

Minutes

South Mississippi Regional Board

August 5, 2024

The South Mississippi Regional Board met at 10:00 a.m. on Monday August 5, 2024 in the auditorium at the Columbia Marion County Public Library. Present were Mrs. Joan Bass, Chair, Mrs. Sharon Dungan, Mrs. Patricia Norris, Ms. Na'Chel Shannon, Library Director and Mona Swayze to take minutes of the meeting.

Mrs. Bass called the meeting to order with prayer.

The Board read the minutes of the July 10, 2024 meeting. Mrs. Dungan moved to accept the minutes as read. Mrs. Norris seconded. Minutes were approved as read.

Old Business: Mrs. Gail Bracey was only needed through June 30, 2024 as interim director. According to Caleb Stephens, the grant coordinator with MLC, the paperwork is in order for the MLC Board of Commissioners to approve Ms. Shannon as Provisional Director pending her completing the master's degree program. This approval is expected at their next meeting later in July 2024.

Ms. Shannon discussed the after-hours wi-fi access in Jefferson Davis County. She spoke with a representative of ENA about the interruption of service. There is no interruption of service on ENA's part. Someone at each location would have to physically turn off/unplug the equipment every evening. Ms. Shannon will monitor the situation and follow up as needed.

New Business: Ms. Shannon presented the FY2024/2025 budget to the Board for approval to present to the funding sources. The employer portion of PERS has increased by 2% effective July 1, 2024 and will increase another 3% over the next few years. After discussion, the Board voted to table approval of the budget to a later meeting.

Next, the Board discussed the difference between salaried exempt and salaried non-exempt with Ms. Shannon. To be salaried exempt an employee would need to earn \$43,888 as of July 1, 2024. That number is increasing to \$58,656 on January 1, 2025. Salaried exempt employees can work 30 hours per week but be paid for 40 hours. They can, also, work 50 hours per week but still be paid for 40 hours. Whereas, salaried non-exempt have to keep a record of time worked for compensation. After discussion, the Board asked that Ms. Shannon reach out to our library consultant, Lacy Ellinwood, at MLC for clarification. The Board tabled any action on this issue until clarification is received.

Ms. Shannon presented the financial report to the Board.

Mrs. Cole moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Norris seconded. Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be July 24, 2024 at 11 a.m.

Approved by the SMRL Board on September 18, 2024.