

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
NOVEMBER 9, 2023
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, November 10, 2023, at 10 a.m., in the auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building, Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting was called to order by the Vice President of the Board in accordance with *Alabama Code* (1975), §16-3-7, as amended.

PRESIDING: MRS. TRACIE WEST, VICE PRESIDENT

The invocation was done by Dr. Kyle Searcy, Pastor, Fresh Anointing House of Worship, Montgomery, Alabama, a group of ROTC cadets from Stanhope High School in the Elmore County School System presented the colors, and Dr. Wayne Reynolds, U.S. Army veteran, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag that was done in unison.

The following members were present:

Present

Mrs. Stephanie Bell in person
Dr. Tonya Chestnut in person
Mrs. Marie Manning in person
Mrs. Belinda McRae in person
Dr. Wayne Reynolds in person
Dr. Yvette Richardson in person
Mrs. Tracie West in person
Mrs. Jackie Zeigler in person

Absent

Governor Kay Ivey

Dr. Eric G. Mackey, State Superintendent of Education, was also present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Marie Manning, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER 12, 2023, MEETING

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of October 12, 2023.

**PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ADOPTING ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE
290-3-3-.60, PERTAINING TO ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION ORGANIZATIONS
(ATPO)**

At this time, Ms. Isabelle Welch, a representative of American Board, who registered to speak prior to the Alabama State Board of Education meeting on agenda item G.2.I: Adopt *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule 290-3-3-.60, Pertaining to Alternative Teacher Preparation Organizations (ATPO), did so in person. Her speech may be viewed in full, as well as the complete Board meeting, at <https://www.alabamaachieves.org/state-board-of-education/meeting-videos>. The Board Members and State Superintendent thanked Ms. Welch for providing her input and sharing her views.

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Marie Manning, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
CREEK VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ALABASTER CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2023 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Education Secretary Miguel Cardona named Creek View Elementary School in the Alabaster City School System as a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School; and

WHEREAS, since 1982, approximately 10,000 of America's schools have received this coveted award that honors those that reflect the goals of high standards and accountability; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that demonstrate overall academic excellence or show success in closing achievement gaps; and

WHEREAS, 353 public schools were selected nationwide, out of more than 133,000 public schools in the nation, for the 2023 Blue Ribbon Schools award, which is one of the most prestigious education awards in the country; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Schools will be honored at a conference and awards ceremony November 16-17, 2023, in Washington, D.C.:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the faculty, staff, students, and parents of Creek View Elementary School, Alabaster City School System, on achieving the status of a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School in 2023.

Done this 9th day of November 2023

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
JEFFERSON COUNTY INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL
JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2023 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Education Secretary Miguel Cardona named Jefferson County International Baccalaureate School in the Jefferson County School System as a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School; and

WHEREAS, since 1982, approximately 10,000 of America's schools have received this coveted award that honors those that reflect the goals of high standards and accountability; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that demonstrate overall academic excellence or show success in closing achievement gaps; and

WHEREAS, 353 public schools were selected nationwide, out of more than 133,000 public schools in the nation, for the 2023 Blue Ribbon Schools award, which is one of the most prestigious education awards in the country; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Schools will be honored at a conference and awards ceremony November 16-17, 2023, in Washington, D.C.:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the faculty, staff, students, and parents of Jefferson County International Baccalaureate School in the Jefferson County School System, on achieving the status of a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School in 2023.

Done this 9th day of November 2023

On motion by Mrs. Belinda McRae and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
CORDOVA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WALKER COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2023 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Education Secretary Miguel Cardona named Cordova Elementary School in the Walker County School System as a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School; and

WHEREAS, since 1982, approximately 10,000 of America's schools have received this coveted award that honors those that reflect the goals of high standards and accountability; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that demonstrate overall academic excellence or show success in closing achievement gaps; and

WHEREAS, 353 public schools were selected nationwide, out of more than 133,000 public schools in the nation, for the 2023 Blue Ribbon Schools award, which is one of the most prestigious education awards in the country; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Schools will be honored at a conference and awards ceremony November 16-17, 2023, in Washington, D.C.:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the faculty, staff, students, and parents of Cordova Elementary School, Walker County School System, on achieving the status of a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School in 2023.

