoring Process (Ann Moore)
- H. School districts with need for administrators to participate in the Mississippi School Administrator Sabbatical Program (Daphne Buckley)
- I. Report of Personnel Actions (Ethel Cain Carson)

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Approved:

Claude Hartley, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education

Hank M. Bounds
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Board of Education