

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
THE STATE OF ALABAMA  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2020  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its Annual meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, September 10, 2020, at 10 a.m., in Room P103 of the Gordon Persons Building, Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting was called to order by the President of the Board in accordance with *Alabama Code* (1975), §16-3-7, as amended.

**PRESIDING: GOVERNOR KAY IVEY, PRESIDENT**

The invocation was done by Dr. Daniel Boyd, Deputy State Superintendent for Instruction, Alabama State Department of Education, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was done in unison.

The following members were present:

**Present**

Mrs. Stephanie Bell via electronic means  
Governor Kay Ivey in person  
Dr. Cynthia McCarty in person  
Mr. Jeff Newman via electronic means  
Dr. Wayne Reynolds in person  
Dr. Yvette Richardson via electronic means  
Mrs. Tracie West in person  
Mrs. Jackie Zeigler in person

**Absent**

Dr. Tommie Stewart

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

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following.

**ENTERTAIN A MOTION TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 290-010-010.04, WHICH ARE IN CONFLICT AND SUPERSEDED BY THE GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION RELATED TO THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT ISSUED ON MARCH 18, 2020; NAMELY, THE REQUIREMENT TO VOTE BY RAISED HAND AND THOSE PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM BY PHYSICAL PRESENCE AND MEETING BY ELECTRONIC MEANS**

**APPROVAL OF THE REVISED AGENDA**

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revised agenda.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 13, 2020, MEETING**

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of August 13, 2020.

**NEW BUSINESS**

On motion by Dr. Cynthia McCarty and seconded by Dr. Wayne Reynolds, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following.

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING 2020-2021 ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR  
AND ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR DR. ANDREW F. JACKSON,  
EDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, PELL CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM**

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Andrew F. Jackson is a highly respected and accomplished educator from the Pell City School System; and

**WHEREAS**, 2020-2021 Alabama Teacher of the Year Dr. Andrew F. Jackson teaches fourth grade at Eden Elementary School, Pell City School System, and was deeply inspired to become an educator through his personal experiences growing up; and

**WHEREAS**, he was reared by his grandparents, who were former foster parents – he developed a genuine enthusiasm for assisting those in need; and

**WHEREAS**, his family instilled in him a sense of respect for others; to always search for the best in each person regardless of their circumstance; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama Teacher of the Year Dr. Andrew F. Jackson encourages all students to understand the important fact that learning and academic excellence requires perseverance, problem-solving, and personal connection; and

**WHEREAS**, he is a great professional example for teachers statewide; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Jackson has an extensive background in both special and general education and is also a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT); and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama Teacher of the Year Dr. Andrew F. Jackson believes that every student must have access to a supportive learning environment which inspires them to develop wide-ranging classroom skills that advances their full potential; and

**WHEREAS**, he also believes that all students deserve an inspiring educational experience taught by highly qualified educators who are fully committed to student success; and

**WHEREAS**, he works to cultivate these principles throughout his personal life; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Jackson and his wife Sheree are also dedicated foster parents who have provided a loving home to more than seven children—some with special needs; and

**WHEREAS**, their children’s needs range from Gifted, to Schizoaffective Disorder, to Autistic; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Jackson’s family believes it is truly important to provide real-world experiences to help students connect their learning to the world around them; and

**WHEREAS**, 2020-2021 Alabama Teacher of the Year Dr. Andrew Jackson’s personal experiences have broadened his ability to reach students from various backgrounds:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education congratulates Dr. Andrew F. Jackson for being selected the 2020-2021 Alabama Teacher of the Year and Elementary Teacher of the Year and expresses personal gratitude for his continued dedication to K-12 academic excellence.

