

**EVENING MEETING
BOARD WORK SESSION
March 23, 1999
MINUTES**

The State Board for Community and Junior Colleges met at 6:00 p.m. at The Edison Walthall Hotel, 225 East Capitol Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on March 23, 1999. The following members were present: Yvonne Brown, Sara Fox, Joanna Heidel, Billy Hewes, Henry "Bubba" Hudspeth, John Junkin, William Seal, Hazel Terry and George Walker. Ms. Patricia Puckett was absent. State Board for Community and Junior Colleges (SBCJC) staff present included Becky Cade, Deborah Gilbert, Olon E. Ray, Wayne Stonecypher and Evelyn Webb.

Mr. Walker called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Mr. Walker then called on Dr. Ray to introduce Dr. Richard Thompson, State Superintendent of Education. Dr. Thompson began by suggesting to Board members that there is a need to think of education as a whole, from Pre-K through post-secondary experience and beyond, as we try to improve the educational system within the state. Therefore, it is imperative that all three education boards be aware of and stay together on issues and changes that can improve the system. With this in mind, Dr. Thompson provided those present with an overview of the seven goals that the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) has established. The goals are as follows:

- (1) **Reading** - An effort to retrain teachers to teach reading better by trying to get students set before the 3rd grade to *learn to read*, and after 3rd grade level to *read to learn*. This goal also includes a plan to support legislation that would include Pre-K education to Mississippi citizens. (Dr. Craig Ramey, University of Alabama, offers 15 yrs. of research to support Pre-K education enhances educability of students.)
- (2) **Teachers and Teaching**- Supports better salaries, retention, training, and support. Objectives include but are not limited to attracting competent, caring teachers and to getting more people into the profession.
- (3) **Principalship Training/Certification** - An initiative designed to make principals better instructional leaders.
- (4) **Accreditation/Assessment** - The underlying principles of the Accreditation Committee recommendations are as follows:
 - (a) To establish high expectations for students and high standards for all schools, with a focus on the basics;
 - (b) To provide strong accountability for results with appropriate local flexibility for implementation;
 - (c) To include in the model a process to implement accountability at both the school district level and the school level; and
 - (d) To hold individual schools accountable for student growth and performance.
- (5) **Safe and Orderly Schools** - Each school will be required to develop a safety plan.

- (6) **Conservatorship** - Proposed amendments to enhance the conservatorship process and ensure more responsibility and accountability for local school officials.
- (7) **Technology and Training** - Use technology to enhance all of the goals identified above.

Dr. Thompson then proceeded to provide a detailed overview of the recommendations and activities the MDE will utilize in revising the K-12 assessment/accreditation process. (Refer to Attachment I.) It should be noted that Senate Bill 2156 was enacted during the 1999 legislative session. If signed by the Governor, this law will authorize the MDE to follow through on many of the recommendations and goals set forth by their Board. Upon conclusion of Dr. Thompson's presentation both Dr. Ray and Mr. Walker expressed their appreciation to him for meeting and sharing the information with our Board.

Mr. Walker then called on Dr. Ray to provide an update on the Workforce Consolidation Bill. Dr. Ray shared with members that the bill would soon be taken up in a conference committee to discuss differences in the House and Senate versions. The House version transfers industrial services division funds and personnel and represents approximately \$10 million funding authority, five state employees and nineteen local personnel. The Senate version is a much larger \$50 million package that include the programs identified above plus Job Training Partnership Act programs, post secondary vocational education programs, and adult education programs. Dr. Ray mentioned that the conferees had been announced as follows: Senate Conferees - John Hohn, Dick Hall and Terry Burton; House Conferees - Herb Frierson, Billy Broomfield and Billy McCoy.

Mr. Walker then called on Deborah Gilbert to begin the discussion of finance agenda items through the Committee As a Whole. It should be noted that Sara Fox, Board liaison for financial matters, had to leave prior to getting to this part of the agenda.

Deborah then reviewed and discussed the following items with members:

- 1) General Fund 2298 Disbursements for April, May and June 1999
- 2) Education Enhancement Fund Disbursements for March 31, 1999
- 3) Financial Statements for Funds 2291, 3291, and 4300 as of March 15, 1999

In other business, Deborah informed members that the annual premium of \$1082 for the fidelity bond coverage on all board members and staff has been paid. With this payment, coverage is provided through February 5, 2000.

Mr. Walker then called on Ms. Joanna Heidel to lead the discussion on program agenda items. Ms. Heidel called on Dr. Stonecypher to assist in an overview of the following agenda items:

- 1) A request from East Central Community College to approve offering the certificate option in surgical technology.
- 2) A report on Fall 1998 low enrollment programs in vocational/technical to be considered for probationary status at four colleges.
- 3) An update on the Adult Education Plan providing that no comments were received during

the Administrative Procedures Process, so staff would recommend approval during the regular meeting on 3/24/99.

- 4) A report on the staff review of the State Vocational Plan. Dr. Stonecypher explained that staff will recommend to the board approval of the plan with the stipulation that the MDE address certain reservations SBCJC staff had about the plan. These reservations will be forwarded to the MDE in written format if the Plan is approved by the Board.

In other matters, Dr. Stonecypher reminded Board members that is Dr. Howell Garner's term of membership in the Mississippi Higher Education Assistance Corporation expires in 1999. The Board has been asked to reappoint Dr. Garner and thus, action is needed by the Board during the 3/24/99 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned for dinner.