

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

Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 10:00 a.m.  
Mississippi Public Broadcasting Board Room

+

**TEAMS Videoconference**

**MINUTES**

Call to Order 10:01AM

Vice Chair Sawyer

Roll call/Establish quorum

Marvin Jeter

Members Present:

*Ric Sawyer, Vice-Chair/Elementary Educator; Dr. Ormella Cummings, IHL Representative; Dawn Barham, Secondary Educator; Charles Cowan, Member At-Large; Cory Custer, Member At-Large; Wendy Clemons, MDE Representative*

Staff Present:

*Royal Aills, MPB ED; Anna Neel, MPB COO; Alicia Harris, CFO; Sarah Mann, DHR; Michelle Mangum, Executive Assistant*

Also Present:

*Roy Nowell, Office of the Attorney General; Angela Ferraez, MPB Foundation Executive Director*

Introduction of Visitors & New Members

Vice Chair Sawyer

*Wendy Clemons was introduced to the board members as the newly appointed Mississippi Department of Education Representative appointed by Dr. Lance Evans, Superintendent.*

*Roy Nowell was introduced to the board members as the newly appointed Board Counsel from the Office of the Attorney General.*

Approval of Agenda

Vice Chair Sawyer

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

Approval of Minutes

*Tab 1*

Vice Chair Sawyer

*1A September 10, 2024, Regularly Scheduled Meeting Minutes*

*1B September 10, 2024, MPB Board/Foundation Board Joint Meeting Minutes*

*Consideration & Vote to Accept/Amend Meeting Minutes*

*With a motion by D. Barham/second by O. Cummings, the September 10 Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.*

Chairman's Report

Vice Chair Sawyer

*The Vice Chair had no information to report to the board.*

Old Business

Vice Chair Sawyer

*The Vice Chair had no new business to report to the board.*

New Business

- Executive Director Report *Tab 2*

Royal Aills

*The Executive Director provided an update:*

- *Budget Summary*
- *Introduced new Programs on Radio & TV*
  - *Sit Down with Russ Latino*
  - *NHK World Japan*
  - *World Channel*
  - *FNX*
  - *Southern Dish with Lydia Chassaniol*
- *National Folk Festival*
- *Collaboration with First Lady Reeves on Semi Quincentennial*
- *Meeting with MDE Superintendent Dr. Evans*
- *MPB Educational Programs*
- *Community Project Funds*
- *Digitizing Update: Archived Audio/Videos*

Division Reports

- Finance *Tab 3*

Alicia Harris

3A Monthly Financial Report October

3B Approval of Expenses over \$50,000

- DFA approved the cost of two Transmitters for \$1,775,094.54

3C Travel Expenses – Dawn Barham

*Consideration & Vote to Accept/Amend Anticipated Expenses*

*With a motion by O. Cummings/second by C. Custer, the emergency purchase of one television transmitter and five FM transmitters in the amount of \$1,775,094.54 and the emergency purchase of seven FM+HD exciter and importer system in the amount of \$164,850.00 were approved unanimously.*

*Alicia Harris noted that the previously approved purchase of one TV transmitter and two FM transmitters, estimated at \$2,550,000, was actually for one TV transmitter and seven FM transmitters for \$1,775,094.54, recognizing a cost savings of \$774,905.46.*

- Foundation Report

Angela Ferraez

*The Executive Director of the MPB Foundation provided an update:*

- *Hosted two “MPB On the Move” events in Starkville and Grenada*
- *Book Festival in Jackson*
- *Radio Pledge from September 27<sup>th</sup> thru October 4<sup>th</sup>*
- *Mississippi Antique Showcase Holiday Edition in October*
- *Annual Auditor visitation*
- *Budget for FY25*

- Set Calendar for 2025 Board Meetings

- January 14, 2025            2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday (Approved/Board Retreat Scheduled-MLC)
- March 4, 2025              1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday (Before 3 weeks of Spring Breaks begin)
- May 13, 2025                2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday
- July 8, 2025                 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday
- September 9, 2025        2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday
- November 11, 2025       2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday

*Consideration & Vote to Accept/Amend Meeting Dates*

*With a motion by W. Clemons/seconded by D. Barham, the Calendar of 2025 Board Members was approved unanimously.*

- Nominations & Vote to select 2025 MPB Board Officers

Vice Chair Sawyer

*Nomination & Vote for Chair*

*With motion by D. Barham / seconded by O. Cummings, Ric Sawyer was nominated as Board Chair unanimously.*

*Nomination & Vote for Vice-Chair*

*With motion by O. Cummings, Dawn Barham was nominated as Vice Chair unanimously.*

*Consideration of Executive Session*

*With a motion by D. Barham/second by W. Clemons the board unanimously agreed to enter closed session to determine whether executive session was necessary.*

*In closed session, the board determined to enter executive session for discussion of pending litigation.*

*With a motion by O. Cummings/seconded by D. Barham, the board unanimously agreed to enter executive session.*

*Executive Director Aills provided the board with an update on two pending civil suits. The board took no action in executive session.*

*With a motion by D. Barham /seconded by O. Cummings, the board unanimously agreed to exit executive session.*

Adjournment

Vice Chair Sawyer

*With a motion by C. Custer/seconded by O. Cummings, a recommendation to adjourn passed unanimously at 2:00PM.*

**SIGNED, this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025**

---

Ric Sawyer, Chairman  
Board of Directors

---

Royal Aills  
Executive Director

DRAFT