Done this 10th day of September 2020

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

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE 2020-2021 ALTERNATE ALABAMA  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR AND SECONDARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR MR. DAVID DAI,  
ALMA BRYANT HIGH SCHOOL, MOBILE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM**

**WHEREAS**, Mr. David Dai is an innovative Mobile County School System educator who is having a great impact on Alabama students; and

**WHEREAS**, 2020-2021 Alternate Alabama Teacher of the Year David Dai learned at a young age how to be supportive and helpful to others; and

**WHEREAS**, having been fortunate to have wonderful parents and mentors from different regions of the world, Alternate Alabama Teacher of the Year David Dai has gained an insightful and clear prospective on the teaching profession and K-12 education; and

**WHEREAS**, his parents instilled a lasting appreciation for education in him which inspired him to dedicate his life to helping others reach their full academic potential; and

**WHEREAS**, he holds a great belief in providing all students rewarding opportunities to build the wide-ranging skills needed for today’s forward-thinking mathematics concepts and advanced Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education theories; and

**WHEREAS**, Alternate Alabama Teacher of the Year David Dai works to provide students in his community opportunities to explore their personal career goals and postsecondary options – he has seen firsthand the value in exposing students to engaging and rewarding learning experiences; and

**WHEREAS**, Alternate Alabama Teacher of the Year David Dai is an outstanding educator at Alma Bryant High School and inspires students by using innovative classroom resources and technology; and

**WHEREAS**, his classes are best described as interactive and engaging; and

**WHEREAS**, his classroom curriculum promotes student success through a keen focus on educational research; and

**WHEREAS**, he also advises local scholar's bowl teams, after-school programs, and community service initiatives throughout the Mobile County Public School System; and

**WHEREAS**, he is an active part of his local community; and

**WHEREAS**, Alternate Alabama Teacher of the Year David Dai has led local book studies designed to support peer collaboration and professional growth; and

**WHEREAS**, he has also completed research on how language and classroom communication may affect student test scores and the overall learning environment:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby congratulate David Dai for being named the 2020-2021 Alternate Alabama Teacher of the Year and the Secondary Teacher of the Year and commends him for his continued dedication to Alabama's students, parents, and local communities.

Done this 10th day of September 2020

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following.

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING  
THE 2020-2021 DISTRICT TEACHERS OF THE YEAR**

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Board of Education seeks to recognize and encourage excellence in education, both in teaching and learning, and celebrates the commitment of 16 educators who demonstrate each day they enter the classrooms, engage students, and communicate with families that together make learning possible; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama Teacher of the Year Program is a means of identifying and rewarding some of the state's outstanding teachers who continue to hold true to their core values and belief that all students can learn and will learn; and

**WHEREAS**, well-trained, dedicated, caring, enthusiastic, and innovative teachers are among the ingredients essential to achieving excellence in preparing Alabama's children and youth to become capable adults; and

**WHEREAS**, the following honorees in the 2020-2021 Alabama Teacher of the Year Program exhibit these qualities and more:

District I Elementary Teacher of the Year – Michelle Wade  
Saraland Elementary School, Saraland City School System

District I Secondary Teacher of the Year – David Dai  
Alma Bryant High School, Mobile County School System

District II Elementary Teacher of the Year – Kathryn Knorr  
Ogletree Elementary School, Auburn City School System

District II Secondary Teacher of the Year – Jessica Bowlin  
Auburn High School, Auburn City School System

District III Elementary Teacher of the Year – Meredith Mitchell  
Redland Elementary School, Elmore County School System

District III Secondary Teacher of the Year – Michael Sinnott  
Vestavia Hills High School, Vestavia Hills City School System

District IV Elementary Teacher of the Year – Paul D. Kelsey  
Pleasant Grove Elementary School, Jefferson County School System

District IV Secondary Teacher of the Year – Rebecca Blumenfeld  
George Washington Carver High School, Birmingham City School System

District V Elementary Teacher of the Year – Sontessia Youngblood  
Banks Middle School, Pike County School System

District V Secondary Teacher of the Year – Hannah Bradford  
Pike Road High School, Pike Road City School System

District VI Elementary Teacher of the Year – Andrew F. Jackson  
Eden Elementary School, Pell City School System

