



Paula A. Vanderford, Ph.D.
Chief Accountability Officer
Jo Ann Malone, Ed.D.
Associate State Superintendent
Office of Accreditation

April 12, 2023

Dr. Roshaun Bailey, President
Greenwood-LeFlore Consolidated School Board
1901 Hwy 82 West
Greenwood, MS 38930

Mr. James Johnson Waldington, Superintendent
Greenwood-LeFlore Consolidated School District (4211)
1901 Hwy 82 West
Greenwood, MS 38930

Dear Dr. Bailey and Mr. Waldington:

The Mississippi Department of Education's (MDE) Office of Accreditation continues to receive complaints regarding allegations of violations of accreditation Process Standards 1, 1.1, and 1.2, published in the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards* despite the warnings issued to the Greenwood-LeFlore Consolidated School District (GLCSD) Board on April 7, 2022, and August 4, 2022. Therefore, the MDE is requesting that the GLCSD notify the Office of Accreditation of all board meetings, regularly scheduled and special-called, and work sessions, until further notice and grant teleconference access to all board meetings including executive sessions so that MDE auditors can continue to monitor the actions of the board to determine compliance of Process Standard 1 of the *Mississippi Public School's Accountability Standards, 2022*.

Additionally, please provide the MDE with the following documentation:

- Agendas and approved meeting minutes for all regularly scheduled board meetings, work sessions, and special-called board meetings from March 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023
- Agenda from the April 5, 2023 board meeting
- Backup materials provided to the board members for the April 5, 2023 board meeting
- Draft Minutes of the April 5, 2023 board meeting
- Agenda from the April 12, 2023 special-called board meeting
- Backup materials provided to the board members for the April 12, 2023 special-called board meeting including any additional details regarding the claim numbers 954757 and 954853 referenced by board members during the discussion
- Draft Minutes of the April 12, 2023 special-called board meeting
- Copy of the Attorney General's Opinion referenced in the April 12, 2023 special-called board meeting
- Written detailed explanation as to why some board members believe the two specific claims referenced violate the Attorney General's opinion
- Board-approved organizational chart(s) for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years
- Board-approved position descriptions of all district-level staff for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years

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359 North West Street
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- o Salary scales and contracts of all district-level staff for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years

Please submit the documents via mail to Dr. Jo Ann Malone, Office of Accreditation, Mississippi Department of Education, 359 N. West Street, Jackson, MS 39205 or electronically to JMalone@mdek12.org on or before April 19, 2023.

Process Standard 1 of the *Mississippi Public School's Accountability Standards, 2022* addresses the role of school board members. Specifically, the local school board's responsibilities shall pertain to matters of setting policy and assessing results and they shall not interfere in the day-to-day operations of the school district. This includes, but is not limited to, duties such as those relating to personnel and management decisions. Failure to comply with Process Standard 1 shall result in the immediate downgrade of the District's accreditation status to PROBATION or WITHDRAWN, as indicated in Accreditation Policy 2.5.

The Greenwood-LeFlore Consolidated School Board's responsibilities shall pertain to matters of setting policy and assessing results and they shall not interfere in the day-to-day operations of the District. This includes, but is not limited to, such duties as those relating to personnel and management (Process Standard 1). In accordance with Accreditation Policy 5.2.3 the State Board of Education, the State Superintendent of Education, or the Commission on School Accreditation has the authority to call for an on-site evaluation or investigation of a school district at any time.

The MDE will continue to monitor the actions of board members of the District until such time the Office of Accreditation determines the District is fully compliant with all process standards of the current edition of the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards*.

Sincerely,



Jo Ann Malone, Ed.D.
Associate State Superintendent
Office of Accreditation

Cc: Michael D. Kent, Interim State Superintendent of Education
Paula A. Vanderford, Ph.D., Chief Accountability Officer
Erin Meyer, ESQ., General Counsel
Mississippi School Boards Association