



Mississippi School Boards Association

P.O. Box 203 / Clinton, Mississippi 39060
(601) 924-2001 / Fax: (601) 924-2002 / Toll Free: 1-888-367-6722
www.msbaonline.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tommye C. Henderson, Ph.D., MSBA Superintendent Search Manager

MSBA Clarifies Role in Aberdeen Interim Superintendent Matter

The Mississippi School Boards Association (MSBA) offers superintendent search services to its member districts through a formal contract. However, MSBA **did not** conduct the search for the Aberdeen interim superintendent. This selection was made by the local school board.

While it is understood that Joseph Stone is disappointed with his outcome, his reference to the involvement of the Mississippi School Boards Association in his public statement below is false.

“Unfortunately, I will not be able to serve in that role due to an oversight regarding the qualifications established by the Mississippi School Boards Association.”

The qualifications to serve as a superintendent are **not** created by MSBA. The qualifications are established in Mississippi law, specifically Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-13.

Under the law, a superintendent must:

- Hold a valid administrator’s license;
- Have at least six years of classroom or administrative experience; and
- Have at least three years of experience as:
 - A school building principal in an A- or B-rated school;
 - A school building principal in a school that increased its accountability rating by one letter grade while the individual served as principal;
 - A superintendent within the past five years; or
 - An assistant superintendent within the past five years.

While Mississippi law and MDE guidance recognize an alternate route to the superintendency, most high-performing school districts do not view non-educator experience as equivalent to school district leadership experience when selecting candidates for superintendent.

Local school boards remain responsible for reviewing qualifications, consulting with their legal counsel, and determining whether a candidate satisfies the legal and licensure requirements for the position.

The mission of the Mississippi School Boards Association is to ensure quality school board performance through advocacy, technical assistance, leadership training, and information dissemination.