

Jeanette M. Taylor, Ed.D.

August 31, 2015

Ms. Leisa Hardin, City Clerk
City Hall
Starkville, MS 39759

Dear Ms. Hardin:

Please consider this a letter of application for appointment to the Starkville Oktibbeha School Board. My husband and I are 30-year residents of Starkville. Our daughter and three grandchildren attended Starkville schools. They had excellent teachers and were high achievers.

Now retired, I am a 27-year educational veteran – having worked in the educational field as teacher, speech pathologist, vocational special needs counselor, assistant principal for curriculum and instruction, assistant professor, curriculum coordinator, deputy superintendent, director of special education, and director of high priority schools. Attached is a resume, which details my work experience.

I am interested in serving on the Starkville Oktibbeha County School Board, because I believe that my educational background and professional experiences have prepared me to work with other Board members to achieve high levels of academic success for all students enrolled in district schools. Our students deserve the best possible education... And, based upon my experiences as a former educator in the district and with knowledge of the commitment and professional performance of teachers and administrators with whom I worked ... I believe that the Starkville Oktibbeha School District can and will achieve success (by State and National standards) in preparing its students for a lifetime of success.

Thank you in advance for your attention to my request. Please let me know if further information is required.

Sincerely,



Jeanette M. Taylor

Enclosure: Resume

JEANETTE M. TAYLOR, ED.D.

OBJECTIVE

To make a positive contribution to the processes and outcomes of teaching and learning in the Starkville Oktibbeha County School District.

EXPERIENCE

2003-2006 Caddo Parish School Board Shreveport, LA

Director of High Priority Schools

- Provided technical assistance to principals in 23 schools designated for school improvement interventions due to low test scores.
- Collaborated with school administrators to train teachers to make data driven decisions in planning and delivering instruction.
- Worked collaboratively with principals and school directors to address the general academic improvement needs of high priority schools.

2000-2003 Caddo Parish School Board Shreveport, LA

Director of Special Education

- Improved the academic performance outcomes for students with disabilities as measured by the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program.
- Test performance results for school years 2001, 2002, and 2003 include the following:
 - Increased the percentage of 4th grade students with disabilities who passed the **LEAP21 English/Language Arts** subtest from 37.31% in 2001 to 56.81% (+19.5%) in 2002 to 61.14% (+4.33%) in 2003.
 - Increased the percentage of 4th grade students with disabilities who passed the **LEAP21 Mathematics** subtest from 37.92% in 2001 to 44.34% (+6.42%) in 2002 to 55.45% (+11.11%) in 2003.
 - Increased the percentage of 8th grade students with disabilities that passed the **LEAP21 English/Language Arts** subtest from 34.06% in 2001 to 51.07% (+17.01%) in 2002. Passing 8th grade **ELA** scores among students with disabilities declined to 44.76% (-6.31%) in 2003.
- Decreased the number of students with disabilities in self-contained placements.
- Expanded program offerings for gifted learners.
- Developed and implemented a talented arts program for qualified learners.
- Increased participation of African-American students in programs for gifted and talented learners by nearly 30%.

1998-2000

OkTibbeha County School District

Starkville, MS

Deputy Superintendent

- Provided supervisory oversight for Special Education, Titles I, II, IV, and VI.
- Directed and participated in activities in Personnel, Professional Development, Vocational Education, Curriculum and Instruction, and School Improvement. Collaborated with school principals to resolve issues and conflicts.
- Secured an \$100,000 Goals 2000 grant to accomplish the following:
 - Implement a Pre-Kindergarten Program;
 - Fund the 1999 Extended School Year Program;
 - Fund a districtwide assessment program for grades 1-9;
 - Support summer 1999 curriculum alignment activities;
 - Train preschool child care providers to deliver a school readiness curriculum to 4-year old children;
 - Place state-of-the-art technology in each grade 1-3 classroom.
- Secured a \$35,000 grant to implement the DARE Program in each school housing grades 4-6.
- Provided fiscal oversight for project budgets.
- Established curriculum leadership teams for Language Arts, Reading and Mathematics.
- Developed a comprehensive professional development program.
- Conducted personnel recruitment activities.
- Implemented site-based school improvement processes, which culminated in site-based school improvement plans.
- Developed Corrective Action Plans for school years 1998-99 and 1999-2000.
- Developed 1999-2000 Vocational Education Plan.
- Provided supervisory oversight for food service, maintenance and transportation, federal programs and special education.
- Work performance in the above-mentioned areas contributed to improved student performance and reinstatement of accreditation.