Done this 9th day of November 2023

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Belinda McRae, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
MT. CARMEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2023 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Education Secretary Miguel Cardona named Mt. Carmel Elementary School in the Madison County School System as a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School; and

WHEREAS, since 1982, approximately 10,000 of America's schools have received this coveted award that honors those that reflect the goals of high standards and accountability; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that demonstrate overall academic excellence or show success in closing achievement gaps; and

WHEREAS, 353 public schools were selected nationwide, out of more than 133,000 public schools in the nation, for the 2023 Blue Ribbon Schools award, which is one of the most prestigious education awards in the country; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Schools will be honored at a conference and awards ceremony November 16-17, 2023, in Washington, D.C.:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the faculty, staff, students, and parents of Mt. Carmel Elementary School in the Madison County School System, on achieving the status of a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School in 2023.

Done this 9th day of November 2023

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Jackie Zeigler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL
JACKSON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2023 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Education Secretary Miguel Cardona named Skyline High School in the Jackson County School System as a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School; and

WHEREAS, since 1982, approximately 10,000 of America's schools have received this coveted award that honors those that reflect the goals of high standards and accountability; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that demonstrate overall academic excellence or show success in closing achievement gaps; and

WHEREAS, 353 public schools were selected nationwide, out of more than 133,000 public schools in the nation, for the 2023 Blue Ribbon Schools award, which is one of the most prestigious education awards in the country; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Schools will be honored at a conference and awards ceremony November 16-17, 2023, in Washington, D.C.:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the faculty, staff, students, and parents of Skyline High School in the Jackson County School System, on achieving the status of a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School in 2023.

Done this 9th day of November 2023

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION HONORING 2023 A+ COLLEGE READY
SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE**

WHEREAS, A+ Education Partnership's A+ College Ready Program, in partnership with the Alabama State Department of Education, recognizes schools that demonstrate exemplary implementation of A+ College Ready Program components; and

WHEREAS, A+ College Ready proudly partners with secondary schools to raise academic expectations and instructional rigor, to empower school leadership to create strong academic school cultures, to support educators to deliver high-quality instruction in well-equipped classrooms, to prepare a diverse pipeline of students for challenging curricula, to open the doors to Advanced Placement coursework for all students, regardless of circumstance, and to increase student academic success, as evidenced by growth and achievement on the PSAT 8/9 and/or the number of qualifying scores on AP exams; and

WHEREAS, the high schools listed below met or exceeded their individual goals for qualifying scores on the spring 2023 Advanced Placement (AP) exams by increasing the number of AP qualifying scores; and

WHEREAS, the middle schools listed below met or exceeded their individual goals on the PSAT 8/9 exam; and

WHEREAS, A+ College Ready recognizes the Schools of Excellence for their outstanding academic achievement and unwavering ardent commitment to the A+ College Ready Program goals:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the following schools on achieving the status of an A+ College Ready School of Excellence in 2023.

Alexander City School System
Benjamin Russell High School

Mobile County School System
Denton Magnet School of Technology

Clay County School System
Central High School of Clay County

Orange Beach City School System
Orange Beach High School

DeKalb County School System
Plainview High School

Trussville City School System
Hewitt-Trussville High School

Elmore County School System
Wetumpka High School

Walker County School System
Parrish Junior High School

Jasper City School System
Jasper Junior High School

Winston County School System
Winston County High School

Done the 9th day of November 2023

On motion by Dr. Tonya Chestnut and seconded by Mrs. Marie Manning, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION HONORING 2023 A+ COLLEGE READY
SCHOOLS OF DISTINCTION**

WHEREAS, A+ Education Partnership's A+ College Ready program, in partnership with the Alabama State Department of Education, recognizes schools that demonstrate exemplary implementation of A+ College Ready program components; and

