

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
MARCH 21, 2003**

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, March 21, 2003, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 507 of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Members present: Major General Denver Brackeen, Ms. Veldore Young, Mr. Napoleon Moore, Dr. Dorothy Nelson, Ms. Patricia Randall, Mr. George Walker, Mr. Lawrence Warren, and Mrs. Brenda Yonge.

Members absent: Mrs. Sara Fox and Mr. Jimmy Murphy.

Staff in attendance: Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Dr. Larry Day, Mrs. Deborah Gilbert, Mr. Jason Pugh, Mr. Jim Southward, Mrs. Denise Walley and Dr. Evelyn Webb.

Guests in attendance: Dr. Tommy Davis – East Mississippi Community College; Ms. Jerry McClendon – Mississippi Department of Education; Mr. Roger Whitlock – East Central Community College; Dr. Bill Smith – Institutions of Higher Learning; and Dr. Olon Ray.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman George Walker called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. All guests present introduced themselves.

PRELIMINARIES

Ms. Patricia Randall gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes of February 20 – 21, 2003, Meetings

Upon a motion by Mr. Lawrence Warren and a second by Mrs. Brenda Yonge, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 20 – 21, 2003 meetings.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Walker asked that the Agenda be amended to include two (2) items: A resolution for Copiah-Lincoln Community College in recognition of their 75th anniversary celebration, and the presentation of Dr. Olon Ray's portrait to be displayed in the SBCJC Board Room. Upon a motion by Mr. Lawrence Warren and a second by Mrs. Brenda Yonge, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Stonecypher began by informing the Board of Mrs. Sandra Lucas illness. Per his request, Mrs. Deborah Gilbert gave a brief explanation of Sandra's condition and upcoming procedures she will undergo. Mrs. Young suggested that a card be prepared for the Board Members' signature, to wish Mrs. Lucas a speedy recovery.

Dr. Stonecypher then shared a copy of a draft agreement between the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) and the State Board for Community Colleges (SBCJC) concerning Post-Secondary Career and Technical Education (Exhibit A), which includes recommendations from the Post-Secondary Study Committee. He related the logic for the proposed agreement and advised that there will be a meeting between SBCJC staff and Dr. Henry Johnson with the Department of Education on April 2, 2003 to discuss issues related to the proposed agreement.

Dr. Stonecypher then shared a report prepared by Mr. Jason Pugh (Exhibit B) that gives a monthly analysis for CCN usage for February 2003. Dr. Stonecypher related that he will ask the Technology Committee of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) to look into the possibility of having each college handle their own CCN needs without the State Board office having an active role.

Dr. Stonecypher, Dr. Tom Layzell (IHL) and Dr. Henry Johnson (MDE) recently had the opportunity to meet with the Clarion-Ledger Editorial Board. This meeting allowed them to answer questions regarding K-12 education and Nissan issues.

He then furnished a copy of a proposal that has been sent to the community college presidents regarding utilizing approximately \$400,000 in WIA funds to hire five (5) individuals to take part in working with dislocated workers (Exhibit C). There will be a meeting with the Mississippi Development Authority on March 27, 2003 to make final changes in the proposal.

Dr. Stonecypher told the Board about the Phi Theta Kappa luncheon that was held on March 18, 2003, which honored some of the "best and brightest" students in the community and junior colleges system. He will be sending out a copy of the resolution to the honorees, along with a letter of congratulations.

He reminded the Board that a list of actions regarding vocational-technical programs (probations, deletions, etc.) would be brought before them at the next meeting. He also advised that someone in the Board office will be making reservations for the meeting in April and that spouses are invited.

Dr. Stonecypher related that Supreme Court Judge Jim Smith, a friend of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges, has been contacted to conduct the "swearing in" ceremony of the seven (7) board members at the May 16, 2003, regularly scheduled board meeting.

Dr. Stonecypher ended his report by reminding the Board of the 8th Annual Quality Awards Banquet, being held at 12:30 p.m. this afternoon at the Jackson Hilton. He related that Dr. Webb would be representing the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges at the inaugural ceremonies of the new president at Mississippi College, Dr. Lee Royce. He also stated that Dr. Tommy Davis, Chair of the MACJC, was not present at this time, due to his being honored at the Capitol. Dr. Davis will be in attendance later in the meeting for his report.

