

MINUTES OF THE
MISSISSIPPI CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER BOARD
Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, June 3, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board was held at 10:00 am on Monday, June 3, 2019 at the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board Office located at 239 N. Lamar Street Suite 207, Jackson, MS 39201. In attendance were:

Quentin Ransburg, Board Chair
Dr. Karen Elam, Vice Chair
Dr. Jean Young
Tommie Cardin
Chris Wilson
*Leland Speed
Carolyn Willis

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am.

ITEM II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A. Adoption of the Agenda

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

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to adopt the Agenda as presented.

Motion: Cardin

Second: Vice Chair Elam

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

ITEM III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Approval of the Minutes of the April 1, 2019 Board Meeting

The minutes of the April 1st, 2019 Board meeting were previously distributed to the Board members for review.

Chair Ransburg requested a motion for approval of the April 1, 2019 board meeting minutes.

Prior to approving the minutes as presented, Vice Chair Elam requested an amendment to reflect that Chair Ransburg left the meeting and Vice Chair Elam presided over the remainder of the board meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes as amended followed.

Motion: Cardin

Second: Dr. Young

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

ITEM IV. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Ransburg didn't have a report, but expressed his gratitude for Dr. Karmacharya being here and all of the hard work she's put in over the last couple of months to get the organization moving forward in the right direction.

ITEM V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Karmacharya welcomed members of the Board, visitors and thanked them for coming. She introduced Vanda Brumfield, the newly appointed Director of Schools and Accountability, who was present at the meeting. Ms. Brumfield will join the MCSAB team in a few weeks.

Dr. Karmacharya began her report by providing the Board with an update on the school site visits. She expressed that she was delighted to see some of the best teaching that she's seen in her 25+ years of education, engaged leaders, supportive school cultures and climate, dedicated and committed of the leadership. Mr. Wilson asked Dr. Karmacharya her impressions of Schoolworks, to which Dr. Karmacharya responded by saying that they were outstanding to work with noting that the contract with Schoolworks was approved prior to her arrival. Dr. Karmacharya indicated that Schoolworks used our current framework (i.e., teacher checklist, personnel file, facility checklist, organizational structure within the school, finances, school site indicators, etc.) along with their research-based protocol. Schoolworks utilized a half-day protocol for schools in years one, two, and three of operation and a 2-day protocol for schools in their fourth year of operation.

Dr. Karmacharya stated that the cover for the annual report has been finalized. She acknowledged that Mr. Wilson gave some great feedback, which helped to influence the final selection. Completion for the data collection and narrative for the annual report is pending.

Dr. Karmacharya noted that she visited Ambition Preparatory Charter School's new site on April 26, 2019. Their school is scheduled to open on time, which will be in the Fall of 2019.

Dr. Karmacharya noted that policy work is ongoing with respect to several board policies including fingerprint and background check.

Dr. Karmacharya stated that the Performance and Accountability Committee has received a draft version of the Renewal Closure Protocol, which will be further discussed in a future committee meeting. The Board will need to approve a renewal and closure policy in July.

The Supreme Court will have Oral Proceedings on June 18th related to the ongoing lawsuit filed in 2016 against Midtown Partners.

ITEM VI. FINANCIAL REPORT

Denise DeRossette of Cornerstone Consulting presented the following for approval:

- FY19 Budget
 - Chair Ransburg asked a question regarding rollover funds, and Ms. DeRossette provided a response.
 - Will receive about \$396K from the schools in June & July for their 3% administrative fees.
- FY20 Budget
 - Ms. DeRossette indicated in her report that July 1 will begin a new budget with the Board having legislative authority to spend \$237K in general funds and \$500K in special funds.
 - The budget, as presented, reflects significantly less than that.
 - Dr. Elam asked a question about professional services, and Dr. Karmacharya stated that although this was left in the budget, we plan to staff up and will readjust accordingly.

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to approve the FY20 Budget.

