

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
SEPTEMBER 18, 1998

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, September 18, 1998, at 9:00 a.m. in room 507 of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Members present: Yvonne Brown, Sara Fox, Billy Hewes, Henry Hudspeth, John Junkin, Patricia Puckett, William Seal, Hazel Terry, and George Walker.

Member absent: Joanna Heidel.

Staff in attendance: Dr. Olon Ray, Executive Director, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Becky Cade, Dr. Larry Day, Deborah Gilbert, Tracy Heggins, Sandra Lucas, Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, and Dr. Evelyn Webb.

Guests in attendance: Dr. Ted Alexander, president of Pearl River Community College, and Dr. Phil Pepper and Debra Anderson, representing IHL.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman George Walker at 9:00 a.m.

PRELIMINARIES

The invocation was given by Yvonne Brown.

Mr. Walker recognized guests in attendance.

Approval of Minutes of August 20 and 21, 1998. Board Meetings

On a motion by Henry Hudspeth and a second by Yvonne Brown, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 20 and 21, 1998, meetings.

Review of Agenda

On a motion by William Seal, and a second by Hazel Terry, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Olon Ray acknowledged and expressed appreciation to Dr. Evelyn Webb, Dr. Larry Day, Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Tracy Heggins, and Deborah Gilbert for their efforts in preparing the information packet distributed to Legislative leaders during the LBO hearing on September 17, 1998. He also thanked the Board members who attended the presentation.

Dr. Ray gave a brief overview of the concept presented by the community and junior college system of Advanced Technology Centers.

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Dr. Ray also gave an update on a meeting of the mississippi.future.net (m.f.n.) work group which is scheduled for September 29, 1998. The work group will develop recommendations on issues related to Mississippi's technology needs. He announced that the following individuals from the private sector have agreed to participate: Aubrey Patterson, Leroy Walker, Chuck Dunn, Linda Howard, John Bryan, Mike Sturdivant, and Dwight Evans. Public sector members include Jimmy Heidel, Dr. Tom Layzell, Richard Thompson, John Pritchard, Larry Miller, David Litchliter, and Dr. Ray.

Dr. Ray gave an overview of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and discussed the implications for the SBCJC. He reported on a recommendation made to the One-Stop Interagency Executive Council (OSIEC) to make OSIEC the State Workforce Investment Board as result of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. He also reported on legislation that might be developed for the Special Taskforce for Economic Development Planning that if approved would move JTPA from DECD and post secondary training programs from the Department of Education to the SBCJC.

Dr. Ray stated that the SBCJC Personnel Team is in the process of updating and revising the current SBCJC policies and procedures manual and as a part of this process will bring forth recommendations for policy revisions for the Board's review and action in the near future.

Dr. Ray reported that the State Department of Audit has completed its annual physical property audit of SBCJC inventory. All items were verified and accounted for in the 100% audit, and he commended Sandra Lucas on her work related to inventory. .

Dr. Ray reminded SBCJC members of the upcoming Regional Legislative Meetings. He invited and urged Board members to attend the meetings in their area. A schedule of the meeting was mailed to members earlier. Dr. Ray announced the addition of a meeting that will be hosted by Holmes Community College on November 19, 1998, at 12:00 noon in the cafeteria of the Goodman Campus.

The SBCJC Finance area will be going on-line with the State Automated Accounting System (SAAS) in April of 1999. All agencies will be required to be on-line for July 1, 2000.

Dr. Ray reported that the colleges are being surveyed to provide information on the number of scholarships awarded to in-state vs, out-of-state students which is due by October 1, 1998.

Dr. Ray also stated that Senators Burton and Hall are working on a bill for the upcoming legislative session to deal with the needs of the construction and crafts industry in Mississippi. The SBCJC along with other state agencies have been asked to assist in this effort.

REPORTS/ACTION

MACJC Report

Dr. Ted Alexander reported on the following items discussed at the August 28, 1998, meeting of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges.

Adjutant General, Jim Garner addressed the Association with regard to proposed

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legislation that would allow out-of-state tuition waivers for active Mississippi National Guard members. This action would allow the guardsmen to be counted Mississippi residents. The Association voted to support the effort of the Mississippi National Guard in seeking legislation to allow out-of-state tuition waivers for active members of the Mississippi National Guard.

Dr. Alexander appointed a committee to work on an analysis of the components of the Workforce Investment Act. A meeting via the CCN with Jean Denson of the Governor's Office was held to help address areas of concern on how the legislation may effect Mississippi's community and junior colleges. Mrs. Denson has been invited to the September 22, 1998, MACJC meeting to further discuss the legislation.

