

MISSISSIPPI AUTHORITY FOR EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION

Teleconference Meeting of the Board of Directors

Tuesday, November 8, 2022
10:00 a.m.
MAET Administration Building
3825 Ridgewood Rd.
Jackson, MS 39211
+
Zoom videoconference

Directors present:

- Chairman David Allen, Whitney Lipscomb, Shawn Mackey, Russ Latino, Ric Sawyer, Jeanne Luckey, Dr. Judy Nelson

Directors absent:

Staff present:

- Royal Aills, Anna Neel

Others present:

- Angela Ferraez, Lisa Lancaster, Kim Turner

OPENING OF MEETING

Chairman Allen opened the meeting, and it was determined that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Director Latino and seconded by Director Lipscomb that the Board approve the agenda for the meeting, and upon a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Director Latino and seconded by Director Sawyer that the Board approve the minutes of the May 10, 2022, as well as all the executive session videoconference meetings of the MPB Board of Directors, and upon a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Anna Neel presented the financial report for MPB through October 31, 2022, and noted several items.

Total revenue \$5.6 million, total expenditures \$4.3 million.

The financial report is included in these minutes as **Exhibit A**

EXPENDITURES OVER \$50,000

Anna Neel presented to the board three items needing approval as they are over the \$50,000 amount that the executive director has authority to approve:

- PBS - \$1,235,466 for FY23 programming
- NPR - \$243,964.61 for FY23 programming
- Community Foundation - \$75,000 refund of previous money given for podcast producer

Question raised about the Community Foundation grant refund. Anna explained that no one was found to fill the position as a podcast producer, and it was causing some inequity among salaries with employees that already work here. Anna explained that the agency is having a problem filling several positions because there aren't qualified candidates. After much discussion Russ suggested asking if the terms of the grant agreement could be changed. It was decided to vote on first two items and leave the grant on the table for further investigation. A motion was made by Director Latino and seconded by Director Mackey that the Board approve the first two expenditures. Upon a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Director Lipscomb asked if SEC2 was helpful for the agency in terms of recruiting. Beth Ann said it was a double-edged sword. The opportunity is there but the money also must be in the budget for it. Director Sawyer asked why it was so hard to fill the positions that are open. Beth Ann stated that in a lot of cases it was because we couldn't compete with the private sector on salaries. There was discussion about options to find qualified candidates.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Aills started by thanking Teresa for all the hard work she did as Interim Executive Director. Presented a power point presentation with the following points:

- PMM – Centralized master control that we have been using is not an option anymore so we will be bringing it back inhouse. This will involve rebuilding master control and replacing aging equipment. Roughly \$600,000 cost.
- Infrastructure needs for Towers and fiber
- Nielsen numbers for TV – Excellent numbers. Shows that people are watching us.

- Radio Podcast results – Showed the board the Podcast 3 year totals and expressed how impressed he is with Jason Klein's, Director of Radio, forward thinking.
- Medgar Evers and Bobby Rush documentaries – Discussed getting funding from NEH (National Endowment of Humanities) Mr. Aills showed two short clips of the Medgar Evers and the Bobby rush documentaries at the end of the board meeting.
- MS Roadshow – Mr. Aills discussed how fantastic the event went. Discussed future opportunities we might have with this show.
- Grant Writing – Grant writing will be centralized going forward.
- Education – USDA Rural Broadband Grant for the DEN which will allow us to deliver content to rural schools that might not have a teacher.
- Sesame Workshop – MPB Student council have 12 candidates that are creating podcasts through this workshop.

The presentation is included in these minutes as **Exhibit B**

OFFICER ELECTIONS

Chairman Allen opened up the floor for nominations for Chairman. A nomination for Dr. Shawn Mackey was made by Director Latino and seconded by Chairman Allen. Upon a unanimous vote Dr. Mackey was appointed the new Chairman for MAET Board of Directors. Chairman Allen asked for nominations for Vice Chairman and a nomination for Director Latino was made by Director Mackey and it was seconded by Director Lipscomb. Upon a unanimous vote Director Latino was appointed the new Vice Chairman for MAET Board of Directors.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman David Allen determined there was a need for executive session. A motion was made by Director Lipscomb to close the meeting and go into executive session. Upon a unanimous vote the meeting was closed.

SIGNED, this the 8th day of November, 2022

David Allen, Chairman
Board of Directors

Royal Aills
Executive Director