WHEREAS, A+ College Ready proudly partners with secondary schools to raise academic expectations and instructional rigor, to empower school leadership to create strong academic school cultures, to support educators to deliver high-quality instruction in well-equipped classrooms, to prepare a diverse pipeline of students for challenging curricula, to open the doors to Advanced Placement coursework for all students, regardless of circumstance, and to increase student academic success, as evidenced by growth and achievement on the PSAT 8/9 and/or the number of qualifying scores on AP exams; and

WHEREAS, the high schools listed below met or exceeded their individual goals for qualifying scores on the spring 2023 Advanced Placement (AP) exams by increasing the number of AP qualifying scores; and

WHEREAS, the middle schools listed below met or exceeded their individual goals on the PSAT 8/9 exam; and

WHEREAS, A+ College Ready recognizes Schools of Distinction for meeting or exceeding their goals for two years and for their outstanding academic achievement and unwavering ardent commitment to the A+ College Ready program goals; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the following schools on achieving the status of an A+ College Ready School of Distinction in 2023.

Geneva City School System
Geneva High School

Orange Beach City School System
Orange Beach Middle School

Scottsboro City School System
Scottsboro Junior High School

Trussville City School System
Hewitt-Trussville Middle School

Done the 9th day of November 2023

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF INCLUSION IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS
DECEMBER 2, 2023**

WHEREAS, Special Education Day is celebrated on December 2, 2023, to commemorate the signing of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) into law on this day in 1975; and

WHEREAS, IDEA granted access to children with disabilities to a free and quality public education; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is committed to ensuring all children with disabilities are provided with opportunities to be educated alongside their general education peers in the least restrictive environment; and

WHEREAS, it is with unity and dedication that resources and initiatives are in place, support is emphasized, and programs exist to bridge gaps in learning, while consistently providing fairness for all children with disabilities through a lens of inclusiveness; and

WHEREAS, it is with tireless effort and dedication that the educators in Alabama are ensuring that children with disabilities live, learn, work, and participate in their communities; and

WHEREAS, embracing this concept is not a solitary pledge, the ALSDE and the Alabama State Board of Education invite all stakeholders of Alabama to celebrate the commitment to children with disabilities and stand steadfast to providing equitable opportunities to Every Child. Every Chance. Every Day:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby express its appreciation to all school staff who foster an environment of respect and inclusion focused on high-quality learning; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education encourages Alabama schools to participate in promoting inclusion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does designate December 2, 2023, as a day to celebrate inclusion in Alabama public schools.

Done this 9th day of November 2023

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM
The University of Alabama at Birmingham**

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.59(2)(a)2., requires that approval by the Alabama State Board of Education shall be secured before a proposal for a new program is reviewed by the Office of Teaching and Leading of the Alabama State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education authorized a review of a proposed Class AA School Psychology (P-12) Program to be provided by the University of Alabama at Birmingham; and

WHEREAS, a review of the proposed program determined that all applicable standards were met; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends that the program be approved:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants approval of the following program, until June 30, 2028:

Class AA School Psychology (P-12)

Done this 9th day of November 2023

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Belinda McRae, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION FOR REVISION OF
2022 CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
STATE COURSE OF STUDY
(Career Cluster: Finance)**

WHEREAS, Title 16, Chapter 35, Section 3 of the *Code of Alabama*, 1975 requires the State Courses of Study Committee to prepare the contents of the courses of study for each grade of the elementary and secondary schools; and

WHEREAS, the report of its recommendations with respect to the compulsory minimum content of courses of study and of recommended revisions of courses, materials, subject content, and treatment in specific courses in such areas are required; and

WHEREAS, said law requires that the reports be submitted to the State Superintendent of Education and to members of the State Textbook Committee for separate written recommendations to the State Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education has reviewed the State Course of Study Committee's report for revision of the Career and Technical Education and recommends its adoption:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the attached report by the Career and Technical Education State Course of Study Committee on the 2023 Revised Career and Technical Education Course of Study: Finance is approved by the Alabama State Board of Education on November 9, 2023.

