

MINUTES OF THE
MISSISSIPPI CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER BOARD
Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, September 10, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board was held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, September 10, 2018 at the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board Office located at 239 N. Lamar Street Suite 207, Jackson, MS 39201. In attendance were:

Krystal Cormack, Board Chair
Chris Wilson
Tommie Cardin
Leland Speed
Carey Wright
Quentin Ransburg

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

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 to make these revisions and approve the agenda, as circulated.

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 II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes of the July 9th Board Meeting

The minutes of the July 9th, 2018 board meeting were previously distributed to the Board members for review.

Mr. Cardin shared that on page six, the words should be revised to "prepare and execute."

Chair Cormack requested a motion to approve the minutes of the July 9th, 2018 board meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Cardin

SECOND: Mr. Wilson

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

B. Approval of Minutes of the July 19th Board Meeting

The minutes of the July 19th, 2018 board meeting were previously distributed to the Board members for review.

Chair Cormack requested a motion to approve the minutes of the July 19th, 2018 board meeting.
MOTION: Mr. Cardin
SECOND: Mr. Wilson

ITEM III. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Cormack discussed the 2017 and 2018 Bellwether reports that will be coming out, and the work that has been done with the Performance and Accountability committee to ensure that the reports are easy to understand and convey the important information. Chair Cormack also mentioned that next week, the accountability results will come out and we will have another snapshot of data for the performance of these schools. Finally, Chair Cormack thanked Dr. Wright for her service on the board and mentioned that this would be her last meeting, as her term has expired and the board would happily welcome Mr. Kansburg.

ITEM V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Applications Committee

In the absence of Committee Chair Elam, Mr. Speed presented the committee report for the applications committee. Mr. Speed provided an overview of the 2018 RFP process. Mr. Speed also provided a review of the recommendation reports from the third-party external review team. The Applications committee will present during New Business and recommend that the board approve Ambition Preparatory, deny SRI and MS Delta Academies, and table the decision on Republic Schools until after the statewide accountability results are released.

B. Performance and Accountability Committee

Mr. Wilson shared that the Performance & Accountability Committee met this morning, and deferred to Dr. Wright to discuss the performance and accountability work. Dr. Wright highlighted some of the challenges with the charter school performance, noting that it is difficult for charter schools to make consistent progress at the middle school level because they are adding a new group of students each year, who are coming in academically behind. She noted the importance of giving the schools three to five years to make steady progress.

ITEM VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. New Board Member Appointment

Chair Cormack deferred to Dr. Wright to provide an introduction to Mr. Ransburg to the board and general public. Dr. Wright provided an introduction and discussed Mr. Ransburg's accomplishments and work ethic with the board.

Chair Cormack requested a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Ransburg to the

board.
MOTION: Dr. Wright
SECOND: Mr. Wilson

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

The board members welcomed Mr. Ransburg and Dr. Wright excused herself, having Mr. Ransburg take her place.

B. 2018 Request for Proposals: Stage 3 Evaluation Results

Chair Cormack requested a motion to approve Ambition Preparatory Charter School based on their 2018 Request for Proposals Stage 3 evaluation results.
MOTION: Mr. Speed
SECOND: Mr. Cardin

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

Chair Cormack requested a motion to deny SRI based on their 2018 Request for Proposals Stage 3 evaluation results.
MOTION: Mr. Speed
SECOND: Mr. Cardin

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

Chair Cormack requested a motion to deny MS Delta Academies based on their 2018 Request for Proposals Stage 3 evaluation results.
MOTION: Mr. Speed
SECOND: Mr. Wilson

Mr. Cardin discussed the applicant responses to the recommendation report. Members discussed the financial plan, educational plan and the accountability results in the district where the school

is being proposed. Members discussed whether the response could or should serve as a supplement to the proposal. Chair Cormack suggested that board members revisit the proposal to take a deep dive into the nuance of the proposal. Mr. Cardin suggested that the motion to deny be tabled until next month, to provide board members more time to review and consider.

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

Mr. Speed made a motion that the board push back the decision of the Republic Schools, Inc. application until Monday, October 15, 2018 board meeting at which the accountability results for the 2017-2018 academic year will be available.
MOTION: Mr. Speed
SECONDED: Mr. Cardin

Mr. Cardin noted that he supports waiting because the law requires us to look for clear evidence of statistically significant gains from schools before allowing them to expand.
There being no additional discussion and following a vote in favor by all members present and participating, the motion carried.

