

MINUTES OF THE
MISSISSIPPI CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER BOARD
Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, March 7, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board was held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, March 7, 2016, at the office of the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, located at 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, Mississippi. In attendance were:

Tommie Cardin, Chairman
Krystal Cormack, Vice-Chair
Dr. Bonita Coleman-Potter
Dr. Karen Elam
Johnny Franklin
Chris Wilson
Dr. Carey Wright

Board Chairman Tommie Cardin called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ITEM I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A. Adoption of Agenda

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

Chairman Cardin requested a motion to adopt the agenda, as presented.

MOTION: Dr. Elam

SECOND: Mrs. Cormack

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

The Minutes of the January 27, 2016 meeting were previously distributed to the Board members for review.

Chairman Cardin requested a motion for approval of the Minutes of the January 27, 2016 meeting.

MOTION: Dr. Wright

SECOND: Mr. Franklin

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

ITEM III. CHAIR REPORT

Chairman Cardin reported that he and Ms. Schutte had recently had an opportunity to speak at the breakfast gathering of education superintendents and board presidents during the MS School Board Association's Winter Convention, during which he shared an update on charter schools including the approval process, the philosophical approach taken by the Board since its inception, statistical information in terms of the applications that are being submitted, and the application approval process that has been approved for the current cycle. He stated that his comments were well received, that there had been a number of questions, and that the Board had received a strong endorsement from Jim Keefe, counsel for the MSBA, who was very complimentary of the work of the Board thus far. As a result of this positive reception, Dr. Mike Waldrop has asked Chairman Cardin to speak again at the April 25th legislative update gathering of the MSBA, which will include all members of the Association. Chairman Cardin expressed his belief that the more communication the Board can have with these organizations and the more information that can be shared, the more likely we will be to bridge the gaps and forge constructive relationships.

ITEM IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Schutte offered an update on the need for additional office space. She has been in communication with the AG representative for the Board who interpreted the language of the statute which dictates that the Board "shall" be located at IHL and that IHL "shall" provide the Board with office space. She stated that she is working with IHL to look for additional space options within the IHL campus.

She next offered a legislative update and stated that there are three bills still alive that deal with charter schools: HB 1043, the teacher certification bill; HB1044 has been amended to include language that states that crossing district lines only applies to students who reside in "D" and "F" school districts, and she has shared her concerns about this bill with the Board via email; and lastly, SB 2161, which contains some technical changes in the law, allows crossing district lines statewide, and allows the Authorizer Board to approve charter schools in "C" school districts without that local school board's approval.

Next Ms. Schutte reported that she is working with the TFA Exploring Equity Fellowship to have one or two summer interns again this year.

Next, she asked the Board members to calendar the National Charter Schools conference, which will be held on June 26-29 in Nashville, TN, and to let her know of any interest in attending.

Lastly Ms. Schutte gave an update on Midtown and Reimagine Prep stating that *The Clarion Ledger* had recently featured Midtown's E-Club students who had worked with Millsaps' Else School of Management students to create and design their own comic book, *The Mighty MidBot*. The students learned to developed characters, story lines and illustrations to create the stories of a robot that works to solve problems in the Midtown area. They held a release party at a local business, and were able to sell copies of their work. She stated further that Reimagine Prep had held their first annual Black History program, which was a great program and well-attended.

ITEM V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Applications Committee

Mrs. Cormack reported that the 2016 applications cycle RFP was released January 29th. She stated that the committee and Ms. Schutte have reached out to everyone who has demonstrated an interest in previous RFP cycles, including prior applicants, and they also conducted a prospective applicant webinar on February 11th that was recorded and is available through the fluid review portal for anyone who wishes to view that at a later date. She reported that Mississippi First will again be providing technical assistance during the RFP cycle. They were able to secure a grant and hire someone full time to do charter school work independently, including working with potential applicants and giving them support throughout the application process. Letters of Intent are due tomorrow, March 8th, and while none have been received to date, four existing operators and six new operators have created fluid review accounts. An update will be sent to the Board members after that deadline. She stated that once that step is complete, the committee will continue to work with NACSA for the 3rd party review. The deadline for the submission of completed proposals is May 10th.

B. Performance and Accountability Committee

Dr. Coleman-Potter reported that the committee has been working on a monitoring protocol to be put into place with new charter schools, as well as the existing ones. They hope to have a presentation of that protocol in April.

ITEM VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Job Description

Ms. Schutte stated that, based on the conversations both at the retreat and during prior meetings and a recommendation she received from Mr. Wilson, she has created and circulated to the Board for review a job description for a deputy executive director.

Chairman Cardin requested a motion to approve the job description, as presented.

MOTION: Dr. Coleman-Potter

SECOND: Mr. Wilson

Following a lengthy discussion with recommendations and agreement on various amendments to the job description, as presented, Dr. Coleman-Potter agreed to amend her motion to approve the job description, as amended.

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

B. FY 16 Budget Revisions

The Budget revision has been previously circulated to the Board for consideration.

Chairman Cardin requested a motion to approve the FY16 Budget revision, as presented.

MOTION: Dr. Wright

SECOND: Dr. Elam

Ms. Schutte reviewed the budget revisions that were previously circulated. She explained that all revisions are being made in the "Other Fees" category with a reduction of \$4,490.00, based on the Governor's required agency budget cuts, and then an increase in the amount of \$17,868 for the 3% authorizer fee received from local funds.

Dr. Coleman-Potter requested that the original budget be included for comparison anytime revisions are presented for the Board's consideration.

Following discussion of these revisions and a vote in favor by all members present and participating, the motion carried.

C. Approval of Invoices

Ms. Schutte presented invoices for board travel for the current meeting and three contractual invoices.

Chairman Cardin requested a motion to approve payment of invoices, as presented.

MOTION: Mrs. Cormack

SECOND: Mr. Wilson

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

ITEM VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Marilyn Young, Education Coordinator for Southern Echo, addressed the Board to ask for clarification on a couple of items discussed earlier. First she asked what amount of the budget was cut by the Governor's mandated budget cuts, and Ms. Schutte clarified that it amounted to 1.7% of the Board's \$250,000 allocation. Next she asked what the \$17,000 figure mentioned during the budget revisions discussion represents. Ms. Schutte explained that the \$17,868 represents the 3% of local funds that the charter school received. She next asked for clarification on the amount of the executive director's current salary and the salary approved for the deputy executive director position. Ms. Schutte stated that the executive director's salary is currently \$100,000 and the deputy executive director position salary is \$60,000 plus benefits. Lastly, she asked the Chairman to repeat the amendments made to the job description of the deputy executive director. Ms. Schutte clarified that the amendment was made in the wording of the work experience requirement to be two years professional education experience with preference for additional years and additional administrative experience.

ITEM IX. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on April 4, 2016, in Starkville, Mississippi at the Mississippi State University College of Education.

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ITEM X. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Cardin requested a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Mrs. Cormack

SECOND: Dr. Wright

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

ADOPTED, this the 7th day of March, 2016.



TOMMIE S. CARDIN, Chairman