

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

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 10:00 a.m.  
Mississippi Public Broadcasting Board Room

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**TEAMS Videoconference**

**MINUTES**

Call to Order at 10:01AM

Chairman Sawyer

Roll call/Establish quorum

Dr. Marvin Jeter, III

**Members Present:**

*Ric Sawyer, Chair/Elementary Rep; Dawn Barham, Vice Chair/Secondary Rep; Wendy Clemons, MDE Rep; Kell Smith, MCCB Rep;*

**Members via TEAMS:**

*Charles Cowan, At-Large Member; Dr. Ormella Cummings, IHL Rep;*

**MPB Staff Present:**

*Royal Aills, MPB ED; Anna Neel, MPB COO; Alicia Harris, MPB CFO; Sarah Mann, MPB Director of HR; Dr. Marvin Jeter, CAO; Kevin Cornell, ITS*

**Also Present:**

*Chelye Prichard Amis, Board Counsel, Office of the Attorney General; Angela Ferraez, MPB Foundation Executive Director*

Introduction of Visitors and New Members

Chairman Sawyer

- Recognition of former board members
  - Dr. Shawn Mackey – *Recognized & Appreciated*
  - Russ Latino – *Unable to attend, but honored and appreciated*

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Sawyer

*D. Barham moved, with a second by K. Smith, that the Agenda for the May 13, 2025 Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting be approved. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.*

Approval of Minutes

Tab 1

Chairman Sawyer

March 4, 2025

*W. Clemons moved, with a second by D. Barham, that the March 4, 2024, Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting Minutes be approved. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.*

Chairman's Report

Chairman Sawyer

*Chairman Ric Sawyer discussed potential challenges from state and federal funding.*

Old Business

Chairman Sawyer

*No Old Business was brought to the table.*

New Business

- Executive Director Report                      Tab 2

Royal Aills

➤ *The Executive Director's Report is on file.*

- Finance    Tab 3

Alicia Harris

Harris presented the Monthly Financial Report April 2025 and the Proposed MPB 2026 Operating Budget. The report is on file.

*K. Smith moved, with a second by D. Barham, that the Proposed MPB 2026 Operating Budget projected for allocations in the recent legislative session be approved. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.*

- Foundation Report

Angela Ferraez

Ferraez presented an oral Foundation Report to the board with updates concerning the recent pledge drive, the Mississippi Antique Showcase in Oxford, and the Southern Dish Premiere in Greenwood.

- Consideration of Executive Session

Chairman Sawyer

*K. Smith moved, with a second by D. Barham, to enter closed session to determine whether there are grounds for an executive session. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 11:27am.*

*During closed session, D. Barham moved, with a second by W. Clemons, that the board go into executive session to have a strategy session with respect to pending litigation when an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the public body. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.*

*In executive session, D. Barham moved, with a second by O. Cummings, to grant Lindsey Dowdle and Will Ivison with settlement authority in an undisclosed amount for Civil Action No. 3:24-cv-464-KHJ-MTP and Civil Action No. 3:24-cv-00607-DPJ-ASH. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried*

*W. Clemons moved, with a second by K. Smith, to exit executive session. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried. The board exited executive session into the open meeting at 12:10PM. R. Aills announced in open session the actions of the board when in executive session.*

Adjournment

Chairman Sawyer

*K. Smith moved, with a second by D. Barham, to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried. The Board adjourned at 12:15PM.*

**SIGNED, this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024.**



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Ric Sawyer, Chairman  
Board of Directors



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Royal Aills  
Executive Director