

MINUTES OF THE
MISSISSIPPI CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER BOARD
Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, January 13, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board was held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 13, 2020 at the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board Office located at 239 N. Lamar Street Suite 207, Jackson, MS 39201. In attendance were:

Quentin Ransburg, Chair
*Leland Speed
Chris Wilson
Bill Billingsley
Jean Young
Avery Lee, Legal Counsel

The December 9, 2019 board meeting reconvened on January 13, 2020 at 10:10 a.m. Mr. Speed attended the meeting by phone.
Chair Ransburg requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Wilson
Second: Young

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

The January 13 regular monthly meeting was called to order by Chair Ransburg at 10:15 a.m. *Mr. Speed attended the meeting by phone.

ITEM I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was previously circulated to all board members for review.
Chair Ransburg informed the board of a change to the agenda and requested a motion to add item M: Approval of MCSAB membership to the Mississippi Economic Council.

Mr. Ransburg requested a motion to adopt the agenda as modified to include item M.

Motion: Wilson
Second: Young

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 the minutes of the December 9, 2019 Board Meeting

The minutes of the December 9, 2019 board meeting were previously circulated to the board members for review.

Chair Ransburg requested a motion for approval of the December 9, 2019 board meeting minutes.

ITEM III. CHAIR REPORT

None.

ITEM IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Karmacharya welcomed board members and guests with a special welcome and thank you to our new board member, Mr. Bill Billingsley, for joining us and his willingness to commit to this important work that we do every day.

Dr. Karmacharya noted that the U.S. Department of Education had approved the request for an amendment to the CSP grant that will allow MCSAB to expand its search for technical assistance providers beyond those listed in the grant. With board approval we will release several RFP's for that required technical assistance. MCSAB is grateful to the U.S. Dept. of Education for their support.

Dr. Karmacharya reminded the board of the anticipated renewal schools' applications and highlighted some of the renewal process and timeline details for new board member, Mr. Billingsley.

Additionally, Dr. Karmacharya discussed the importance of recruitment and shared the recruitment packet that went out to inform high quality charter providers of our upcoming 2020 Call for Quality Schools application cycle.

Dr. Karmacharya shared with the board her desire to do a state tour in the spring. She would like the board to discuss logistics during the board retreat (date TBD).

Dr. Brumfield shared with the board that she had traveled to Greenwood to provide Dr. Tamala Boyd-Shaw, Leflore Legacy Academy, technical assistance as required by the CSP grant. Dr. Boyd-Shaw received training on aspects of being a CSP recipient including guidelines for use of funds and requirements related to pre-opening. This was an opportunity to view their new facility.

ITEM VII. FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report was circulated to the board prior to the meeting and presented by Ms. Denise De Rossette. The report included expenses and how much is remaining in the budget as of December 31st. Ms. De Rossette informed the board that she and Dr. Karmacharya will be meeting with legislative budget analyst. Denise informed the board that travel reimbursement and mileage rates have changed. DFA requires the agency to conduct an annual internal controls analysis. The report compiled in December reflected no areas of concern. The agency has come a long way over the last year.

Chair Ransburg asked if the PEER recommendation of a stand-alone budget will be discussed with Ms. Minor. Dr. Karmacharya responded that our recommendation will be we remain within an IHL line item at this point. Dr. Karmacharya stated that the plan for the meeting with Ms. Minor is to ask for original funding for the agency.

ITEM VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Wilson reported that the Performance and Accountability Committee did not meet, but that the work is ongoing. We will be partnering with Bellwether again to complete the annual report. The committee is alive and well.

ITEM IX. NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of RFP to Conduct Charter School Technical Assistance as defined in the CSP.
- B. Approval of RFP to Conduct Charter School Technical Assistance – Support Tools as defined in the CSP.
- C. Approval of RFP to Conduct Charter School Operator Recruitment Activities as defined in the CSP.

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to approve items A, B, and C.

Motion: Young
Second: Wilson

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

- D. Approval of Request for Quotes to Conduct Charter School Application Evaluation Support.

E. Approval of NACSA Quote for Authorizer Evaluation and Training.

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to approve items D & E.

Motion: Wilson

Second: Speed

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

F. Approval of 2020 Call for Quality Schools Letter of Intent.

G. Approval of 2020 RFP Call for Quality Schools – New Schools Application

H. Approval of 2020 RFP Call for Quality Schools – Existing Schools Application

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to approve items F, G, and H.

Motion: Young

Second: Speed

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

I. Approval of Bellwether Proposal 2019 Annual Report

Motion: Wilson

Second: Speed

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

J. Approval of travel to 2020 CSP Project Directors' Meeting

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to approve item J.

Motion: Young

Second: Wilson

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

K. Approval to adopt Board Policy, Part 403, Chapter 7, Rule 7.1-7.7 for Charter School Contract. Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment.

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to approve item K.

Motion: Wilson

Second: Speed

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

L. Consider resolution to PEER recommendation – compliance with state travel policy. The 2019 PEER report recommends the Board consider a resolution to determine reimbursement of the general budget for an unallowable expenditure previously approved.

Mr. Wilson asked counsel, Avery Lee for clarification. Ms. Lee explained to the board that travel paid for someone who is not an employee is not an allowable expenditure. This has been confirmed by both state law and the Office of the State Auditor. A discussion followed with an acknowledgment of the board's obligation of re-payment to the general fund.

M. Approval of MCSAB membership MEC.

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to approve item M.

Motion: Wilson

Second: Speed

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

ITEM X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Young made a motion to go into closed session for the determination of the need to go into Executive Session.

Motion: Young

Second: Wilson

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

Wilson made a motion to go out of Executive Session.

Motion: Wilson

Second: Young

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

ITEM XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEM XII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Ransburg noted that the next meeting will be Monday, March 9th, 2020 at 10:00 am at the Authorizer Board's office.

ITEM XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Young
Second: Speed

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

Quentin Ransburg, Chair

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