

MINUTES OF THE
MISSISSIPPI CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER BOARD
Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, July 8, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board was held at 10:00 am on Monday, July 8, 2019 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, Vice Chair
*Dr. Jean Young
Tommie Cardin
Chris Wilson
Leland Speed
Carolyn Willis

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am. Dr. Jean Young attended the meeting by phone from Petal, Mississippi.

Vice Chair Elam called the meeting to order.

ITEM II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A. Adoption of the Agenda

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

Mr. Cardin requested an amendment to the agenda to reflect and include an update from Mississippi First.

A motion to approve the agenda as amended followed.

**Motion: Cardin
Second: Wilson**

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 June 3, 2019 Board Meeting

The minutes of the June 3rd, 2019 Board meeting were previously distributed to the Board members for review.

Vice Chair Elam requested a motion for approval of the June 3, 2019 board meeting minutes.

Motion: Speed

Second: Cardin

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

ITEM IV. CHAIR REPORT

None.

ITEM V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Karmacharya welcomed members of the Board and 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.

On June 18th, the staff including Avery visited the Supreme Court for Oral Proceedings. We are awaiting the Court's finding regarding the lawsuit against Midtown Partners.

June 20th met with Mississippi First and Mississippi Education Accelerator. Both external providers gave an update regarding their commitment to the work with respect to the CSP grant. There remains an opportunity for growth and a lot of work, but excited about the opportunities regarding the work going forward

Dr. Karmacharya expressed her gratitude to Dr. Vicki Kibodeaux for providing us with an outside look as an external support conducting a monitoring visit of the use of the CSP grant. Dr. Kibodeaux has been an extra set of eyes to see where we are with respect to compliance. Her contract and scope of services are outlined in her contract, which was included in the board packet. This contract will be funded through the Grant.

Attended Charter School Alliance Conference and thanked MS First for their continued support of all charter schools around Mississippi. Session on Policy and procedures was informative. Met with President and CEO of SchoolWorks to discuss potential future work.

Policy work is ongoing. Mentioned the need for the board to approve a renewal and closure policy. Policies will be presented in today's meeting.

A review of our performance framework is ongoing with recommendations for changes forthcoming.

For Reference to P & A Committee Report

- SchoolWorks was charged with utilizing the MCSAB Performance Framework along with their Harvard research-based protocols that require points of validation for reporting: observed in 2 of 3 places (1) document review (2) focus group (3) classroom observation in conducting site visits.
- Reminder about MCSAB – framework – collection of data submissions, enrollment, attendance, suspensions – teacher certification, school selected indicators – conducted a special populations document review and facility checklist – both the ½ day and the 2 full day visits included the collection and review of these documents/data

ITEM VI. GRANT COORDINATOR UPDATE

Dr. White noted that the Annual Performance Report had been completed prior to the April 15th deadline, and he'd received feedback from project director in D.C. The report is in good standing, but our registration in SAMS.gov has lapsed. We are now registered with SAM.gov and all certifications and documents have been updated.

Ambition Prep Pre-Opening visit is scheduled for July 28th.

The Ambition Prep ribbon cutting ceremony will be on August 9th at 10:30 a.m.

Vicki Kibodeaux was able to get preapproval for budget modifications to CSP grant. Ms. Stephanie Barnes from USDE accounting office confirms that our certifications, deposit documentations, and bank certifications are all in line.

According to Ms. Barnes, we need to draw down \$494,981.90. Those are expenditures through the end of May. Once we get our draw down set up monthly, we will go back and handle June and July. This is our first draw down.

ITEM VII. FINANCIAL REPORT

Denise De Rossette of Cornerstone Consulting presented the following for approval:

- FY19 Budget
 - FY19 will run through August 15th
 - Out of the General fund we have spent \$237K
 - Out of the Special fund from last year's school revenue we will spend approximately \$100K
 - Grant expenditures from last year were approximately \$630K. This approximation of \$630k is inclusive of future draw downs.
- FY20 Budget

- The board was given legislative authority of \$737,000 and the board's internal budget has been created to reflect less than the appropriation that is recommended at \$576,840. The FY21 budget request is the legislative request.
- Mr. Wilson requested more information on appropriation and admin funds to be sure that there are no restrictions on how the funds are used. Ms. De Rossette explained that the legislative appropriation does not limit spending by object of expense and the board can set its internal budget as it deems appropriate.

Mr. Wilson requested a motion to accept the financial report.

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. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Applications Committee

Vice Chair Elam welcomed consultant, Beth Seling, by phone. Ms. Seling provided the Board with an overview on the findings of the Independent Evaluation Committee.

The Board was provided with two documents for reference.