EdNet Report

Dr. Evelyn Webb reported that the EdNet Board had not held a regular meeting in March; however, they have had several special meetings to address specific EdNet matters. EdNet remains very optimistic about the possibility of receiving funds from the legislature. In another area, EdNet has been anxiously awaiting the receipt of federal funds by the Mississippi State Department of Health so that work can begin on its part of the Health Alert Network Project. Also, Dr. Webb advised that bankruptcy court has received EdNet's claim within the WorldCom Bankruptcy. The total amount of EdNet's claim is \$25,000,000 of which \$7,398,459 is related to equipment and services and \$17,601,541 associated with non-liquidated damages. In closing,

Dr. Webb said that Steve Schaffer, EdNet's Washington Counsel has informed EdNet that the FCC is now addressing Rulemaking for the ITFS Spectrum. They will be working closely with him and others to insure that EdNet is well represented.

Update on Certificates of Retirement

Dr. Webb advised that a committee of three (3) has worked out the procedures for implementing the recognition of retirees in the community and junior system. She related that there were 19 employees who retired in December 2002 and that the staff is in the process of mailing out the certificates.

Workforce Development Center Report

Mr. Roger Whitlock, Director of East Central Community College's Workforce Development Center, offered a handout (Exhibit D) that portrays some of the efforts of the community colleges in the area of workforce development and educational training. Mr. Whitlock related that each workforce development center is customized to assist in training that is needed in their particular district. The employers that make use of the centers are in essence gaining a human resource specialist. East Central's Workforce Development Center serves individuals with personal assessments, career counseling, job placement and skills enhancement training. They support employers with flexible systems to obtain and upgrade human resources through state funding sources, customized training programs and specialized services. Communities are provided with specific educational offerings designed to improve the professional and technical capabilities of citizens in their district. The Center also assists with economic development efforts to recruit new and progressive employment opportunities.

Workforce Report

Mr. Walker began his report by distributing a copy of an article in the *Economic Beat*, (Exhibit E) regarding technical skills. He also brought attention to the Quality Awards Brochure for the Banquet (Exhibit F), and invited all to attend. Mr. Walker stated that he had missed the last State Workforce Council meeting; however, he was informed that the group worked on strategic planning.

MACJC Report

Mr. Walker led others in applauding Dr. Tommy Davis for receiving recognition at the State Capital. Dr. Davis, in return, congratulated the Members of the Board who were confirmed the previous day. He reported that a representative of the Band Director's Association came before the Presidents at their February meeting to seek permission to actively pursue an invitation for the All State Marching Band to participate in the Inaugural Parade in Washington, D.C., in 2005, and to allow them to seek multiple funding sources for this event.

Dr. Lewis and Dr. Davis attended a meeting with Mr. Brent Ballard and Mr. Norman McCloud at the State Auditor's Office, with regards to issues related to paying for personnel with college funds for the operation of the foundation. However, before the meeting began, an Attorney General's Opinion was located that stated that the foundation could continue the way they were operating for the time being.

Dr. Davis stated that the Mississippi National Guard has invited the Association to visit Camp Shelby on July 14 –15, 2003.

Dr. Davis advised that he has appointed a committee to assist on one of NASA's programs, the National Workforce Development Education and Training Initiative. He advised that the Department of Labor has asked NASA to help provide support for developing an apprenticeship pilot program in relation to the GEO Spatial Sector.

Dr. Davis reported that unused bond money was available for technology purposes; therefore, the Association voted to have Ray Smith contact the Technology Directors and Registrars, and have them make a recommendation to the Association regarding the purchase of SPEEDE software at their next meeting. This program would allow the electronic transfer of transcripts from one institution to another.

Dr. Davis then shared packets with the Board and staff (Exhibit G) containing information that will be needed for the meeting that will be held on East Mississippi Community College's campus next month. He gave a brief explanation regarding tours and meals that he has planned for the occasion.

Program Report

Dr. Randall Bradberry advised that at the next meeting he would bring before the Board recommendations regarding probations and terminations of programs.

Legislative Report

Dr. Bradberry shared the most recent list of direct legislative bills that he has been following (Exhibit H) and gave a brief update on various bills. Several bills he is currently tracking pertain to removing repealers from current legislation, which transferred Industrial Training to the SBCJC in 1999. He related that there were several bills of concern regarding salaries. One bill, Senate Bill 2789, is now dead. The other bills regarding this issue, Senate Bill 2794 and House Bill 773, will be going to conference. Another bill Dr. Bradberry is watching concerns the open meetings law, which could have ramifications for meetings being held over the CCN.

Finance Report

Mrs. Deborah Gilbert presented the items on the Finance Committee agenda for information and action.