Done this 9th day of November 2023

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Marie Manning, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION FOR REVISION OF
2022 CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
STATE COURSE OF STUDY
(Work-Based Learning)**

WHEREAS, Title 16, Chapter 35, Section 3 of the *Code of Alabama*, 1975 requires the State Courses of Study Committee to prepare the contents of the courses of study for each grade of the elementary and secondary schools; and

WHEREAS, the report of its recommendations with respect to the compulsory minimum content of courses of study and of recommended revisions of courses, materials, subject content, and treatment in specific courses in such areas are required; and

WHEREAS, said law requires that the reports be submitted to the State Superintendent of Education and to members of the State Textbook Committee for separate written recommendations to the State Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education has reviewed the State Course of Study Committee's report for revision of the Career and Technical Education and recommends its adoption:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the attached report by the Career and Technical Education State Course of Study Committee on the 2023 Revised Career and Technical Education Course of Study: Work-Based Learning is approved by the Alabama State Board of Education on November 9, 2023.

Done this 9th day of November 2023

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**ADOPT ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE 290-3-3-.60, PERTAINING TO
ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION ORGANIZATIONS (ATPO)**

The Vice President called for a motion to adopt the following: hearing none, Chairperson West moved to the next item on the agenda.

**ADOPT ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE CHAPTER 290-3-6, PERTAINING TO
CHARTER SCHOOLS**

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

Dr. Mackey stated that there was no report necessary for the month of November.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mackey acknowledged all representatives and guests in attendance for the five Blue Ribbon Schools, the A+ College Ready Schools of Excellence, and the A+ College Ready Schools of Distinction. Dr. Mackey stated that there were 10 schools of excellence honored today. The high schools of excellence met or exceeded their individual goals for qualifying scores on the spring 2023 Advanced Placement (AP) exams by increasing the number of AP qualifying scores. The middle schools of excellence met or exceeded their individual goals on the PSAT 8/9 exam. A+ College Ready recognizes the Schools of Excellence for their outstanding academic achievement and unwavering ardent commitment to the A+ College Ready Program goals. Dr. Mackey stated that there were four schools of distinction honored today. The high schools of distinction met or exceeded their individual goals for qualifying scores on the spring 2023 Advanced Placement (AP) exams by increasing the number of AP qualifying scores. The middle schools of distinction met or exceeded their individual goals on the PSAT 8/9 exam. A+ College Ready recognizes Schools of Distinction for meeting or exceeding their goals for two years, and for their outstanding academic achievement and unwavering ardent commitment to the A+ College Ready Program goals. Dr. Mackey invited all representatives and guests to remain after the meeting for portraits.

Dr. Mackey recognized Executive Director Sally Smith of the Alabama Association of School Boards, and Local Education Agencies Board Members from across the state who were also in attendance.

Dr. Mackey acknowledged the cadets from Stanhope Elmore High School in the Elmore County School System, for presenting the colors. Dr. Mackey introduced Juliana Peralta, a senior, cadet lieutenant colonel, and Stanhope Elmore High School Mustang Battalion Commander, to provide some comments. Battalion Executive Officer Cadet Major Alex Caylor accompanied Juliana Peralto. The Color Guard cadets were Elizabeth Hicks (American Flag), Color Guard Commander; Danaveah Timmons (Alabama State Flag); Ashley Trego (Rifle Bearer); Xochitl Luna (Rifle Bearer); and Riley Harbin (Back-up Color Guard Member). The cadets were accompanied by Senior Army Instructor Colonel Charles Bonasera (U.S. Army Retired) and Army Instructor First Sergeant James Chambers (U.S. Army Retired). Dr. Mackey asked all veterans in the audience to stand and be recognized for their service.

Dr. Mackey recognized the Department's staff in the Office of Operations for their outstanding work. Yesterday, he had an opportunity to spend time with the group while they were receiving a special award from State Auditor Andrew Sorrell for having a perfect property audit. Dr. Mackey stated that the Department has property valued at \$11,000,000 and not one single item was missing.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Marie Manning, Board Members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer