MISSISSIPPI AUTHORITY FOR EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION

**Regular Telephonic Meeting of the Board of Directors**

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

9:30 a.m.

Board Room

MAET Administration Building

3825 Ridgewood Road

Jackson, Mississippi

Directors present: Perry Sansing, Chairman, David Allen, Vice-Chair, Eric Clark, Alan Perry, Bob Sawyer

Directors absent: Pete Smith

Directors participating telephonically: None

Staff present: Ronnie Agnew, Roy Davis, Ryanne Duffie-Saucier, Ed Ellington, Nikki McCelleis, Margaret McPhillips, Paul Moore, Claudia Morris and Cindy Stevenson

Others present: Ann Day Becker, LeAnne Brewer, Liz Cleveland, Leyser Hayes and Taylor Stringer

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Allen and seconded by Director Sawyer that the Board approve the agenda, and upon a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Director Sawyer and seconded by Vice-Chair Allen that the Board approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors held on May 21, 2014, and upon a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Ronnie Agnew introduced new Foundation for Public Broadcasting in Mississippi new employees Liz Cleveland and Taylor Stringer.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**Operating Budget and Grants**

Paul Moore presented the Operating Budget and Grants report and noted several items.

A motion was made by Director Clark and seconded by Director Perry that the Board approve the Operating Budget as of August 31, 2014, as presented by Paul Moore, and upon a unanimous vote, the motion carried. The Operating Budget is made a part of these Minutes as **Exhibit A**.

**Expenses and Contracts over $50,000**

Paul Moore presented the Expenses and Contracts over $50,000 report.

A motion was made by Director Clark and seconded by Vice-Chair Allen that the Board approve the Expenses and Contracts over $50,000 ($74,000 for three-year contract with auditors Rea, Shaw, Giffin and Stuart, LLP and $1,428,748 to Public Broadcasting System for programming – discounts will apply), as presented by Paul Moore, and upon a unanimous vote, the motion carried. The Expenses and Contracts over $50,000 reports is made a part of these Minutes as **Exhibit B.**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Ronnie Agnew reported that MPB has received much attention from Pat Butler of Association of Public Television Stations (APTS) and others for our success with the Mississippi legislature.

[Leyser Hayes joined the meeting.]

Ronnie Agnew stated that MPB’s relationship with Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA), through which MPB aired Mississippi high school football and basketball championships, has been severed. Ronnie Agnew added that MHSAA has

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chosen to hold the championships in other cities, and cost is prohibitive for MPB to carry

the games. Directors and staff discussed the issues surrounding this decision. Ronnie Agnew explained that MHSAA has been told that their decision not to include MPB in the decision-making process about this change indicated the end of the partnership.

Directors suggested that MPB take initiative with the public about why MPB is not airing the championships this year.

Ronnie Agnew announced that the radio line-up with new shows and *Southern Remedy* airing every weekday has been extremely successful. Ronnie Agnew added that MPB’s local radio show line-up is impressive among public stations.

Ronnie Agnew mentioned that MPB has received one of the few grants given for the American Graduate program. Ronnie Agnew added that he and Nikki McCelleis will be attending a meeting in late September for the stations who are participating in the grant.

Ronnie Agnew noted that Ryanne Duffie-Saucier is the recipient of a scholarship to attend the National Association of Broadcasters Education Foundation’s broadcast leadership training program in Washington D.C.

Ronnie Agnew stated that the launch for the new MPB website is set for September 16.

Ronnie Agnew announced a story about the Cochran-McDaniel race and the Tea Party by MPB reporter Jeffrey Hess will be aired soon on PBS Newshour.

Ronnie Agnew reported that a partnership between MPB and the Sun Herald newspaper on the gulf coast for purpose of emergency management is in the works.

Ronnie Agnew mentioned that *Story Corps*, a show of human interest stories, will be coming to Mississippi to conduct 120 interviews in February, and planning is ongoing for events during their time here.

**FOUNDATION REPORT**

LeAnne Brewer highlighted recent activities of FPB.

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LeAnne Brewer commended her staff for the luncheon held for volunteers of MPB and Foundation held on June 19.

LeAnne Brewer expressed her appreciation to MPB radio staff for the successful meet-and-greet events, held throughout the state.

LeAnne Brewer stated that there is a 60-second planned giving spot being produced for Foundation.

LeAnne Brewer announced that *Fine Tuning* has a new format, beginning with the October issue. LeAnne Brewer added that it is hoped sale of ads in the new format will cover publication and mailing costs.

LeAnne Brewer reported that Foundation will be supplying the MPB board with monthly financial reports.

**STAFF UPDATES**

Ronnie Agnew recognized staff to give updates from their areas.

Ryanne Duffie-Saucier explained the upcoming Federal Communications Commission (FCC) upcoming spectrum auction and how it could impact MPB.

Nikki McCelleis reported that MPB is a dual grantee – American Graduate grant and Ready-to-Learn grant. Nikki McCelleis explained that the Ready-to-Learn grant will be used to provide math and literacy materials, especially to children and parents who live in two apartment complexes that feed into Lanier High School. Nikki McCelleis added that the American Graduate grant will support MPB’s education department’s ongoing high school dropout prevention initiatives.

Nikki McCelleis stated that the education department received a $10,000 grant from Newman’s Own specifically for fundraising purposes. Nikki McCelleis added that the fundraiser will be held at MPB on October 16 and will focus on highlight the education department’s activities.

Nikki McCelleis gave an update on the upgrades to the Mississippi Interactive Video Network (MIVN) and stated that staff are contacting schools to solicit new sites for e-learning.

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**FISCAL YEAR 2015 MEETING SCHEDULE**

The proposed fiscal year 2015 schedule for meetings of the MPB Board of Directors was distributed.

A motion was made by Director Sawyer and seconded by Director Allen that the Board adopt the meeting schedule for fiscal year 2015, and upon a unanimous vote, the motion carried. The meeting schedule is made a part of these Minutes as **Exhibit C.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**SIGNED,** **this the 13th day of November, 2014,**

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**Perry Sansing, Chair**

**Board of Directors**

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**Ronnie Agnew**

**Executive Director**