



**MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSION ON SCHOOL ACCREDITATION MEETING
December 2, 2010
FOURTH FLOOR BOARDROOM
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI**

The Commission on School Accreditation met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 2, 2010. The location of the meeting was the fourth floor boardroom of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Commission members present were: Chuck Blackwell, Cynthia Buchanan, Susan Burchfield, Lee Childress, Kevin Eubank, Kimberly Hubbard, Ann Jones, Dennis Penton, Ted Poore, Portia Stewart, and L. C. Tennin, Jr. Cathy Broadway, Jeanette Brown, Mary Jean Gates, and Blake Wilson were absent. Twelve (12) members were present, constituting a quorum.

Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Accreditation staff members present were Susan Andrews, Thelma Brittain, Peggy Buras, Chris Haynes, Lonnie Haynes, Katrina McDowell, Wendy Naron, Brenda Shelby, and Paula Vanderford, Executive Secretary. Kathy Boteler and other MDE staff and guests were present.

- I. Ms. Burchfield called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., and Ted Poore gave the invocation.
- II. Ms. Burchfield asked the Commission members to review the revised agenda contained in their notebooks. On a motion by Mr. Penton and seconded by Dr. Childress, the Commission voted unanimously to adopt the revised agenda as presented.
- III. Ms. Burchfield presented the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission held on September 2, 2010. On a motion by Mr. Penton and seconded by Dr. Childress, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes.
- IV. *Presentation on Common Core Standards (Trecina Green)*
Ms. Green presented an overview of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English/Language Arts and Mathematics, detailing this initiative of the National Governor's Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). This is a significant and historic opportunity for states to collectively develop and adopt a core set of academic standards in Mathematics and English/Language Arts. Ms. Green provided examples in both Mathematics and English/Language Arts of alignment of our current curriculum with the Common Core Standards. She also outlined the next steps for MDE and provided the Commission with multiple resources regarding the Common Core Standards.

- V. *Discussion of the Requirements of the P-16 Council (Dr. Laura Jones)*
Dr. Jones discussed the requirements of Section 37-18-5 of the *Mississippi Code of 1972*, as amended regarding the *Schools at Risk* and the requirements of a parent citizen advisory council at the school level. Dr. Drawdy and Dr. Jones are having discussion with stakeholders on how to actively engage all community stakeholders to ensure productivity of the councils. A major concern is the sustainability of the councils. Dr. Jones discussed the possibility of establishing an accreditation standard (possibly standard 18.3) that would require all districts to have a community P-16 advisory council, not just districts that have been designated as *Failing*. Dr. Jones will propose the language for the new standard at the February or April 2011 regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission.
- VI. *Discussion of Revisions to Accreditation Policies 2.0 District Accreditation Policy and 5.0 Accreditation Monitoring Procedures (Dr. Lee Childress)*
Dr. Childress discussed the work that was underway to revise the accreditation policies, particularly policies 2.0 and 5.0. Dr. Childress is the Commission representative serving on the committee, and Rosetta Richard is the State Board of Education representative. The work on the proposed revisions began on November 17, 2010, and the next scheduled work session of the committee is January 19, 2011. It is the intent of the committee to present the proposed revisions to the Commission at the February 2011 meeting for discussion.
- VII. *Discussion of the APA (Public) Comments for the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2010 (Paula Vanderford)*
On August 20, 2010, the State Board of Education granted approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process to revise the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2009*. The public comments were presented to the State Board of Education on October 21, 2010. Ms. Vanderford presented a summary of the comments to the Commission and provided the Commission with copies of the public comments.
- VIII. *Report of the October 2010 SBE Action Regarding the July 26, 2010 CSA Recommended Changes to the Accountability Model for HSCI and Performance Classifications (Paula Vanderford)*
On July 26, 2010, the Commission approved two revisions to the accountability model: 1) to switch the performance classification of *At Risk of Failing* and *Low Performing* and 2) to increase the weights of the High School Completion Index (HSCI) for students receiving a GED from 125 to 200 and students receiving an Occupational Diploma from 150 to 175. Ms. Vanderford informed the Commission that these recommendations were presented to the State Board of Education on October 21, 2010, but were tabled pending the report of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that was scheduled for the November 2010 State Board of Education meeting.
- IX. *Report of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Regarding the Mississippi Accountability Model (John Gilbert)*
The TAC Committee was established in 2005. It meets twice a year and acts as support to the MDE. The TAC presented a report to the State Board of Education at their

November 2010 meeting, Mr. John Gilbert and Ken Thompson presented an overview of the report given to the Board by the TAC to the Commission. In summary, the TAC recommended the following:

- to maintain current QDI cut scores as they are,
- update prediction models only periodically (when 75% of districts/schools are successful,
- set a goal for stability and planned change,
- consider contracting for an external, independent replication of the accountability programs, and
- provide adequate staff and contractual resources for assessment and accountability.

X. *Approval to Upgrade Covington County School District Accreditation Status from Advised to Accredited (Paula Vanderford)*

Ms. Vanderford informed the Commission that Covington County School District had resolved all deficiencies related to the assignment of an Advised Status. Ms. Vanderford recommended that Covington County School District's accreditation status be upgraded from Advised to Accredited. A motion was made to approve the upgrade in accreditation status by Dr. Childress and seconded by Ms. Hubbard. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the recommendation. Ms. Jones abstained.

XI. *Approval to Upgrade Jones County School District Accreditation Status from Advised to Accredited (Paula Vanderford)*

Ms. Vanderford informed the Commission that Jones County School District had resolved all deficiencies related to the assignment of an Advised Status. Ms. Vanderford recommended that Jones County School District's accreditation status be upgraded from Advised to Accredited. The motion to approve the recommendation was made by Mr. Penton, and it was seconded by Dr. Childress. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the recommendation. Ms. Jones abstained.

XII. *Standard 31 Waiver Request for Itawamba County School District (Paula Vanderford)*

Itawamba County School District requested waivers for two teachers having more than two course preparations due to budget constraints. Ms. Stuart made the motion to approve the waiver request and Ms. Burchfield seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the waiver request.

XIII. *Standard 31 Waiver Request for Forrest County School District (Paula Vanderford)*

Forrest County School District requested a waiver for one teacher in the district with more than three course preparations. A motion to approve the waiver request was made by Ms. Hubbard and seconded by Mr. Poore. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the waiver request.

XIV. *Standard 31 Waiver Request for Natchez Adams School District (Paula Vanderford)*

Natchez Adams School District requested a waiver for one teacher that currently has four course preparations. A motion to approve the waiver request was made by Ms. Hubbard and seconded by Mr. Poore. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the waiver request.

XV. *Standard 31 Waiver Request for Corinth School District (Paula Vanderford)*
Corinth School District requested a waiver for one teacher exceeding three course preparations. A motion to approve the waiver request was made by Ms. Stuart and seconded by Ms. Hubbard. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the waiver request. Dr. Childress abstained.

XVI. *Adjournment*
At 11:32 a.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Hubbard and seconded by Mr. Poore. It was unanimously passed by the Commission. Next meeting will be held on February 3, 2011.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION:

(Month) (Day) (Year)

Chairman of the Commission

Executive Secretary of the Commission