June 2, 2026
MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Mississippi Community College Board was held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, in meeting room Magnolia E of the Beau Rivage Conference Center, located 875 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi, MS.

Members present: Mr. John Pigott, Chairman; Mr. Donnie Caughman; Mr. Johnny McRight; Mr. Luke Montgomery; Mr. Will Symmes; and Dr. Dianne Watson. There was a quorum of six.

MCCB Staff in attendance: Kell Smith, Jason Carter, and Dr. Rachel De Vaughan-Partrick.

Guests in attendance: Mr. Jonathan Dennis, Office of the Attorney General.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pigott called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. and read the meeting notice for the July 17, 2026, meeting.

MEETING NOTICE

The Mississippi Community College Board will hold its Monthly Scheduled Meeting on Friday, July 17, 2026, in Room 507 of the Paul B. Johnson, Jr. Building located in the Education and Research Complex at 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS. The meeting may be conducted as a teleconference meeting.

PRELIMINARIES

Chairman Pigott welcomed all to the meeting, Mr. McRight provided the invocation, and Kell Smith took roll.

Approval of April 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes and May 5, 2026 Special Called Meeting Minutes

In a motion made by Mr. McRight and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the **MCCB voted unanimously** to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2026 and May 5, 2026 meeting minutes.

Approval of the June 2, 2026 Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Montgomery to strike **Exhibit C** from the June 2, 2026 agenda and was seconded by Mr. Caughman. There was no discussion and the **MCCB voted unanimously** to amend the June 2, 2026 agenda.

In a motion made by Mr. Symmes and seconded by Mr. Caughman, the **MCCB voted unanimously** to approve the June 2, 2026 agenda.

REPORTS/ACTIONS

Chairman's Report

Chairman Pigott announced this would be his last official time to preside as chairman unless there is a special called meeting before July 1, 2026, when Mr. Montgomery assumes the position of Chairman and Dr. Dianne Watson takes the position of Vice-Chair. He expressed great joy in being able to turn the gavel over to the newly elected chair and vice-chair. He expressed it had been an honor and a privilege to serve as chairman for the past eight years. Chairman Pigott yielded to Mr. Kell Smith for the Executive Director's report.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Smith welcomed all to the meeting and expressed his thanks to Chairman Pigott for his leadership as chairman for the past eight years. Mr. Smith reported the passing of Mr. George Mayfield, husband of former MCCB executive director, Dr. Andrea Mayfield. Mr. Smith said he would pass along funeral details as soon as he received them.

Mr. Smith presented **Exhibit A**, a request for approval of the MCCB Virtual Meetings Policy. The agency will be transitioning to remote work in the fall for approximately six to eight weeks due to renovations in the PBJ Jr. Building, and this will result in an increase in virtual meetings. The policy is intended to ensure consistency and professionalism for all employees utilizing virtual meeting platforms such as Zoom and Teams. This policy has been reviewed by legal counsel.

In a motion made by Mr. McRight and seconded by Mr. Symmes, the **MCCB voted unanimously** to approve the MCCB Virtual Meetings policy.

Mr. Smith presented **Exhibit B**, requesting approval of appointments to the MS Post Secondary Attainment Council (M-PAC) which was created in SB 2524 during the 2026 legislative session. Included among the 26 voting members of M-PAC are the Executive Director of MCCB and three presidents of a community college to be appointed by MCCB. At the April 28, 2026 MACC meeting, the following three presidents were chosen to represent MACC on the council: Dr. Jay Allen, Dr. Steven Jones, and Dr. Steve Vacik. These recommendations require Board approval.

In a motion made by Mr. Caughman and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the **MCCB voted unanimously** to approve the appointments Dr. Jay Allen of ICC, Dr. Steven Jones of MDCC and Dr. Steve Vacik of Hinds CC.

Speaker White created select committees to hear on certain issues, one being on education consolidation. The first meeting is Thursday, June 4 and Mr. Smith will be speaking.

Earlier this year, the State Auditor conducted our FY 2025 compliance and internal control assessment. There were two findings. Under Finding One, there were two observations. Observation 1 – Sales tax was paid on two procurement card purchases. MCCB's corrective action plan: The agency tax-exempt letter has been redistributed electronically to all employees as a reminder to always request that taxes be removed from purchases. Moving forward, the agency's three procurement card holders will no longer conduct business with entities that do not recognize the agency's tax-exempt status. The agency will also make reasonable efforts to ensure that online retailers recognize the agency's tax-exempt status before purchases are completed.

