

February 20, 2026

MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Mississippi Community College Board was held at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, February 20, 2026 in Room 507 of the Paul B. Johnson Jr. Building, located in the Education and Research Complex at 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson.

Members present: Mr. John Pigott, Chairman; Mr. Videt Carmichael, Mr. Donnie Caughman (via telephone, Braxton, MS); Mr. Bubba Hudspeth; Ms. Dolly Marascalco; Mr. Johnny McRight (via telephone, Greenville, MS); Mr. Luke Montgomery; Mr. Will Symmes (via telephone, Gulfport, MS); and Dr. Dianne Watson. There was a quorum of nine.

MCCB Staff in attendance: Kell Smith, Jason Carter, Dr. Rachel DeVaughan, Cynthia Jiles, Dr. Krista LeBrun, and Missy Saxton.

Guests in attendance: Jonathan Dennis, Office of the Attorney General; Dr. Adam Breerwood, President, Pearl River Community College; Patrick Ochs, Chief of Staff, Pearl River Community College; and Eileen Beasley, Office of the Governor (via telephone, Jackson, MS).

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pigott called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and read the meeting notice for the March 20, 2026, meeting.

MEETING NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Mississippi Community College Board will be held on Friday, March 20, 2026, in Room 507 of the Paul B. Johnson Jr. Building located in the Education and Research Complex at 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson. This meeting may be conducted as a teleconference meeting.

PRELIMINARIES

Chairman Pigott welcomed all to the meeting, Mr. Carmichael provided the invocation, and Missy Aldridge Saxton took roll.

Approval of January 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes

In a motion made by Mr. Hudspeth and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the **MCCB voted unanimously** to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2026 meeting.

Approval of the February 20, 2026 Agenda

In a motion made by Mr. Carmichael and seconded by Mr. Hudspeth, the **MCCB voted unanimously** to approve the February 20, 2026 agenda.

REPORTS/ACTIONS

Chairman's Report

Chairman Pigott thanked all for being at the meeting. He yielded to Mr. Kell Smith for the Executive Director's report.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Smith welcomed all to the meeting. He introduced Dr. Adam Breerwood, President of Pearl River Community College. Dr. Breerwood has been president since July 2017 and provided a very impressive presentation about policies and a mindset that he has established at PRCC since becoming president. Dr. Breerwood has led PRCC through growth, expansion and has experienced enrollment increases most every semester since named president. He is a student focused leader and a proud alum of PRCC. He has worked at PRCC since 1996 and previously served as vice president for the Poplarville Campus and the Hancock Center.

Mr. Smith reported the 2026 session has reached the halfway point. General bills have passed from one chamber to the next and appropriation bills have been introduced. Agency funding is established in SB 3062 and funds the agency at \$5,815,481, which is a \$310,000 general fund reduction. SB 3063 establishes general funds for the colleges at \$233,257,625. This includes a \$2,000 raise for instructors from general funds as well as \$15 million for R & R. The January state revenue was \$500,000 above the projected estimate and for the year, the revenue is \$164.8 million above the estimate.

Mr. Smith asked Dr. Krista LeBrun to demonstrate the new agency website redesign. The goal of the website is to update the look, make it more streamlined and adhere to federal guidelines. The effort was led by Dr. LeBrun, Dr. Christa Wilhite and Megan Akins with all divisions helping with the effort. Mr. Smith encouraged Members to review the site when they could.

A major topic of discussion that has consumed a large portion of Dr. Rachel De Vaughan's time is federal wage earnings and workforce Pell guidelines. Accelerate MS has created a WF Pell subcommittee that Dr. De Vaughan is leading. Information continues to come in regarding the premiums earning test that Mr. Smith reported to Members last month. Preliminary information has MS with the second highest percentage of programs that could be impacted. The agency is finalizing a contract with Aaron Lacey and look to have our next federal update the week of March 23rd.

Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith has been working on a nursing instructor salary stipend since early 2025. In the most recent federal budget that was signed by President Trump, \$5 million was provided to MCCB to expand nursing programs to include nurse stipends. The funding will flow from US DOE to MCCB and then to the colleges. Mr. Carter and Mr. Smith are in the process of scheduling a call with Senator Hyde-Smith's office to work out logistics.

Spring 2026 preliminary enrollment numbers are in. There has been an increase the past two years at 4.7% and 4.2%. The next SWIB meeting is February 24, 2026 at 2:00 and Mr. Smith has been asked to provide an

update on the recommendations that pertain to MCCB. This is part of what Patrick Sullivan discussed at the January meeting. MCCB is looking at software products to help verify the identity of students who apply to a community college.

Last year, the Legislature passed a bill to give the community colleges the ability to self-manage construction projects if it met certain requirements. In November, our board approved Hinds to self-manage two. The process is that our Board first gives approval; the college's board then gives approval; and then an MOU is entered into between the MCCB and college outlining roles/responsibilities. The Hinds board has given its approval. We will work on an MOU for our board to consider at the March meeting.

