

MINUTES OF THE
MISSISSIPPI CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER BOARD
Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, March 5, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board was held at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, March 5, 2018 at the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board Office located at 239 N. Lamar Street Suite 207, Jackson, MS 39201. In attendance were:

Dr. Karen Elam, Board Vice-Chair
Tommie Cardin
Leland Speed
Chris Wilson

Krystal Cormack, Dr. Carey Wright, and Dr. Jean Young were unable to participate. Executive Director Marian Schutte participated in the meeting. Deputy Director Stewart McMillan was also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m.

ITEM I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was previously circulated to all Board members for review.

Vice-Chair Elam requested a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION: Mr. Cardin

SECOND: Mr. Speed

There being no discussion and following a vote in favor by all members present and participating, the motion carried.

ITEM II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes of the January 23rd Board Meeting

The minutes of the January 23rd, 2018 board meeting were previously distributed to the Board members for review.

Vice-Chair Elam requested a motion to approve the minutes of the January 23rd, 2018 board meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Cardin

SECOND: Mr. Wilson

There being no discussion and following a vote in favor by all members present and participating, the motion carried.

ITEM III. CHAIR REPORT

Vice-Chair Elam reported that there was no chair report due to the Board Chair's absence.

ITEM IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Schutte welcomed board members and the public to today's meeting. First, Ms. Schutte noted that she is still working with the U.S. Department of Education on the Board's CSP Subgrant Application. She anticipates that the Board will be ready to proceed at its April meeting.

Secondly, she gave the ruling in the Southern Poverty Law Center suit that challenged the state and local portions of the funding formula for charter schools. She noted that Judge Thomas ruled in favor of intervenors and the defendants in the case meaning that he ruled both the state and local funding as constitutional. She anticipates that the SPLC will file an appeal to the case and she will keep the board members updated on any news.

ITEM V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Applications Committee

Dr. Elam deferred her report to Ms. Schutte. She shared that the Board released the 2018 Request for Proposals process on January 24th. The Board hosted a Prospective Applicant Webinar on January 31st. The Letters of Intent are due Tuesday, March 6th. As of the board meeting this morning, the Board had received two letters of intent. She anticipates that most of those letters will come in over the next few hours. Once MCSAB receives the Letters of Intent, Ms. Schutte will review them, and the Applications Committee will meet to determine provisional eligibility. Applicants will then move to working on their Complete Proposals which are due Tuesday, May 8th. The review process will continue with the Stage 1: Completeness Check, Stage 2: Threshold Quality Review, and Stage 3: Independent Evaluation Team Review.

B. Performance and Accountability Committee

Mr. Wilson noted that the Committee did not meet but that one item related to the Committee will be presented during new business today.

ITEM VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Charter School Contract Amendments: Clarksdale Collegiate

Ms. Schutte presented Clarksdale Collegiate Public Charter School's contract amendment request to modify their contract to include the location of their school. The MCSAB approved the initial contract for Clarksdale Collegiate with the location named as To Be Determined. The

school has obtained a lease for space at the St. Paul's church in Clarksdale and requests approval to now include this location in their contract at this time.

Vice-Chair Elam requested a motion to approve Clarksdale Collegiate's contract amendment to include the location of the school.

MOTION: Mr. Wilson

SECOND: Mr. Speed

There being no discussion and following a vote in favor by all members present and participating, the motion carried.

B. 2017 Charter Schools Program Grant Award: 2017 Subgrant Request for Applications

Ms. Schutte shared that the board is waiting on additional feedback and approval at this time from the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Subgrant Application. She requested that the board take no action at this time until it has received this feedback.

The board took no action on the item.

C. 2017 Charter Schools Program Grant Award: Request for Proposals

Ms. Schutte shared that the board is waiting on additional information regarding the contracting rules and requested that the board take no action at this time.

The board took no action on the item.

D. Communications Strategy Plan

Ms. Schutte summarized the results of the Board's Communication Strategy meeting that took place earlier in the day. The Board reviewed and discussed the recommendations in the report from Mississippi First related to any Communications Strategy work. She noted the next steps would be for the Board to revise the budget and authorize the Executive Director to

Mr. Cardin motioned to revise the budget to allocate \$95,000 from Contractual - Other Fees to Contractual – Communications.

MOTION: Mr. Cardin

SECOND: Mr. Wilson

There being no discussion and following a vote in favor by all members present and participating, the motion carried.

Mr. Cardin motioned to authorize the Executive Director to draft a Request for Proposals that addresses the scope of work recommended in the Mississippi First Communications Strategy report.

MOTION: Mr. Cardin
SECOND: Mr. Wilson

There being no discussion and following a vote in favor by all members present and participating, the motion carried.

E. FY18 Budget Revision

Ms. Schutte presented a revised budget which includes moving funds from the Other Fees category to the Computer Equipment category in order to purchase iPads for board members to use during meetings as the Board moves away from being a paper-based board.

Vice-Chair Elam requested a motion to approve the revised FY18 budget as presented.

MOTION: Mr. Wilson
SECOND: Mr. Cardin

There being no discussion and following a vote in favor by all members present and participating, the motion carried.

F. Approval of Invoices

Ms. Schutte presented invoices for approval: 1) Board Member travel to today's meeting; 2) Executive Director and Deputy Director travel for March and April; and 3) the Mississippi First Communications Strategy Work final invoice.

Vice-Chair Elam requested a motion to approve the invoices as presented.

MOTION: Mr. Wilson
SECOND: Mr. Speed

There being no discussion and following a vote in favor by all members present and participating, the motion carried.

ITEM VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ITEM VIII. NEXT MEETING

Ms. Schutte noted that the next meeting was originally scheduled for April 2nd which happens to be the Monday after Easter Sunday. Ms. Schutte recommended that the Board move the April meeting to April 9th, the following Monday. She noted that she will poll the Board members via email and update them if there are any issues.

ITEM IX. ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Elam requested a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Mr. Cardin

SECOND: Mr. Speed

There being no discussion and following a vote in favor by all members present and participating, the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

ADOPTED, this the 9th day of April 2018.



Krystal Cormack, Chair