

MISSISSIPPI AUTHORITY FOR EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 9:30 a.m.
Board Room
MAET Administration Building
3825 Ridgewood Road
Jackson, Mississippi

Directors present: Perry Sansing, Chair, Rosemary Blakeslee, Kris Kaase, Daryl Lewis, Bob Sawyer, Eddie Smith, and Amy Whitten

Staff present: Marie Antoon, Bob Buie, Teresa Collier, Maggie Gibson, Randy Harris, Mari Irby, Jason Klein, Nikki McCelleis, Denise Miller, Shirley Mixon, Darryl Moses, Cindy Neal, Nancy Pearson, Sharon Person, Art Starkey, Maggie Stevenson, Cy Vance, and Jay Woods

Others present: Carolyn Bacon, Jennifer Griffin and Onetta Whitley

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sansing called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Director Sawyer made a motion to approve the Minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Directors held on November 11, 2008, seconded by Director Lewis, and upon a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Kaase made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Director Whitten, and upon a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Chairman Sansing introduced Carolyn Bacon, co-founder with The Reverend Jasper Bacon of In His Steps Ministries, Inc. in Canton, who presented Executive Director Marie Antoon with a Certificate of Appreciation for the educational services provided during a summer enrichment program.

Chairman Sansing expressed appreciation on behalf of the agency to the Education staff for their important work and added this is tangible proof of the impact of services provided.

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION REPORT

Maggie Gibson presented the Administration Division Report and noted several items.

Maggie Gibson noted the agency submitted a revised appropriation allotment to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) reflecting a two percent, or \$166,009, reduction in State funding for Fiscal Year 2009.

Maggie Gibson reported the agency's annual financial report was submitted to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), which certifies the amount of Non-Federal Financial Support (NFFS) and determines the annual television and radio Community Service Grants (CSG).

Maggie Gibson noted, as approved by the Directors at its meeting of November 11, 2008, the agency submitted two grant applications to the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (PTFP) of the U.S. Department of Commerce to replace the damaged Television broadcast antenna at WMAH

(Biloxi) in the amount of \$520,640 and to acquire a new microwave site between the McAdams and Ackerman microwave sites to eliminate signal dropouts in the amount of \$505,116.

Operating Budget

Director Blakeslee made a motion to accept the Operating Budget as of December 31, 2008, as presented by Maggie Gibson, seconded by Director Whitten, and upon a unanimous vote, the motion carried. The Operating Budget is made a part of these Minutes as **Exhibit A**.

Budget Modifications

Director Kaase made a motion to approve Budget Modifications in the amount of \$49,417 as of January 13, 2009, as presented by Maggie Gibson, seconded by Director Smith, and upon a unanimous vote, the motion carried. The Budget Modifications are made a part of these Minutes as **Exhibit B**.

CONTENT OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT

Jay Woods presented the Content Operations Division Report and noted several items.

Jay Woods announced that the News Department section of the Website has been enhanced, and Cari Gervin recently began as a news reporter covering Mississippi news events from Oxford.

Jay Woods reported the Governor's State of the State Address and the Democratic Response will air live this evening and a re-broadcast of the 2009 Opening Legislative Session held at the restored Old Capitol will immediately follow in its entirety. Jay Woods added that a documentary about the restoration of the Old Capitol is currently being developed.

Jay Woods announced that several projects are planned to highlight the centennial of Eudora Welty's birthday in April, such as re-purposing existing footage of Miss Welty reading from her own works to become a part of the *Writers* series.

Jay Woods provided an update on discussions concerning potential workforce development projects with the Mississippi Department of Employment Security. Marie Antoon discussed the possibility of providing GED and workforce programs on a separate digital channel or as a "video-on-demand" service.

Jay Woods noted some upcoming local Television productions, such as the Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts on February 26, the live broadcast of the 2009 MHSAA/Cellular South State High School Basketball Championship Games March 5 through March 7, the State Spelling Bee on March 9, the State Superintendent of Education's statewide Teachers Meeting before a live audience, a two-hour live WIN Job Telethon, and the Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence (GIVE) Awards scheduled in June.

