

MISSISSIPPI AUTHORITY FOR EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION
Regular Meeting/Teleconference of the Board of Directors

Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
Mississippi Public Broadcasting Board Room

MINUTES

Call to Order 10:01AM

Chair Sawyer

Roll call/Establish quorum

Michelle Mangum

Members Present:

Ric Sawyer, Chair/Elementary Educator; Dr. Ormella Cummings, IHL Representative; Dawn Barham, Vice-Chair/Secondary Educator; Charles Cowan, Member At-Large; Cory Custer, Member At-Large; Wendy Clemons, MDE Representative; Kell Smith, MCCB Representative

Staff Present:

Royal Aills, MPB ED; Alicia Harris, CFO; Sarah Mann, DHR; Michelle Mangum, Executive Assistant

Also Present:

Chelye Amis, Office of the Attorney General; Angela Ferraez, MPB Foundation Executive Director

Introduction of Visitors

Chair Sawyer

Shawna Post, Auditor

Approval of Agenda

Chair Sawyer

Cory Custer moved, and seconded by Dawn Barham, to adopt the agenda without changes. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Tab 1

Chair Sawyer

1A January 14, 2025, Regularly Scheduled Meeting Minutes

Consideration & Vote to Accept/Amend Meeting Minutes

With a motion by Wendy Clemons and second by Cory Custer, January 14, 2025, Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Chair Sawyer

The Chair delivered a report on his visit to Washington, D.C., where he met with Mississippi Congressmen and Senators.

Old Business

Chair Sawyer

The Chair had no new business to report to the board.

New Business

- Committee Nominations:
 - *Charles Cowan moved, and seconded by Dawn Barham, to table committee nominations until the next board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.*
- FY24 MPB Auditor's Report:
 - *Auditor, Shawna Post with RSGS Accounting Firm reviewed the FY24 MPB Auditor's Report without errors.*
- Adoption of Consent Agenda:
 - *The board took no action on adopting a Consent Agenda.*

Executive Director Report

Tab 2

Royal Aills

Aills presented his report to the board via PowerPoint.

Division Reports

- Finance
 - 3A Monthly Financial Report February 2025

Tab 3

Alicia Harris

Harris presented the financial report to the board and the report is on file.

Foundation Report

Angela Ferraez

The Executive Director of the MPB Foundation provided an update on upcoming events.

Consideration of Executive Session

Chairman Ric Sawyer

Cory Custer moved, seconded by Dawn Barham, to enter a closed session to discuss whether the executive session was appropriate. The motion passed unanimously.

Charles Cowan moved, seconded by Dawn Barham, to exit closed session. The motion passed unanimously, and an announcement was made of the board's decision to enter the executive session to discuss pending litigation.

Kell Smith moved, seconded by Wendy Clemons, to enter an executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. The motion passed unanimously.

In executive session, Charles Cowan moved, seconded by Dawn Barham, to appoint Royal Aills with settlement authority in an undisclosed amount for Civil Action No. 3:24-cv-44-KHJ-MTP. The motion passed with Ric Sawyer, Ormella Cummings, Dawn Barham, Charles Cowan, Kell Smith, and Wendy Clemons voting yea; and Cory Custer voting nay.

Dawn Barham moved, seconded by Charles Cowan, to exit the executive session and announce the board's actions in the executive session. The motion passed unanimously, and the board's actions were announced in the open meeting.

Adjournment

Chairman Ric Sawyer

With a motion by Dawn Barham/seconded by Wendy Clemons, a recommendation to adjourn passed unanimously at 12:00PM.

DRAFT