Dr. Ray distributed a copy of recommendations from the SBCJC Funding and Formula Study Committee recommending the following actions related to the issue of vocational technical funding: (1) Distributing State Department of Education vocational funding primarily through a formula driven arrangement, (2) Counting part-time students for funding purposes, (3) Creating financial support for start-up cost for support of special programs, and (4) Diminishing burdensome and unnecessary administrative practices. The Association voted unanimously to endorse the concept of the proposed recommendations of the Funding and Formula Committee and to refer any further research to a study committee to examine any constraints involved in order to finalize the best recommendation for presentation to the Association for approval at a later date.

Dr. Ted Alexander reappointed the members of the MACJC Legislative Committee for the 1999 session, with the addition of Dr. Howell Garner, who will assume the slot vacated by retiring Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College President, Dr. Barry Mellinger.

Dr. Alexander then appointed a steering committee to examine the scope of program activity as the MACJC expands programs in the area of sports as follows: Dr. Howell Garner, Dr. Starkey Morgan, Dr. Horace Holmes, Dr. David Cole, Dr. Ron Whitehead, Dr. Tommy Davis, Mr. Joe Childers, Dr. Randall Bradberry, and Dr. Olon Ray. Dr. Alexander will follow-up with correspondence detailing the charge and scope of the committee and a chairman will be named at a later date.

Special Task Force for Economic Development Planning Report

Dr. Phil Pepper gave an overview of a report "Seizing the Future: On the Right Track" prepared for presentation to the Governor and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee by the Special Task Force for Economic Development Planning (Exhibit A). The Task Force comprised of twenty-four participants has been examining the state's economy and ways in which to improve the State. The Task Force was mandated by law to develop recommendations for presentation to the Legislature related to improving the State economically. The report outlines five recommendations as follows:

1. Consolidate all workforce training funds into a single agency or entity.
2. Increase the ability of high school graduates to be more productive in the workforce.
3. Implementation of the Strategic Resources Action Plan.

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4. Implementation of the Science and Technology Action Plan.
5. Studying the long term economic impact of gaming in Mississippi.

Finance Report

Upon motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Hazel Terry, the Board voted unanimously to approve the October, November, and December 1998, disbursements from General Fund 2298 in the amounts of \$7,763,558, \$6,376,235, and \$6,376,227 respectively (Exhibit B).

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Patricia Puckett, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Education Enhancement Fund Disbursement from Fund 4080 and 4110 in the amount of \$2,084,940.16 (Exhibit C).

Mrs. Fox also presented the following reports not requiring action for the Board members' review:

- Financial Statements for funds 2291, 3291, and 4300 (Exhibit D).
- Report on FY 1998 General Fund Lapses and Special Fund Carryforwards (Exhibit E).
- Results of Property Audit on September 4, 1998 (Exhibit F).

Deborah Gilbert presented a data sheet containing basic information on the community and junior colleges for the Board members' review (Exhibit G).

Program Committee

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher presented two requests from Mississippi Delta Community College: an Agricultural Mechanics Technology program (Certificate and Associate Degree level), and an Industrial Electricity/Industrial Maintenance program (Associate of Science Degree level). On a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by William Seal, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Agricultural Mechanics Technology and Industrial Electricity/Industrial Maintenance program for Mississippi Delta Community College.

Funding and Formula Report

Dr. Olon Ray distributed a copy of a letter sent to the community and junior college presidents following the August 22, 1998, MACJC meeting outlining vocational-technical education recommendations (Exhibit H).

Workforce Education Report

Mr. Walker distributed copies of the State Workforce Development Council's Accountability Report for the Fiscal Year 1998 given to members of the Joint Legislative Budget Office (Exhibit I). The report was given by SWDC member, Mr. Al Sleppy.

Mr. Walker urged all Board members to attend the MACJC Regional Legislative Meetings in their area. SWDC member, Mr. Charles Holder is working with the MACJC Legislative Committee in obtaining a local employer to make a five minute presentation during the meetings in order to present work force budget needs for the upcoming year.

