

MINUTES OF THE
MISSISSIPPI CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER BOARD
Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, March 30, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board was held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, March 30, 2020 via Zoom videoconference. In attendance were:

Quentin Ransburg, Chair – located at 101 Ridgefield Dr. Madison, MS
Bill Billingsley – 4600 County Rd 23 Carroll County, MS
Leland Speed – 4166 Eastover Dr. Jackson, MS
Carolyn Willis – 1955 University Blvd Houston, TX
Denise De Rossette, Fiscal Agent
Avery Lee, Legal Counsel

Chair Ransburg called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

ITEM I. 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.

Motion: Billingsley
Second: Willis

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 March 9, 2020 Board Meeting

The minutes of the March 9, 2020 board meeting were previously circulated to the board members for review. Chair Ransburg requested a motion for approval of the March 9, 2020 board meeting minutes.

Motion: Billingsley
Second: Willis

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

ITEM III. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Ransburg thanked the MCSAB agency staff for preparing and conducting this meeting during this challenging time.

ITEM IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Karmacharya welcomed board members and guests and thanked the schools for providing support for our children and families during this challenging time. Dr. Karmacharya extended a special thank you to the MCSAB agency staff for working hard to conduct business during this unique time.

Dr. Karmacharya pointed out the new website provides the public with a variety of information including board minutes, links to school websites, and resources.

Dr. Karmacharya informed the board that a COVID19 Survey was created and disseminated to collect responses from the schools around instruction, how to support the special needs population, waivers that are available through the federal government, and communication with internal and external stakeholders. Collective responses to this survey will support staff in meeting the needs of schools. The data that we have received seems very positive.

Dr. Karmacharya noted that the CSP monitoring visit has been pushed back which allows us additional time to prepare. The annual report reveals progress toward our CSP goals.

Dr. Karmacharya noted that the kick-off call with Bellwether to begin work on the Annual Report for the legislature will occur on April 6th.

Dr. Karmacharya reminded the board to complete their Statement of Economic Interest Form for the Ethics Commission.

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 to date and the remaining budget as of March 15th, 2020.

Ms. De Rossette reported to the board that she and Dr. Karmacharya had a successful meeting with the legislative budget analyst and commended Dr. Karmacharya for her presentation to the House Education Committee.

ITEM VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dr. Karmacharya noted that the Applications Committee has not been assigned as we still have vacancies on the board. With the board's permission, Dr. Karmacharya delivered reports on the 2020 Call for Quality Schools, Letter of Intent and Eligibility Demonstrations and the DRAFT Renewal Reports for Midtown Public Charter School and Reimagine Prep.

a. 2020 Call for Quality Schools Letters of Intent & Eligibility Demonstrations

Prior to the board meeting, the board was provided with a summary of the 2020 Call for Quality Schools Letters of Intent & Eligibility Demonstrations. Dr. Karmacharya reminded the board of their obligation to authorize high-quality charter schools, particularly schools designed to serve the underserved. She reported the following eligibility findings to the board:

- Argie Peters Logan STEM Academy – new operator proposing to open a school serving grades K-3 (K-5 at capacity) in Holmes County in 2021. The current district rating is F.
- Excel Community Schools Inc. – a new operator proposing to open a school serving grades K-1, 6 (K-12 at capacity) in Greenville Public School District in 2021. The current district rating is F.
- Kaleidoscope Schools – an existing operator proposing to open a school serving grades K-3 (K-5 at capacity) in South Delta School District, Sharkey County in 2021. The current district rating is D.
- Piney Woods School Preparatory School – an existing operator proposing to open a school serving grades 5-8 in Jackson Public School District in 2021. The current district rating is D.
- SR1 – a new operator proposing to open a school serving grades K-1 (K-5 at capacity) in Canton Public School District in 2022. The current district rating is D.
- Voices for Education – a new operator proposing to open a school serving grades 7-10 (7-12 at capacity) in North Bolivar School District in 2021. The current district rating is F.

b. [DRAFT] Renewal Recommendation Reports

The board was provided with the draft recommendation reports prior to the meeting. Dr. Karmacharya reminded the board that the renewal guidance and application were approved in September. Before reading the recommendation reports, Dr. Karmacharya referenced code section 37-28-33, section a(1) and reminded the board that in making renewal decisions, the authorizer must ground its decisions in the evidence of the school's performance over the term of the charter contract. Dr. Karmacharya referenced the Renewal Task Summary and Summary of Final Evaluator Recommendations documents that were circulated to the board prior to the meeting.

Dr. Karmacharya presented the draft renewal recommendation report for **Midtown Public**.

The evaluation team recommends a (3) year renewal with conditions for Midtown Public Charter School. With respect to their Record of Performance, Midtown approaches expectations in Effective Academic Program, meets expectations in Financial Success, and approaches expectations in Organizational Success. Dr. Karmacharya included in her report to the board the conditions for renewal around academics, student recruitment and enrollment plans, board governance, and future fiscal plans. She referenced the timeline for the condition submission deadlines.

Mr. Billingsley requested information on modifying deadlines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Lee provided a response. Mr. Ransburg stated his concern that the schools will struggle to meet these conditions due to missing academic seat time. If the conditions cannot be met due to extenuating circumstances, he recommends considering other data points.

Dr. Karmacharya presented the draft renewal recommendation report for **Reimagine Prep**.

The evaluation team recommends a (5) year renewal for Reimagine Prep. With respect to their Record of Performance, Reimagine Prep meets expectations in Effective Academic Program, Financial Success, and Organizational Success.

Ms. Willis requested information on how the determination of the length of the renewal term was made. In response, Dr. Karmacharya reminded the board that the renewal application and guidance approved in September includes the options for renewal terms.

ITEM IX. NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

A. 2020 Call for Quality Schools Application Cycle adjusted timeline.

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to approve item A.

Motion: Speed
Second: Billingsley

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

B. Champe Carter proposal to conduct technical assistance as required by the CSP.

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to approve item B.

Motion: Speed
Second: Billingsley

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

C. Professional Polish proposal to conduct technical assistance including applicant support as required by the CSP.

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to approve item C.

Motion: Billingsley

Second: Willis

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

D. Mississippi First proposal to conduct survey of stakeholders as required by the CSP.

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to approve item D.

Motion: Billingsley

Second: Willis

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

E. SchoolWorks proposal to conduct application evaluation support for the 2020 Call for Quality Schools.

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to approve item E.

Motion: Billingsley

Second: Speed

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

F. Leflore Legacy contract amendment to include the school's location.

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to approve item F.

Motion: Speed

Second: Billingsley

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

G. Academic Technologies Inc. quote for equipment (boardroom replacement microphone).

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to approve item G.

Motion: Willis
Second: Speed

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

H. [DRAFT] Renewal Recommendation Report as presented for Midtown Public School.

I. [DRAFT] Renewal Recommendation Report as presented for Reimagine Preparatory.

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to approve items H and I.

Motion: Billingsley
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

None.

ITEM XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEM XII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Ransburg noted that the next meeting will be Monday, April 20th, 2020 at 10:00 am at the Authorizer Board's office.

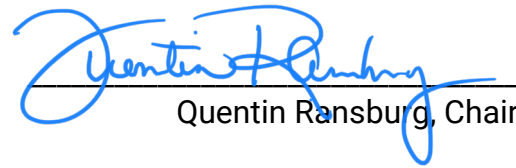
ITEM XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ransburg requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Billingsley
Second: Willis

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

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Quentin Ransburg, Chair