

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

Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Mississippi Public Broadcasting Board Room

+

TEAMS Videoconference

MINUTES

Call to Order 10:01AM

Vice Chair Sawyer

Roll call/Establish quorum

Marvin Jeter

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

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

Also Present:

Roy Nowell, Office of the Attorney General; Angela Ferraez, MPB Foundation Executive Director

Introduction of Visitors & New Members

Vice Chair Sawyer

Wendy Clemons was introduced to the board members as the newly appointed Mississippi Department of Education Representative appointed by Dr. Lance Evans, Superintendent.

Roy Nowell was introduced to the board members as the newly appointed Board Counsel from the Office of the Attorney General.

Approval of Agenda

Vice Chair Sawyer

With a motion by O. Cummings/second by D. Barham, the agenda was adopted unanimously without changes

Approval of Minutes

Tab 1

Vice Chair Sawyer

1A September 10, 2024, Regularly Scheduled Meeting Minutes

1B September 10, 2024, MPB Board/Foundation Board Joint Meeting Minutes

Consideration & Vote to Accept/Amend Meeting Minutes

With a motion by D. Barham/second by O. Cummings, the September 10 Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Vice Chair Sawyer

The Vice Chair had no information to report to the board.

Old Business

Vice Chair Sawyer

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

New Business

- Executive Director Report Tab 2

Royal Aills

The Executive Director provided an update:

- Budget Summary
- Introduced new Programs on Radio & TV
 - Sit Down with Russ Latino
 - NHK World Japan
 - World Channel
 - FNX
 - Southern Dish with Lydia Chassaniol
- National Folk Festival
- Collaboration with First Lady Reeves on Semi Quincentennial
- Meeting with MDE Superintendent Dr. Evans
- MPB Educational Programs
- Community Project Funds
- Digitizing Update: Archived Audio/Videos

Division Reports

- Finance Tab 3

Alicia Harris

3A Monthly Financial Report October

3B Approval of Expenses over \$50,000

- DFA approved the cost of two Transmitters for \$1,775,094.54

3C Travel Expenses – Dawn Barham

Consideration & Vote to Accept/Amend Anticipated Expenses

With a motion by O. Cummings/second by C. Custer, the emergency purchase of one television transmitter and five FM transmitters in the amount of \$1,775,094.54 and the emergency purchase of seven FM+HD exciter and importer system in the amount of \$164,850.00 were approved unanimously.

Alicia Harris noted that the previously approved purchase of one TV transmitter and two FM transmitters, estimated at \$2,550,000, was actually for one TV transmitter and seven FM transmitters for \$1,775,094.54, recognizing a cost savings of \$774,905.46.

- Foundation Report

Angela Ferraez

The Executive Director of the MPB Foundation provided an update:

- Hosted two "MPB On the Move" events in Starkville and Grenada
- Book Festival in Jackson
- Radio Pledge from September 27th thru October 4th
- Mississippi Antique Showcase Holiday Edition in October
- Annual Auditor visitation
- Budget for FY25

- Set Calendar for 2025 Board Meetings

- January 14, 2025 2nd Tuesday (Approved/Board Retreat Scheduled-MLC)
- March 4, 2025 1st Tuesday (Before 3 weeks of Spring Breaks begin)
- May 13, 2025 2nd Tuesday
- July 8, 2025 2nd Tuesday
- September 9, 2025 2nd Tuesday
- November 11, 2025 2nd Tuesday

Consideration & Vote to Accept/Amend Meeting Dates

With a motion by W. Clemons/seconded by D. Barham, the Calendar of 2025 Board Members was approved unanimously.

- Nominations & Vote to select 2025 MPB Board Officers

Vice Chair Sawyer

Nomination & Vote for Chair

With motion by D. Barham / seconded by O. Cummings, Ric Sawyer was nominated as Board Chair unanimously.

Nomination & Vote for Vice-Chair

With motion by O. Cummings, Dawn Barham was nominated as Vice Chair unanimously.

Consideration of Executive Session

With a motion by D. Barham/second by W. Clemons the board unanimously agreed to enter closed session to determine whether executive session was necessary.

In closed session, the board determined to enter executive session for discussion of pending litigation.

With a motion by O. Cummings/seconded by D. Barham, the board unanimously agreed to enter executive session.

Executive Director Aills provided the board with an update on two pending civil suits. The board took no action in executive session.

With a motion by D. Barham /seconded by O. Cummings, the board unanimously agreed to exit executive session.

Adjournment

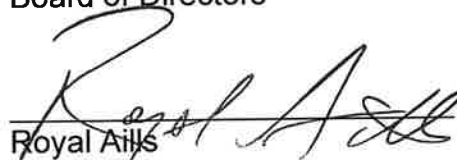
Vice Chair Sawyer

With a motion by C. Custer/seconded by O. Cummings, a recommendation to adjourn passed unanimously at 2:00PM.

SIGNED, this the 14th day of January 2025



Ric Sawyer, Chairman
Board of Directors



Royal Aills
Executive Director