1993-1988

Columbus Municipal School District

Columbus, MS

Districtwide Curriculum Coordinator

- Grant writing resulted in nearly \$300,000 annually for staff development activities, including curriculum development and alignment.
- Established five curriculum leadership teams and provided leadership to curriculum teams to accomplish the following goals:
 - Develop district curriculum guides for mathematics language arts, science, and fine arts – ensuring alignment of curriculum guides with state and national standards;
 - Train certified staff on the content and use of newly issued Mississippi curriculum frameworks.
- Secured state-of-the-art inservice training for curriculum leadership teams.
- Developed, stocked and equipped a district professional development center for teacher access.

- Received School Board approval for one early school release day per month in order to conduct professional development activities.
- Provided leadership for collaboration activities with the Mississippi University for Women, which resulted in the following accomplishments:
 - Tuition Assistance Program for paraprofessionals;
 - Sandwich Seminars for preservice teachers and assistant teachers;
 - Saturday Seminars for university and school district teachers and administrators to address preservice teacher education.
 - Established a Master Teacher Mentor Program.
- Provided fiscal oversight for project budgets.

1990-1993 Merced Union High School-North Campus Merced, CA

Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction

- Established an efficient system for delivery of counseling and guidance services.
- Supervised a counseling and guidance staff of 16.
- Directly responsible for curriculum and instruction.
 - Observed instruction;
 - Evaluated instructional delivery;
 - Conducted one-sixth of teacher performance reviews (200 teachers on staff)

1987-1990 Starkville High School Starkville, MS

Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction

- Responsible for daily school operations.
- Established networked computerized administrative management system.
- Responsible for curriculum and instruction.
- Supervised attendance, guidance services, and grading processes.

Teaching Experience

1986-1987 Mississippi State University Starkville, MS

Head JTPA Counselor

- Taught employability and job survival skills;
- Served as curriculum resource;
- Coordinated development of JTPA curriculum structure;
- Planned and conducted counselor inservice activities;
- Assisted the Director with administrative details.

Assistant Professor and Project Coordinator

- Developed information materials. Planned, organized, and conducted workshops to increase teacher participants' knowledge and skill in working with special needs students.
- Conducted public relations activities.

- Taught graduate courses in the areas of career development and vocational special needs education.

1985-1986 Millsaps Vocational Center (SHS) Starkville, MS

Vocational Special Needs Resource Teacher

- Coordinated vocational assessment activities;
- Assisted special and vocational education teachers in developing students' individualized training plans;
- Monitored student progress and helped resolve problem issues hampering achievement;
- Developed informational materials for students and parents;
- Developed a vocational/special education advisory committee.

1985-1986 Mississippi State University Starkville, MS

Adjunct Assistant Professor

- Planned, developed, and taught graduate courses in the areas of career development and vocation special needs education.

1984-1985 North Carolina A&T University Greensboro, NC

Project Coordinator and Assistant Professor

- Taught graduate courses in curriculum development for vocational special needs education. Developed a student recruitment plan; served as student advisor; conducted public awareness activities; coordinated project evaluations.

1983-1984 Petersburg High School Petersburg, VA

Teacher-Coordinator

- Taught employability and job survival skills. Secured job placements for special needs students. Worked with employers to ensure on the job success for both students and employers.

