

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

Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 10:00 a.m.  
Mississippi Public Broadcasting Board Room

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**TEAMS Videoconference**

**MINUTES**

Call to Order

Chairman Mackey

*The regularly scheduled meeting of the MPB Board was called to order at 10:00AM.*

Roll call/Establish quorum

Marvin Jeter

Members Present: Dr. Shawn Mackey, Chair/MCCB; Dawn Barham, Member;  
Member; Whitney Lipscomb, Member

Members via TEAMS: Dr. Ormella Cummings, IHL Rep; Ric Sawyer

Members Absent: Dr. Judy Nelson, MDE Rep; Rep; Russ Latino, Vice Chair

MPB Staff Present: Royal Aills, MPB ED; Anna Neel, MPB COO; Alicia Harris,  
MPB CFO; Dr. Marvin Jeter, COS; Bobby Wicker, HR Director; Keidra  
Hooks, Early Childhood Specialist; Jaz Kolkovich, Digitization Specialist;  
Andrew Bicknell, Chief Technical Services Officer

Also Present: Sarah Mann, Board Counsel, Office of the Attorney General;  
Angela Ferraez, MPB Foundation Executive Director

Introduction of Visitors & New Members

Chairman Mackey

*Chairman Mackey recognized visiting MPB staff members, Keidra Hooks, Jaz Kolkovich, and Andrew Bicknell, as well as visiting auditor, Shawna Post (via TEAMS)*

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Mackey

*With a motion by O. Cummings/second by R. Sawyer, the agenda was adopted unanimously without changes.*

Approval of Minutes

Tab 1

Chairman Mackey

1A January 10, 2024 Regularly Scheduled Meeting

1B January 10, 2024 Board Retreat

1C February 6, 2024 Special Board Meeting

*Consideration & Vote to Accept/Amend Meeting Minutes*

*With a motion by D. Barham/second by O. Cummings, all Meeting Minutes being considered were approved unanimously without changes.*

## Chairman's Report

Chairman Mackey

*Chairman Mackey shared highlights from his visit with E.D. Aills to Washington, D.C. to attend the APTS Public Media Summit and their interaction with congressional staff members.*

*Chairman Mackey also shared that a request had been made to move the previously approved MPB Regularly Scheduled Meeting and MPB/MPB Foundation Joint Board Meeting to the September meeting rather than holding it until the November meeting.*

*With a motion by W. Lipscomb/second by D. Barham, the Joint Meeting was moved to the previously approved September date by unanimous consent.*

## Old Business

Chairman Mackey

### Education Subcommittee

#### *Consideration & Vote to Establish/Appoint Education Subcommittee*

*With a motion by R. Sawyer/second by D. Barham, the board entertained discussion of forming an education subcommittee. After resolving to proceed, Ric Sawyer and Dawn Barham offered to become Education Subcommittee members with R. Sawyer as Chair, and the appointment was approved unanimously.*

## New Business

### FY23 MPB Auditor's Report

Tab 2

Shawna Post and Keith Evans  
Rea, Shaw, Giffin & Stuart, LLB

*Auditor Shawna Post was recognized to share a summary of the FY23 Auditor's Report and to entertain any questions.*

#### *Consideration & Vote to Accept Auditor's Report*

*With a motion by W. Lipscomb/second by D. Barham, the FY23 Auditor's Report was accepted unanimously into record.*

- Executive Director Report

Tab 3

Royal Aills

*The ED presented his report that included updates regarding:*

- *FY25 Budget Request Summary Update*
- *Reorganization of All Departments*
- *APTS-Public Media Summit 2024*
- *Community Project Funds Requests*
- *Education Kids' Club Newsletter Update – Keidra Hooks*
- *Digitization Project Update – Jaz Kolkovich*
- *Engineering-Towers Update – Anrew Bicknell*

*The report of the Executive Director was received and placed on file.*

Division Reports

- Finance

Tab 4

Alicia Harris

4A Monthly Financial Report February

*CFO Alicia Harris presented the Monthly Financial Report.*

4B Approval of Expenses over \$50,000

*Consideration & Vote to Accept/Amend Anticipated Expenses*

*With a motion by W. Lipscomb/second by D. Barham, the Projected Expenses over \$50,000 were approved by unanimous consent.*

- Human Resources

Tab 5

Bobby Wicker

*HR Director Bobby Wicker presented an update on Human Resources.*

- Foundation Report

Angela Ferraez

*MPB Foundation Board Executive Director Angela Ferraez reported:*

- *Underwriting Progress*
- *Pledge Drives*
- *Home Show*
- *CPB-Denver*
- *Juke Joint Festival April 11-13*
- *MPB Family Fun Day-Columbus April 20*
- *Antique Showcase-Natchez May 3-4*
- *Digital & AI Programming being considered*
- *MPB Foundation Finances*

Consideration of Executive Session

Chairman Mackey

*With a motion by W. Lipscomb/seconded by D. Barham the board unanimously agreed to enter into closed session at 11:55AM. to determine whether executive session was necessary. In closed session, the board determined to enter executive session for discussion of pending litigation in four EEOC matters.*

*With a motion by R. Sawyer/seconded by W. Lipscomb the board unanimously agreed to enter into executive session.*

*The board took no action in executive session.*

*With a motion by W. Lipscomb/seconded by D. Barham the board unanimously agreed to exit into open session.*

Adjournment

Chairman Mackey

*With a motion by W. Lipscomb/seconded by D. Barham, a recommendation to adjourn passed unanimously at 11:57AM.*

**SIGNED, this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024.**

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Dr. Shawn Mackey, Chairman  
Board of Directors

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Royal Aills  
Executive Director

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