Mr. Smith reported state student organizations have held competitions in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in Hattiesburg. In the coming week, the Future Business Leaders competition will be in Hattiesburg.

The MCCB April meeting will be held at Itawamba Community College. Details are being worked on with most events taking place in Tupelo. The May meeting is scheduled for May 15 in Jackson. The Trustees Conference will be held Monday, June 1-Wednesday June 3 on the MS Gulf Coast. Due to a short turnaround from May 15 to June 2, Mr. Smith asked the Board if they wanted to cancel the May MCCB meeting.

In a motion made by Mr. Hudspeth and seconded by Ms. Marascalco, the **MCCB voted unanimously** to cancel the May 15, 2026 meeting.

Mr. Smith reported the next MACC meeting will be held Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at MCCB. He concluded his report.

Finance and Administration Report

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

Attachment 1 is a request for approval of General Fund 2298 Disbursements for March 2026 in the amount of **\$14,771,603.00**.

Attachment 2 is a request for approval of Education Enhancement Fund Disbursements for February 2026 in the total amount of **\$4,323,746.00**. For Fund 4080, the amount of the disbursement will be \$4,241,634.00 with the rest coming from Fund 4110 in the amount of \$82,112.00.

Attachment 3 is a request for approval of the CTE Advantage Disbursements from Fund 4080 for February 2026 in the amount of **\$833,333.00**.

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

1. **Attachment 1**, the General Fund 2298 Disbursement for March 2026 in the amount of **\$14,771,603.00**,

2. **Attachment 2**, the Education Enhancement Fund Disbursements for February 2026 in total amount of **\$4,323,746.00**,
3. **Attachment 3**, the CTE Advantage Disbursement request for February 2026 in the amount of **\$833,333.00**.

Attachments 4a-4c are the financial statements for Funds 2291, 4111 and Special Funds as of January 31, 2026, and are for informational purposes only.

Contract/Purchasing Approvals:

Attachment 5 is a request for approval to revise a contract with Smarter Services. The current contract is set to expire March 31, 2026. To maintain uninterrupted comprehensive online proctoring services for our MS community colleges, MCCB proposes a bridge contract from April 1, 2026 until December 31, 2028. This bridge contract allows time for ITS to negotiate a new two-year and nine-month contractual agreement. The cost for nine months of service will be \$125,772.00. The first full year of service will cost \$172,300.00 and the second full year of service will cost \$177,300.00 for a total of \$475,372.00. This will be contingent upon ITS Board approval.

In a motion made by Mr. Hudspeth and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the **MCCB voted unanimously** to approve the revision of the Smarter Services contract, contingent on ITS board approval, for a new two-year and nine-month contract for the period of April 1, 2026 until December 31, 2028, in the total amount of \$475,372.00. Mr. Carter concluded his report.

Accountability Report

Mr. Steve Martin, Commissioner of Athletics and Affiliated Activities, provided an athletic report. In basketball, Itawamba is ranked 25th nationally. Women's basketball does not have any MS teams ranked, although Northwest and Itawamba both received votes. In baseball national rankings, Pearl River is ranked 2nd, East Central is ranked 3rd, Jones is 14th and MGCCC is ranked 15th. Softball teams ranked nationally from MS are Co-Lin at 2nd, Jones at 4th, Pearl River in 7th and Itawamba 12th. Mr. Martin concluded his report.

Programs

Dr. Rachel De Vaughan did not have any items requiring approval for the Board.

TRAVEL AUTHORIZATIONS

Chairman Pigott called for travel reimbursement authorizations. Ms. Marascalco requested approval for attending the "Taste of the Coast" meeting on January 6, 2026 in Jackson.

In a motion made by Mr. Carmichael and seconded by Mr. Montgomery, the **MCCB voted unanimously** to approve the travel request for Ms. Marascalco on January 6, 2026.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Pigott announced that Mr. Smith had requested an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing an investigation and he asked a Board Member to make a motion for a closed session.

Dr. Watson made a motion to go into closed session to determine the need for executive session. Ms. Marascalco seconded the motion and the MCCB unanimously voted to go into closed session for the determination of the need to enter executive session.

The meeting was closed at 10:07 a.m.

Following a closed determination of the need to go into executive session, Mr. Hudspeth made the motion to go into executive session to discuss an ongoing investigation, which was seconded by Ms. Marascalco.

The meeting went into Executive Session at 10:07 a.m.

The meeting was reopened to the public at 10:20 a.m.

Chairman Pigott reported there was no action taken by the Board.

Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m. in a motion made by Mr. Hudspeth and seconded by Ms. Marascalco. **All voted unanimously.**

Recorded by:



Missy Saxton, Director of External Affairs

Approved by:



Kell Smith, Executive Director

Approved by:



John Pigott, Chairman

February 20, 2026 Exhibits

Finance Agenda
Bill Tracking Document

Separate Agenda
Handout