1982-1983 Petersburg High School Petersburg, VA

Speech & Language Pathologist

- Provided remedial speech and language services to students in kindergarten through seventh grades.

1980-1982 Breckenridge Elementary School Fincastle, VA

Teacher

- Taught preschool handicapped children – ages 18 months through four years in a self-contained classroom setting.

1979-1980 Heritage High School Lynchburg, VA

Teacher-Coordinator

- Taught job survival skills. Secured job placements for disadvantaged students. Worked with employers to ensure job success for both students and employers.

EDUCATION

- | | | |
|------|--|-----------------|
| 2001 | Birmingham Theological Seminary | Birmingham, AL |
| ▪ | Master of Ministry (Christian Education) | |
| 1984 | Virginia Polytechnic Institute
& State University | Blacksburg, VA |
| ▪ | Doctorate (Vocational Special Needs Education) | |
| 1978 | University of California | Los Angeles, CA |
| ▪ | Master of Arts (Education) | |
| 1975 | California State University | Sacramento, CA |
| ▪ | Bachelor of Arts (Speech Pathology
& Audiology) | |

Mississippi Endorsements

430 Vocational Director	215 Speech Language Clinician
486 Administrator	220 Educationally Handicapped
488 Secondary Principal	334 Vocational Preparation for Handicapped

Certified Provisional Educator Evaluator for: Teacher, Counselor, Administrator

NOTE: License has expired.

INTERESTS

- Teaching & Preaching the Bible
- Christian ministries related to women's and family issues
- Piano
- Travel

August 21, 2015

Taylor Adams, Chief Administrative Officer
Ben Carver, Alderman Ward 1
Roy A. Perkins, Vice Mayor and Alderman Ward 6
Henry N. Vaughn, Sr., Alderman Ward 7
Lisa Wynn, Alderman Ward 2
David Little, Alderman Ward 3
Jason Walker, Alderman Ward 4
Scott Maynard, Alderman Ward 5
Parker Wiseman, Mayor

Dear Mr. Adams:

Consistent with the Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District's commitment to every student, every day to "find the Spark. And Fuel It", it is with great enthusiasm and excitement that I submit my letter of interest to serve on the Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District Board of Trustees and become one of those sparks. As a 1981 graduate of Starkville High School, a former faculty member, a mother of graduates of Starkville High School, a mother of a current 5th grade student, and a member of the Starkville community for the past 40 years, it would be my pleasure to not only serve the Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District but also to serve the Starkville /Oktibbeha County community because I know that our community is only as strong as our school system. Needless to say, I know and love this school district and community. However, in addition to my enthusiastic desire to serve on the Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District Board of Trustees and my love for the community and district, I have skill sets and professional experiences that will benefit and serve the district well.

For the past 30 years, I have served the education profession as both a teacher and researcher. After 13 years of public school teaching, I earned my Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction and made the decision to join the faculty of Mississippi State University as a means of increasing my circle of influence to improve the educational and well-being outcomes for all children. In my role as a faculty member at MSU for the past 16 years, my research interests and activities have focused on the effects of poverty on the well-being and educational outcomes for children. In addition to my teaching and research activities at the university, I serve on the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and the Robert Holland Faculty Senate. In each of the various roles and positions, I have made it a practice and have learned to value the practice of using data to inform my decisions. Moreover, through educational experiences and professional development, I have acquired an appreciation of and expertise in educational research, evaluation, and leadership. Given the opportunity to serve on the Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District Board of Trustees, I will use relevant data and my areas of expertise to prepare myself to make difficult decisions that are in the best interests of the students, the community, and the school district.