The MCCB will also update the agency's Policies and Procedures Manual to include the statement that no sales tax is to be charged for agency purchases. At the OSA's suggestion, we will continue to take advantage of direct billing to eliminate the possibility of paying sales tax for certain purchases. Observation 2 – Five procurement card purchases were billed to staff members who are not authorized procurement card users. MCCB position: We do not completely concur with Observation 2. In certain instances, invoices for registrations, memberships, or similar purchases may appropriately reflect the name of the employee on whose behalf the purchase is being made, even though the payment is processed by an authorized P-card holder. For example, an employee may be a member of a professional organization and the invoice may be issued in that employee's name, while another authorized employee uses his or her P-card to remit payment because the employee listed on the invoice has not been issued a P-card. MCCB corrective action plan: We accept the auditor's recommendation for the P-card user to sign the invoice stating that he or she made the payment on behalf of the employee. Under Finding Two, our surety bond for all employees was $5,000 and should have been $25,000. We will price that out.

The State single audit was completed and there were no findings. Our FY 2027 agency budget that Jason will cover includes the following pay raises for employees: 3% raise for employees OR $2,000, whichever is greater. The overall cost is approximately $100K in GF.

Other updates: FY 28 priorities will be presented for Trustees to consider. Dr. Latoya Sterling recently completed the Policy Fellowship Program. The next MACC meeting is scheduled for August 25. Effective July 1, the new MACC officer are Dr. Ricky Ford, Chair; Dr. Tom Huebner, Vice-Chair; and Dr. Jay Allen, Secretary-Treasurer. Mr. Smith concluded his report.

Finance and Administration Report

Mr. Jason Carter presented the Finance agenda. He requested en bloc approval for the first six disbursement approval requests to which Chairman Pigott agreed.

Attachment 1 is a request for approval of Disbursements for June 2026 (FY 2026) from General Fund 2298 in the total amount of **$17,519,438.00**. The breakdown is June Funding Formula at $16,618,049.00, Education Technology (GF) at $581,777.00 and Associate Degree Nursing/Allied Health at $319,612.00.

Attachment 2 is a request for approval of Disbursements for July 2026 (FY 2027) from General Fund 2298 in the total amount of **$53,434,783.00.** The breakdown is as follows: Funding Formula at $34,371,630.00, Health Insurance at $9,270,587.00, Workforce Development Centers at $3,375,000.00, Sign Language Interpreter at $89,525.00, Education Technology at $3,549,580.00, Dropout Recovery at $1,500,000.00, and Associate Degree Nursing at $1,278,461.00.

Attachment 3 is a request for Education Enhancement Fund Disbursements for May 2026 (FY 26) in the total amount of **$4,323,745.00**. For Fund 4080, the amount of the disbursement will be $4,241,633.00 with the remainder coming from Fund 4110 in the amount of $82,112.00.
Attachment 4 is a request for Education Enhancement Fund Disbursements for June 2026 (FY 26) in the total amount of **$4,323,744.00**. Fund 4080, at $4,241,633.00 and Fund 4110 in the amount of $82,111.00.

Attachment 5 is a request for approval of the EEF Disbursements-Education Technology for June 2026 (FY 26) in the amount of $986,288.00.

Attachment 6 is a request for approval of CTE Advantage Disbursements for the months of May 2026 and June 2026, each in the amount of **$833,334.00**.

In a motion made by Mr. McRight and seconded by Mr. Symmes, the **MCCB voted unanimously** to approve the following:

1. **Attachment 1,** the General Fund 2298 Disbursement for June 2026 in the amount of **$17,519,438.00**,
2. **Attachment 2,** the General Fund 2298 Disbursement for July 2026 (FY 2027) in the amount of **$53,434,783.00**,
3. **Attachment 3**, the Education Enhancement Fund Disbursements for May 2026 in the total amount of **$4,323,745.00**,
4. **Attachment 4**, the Education Enhancement Fund Disbursements for June 2026 in the total amount of **$4,323,744.00**,
5. **Attachment 5,** the EEF Disbursements-Education Technology for June 2026 in the amount of **$986,288.00** and
6. **Attachment 6,** the CTE Advantage Disbursements for May 2026 and June 2026, each in the amount of **$833,334.00**.