C. Charter Schools Program Subgrant Application Rerelease

Chair Cormack instructed board members to review the adjusted timeline for the Charter Schools Program Grant and noted that the only change was the timeline. She mentioned her excitement that Mr. Scott and his team would have the opportunity to utilize the funds to prepare to open Ambition Preparatory Charter School.

Chair Cormack requested a motion to approve the Charter Schools Program Grant Subgrant Application Release.
MOTION: Mr. Cardin
SECOND: Mr. Ransburg

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

D. 2018 Annual Report Initial Version

Chair Cormack noted that this version of the 2018 report is the shell version of the report that is currently being built out by Bellwether. However, in order to meet the legislative timeline, we must release something by the deadline, so we release the shell and fill in the data and rerelease once it is complete.

Chair Cormack requested a motion to approve the 2018 Annual Report Initial Version.
MOTION: Mr. Wilson
SECOND: Mr. Cardin

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

E. Appendix B Requirement

Chair Cormack provided context for the board that the Appendix B requirement exists to allow school districts to have a method for informing the state department licensure team if there is misconduct. Currently, charter schools are not required to provide this information, but they need to be included so that there are no loopholes in reporting educator misconduct.

Chair Cormack requested a motion to approve a resolution requiring charter schools to utilize Appendix B to report educator misconduct.
MOTION: Mr. Cardin
SECOND: Mr. Ransburg

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

F. Contract Approvals

Chair Cormack highlighted that she worked with Avery Lee over the summer to develop and draft a standard contract for the Authorizer Board. She directed board members to view it, noting that after this is approved by the board, it can be utilized with all contracts for services from the board.

Chair Cormack requested a motion to approve the standard MCSAB Contract Template.
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.

Chair Cormack requested a motion to approve the execution of previously approved technical assistance contracts for Mississippi First and the Mississippi Education Accelerator, now that the contracts are developed.
MOTION: Mr. Cardin
SECOND: Mr. Wilson

Mr. Cardin noted for the board that nunc pro tunc is an action that allows the board to retroactively take action "today, as if then" for the contracts that we previously approved, but could not take action on because there was no contract yet.

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

Chair Cormack requested a motion to approve a consultant contract for Sarah Stewart Brevard McMillan.
MOTION: Mr. Cardin
SECOND: Mr. Ransburg

Chair Cormack noted that Mrs. McMillan has graciously offered to provide ongoing support through a new Executive Director hiring.

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

G. Approval of Invoices

Chair Cormack requested a motion to approve all invoices except for Cornerstone Consulting.
MOTION: Mr. Wilson
SECOND: Mr. Cardin

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

Mr. Cardin recused himself and left the room.
Chair Cormack requested a motion to approve the invoices for Cornerstone Consulting.
MOTION: Mr. Wilson
SECOND: Mr. Speed

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

Mr. Cardin returned to the room.

Chair Cormack requested a motion for a closed determination of executive session.
MOTION: Mr. Cardin
SECOND: Mr. Ransburg

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

Chair Cormack requested a motion to enter executive session.
MOTION: Mr. Cardin

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

The board conducted discussion in executive session.
Chair Cormack requested a motion to move two individuals to a final interview for Executive Director.
MOTION: Mr. Wilson

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

Chair Cormack requested a motion to end executive session.
MOTION: Mr. Wilson

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

Chair Cormack announced the board action taken during executive session in open session.

ITEM VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was public comment offered by several individuals. Superintendent Dwight Lockett of Canton School District expressed his appreciation that the proposal of SRI was denied by the board. He discussed the weaknesses of the application, the work currently being done in Canton and the improvements happening in Canton School District. Dr. Tamala Boyd-Shaw spoke about the consolidation of Greenwood and Leflore School Districts happening on July 1, 2019. Dr. Shannon Whitehead spoke about her concerns for SRI and noted the accomplishments of McNeal Elementary School. Several additional administrators spoke from Canton School District about their work and accomplishments. Mr. DeArchie Scott spoke about his excitement over the approval of Ambition Preparatory and how he is ready to get to work.

ITEM VIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Cormack noted that the next meeting will be Monday, October 15th at 10:00am at the Authorizer Board's office, but the board may gather before then to conduct final interviews.

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ITEM IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cormack requested a motion to adjourn.


MOTION: Mr. Ransburg

SECOND: Mr. Wilson

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

ADOPTED, this the 15th day of October 2018.



Krystal Cormack, Chair