Motion: Dr. Young

Second: Wilson

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

ITEM VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Applications Committee

Dr. Karmacharya welcomed Beth Seling, our lead evaluator for the 2019 Application Process. Vice Chair Elam acknowledged that Ms. Seling traveled from New Orleans, LA to provide the board with an update on the Stage 1 Completeness Check. Ms. Seling expressed her gratitude for being there and for Dr. Karmacharya's support throughout the application process. Ms. Seling provided the Board with an overview of the Board's responsibility with respect to approving high quality charter applications. Ms. Seling reported Stage 1 Completeness Check findings as follows:

- Complete: MS Delta Academies, Randy J. Naylor Memorial Foundation, SR1, KC Schools, Inc., Mississippi Community Education Center
- Incomplete: Southwest Leadership Academy, Technology Innovative for Today's Youth, Voices for Education

Chair Ransburg asked Ms. Seling for clarification on schools that she was recommending to move forward to Stage 2.

Mr. Cardin inquired as to whether or not any of the applicants were national charter management organizations. Ms. Seling responded that it was her understanding that all of these were local providers and none were operating a charter school in Mississippi.

- B. Performance and Accountability Committee
- There were no updates.

ITEM VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Contracts: Cornerstone Consulting and Epicenter

Mr. Cardin recused himself and left the boardroom during the discussion and vote on the contract with Cornerstone Consulting.

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to approve the contract between Cornerstone Consulting and the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board.

**Motion: Wilson
Second: Speed**

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

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to approve the contract between Epicenter and the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board.

**Motion: Vice Chair Elam
Second: Dr. Young**

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

B. Board Policies

Mr. Wilson made a motion to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: to establish MCSAB board policy Title 10. Part 403, Rule 1 & 2 for Declaratory Opinions and Rulemaking Oral Proceedings.

Motion: Wilson

Second: Vice Chair Elam

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

Mr. Wilson made a motion to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: to establish MCSAB board policy Title 10. Part 403, Rule 3 for Public Records Policy

Motion: Wilson

Second: Speed

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

C. 2019 Applications

Vice Chair Elam made a motion to approve the following applicants qualified to move forward to Stage 2 of the 2019 evaluation process because, through the Stage 1 Completeness Check, their applications were deemed complete:

- Mississippi Community Education Center, proposing Greenwood Charter School
- KC Schools, Inc., proposing Kingdom Charter School
- MS Delta Academies, proposing Leflore Legacy Academy
- Randy J. Naylor Memorial Foundation, proposing Memorial Preparatory Academy
- SR1, proposing SR1 College Preparatory and STEM Academy

Motion: Vice Chair Elam

Second: Dr. Young

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

Vice Chair Elam made a motion that the following applicants do not qualify to move forward to Stage 2 of the 2019 evaluation process because, at the conclusion of the

Stage 1 Completeness Check remedy window, their applications were deemed incomplete:

- Southwest Leadership Academy, proposing Southwest Leadership Academy
- Technology Innovative for Today's Youth, proposing Elite Academy, Innovative Careers & Technology Academy, and George Abraham Preparatory Academy
- Voices for Education, proposing Mound Bayou New Millennial High School

Motion: Vice Chair Elam

Second: Dr. Young

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

ITEM IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ITEM X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Mr. Cardin requested a motion to consider entering into Closed Session to discuss personnel matter.**

Motion: Cardin

Second: Wilson

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

- B. Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matter.**

Motion: Cardin

Second: Wilson

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

- C. The Board conducted discussion in Executive Session.**

- D. Chair Ransburg requested a motion to end Executive Session.**

Motion: Dr. Young

Second: Willis

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

Chair Ransburg announced that no action was taken during Executive Session.

ITEM XI.

Chair Ransburg noted that the next meeting will be Monday, July 8th, 2019 at 10:00 am at the Authorizer Board's office.

ITEM IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Wilson

Second: Speed

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 am.

ADOPTED, this July 8th, 2019.


Quentin Ransburg, Chair

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