June 25, 2026
MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING MINUTES

A Special Called Board Meeting of the Mississippi Community College Board was held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2026, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act for the State of Mississippi. The meeting location was held at 3825 Ridgewood Road, Office 633, Jackson, MS, 39211 and was held as a conference call meeting.

Members present: Mr. John Pigott (via telephone, Picayune, MS), Chairman; Mrs. Cheryl Thurmond (via telephone, Ripley, MS); Mr. Videt Carmichael (via telephone, Meridian, MS); Mr. Donnie Caughman (via telephone, Braxton, MS); Mr. Bubba Hudspeth (via telephone, Columbus, MS); Ms. Dolly Marascalco (via telephone, Grenada, MS); Mr. Johnny McRight (via telephone, Greenville, MS); Mr. Luke Montgomery (via telephone, Long Boat Key, FL); Mr. Will Symmes (via telephone, Newberg, OR) and Dr. Dianne Watson (via telephone, Brookhaven, MS). There was a quorum of ten.

MCCB Staff in attendance: Kell Smith, Missy Saxton, Dr. Rachel De Vaughan-Partrick, and Dr. Krista LeBrun.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pigott called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and Missy Aldridge Saxton took roll.

PRELIMINARIES

Chairman Pigott welcomed all to the meeting and Mr. Smith provided the invocation. In a motion made by Ms. Marascalco and seconded by Mr. McRight, the **MCCB voted unanimously** to approve the June 25, 2026 agenda.

REPORTS/ACTIONS

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Smith welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for being on the call.

He presented **Exhibit A**, a request for final approval of MCCB Policy 8.11, the High School Equivalency Policy, to be submitted to the MS Secretary of State's Office for APA review.

In a motion made by Mr. Hudspeth and seconded by Ms. Marascalco, the **MCCB voted unanimously** to approve MCCB Policy 8.11 to be submitted to the MS SOS office for final approval.

Mr. Smith presented **Exhibit B**, a request to submit the Adult Education Program Guidelines to be submitted to the MS Secretary of State's Office for final APA review and public comment.

In a motion made by Dr. Watson and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the **MCCB voted unanimously** to approve the request to submit the Adult Education Program Guidelines to MS Secretary of State's Office for final APA review and public comment.

Exhibit C is a request for a job description revision for the position of Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment to Assistant Executive Director, Postsecondary and Talent Development-Federal Programs. Federal programs include Workforce Pell, Earnings Premium Test and federal updates.

In a motion made by Vice Chair Thurmond and seconded by Mr. Caughman, the **MCCB voted unanimously** to approve the revision of the job description from Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment to Assistant Executive Director-Postsecondary and Talent Development of Federal Programs.

Exhibit D is a three-year contract with Copyleaks in the annual amount of $133,250.00. Copyleaks is a plagiarism detection software utilized by community colleges. The total value of the contract is $399,750.00 and is a fixed rate of $2.05/student which is 65,000 students. Funding is provided through MACC. The contract has been reviewed by MCCB legal and ITS.

In a motion made by Mr. Caughman and seconded by Mr. McRight, the **MCCB voted unanimously** to approve the three-year Copyleaks contract in the total amount of $399,750.00, contingent upon MCCB legal and ITS approval..

Exhibit E is a list of the FY 2028 budget priorities adopted by the MACC on May 31 and by the Trustees Association on June 3. The first priority is $41,500,000 for the Job Promise Performance Program. Second priority is $39,000,000 for Community College General Support ($28,000,000 for a 6% salary increase for all employees and $11,000,000 in basic operations). Priority three is $100,000,000 for Capital Improvements and Repair & Renovation Funding requests. Total legislative priorities for CC Support for FY 2028 is $180,500,000. Mr. Smith asked the Board to endorse these budget priorities for MACC.

In a motion made by Mr. Hudspeth and seconded by Ms. Marascalco, the **MCCB voted unanimously** to endorse the three FY 2028 MACC Legislative Priorities.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Smith discussed possible location in September and October due to the construction in the building. No action was taken.

Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 a.m. in a motion made by Mr. McRight and seconded by Vice Chair Thurmond. **All voted unanimously.**

MCCB Special Called Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 25, 2026

Recorded by:

Missy Saxton, Director of External Affairs

Approved by:

Kell Smith, Executive Director

Approved by:

John Pigott, Chairman

June 25, 2026 Exhibits

Policy 8.11 Final Approval Request for APA	Exhibit A
Adult Education Program Guidelines, Final Approval Request for APA	Exhibit B
Job Description Revision Request	Exhibit C
Contract Approval Request-Copyleaks	Exhibit D
FY 2028 MACC Legislative Priorities Approval Request	Exhibit E