Minutes from Listening Session with the Mississippi Department of Education Board and
Trustees Blakeslee and Robinson; Interim Commissioner Lucas
Friday, February 20, 2009
MDE Board Room

The following are desired characteristics of Mississippi’s next Commissioner of Higher Education as articulated by the Mississippi Department of Education Board:

- If you don’t send us good teachers and administrators, we won’t send you good students.
- We need good teachers and administrators.
- We sink or swim together.
- We must continue to work in collaboration and cooperation.
- We are all part of the pipeline. We have each other’s best interests at heart.
- The next Commissioner must help us come together and support pre-K through university.
- The person you choose should have a belief that the person can provide to the public school teachers in the state. Universities have a role to play in assisting public schools.
- We are encouraged by the level of cooperation between MDE and IHL; we must continue upon and expand that cooperation.
- This must become a priority for IHL.
- We appreciate that you are here. We must work together. This is a great signal.
- We are in a crisis situation with the quantity of teachers.
- The next Commissioner must understand the issues of K-12.
- We are clearly dependant on one another and the community college system.
- We are three distinctly different systems, but we must continue to view education as a “seamless system.”
- Community College Presidents and IEO’s need to be advocates for early childhood education.
- How well we prepare our youngest citizens directly impacts our adults.
- We must think through how we share ideas.
- We must build a good team among the three educational entities.
- The new Commissioner must concentrate on raising salaries for IHL professors.
- The candidate must not give up. The candidate must stay the course.
- MDE is here to work with IHL. We can provide to you any expertise you may need.