It is my sincere belief that the Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District Board of Trustees is the critical link between the Starkville/Oktibbeha County community and the school system. If appointed to serve, I will work to not only build an effective school board team but also remain accountable to all for ensuring that the children are learning and that the district continues to strive towards excellence. I sincerely thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Debra Lindsey Prince



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™

DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELING AND EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

508 Allen Hall, Mailstop 9727

175 President's Circle

Mississippi State, MS 39762

Phone (662) 325-3426 Fax (662) 325-3263

September 3, 2015

Dear Mayor Wiseman, Vice-Mayor Perkins, Alderman Carver, Alderman Little, Alderman Wynn, Alderman Maynard, and Alderman Vaughn:

Please accept this as my letter of support for the appointment of Dr. Debra Prince to the vacant seat on the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District (SOCSD) school board. As an administrator at Mississippi State University, I have known and worked with Dr. Prince on a number of projects over the last 15 years. In working with Dr. Prince, I have found her to be very committed to the tasks at hand and the process of teamwork. I have also found Dr. Prince to be very passionate about the education of not only the students at MSU but also the education of children in the public schools of our communities. However, most importantly, I have found Dr. Prince to be a person of uncompromised integrity.

Based on my experiences of working with Dr. Prince and her expertise in the field of educational research, I am confident in her ability and willingness to work with the other members of the school board to make difficult decisions in the best interests of the students, faculty, and the Starkville – Oktibbeha community. Therefore, it is without reservation that I support the appointment of Dr. Debra Prince to the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District School Board.

Sincerely,

Dinetta Karriem, PhD
Student Service Coordinator
Department of Counseling and Education Psychology

Thanks for all you do!

Letter of Interest for Rondeze Harris
Board Member Position
Starkville City School Board

August 28th, 2015

Attn: Lesa Hardin

I am submitting my name for consideration for the open school board position that was advertised in the Starkville Daily Newspaper. I am a lifelong resident of Starkville and also a successful graduate of Starkville High School. During my time in the Starkville school system, I received a number of achievements such as: Senior of Distinction, Honor Society Inductee, recipient of the D.D. Tate scholarship, and Mr. Starkville High. I went on to further my education at Mississippi State University where I received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. My compassion for the Starkville School system runs deep, not only because it prepared me to become successful, but also I have a wife who teaches at Armstrong Middle School and two kids that attend school in the district.

I believe by being a true product of this school system and a true believer in education, I will make sure that all decisions made are always in the best interest of the students, faculty, and staff. My belief is that children will succeed if we put them in an environment that they can excel in. This means better facilities, a safe environment, and a more challenging curriculum, which will prepare our students to fulfill their dreams and be competitive with the rest of the students in the world.

Currently I am employed at Yokohama Tire Manufacturing in West Point, MS where I am the Plant Superintendent over operations. I also currently serve on the Sally Kate Winters Board where we perform a number of services for kids in need of assistance. By being a problem solver, trouble shooter, and manager I believe that I am well equipped in listening to concerns, making decisions based on facts, promoting a team environment, and also brainstorming to come up with ways to improve our school district.

Our school board needs more vocal and stand up members who are not afraid to make decisions that are right, more members who aren't afraid to stand alone and more members

who really understands what it means to be a Yellow Jacket. I sincerely hope that you will consider my letter of interest for this position and make the best decision possible for our kids.

Rondeze Harris

138 Milons Road
Starkville, MS 39759

662-425-6115

rondeze.harris@yokohamatire.com

OBJECTIVE	To obtain employment that will allow me to utilize my knowledge and skills to improve the company.	
------------------	--	--

EDUCATION	Mississippi State University <i>Bachelor's</i> Major: Business Administration and Management, General <i>GPA: 3.00/4.00</i>	MS State, MS May 2008
------------------	--	--------------------------

