

SLDS GOVERNING BOARD

**Department of Information Technology Services
1st Floor Board Room
3771 Eastwood Drive
Jackson, MS**

**MINUTES
April 13, 2015**

In Attendance:

Mr. Jay C. Moon, Chair, President and CEO, Mississippi Manufacturers Association
Mr. John Davis, Deputy Director, Mississippi Department of Human Services
Dr. Eric Clark, Executive Director, Mississippi Community College Board
Ms. Audrey McAfee, Management Information Systems Director, Mississippi Department of Corrections
Mr. Pete Walley, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning
Mr. Mark Henry, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Employment Security
Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent, Mississippi Department of Education
Ms. Shelia Browning, Deputy Director, Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
Ms. April May, State Early Childhood Advisory Council

A list of others present who signed the attendance roster is on file.

Call to Order: Chair Moon called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Chair Moon opened discussion on the minutes from the October 16 meeting and also the teleconference meeting. Chair Moon suggested changing conference call to “telephone meeting” or “teleconference meeting” in the Oct. 16 minutes. Sheila motioned to make this change. Audrey seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion. Carey Wright motioned to accept the minutes. Audrey seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the minutes.

Eric Clark motioned to approve the teleconference meeting minutes. John Davis seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the minutes.

Chair Moon opened discussion on the election of the SLDS Governing Board Chair. Mark Henry nominated Jay Moon for a term of two years for chairman. The board unanimously approved the nomination for Jay Moon to continue serving as chair of the board.

Chair Moon opened discussion on SLDS Governing Board activities and initiatives. Chair Moon named projects that could serve as additional resources and impact the responsibility of the board. He first brought up the SNAP E&T program. John Davis said MDHS views this program as an opportunity to collaborate with other entities in the state to help people who, without the program, may not have the resources to get a job. Chair Moon mentioned the Workforce Data Quality Initiative, led by MDES. Mark Henry said the greatest demand across the country is in middle-skill jobs, and the WDQI project will identify the most in-demand middle-skill jobs in the state and the best way to deliver the training for those jobs. Eric Clark said this is a huge part of what the community colleges do. Chair Moon then mentioned the National Skills Coalition project (led by NSPARC), which will help the state create a suite of data tools and dashboards; Georgetown University’s human capital utilization study, which will help the state understand what kind of changes it should make to workforce development programs and promote coordination between businesses and public sector entities; and the Early Childhood Integrated Data System led by SECAC. Chair Moon also referenced a new SLDS opportunity for funding that is designed to help states to improve education in critical areas; he said MDE and NSPARC would be leading this effort. Chair Moon thanked everyone at the board for coordinating efforts to win grants and start initiatives. Dr. Parisi added that the SLDS, through MDA, provides information to businesses that are looking to locate to the state.

Dr. Taquino started discussion on the state data clearinghouse. He said the system is seeing a lot of activity in terms of ad-hoc requests. He said the updated online system is going to be rolled out soon with the reports. Dr. Taquino said a management tool will be added to the research request function that will facilitate communication between the research review committee, the board, and the requestors. Dr. Parisi said this update was requested by Dr. Eric Clark. Dr. Taquino said the ad-hocs have been going well. Dr. Taquino mentioned the Department of Transportation project that uses data for traffic planning purposes. He said that project has been going well and shows the geographic potential of LifeTracks. Chair Moon said the legislature has a significant transportation project coming up and that the quality information provided by the SLDS could play a helpful role in this. Dr. Taquino said the system is also providing key support for federal reporting requirements.

Chair Moon opened discussion on recommendations from the Research Review and Standards Committee. Chair Moon asked Dr. Alice Clark to walk the board through these recommendations. Dr. Alice Clark shared the first recommendation of continuing to have a five-person committee of a staggered rotation every two years, with a two-year hiatus. Dr. Alice Clark also said the committee recommends that the committee chair should continue to be a person from the Mississippi Research Consortium and should only serve as chair and not act as a representative of an institution. Chair Moon asked if the change would allow the MRC to make a recommendation to the SLDS Governing Board on who should be the committee chair. Dr. Alice Clark confirmed that the MRC would make a recommendation to the chair of the SLDS Governing Board.

Dr. Wright asked what would be the substantive changes? Dr. Alice Clark said at present there is no term set for committee members and that there is no process for bringing future members to the committee. Dr. Eric Clark asked why should there be a two-year hiatus in the staggered rotation? What if a representative on the committee has been doing a good job and should be reappointed? Dr. Eric Clark said he would prefer the latter approach. Dr. Alice Clark said not a problem. Dr. Eric Clark said he would want the executive director of the Mississippi Community College Board to nominate the representative for community colleges. He also said he wants "MCCB" to be the standard reference for the community college board in documentation. Dr. Alice Clark said the committee members are nominated by the chief research officers of the institutions. Dr. Eric Clark said that sounds good to him. Chair Moon asked if the presidents of the universities should nominate the committee members. Dr. Alice Clark said that could be the process. She said it is all up to the board. Dr. Wright asked if there was consideration given on having a member from MDE given that a lot of the reports involve information on K-12. Dr. Alice Clark said she understood this committee as designed to be focused on research methodology and in the style of a peer-review process. Chair Moon said the committee's focus is methodology, not content of the report. He said he doesn't see a problem with MDE having a representative on the committee. Chair Moon said following Dr. Alice Clark's recommendation, the committee will have five members, plus one chair. He asked about the possibility of putting a member from MDE on the committee. Dr. Alice Clark said that change is fine, as long as the additional member fits into the rigorous schedule of the committee. Chair Moon said these recommendations will be examined and the changes mentioned at this meeting will be made to the language of the recommendations. Dr. Alice Clark said she will make these changes. Dr. Wright motioned that an additional member to the Research Review and Standards Committee should be recommended by the state superintendent of MDE. Dr. Eric Clark seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

Dr. Alice Clark said the committee recommends Dr. Stephen Chesnutt to be the replacement representative of the University of Southern Mississippi on the committee. Henry motioned to accept this recommendation. Davis seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

Adjournment: Chair Moon adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m.