EDUCATION DIVISION REPORT

Marie Antoon presented the Education Division Report and noted several items.

Marie Antoon announced the resignation of Ann Copland as Deputy Executive Director for Education.

Marie Antoon provided an update on the childcare centers adopted by Rotary Clubs in Central District 6820 and discussed some of the community events held in relation to the *Between the Lions* curriculum.

Marie Antoon discussed her presentation on the *Between the Lions* Preschool Literacy Initiative to the Mississippi Building Blocks Symposium held in Jackson on December 15.

Marie Antoon reported the cast and crew of *Between the Lions* will arrive on February 2 to begin taping Seasons 9 and 10. Marie Antoon noted several events planned, such as an invitation to members of the Legislature for a breakfast with the cast on February 4, the visit of WGBH Vice President for Children's, Educational and Interactive Programming Brigid Sullivan, visits to

local childcare centers by *Lions* characters, and executive producer Chris Cerf discussing "Behind the magic of PBS's *Between the Lions*" as part of the Millsaps Arts & Lecture Series on February 8.

TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT

Bob Buie presented the Technical Services Division Report and noted several items.

Bob Buie reported that the project to replace FM broadcast antennas and transmission lines at all eight stations is currently underway with Phase One beginning at WMAE (Booneville) and continuing at WMAO (Greenwood), WMPN (Jackson), WMAU (Bude), WMAH (Biloxi), and WMAW (Meridian). Bob Buie added the project remains on schedule to meet the completion date of March 31, 2009.

Bob Buie reported that WMAH-TV (Biloxi), which was off-air due to a malfunction in the antenna system, is currently operating with the damaged antenna.

Bob Buie noted the installation of digital transmitters at WMAO (Greenwood) and WMAU (Bude) has been completed.

Bob Buie reported that preparations are in place for the February 17 analog signal shut-off.

FOUNDATION REPORT

Marie Antoon presented the Foundation Report on behalf of Ty Warren and noted several items.

Marie Antoon noted the Foundation has seen a decrease in pledges as a result of the current economy.

Marie Antoon announced that Bill Ellison was recently named Corporate Relations Manager.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Marie Antoon presented the Executive Director's Report and noted several items.

Marie Antoon provided an update on two productions currently in progress, *The War: the Mississippi Experience* and the documentary on reconciliation in cooperation with the Trent Lott Leadership Institute.

Marie Antoon discussed the proposed legislation by Congress to delay the date of the DTV transition until June 12. Marie Antoon added that because data in the Mississippi television markets reflects a high participation rate in the DTV converter box coupon program, the agency will proceed as planned to shut-off analog signals on February 17.

The Executive Director's Report is made a part of these Minutes as **Exhibit C**.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Director Blakeslee made a motion to close the meeting to determine whether or not it should declare an Executive Session, seconded by Director Lewis, and upon a unanimous vote, **the meeting was closed**.

Director Whitten made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Director Kaase, and upon a unanimous vote, the Board voted to go into Executive Session, for the reason later reported by the Chairman in Open Session and stated in these Minutes as follows:

A personnel matter relating to job performance...of a person holding a specific position.

The Board sits in Executive Session.

Directors Blakeslee, Kaase, Lewis, Sansing, Sawyer, Smith, and Whitten were present. Marie Antoon, Onetta Whitley, and Jay Woods were also present.

Director Sawyer made a motion to return to Open Session, seconded by Director Smith, and upon a unanimous vote, the Board returned to **Open Session**.

The following report on the Executive Session was given by the Chairman:

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Blakeslee made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Lewis, and upon a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

SIGNED, this the 10th day of March, 2009.

Original signed by Perry Sansing

Perry Sansing, Chair
Board of Directors

Original signed by Marie Antoon

Marie Antoon
Executive Director