Attachments 7a-7c are Financial Statements for Funds 2291, 4111, and Special Funds as of 5/22/26. These are for informational purposes only and do not require approval.
Attachment 8a is a request to approve the renewal of the AspireEDU, Inc. Dropout Detective student retention analytics platform contract. This is a three-year renewal from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029. The total cost shall not exceed **$997,500.00.** The ITS Board approved this renewal at their May 21, 2026 meeting.
FY 2027 Cost: $332,500, FY 2028 Cost: $332,500, FY 2029 Cost: $332,500.00 for a total of $997,500.00.

In a motion made by Mr. Caughman and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the **MCCB voted unanimously** to approve the three-year renewal of the AspireEDU, Inc, Dropout Detective platform not to exceed **$997,500.00**.

Attachments 8b, 8c, and 8d are three contract approval requests not to exceed $50,000. Chairman Pigott asked Mr. Carter to request en bloc.

1. **Attachment 8b** is the contract with Raul Fletes not to exceed **$50,000** for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.
2. **Attachment 8c** is the contract with Ive Burnett not to exceed **$48,960** for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, and
3. **Attachment 8d** is the contract with Jennifer Whitlock not to exceed **$37,800** for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

In a motion made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Mr. McRight, the **MCCB voted unanimously** to approve the three individual contract approval requests for Raul Fletes, Ive Burnett and Jennifer Whitlock as stated above.

Attachment 9a and Attachment 9b are two budget requests for MCCB and for the community colleges for FY 2027.

1. **Attachment 9a** is the FY 2027 MCCB Budget Approval request in the amount of **$86,158,411.00.**
2. **Attachment 9b** is the FY 2027 CJC Support Budget Approval request in the amount of **$319,043,411.00.**

In a motion made by Mr. Caughman and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the **MCCB voted unanimously** to approve the FY 2027 MCCB Budget ($86,158,411.00) and the FY 2027 CJC Support Budget ($319,043,411.00).

Attachment 10 is a request for approval to purchase computer equipment to replace outdated equipment for employees. Metrix Solution has provided a quote of $74,949.20 for staff laptops, docking stations, keyboard/mouse combos and three years maintenance support.

In a motion made by Mr. Symmes and seconded by Mr. McRight, the **MCCB voted unanimously** to approve the purchase of updated computer equipment for staff in the amount of $74,949.20.

Mr. Carter concluded his report.

Executive Director Kell Smith presented **Exhibit D**, the CPSCR Summary Report, which is for informational purposes only and does not require approval. There were no questions regarding this exhibit.

Programs

Dr. De Vaughan-Partrick presented **Exhibit E**, a request for Initial Approval of curricula revisions to be submitted to the MS Secretary of State's Office for APA public review. The curriculum frameworks are for Information Systems Technology Cluster, Diagnostic Medical Sonography and Logistics Technology.

In a motion made by Mr. McRight and seconded by Mr. Symmes, the **MCCB voted unanimously** to approve the curricula revision to be submitted to the MS SOS for Initial Approval. Dr. De Vaughan-Partrick concluded her report.

TRAVEL AUTHORIZATIONS

Chairman Pigott called for travel reimbursement authorizations. Dr. Watson traveled to Pearl on April 28, 2026 to attend the MS CC Foundation Sports Hall of Fame dinner and program.

In a motion made by Mr. Caughman and seconded by Mr. McRight, the MCCB voted unanimously to approve the travel reimbursement for Dr. Watson for her travel on April 28, 2026, to Pearl, MS.

OTHER BUSINESS

Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m. in a motion made by Mr. Caughman and seconded by Mr. McRight. **All voted unanimously.**

MCCB Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Recorded by:

Missy Saxton, Director of External Affairs

Approved by:

Kell Smith, Executive Director

Approved by:

John Pigott, Chairman

June 2, 2026 Exhibits

MCCB Virtual Meeting Policy	Exhibit A
Appointments to MS Post Secondary Attainment Council	Exhibit B
Final Approval Request, Policy 8.11	Exhibit C-Removed from agenda
Finance Agenda	Separate Agenda
CPSCSR Summary	Exhibit D
Curricula Revision-Initial Request	Exhibit E