

MINUTES OF THE  
MISSISSIPPI CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER BOARD  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board was held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, March 6th, 2017, at the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board Office located at 239 N. Lamar Street Suite 207, Jackson, MS 39201. In attendance were:

Krystal Cormack, Chair  
Johnny Franklin, Vice-Chair  
Tommie Cardin  
Dr. Karen Elam  
Chris Wilson  
Dr. Jean Young

Executive Director Marian Schutte also participated in the meeting. Dr. Carey Wright was absent.

Board Chair Krystal Cormack called the meeting to order at 10:34 am.

ITEM I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A. Adoption of Agenda

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

**Chair Cormack requested a motion adopt the agenda, as presented.**

**MOTION: Mr. Franklin**

**SECOND: Dr. Elam**

**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 24<sup>th</sup> board meeting

The minutes of the January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 board meeting were previously distributed to the Board members for review.

**Chair Cormack requested a motion to approve the minutes of the January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 board meeting as presented.**

**MOTION: Mr. Wilson**

**SECOND: Dr. Young**

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

### ITEM III. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Cormack reported that she and Executive Director Ms. Schutte have been meeting regularly. She noted that one of the items that they have been discussing is the opportunity for the board to host some professional development for teachers and leaders across the state regardless of place of employment (public charter school or traditional public school). She stated that the board often has funds at the end of year it needs to expend and this could be an option for these funds. Often professional development isn't dependent on the number of attendees but a cost per presenter. She will continue this conversation with Ms. Schutte and any board member who is interested.

### ITEM IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Schutte welcomed board members and the public to the Authorizer Board's meeting. She detailed the morning's visits to Reimagine Prep and Midtown Public Charter School.

She updated the board on the meeting of statewide charter school supporters that took place at the end of January. There have been follow up meetings with specific attendees. Two areas of focus for the group have been funding and teacher and leadership development pipelines. There is the potential that an outside organization may be created to fill in these gaps needed to enhance this growth.

She updated the board on the poll that Mississippi First conducted earlier this year. Mississippi First will come to the board's April meeting to present their findings. They conducted phone surveys across the state with Mississippi State University and also conducted focus groups with charter school parents and parents in the city of Jackson. The poll consisted of questions on public education overall and a specific set of charter school questions.

### ITEM V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### A. Applications Committee

Dr. Elam yielded her committee report to Ms. Schutte. Ms. Schutte shared that the Letters of Intent are due tomorrow March 7<sup>th</sup>. The Applications Committee will meet on Wednesday to review the Letters of Intent and begin the eligibility determination process. She noted that there are fifteen applicants who have created Fluid Review accounts. Two of these applicants are previous applicants and one applicant is also going through the Building Excellent Schools fellowship. The Letters of Intent will be posted on the board's website. Initial eligibility determinations will be sent by Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> to applicants.

Per Mr. Franklin's request, Ms. Schutte also detailed the technical support offered to applicants. Searcy Milam is providing technical support on behalf of Mississippi First. She has been reaching out to all applicants as they created Fluid Review accounts. She will also provide application review, mock capacity interview support, and address any one-on-one issues with applicants. She noted that this is a much more rigorous offering of technical support than has been offered in the past.

B. Performance and Accountability Committee

Mr. Wilson stated that there is no report from the Performance and Accountability Committee.

ITEM VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2017 – 2019 Strategic Plan

Ms. Schutte presented the revisions to the 2017 – 2019 strategic plan. The initial strategic plan was presented at the board's January retreat. The main revision is related to strategic priority one where charter school awareness and outreach was pulled out and given its own focus and objective. She detailed the action items that will follow as part of this objective which include specific outreach activities and creating a routine calendar of events. She also mentioned the potential partnership with Mississippi First to create and execute this action plan. The data from their upcoming report will also help inform some of the action items and steps of this plan. Discussion followed by board members regarding potential outreach and public relations opportunities.

**Chair Cormack requested a motion to approve the 2017 - 2019 Strategic Plan as presented.**

**MOTION: Mr. Cardin**

**SECOND: Dr. Young**

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

B. FY17 Budget Revision

Ms. Schutte presented revisions to the FY 17 budget. The budget has been reduced by \$3,921 due to the Governor's recent budget cut. However, the budget has also increased by \$42,554 due to the three percent amount of local funds that the charter schools have received. These funds were added to the other fees category.

**Chair Cormack requested a motion to approve the revised FY17 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.**

C. Approval of Invoices

Ms. Schutte presented one invoice for approval: 1) board member travel to today's meeting.

**Chair Cormack requested a motion to approve the invoice for travel.**

**MOTION: Mr. Franklin**

**SECOND: Dr. Young**

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

ITEM VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Cormack thanked the members of the public for their attendance at today's board meeting. There was no public comment today.

ITEM VIII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board will be held on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 in Jackson, MS.

ITEM IX. ADJOURNMENT

**Chair Cormack requested a motion to adjourn.**

**MOTION: Dr. Elam**

**SECOND: Mr. Franklin**

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

**The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.**

ADOPTED, this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2017.



Krystal Cormack, Chair