Ms. Seling reported Stage 2 Independent Evaluation Committee findings as follows:

*The Independent Evaluation Committee recommends that four applications had no findings that warranted a Substantially Inadequate rating, and thus, recommends that **these four applications proceed to the Stage 3 Independent Evaluation Team Review.***

Randy J. Naylor Foundation – Memorial Preparatory Academy

Mississippi Community Education Center – Greenwood Charter School

MS Delta Academies – Leflore Legacy Academy

SR1 – SR1 College Preparatory & STEM Academy

Applicant: *KC Schools Inc., proposing Kingdom Charter School in South Pike School District*

Recommendation: *The Independent Evaluation Committee recommends that the Board deny the KC Schools Inc., proposal at Stage 2.*

The applicant had Substantially Inadequate ratings for Thresholds 1 – 5 of the Application Process.

Mr. Cardin asked Ms. Seling for the grade levels for Randy J. Naylor. Ms. Seling provided a response and included grade levels for all four applicants.

B. Performance and Accountability Committee

Bellwether will be ready to provide the annual report for the legislature soon.
SchoolWorks has completed the 2019 spring school visits.
MS First has been working on providing us a comprehensive protocol for closure.
Mr. Wilson presented the final closure protocol for adoption.
Mr. Wilson motioned to approve the MCSAB Closure Protocol.

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 VIII. MISSISSIPPI FIRST REPORT

Vice Chair Elam welcomed Rachel Canter to provide the Board with an update from MS First.

Rachel Canter presented the Renewal Guidance report. MS First and Dr. Karmacharya have worked on creating and are now working toward finalizing a Renewal Application. We are required by law to issue an application that allows schools to apply for renewal. We must have published criteria and guidance for this process. Schools must receive guidance Application no later than September 30th. Ms. Canter recommends that in the short-term focus should be on providing clarity for what is currently in the adopted performance framework to enable us to make fair decisions for both schools that are up for renewal.

ITEM IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Travel to NACSA

Dr. Karmacharya requested that travel to NACSA be approved and extended an invitation to any board members interested in joining her for the conference. The conference is for authorizers and will be held in October.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve travel to NACSA.

Motion: Wilson

Second: Willis

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

B. Final Adoption of Proposed Policies: Chapters 1, 2, 3

On a motion by Mr. Cardin, seconded by Mr. Speed, the Board unanimously approved to adopt Board Policy, Part 403, Chapter 1 on Declaratory Opinions, Chapter 2 on Rulemaking and Oral Proceedings, and Chapter 3 on Requests for Information (Public Records Request).

Motion: Cardin
Second: Speed

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

C. Board Policies: Chapters 4, 5, 7, 8

On a motion by Mr. Cardin, seconded by Mr. Speed, the Board unanimously approved to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process to establish Board Policy, Part 403, Chapter 4 establishing a Background Check Policy, Chapter 5 establishing a policy for Equal Employment Opportunity, Chapter 7 establishing a policy for Charter School Renewal and Chapter 8 establishing a policy for Closure of Charter Schools.

Motion: Cardin
Second: Speed

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

D. 2020 Office Lease

Dr. Karmacharya requests for the annual (no cost) lease to be approved.
Mr. Speed moved to approve the 2020 Office Lease.

Motion: Speed
Second: Cardin

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

E. MOU between IHL & MCSAB

Dr. Karmacharya requests for the annual renewal of the MOU.
Mr. Cardin moved to approve the MOU between IHL & MCSAB.

Motion: Cardin
Second: Willis

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

F. 2019 Request for Proposals: Stage 2 Application Evaluation Results

Mr. Speed made a motion to approve the following applicants qualified to move forward to Stage 3 of the 2019 applications process because, through the Stage 2 evaluation, their applications had no findings that warranted substantially inadequate ratings:

Randy J. Naylor Foundation – Memorial Preparatory Academy
Mississippi Community Education Center – Greenwood Charter School
MS Delta Academies – Leflore Legacy Academy
SR1 – SR1 College Preparatory & STEM Academy

Motion: Speed
Second: Dr. Young

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

Mr. Speed made a motion that the following applicant does not qualify to move forward to Stage 3 of the applications process because, at the conclusion of the Stage 2 evaluation process, their application was found to have substantially inadequate ratings:
KC Schools Inc., proposing Kingdom Charter School

Motion: Speed
Second: Dr. Young

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

Mr. Speed made the observation that these recommendations made by our consultants are made by very competent professionals.

ITEM IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

Dr. Karmacharya presented Mr. Speed with a certificate signed by the Governor and the Secretary of State thanking him for his service.

ITEM X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ITEM XII.

Vice Chair Elam noted that the next meeting will be Monday, September 9th, 2019 at 10:00 am at the Authorizer Board's office.

ITEM XIII. ADJOURNMENT

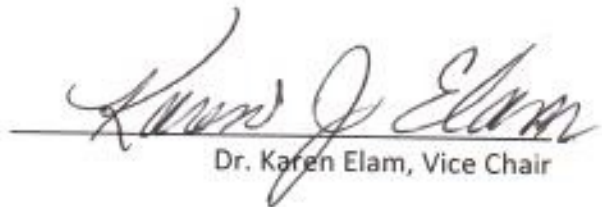
Vice Chair Elam requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Cardin

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 11:12 am.
ADOPTED, this September 9th, 2019.



Dr. Karen Elam, Vice Chair

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