Upon staff recommendation, a motion by General Denver Brackeen, and a second by Ms. Veldore Young, the Board voted unanimously to approve the disbursements for Fund 2298 for April in the amount of \$7,745,789; May in the amount of \$6,745,899; and June in the amount of \$6,745,899, (see Exhibit I).

Upon staff recommendation, a motion by Ms. Veldore Young, and a second by Ms. Patricia Randall, the Board voted unanimously to approve the March 2003 Education Enhancement Fund and Budget Contingency Fund Disbursements from Funds 4080, 4110, and 3295 in the total amount of \$2,695,459.21 (Exhibit J).

Upon staff recommendation, a motion by Mr. Lawrence Warren, and a second by General Denver Brackeen, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Z-1 budget approval for escalation of funds for FY 2003, to accommodate a U.S. Department of Labor Grant in regards to Madison County Automotive Industry Training in the amount of \$2,500,000 (Exhibit K).

Upon staff recommendation, a motion by Mr. Lawrence Warren, and a second by General Denver Brackeen, the Board voted unanimously to approve purchase of Plato Software

Maintenance for the Adult Education Program in the total amount of \$45,000. Dr. Stonecypher advised the Board that his daughter Susan works for Plato as a Regional Curriculum Coordinator for seven states; however, Mississippi is not one of them. She will in no way benefit from this purchase.

Mrs. Gilbert then presented the following item that required no action, for the Board's information:

Financial Statements for Fund 2291, and 3291, as of February 28, 2003 (Exhibit L).

ABE/GED Report

Dr. Randall Bradberry related that he was giving the report due to the fact that Mrs. Eloise Richardson and Mr. Danny Seal are conducting the Spring ABE Director's Meeting in Grenada. They are showing the directors part of the database system that Ive Burnett (an SBCJC staff member) has been working on.

Dr. Bradberry also advised that a theft had taken place on March 11 at Pima College in Tucson, Arizona; whereby, three of the versions of the GED test were stolen. Administration of the test in Arizona has been halted until police can complete their investigation. GED Testing Service has advised that the other states will not be closed for now; however, they have asked all scoring services be alerted to extremely high scores.

SACS Update

Mr. Jason Pugh related that he had received a draft report from the visiting committee chair, requesting that we respond to factual errors; this has been done. Mr. Pugh stated that the response committee is not waiting to receive the official report from SACS; they have already begun the process of responding to the initial recommendations. The appointed response committee is made up of six (6) individuals, three (3) from the previous committee and three (3) new appointees. The group recently got together to decide the process to response and each committee member was assigned a different task. They will be getting together next week to review the research that has been done and plan to respond to the recommendations by May 20th.

Reappointment of Mississippi Higher Education Commission (MHEAC) Member

Dr. Stonecypher advised that the Board had appointed Dr. Howell Garner as a member to MHEAC as their representative in the past. This appointment has expired, and MHEAC has asked that the Board reappoint Dr. Garner for another term. Upon a motion by Ms. Veldore Young and a second by Ms. Patricia Randall, the Board voted unanimously to approve the reappointment of Dr. Howell Garner as the SBCJC representative to MHEAC.

Travel Authorizations

Mr. Walker asked if there were requests for travel reimbursements for events other than regularly scheduled Board meetings. Upon a motion by Ms. Veldore Young and a second by Dr. Dorothy Nelson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following travel authorizations:

George Walker for attending a Workforce Council Meeting on April 9, 2003, in Jackson, Mississippi.

Major General Denver Brackeen, Mr. Napoleon Moore, Dr. Dorothy Nelson, Ms. Patricia Randall, Mr. George Walker, and Mrs. Brenda Yonge for attending the Confirmation Hearing at the State Capitol on March 20, 2003, in Jackson, Mississippi.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Stonecypher brought attention to an article that Ms. Patricia Randall had provided from the *Enterprise Journal* honoring a "Junior College Champ", Mr. George Walker (Exhibit M).

Mr. Walker then asked Dr. Olon E. Ray, former Executive Director of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges, to approach the front of the room. At that time, he presented a portrait of Dr. Ray that was made in honor of his excellent service to the Board. Dr. Ray gave words of thanks to the Board and assisted Mr. Walker in hanging the portrait in the Board Room.

Mr. Walker then reported that a resolution by the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges had been prepared in honor of Copiah-Lincoln Community College upon its 75 years of service in providing higher education in the State of Mississippi. Upon a motion by Ms. Veldore Young and a second by General Denver Brackeen, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed resolution.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Sara M. Fox, Vice Chairman
Mr. George Walker, Chairman

Wayne Stonecypher 6-15-03
Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Executive Director