EXPERIENCE	Yokohama Tire Manufacturing <i>Shift Superintendent</i>	June 2014 - Present West Point, MS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrange production, enforce safety regulations, and resolve any problems that may occur• Supervise daily operations of the plant• Ensure proper material flow through scheduling	
	Weyerhaeuser CMF <i>Team Builder</i>	November 2013 - June 2014 Columbus, MS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Optimized production while ensuring the safety of mill operations• Worked with scheduling to ensure proper material flow• Systemized production of planned and unplanned downtime	
	Severstal <i>Shift Supervisor</i>	July 2007 - November 2012 Columbus, MS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responsible for staffing and employee training• Coordinated all production planned and unplanned downtime• Made sure all customer specifications were met and all safety and company regulations were followed	
	Sara Lee Foods <i>Production Supervisor</i>	April 2002 - January 2007 West Point, MS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responsible for day-to-day operations of the department• Coordinated all training, scheduling, safety guidelines, and quality specifications• Interacted with USDA to ensure product was up-to-date	

COMPUTER AND SOFTWARE EXPERIENCE	Adobe Systems Adobe Photoshop, Inventory management, Microsoft Access, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Office Visio, Microsoft Outlook, Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Word, SAP software, Microsoft Total Quality Control Management, QA Software QMS Materials Management, SAP software, Timekeeping software, Total Quality Management TQM software	
---	--	--

REFERENCES	Available upon request	
-------------------	------------------------	--

Sumner Davis
2 Prospect Place
Starkville, MS 39759

September 2, 2015

The Honorable Parker Wiseman
& Board of Alderman
City of Starkville
City Hall
101 Lampkin Street
Starkville, Mississippi 39759
(Via Hand Delivery)

Mr. Mayor and Board of Aldermen,

It is with great humbleness and forethought that I present my name for your consideration to fill the unexpired term of office on the Board of Trustees for the Starkville-Oktibbeha County School District (SOSD). My wife, Jennifer Landrum Davis (Starkville High School Class of 1991), and I have a sixth grader and third grader currently enrolled in the District. We have been actively involved in community efforts to ensure all children in Oktibbeha County receive a top quality education in a very diverse and dynamic environment. I am passionate about this community and especially our school district.

I am no stranger to any of you, having given a large part of my life to public service and the betterment of our community in numerous roles - elective and appointive - on the local, state, and national levels; and, have always valued the opportunity to serve our community.

I offer my skillset of governmental expertise for use by the school district; but, more importantly I want to offer my talents for service as your trustee. I believe that my ability to listen compassionately and earnestly to all facets of our diverse community for the betterment of educational opportunities for the schoolchildren of your families, friends and constituents in each ward of the city and every community of Oktibbeha County would be my greatest asset as a trustee.

The public schools require strong leadership from the Board of Trustees and administration at this time. Changes brought on by state-mandated consolidation impact us all in a variety of ways. Trustees and administrators must work daily to ensure that classroom instruction, the academic offerings, and individualized attention to the needs of each of our children never loses the interpersonal contact that has always made the Starkville schools great. As a community we must ensure that our principles and teachers throughout the entire district have the appropriate facilities, technology, and fiscal support to be truly effective. Quality education at every grade-level combined with incomparable extra-curricular activities has always been and should continue to be the hallmark of the Starkville district. This consolidated district must be a vehicle for progress together as a unified force for the highest caliber of education for all schoolchildren of our county.

While I have a broad a palette of beliefs on how to build the best school system possible, as a property owner in Starkville I realize that tax dollars must be spent frugally and after only the greatest deliberation. Taxpayers entrust the leadership of the city and its schools with their hard-earned tax dollars every day and every year. School trustees must always remember where each dollar they expend originates and that there is no magic pot of money to reach for every time a worthy cause is presented. I promise to ensure to be a good steward of the money entrusted to the schools if you appoint me to this task.

In closing, I have been involved in promoting and supporting the Starkville School District all of my adult life. From my experience as an elected city official to my involvement in the passage of the successful school bond issue in 2005 to working with the strategic planning committee of the former Starkville Separate School District, the public school children of this community have been my top priority. Because of my extensive experience and knowledge of public finance, budgets, human resources and policy matters, I believe I have much to offer.

Thank you for considering my appointment to the Board of Trustees for the Starkville-Oktibbeha County School District.

Respectfully,



Sumner Davis