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Mr. Walker also gave a report on the last meeting of OSIEC. At the meeting a motion was made to recommend that OSIEC be named to serve as the lead agency for coordinating workforce funding for the State. After a discussion, Mr. Walker and other members were successful in delaying a vote on the motion for thirty days. The next OSIEC meeting is scheduled for October 14, 1998, at 1:30 p.m. On a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Billy Hewes, the Board voted unanimously to support a resolution designating the State Workforce Development Council as the lead agency for coordinating workforce efforts in the State, and naming them the State Workforce Investment Board for the State's implementation of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

EdNet Report

Mrs. Yvonne Brown reported that EdNet has not met since the last Board meeting; however another retreat is planned for October 13, 1998, to further examine the charge given to Attorney Sam Keyes in negotiating contract differences with Wireless One.

GED Report

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher reported to the Board that as a matter of clarification, the training done for the gaming industry currently being done by community and junior colleges is for non-gaming positions outlined in legislation.

Dr. Stonecypher updated Board members on the activities of the GED office. He stated that because of difficulties experienced in getting support for the software currently being used in the GED office, the system is being analyzed in order to obtain a better system. The plans are to obtain software that will allow the GED office to capture and prepare reports that cannot currently be produced. The GED office is currently working on ways to get more employers involved in encouraging employees to work toward getting their GED diplomas.

Update on Statewide Information Initiative

Dr. Evelyn Webb updated the Board on the Statewide Information Initiative. In response to a request from Joanna Heidel to include high school counselors in the survey efforts, Dr. Webb stated that the State Department of Education will provide our office with mailing labels which will be used to distribute surveys to the counselors for their response. In the SBCJC office the surveys that have been returned are being tabulated for review. A meeting is scheduled with an inter-alumni group appointed to research some of the same information the staff is compiling for the statewide initiative in order to share information and avoid duplication of efforts.

Kaplan's Proposal Update

Dr. Evelyn Webb reported that an agreement from Kaplan Learning Centers with regard to offering an on-line CPA review program through Mississippi's community and junior colleges have been reviewed by Assistant Attorney General Frankie Walton-White to assure compliance with Mississippi law. The agreement has been forwarded to Mr. Andrew Robinson for submission to Kaplan's New York office for agreement. The agreement includes a 20% cut of the tuition for the colleges' administrative help. Dr. Webb will continue to keep the Board informed.

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Travel Authorizations

Chairman Walker asked for requests to authorize travel reimbursements for events other than regularly scheduled Board meetings. On a motion by John Junkin, seconded by Hazel Terry, the Board voted unanimously to approve a request for reimbursement of travel expenses as follows:

George Walker for attending a State of the Economy Meeting on October 6, and the Workforce Council meeting on October 14, 1998.

Yvonne Brown for attending an EdNet meeting on October 12, 1998.

Other Business

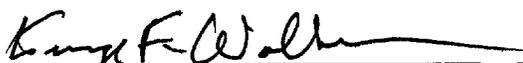
Mr. Walker mentioned the program Business Influencing Generations (BIG) which has been established to get businessmen into the public school systems to speak with students about the importance of staying in school and getting an education. Mr. Walker will be participating in the Coahoma Community College area, and he urged other Board members to speak with their local Workforce Councils to get businessmen from their areas involved.

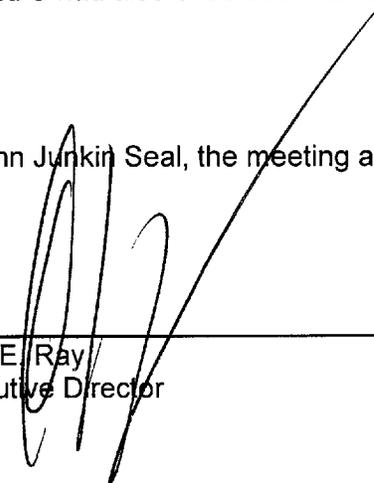
Henry Hudspeth requested that each Board member send a copy of the fact sheet, Good Things Are Happening at Mississippi's Community and Junior Colleges (Exhibit J), distributed during the LBO Budget Hearing to their local newspaper and request that it be published. Yvonne Brown suggested that the fact sheet might receive better reception if it was forwarded from the SBCJC. Mr. Hudspeth requested that the Board ask Dr. Ted Alexander to distribute the sheet to all MACJC presidents and ask that they distribute the article through their public relations offices to local newspapers.

John Junkin reminded Board members about contacting members of the Mississippi Congressional delegation about the appointment of Mr. Walker to the Twenty-First Century Workforce Commission which will be created as a result of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. Dr. Ray stated that the MACJC and the SWDC had also endorsed the request for Mr. Walker's appointment.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by William Seal, and a second by John Junkin Seal, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.


George Walker, Chairman


Olon E. Ray
Executive Director