District VI Secondary Teacher of the Year – Niki L. Bowling  
Arab High School, Arab City School System

District VII Elementary Teacher of the Year – Chelsea Byrd  
Maddox Intermediate School, Jasper City School System

District VII Secondary Teacher of the Year – Alana White  
Pinson Valley High School, Birmingham City School System

District VIII Elementary Teacher of the Year – Tonia Wilburn  
Tanner Elementary School, Limestone County School System

District VIII Secondary Teacher of the Year – Angela M. Pettus  
Athens High School, Athens City School System

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education commends these teachers and expresses its gratitude to each of them for the commitment, sacrifice, dedication, and service to the children and youth of Alabama that have earned them the distinction of District Teachers of the Year:

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That we recognize them on this day for making our schools beacons of hope and opportunity.

Done this 10th day of September 2020

On motion by Mrs. Jackie Zeigler and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following.

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MARCEE HINDS  
BAKER HIGH SCHOOL, MOBILE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM  
AS ALABAMA'S 2020 HISTORY TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

**WHEREAS**, Marcee Hinds, a teacher at Baker High School in the Mobile County School System, was selected as the Alabama recipient of the 2020 History Teacher of the Year Award; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the nation's leading organization dedicated to K-12 American history education, sponsors the History Teacher of the Year Award to honor outstanding teachers of American history from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense, and U. S. territories; and

**WHEREAS**, through the state selection committee, Marcee Hinds was selected based upon her outstanding teaching abilities in making ancient times come alive for today's students allowing them to relive what our forefathers did many years ago and for her dedicated efforts in attending professional development opportunities and sharing the information with not only her students but also with other history teachers in her school system; and

**WHEREAS**, as Alabama's 2020 History Teacher of the Year, Marcee Hinds receives a certificate and \$1,000 from the Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History and Baker High School receives an archive of primary historical materials; and

**WHEREAS**, Marcee Hinds will represent Alabama as the state finalist for the National History Teacher of the Year Award in a selection process to be held in New York City this fall:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Marcee Hinds upon the honor of being selected as Alabama's 2020 History Teacher of the Year.

Done this 10th day of September 2020

On motion by Dr. Cynthia McCarty and seconded by Mrs. Jackie Zeigler, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following.

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND,  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, FOR PERFORMANCE ON  
AMERICA'S GOT TALENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes, appreciates, and encourages the intellectual, social/emotional, and professional benefit of arts education, including but not limited to, the establishment of musical and marching bands; and

**WHEREAS**, through their hard work and determination, the Jefferson Davis (JD) High School marching band, Montgomery County School System, has garnered the attention of music lovers across the nation as they competed on the nationally syndicated television program, America's Got Talent – currently on its 15th season; and

**WHEREAS**, the JD marching band, as a result of their continued practice, hard work, coordinated efforts, and professional leadership under band director Mr. Brandon Howard, appeared on the hit television show in July of 2020, impressing the celebrity judges Simon Cowell, Howie Mandel, and Sofia Vergara; and

**WHEREAS**, not only were the celebrity judges impressed, but the JD High School band performance received nearly more than 670,888 views and nearly 1,000 positive comments on the show's YouTube platform alone; and

**WHEREAS**, Arts education nurtures the creation of a welcoming school environment where students can express themselves in a safe and positive way, and music and the arts are recognized as part of a well-rounded education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Board of Education believes that all students should have access to an equitable delivery of arts education that supports their educational, social, and emotional well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Board of Education supports arts education as an essential function and endorses numerous national organizations' statement of support that it is imperative that all students have access to an equitable delivery of arts education that includes dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts that supports their educational, social, and emotional well-being, taught by certified professional arts educators in partnership with community arts providers:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby extend congratulations to Jefferson Davis High School marching band, Montgomery County School System, the parents, teachers, community members, and contributors who made this event possible.

Done this 10th day of September 2020

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following.

**Alabama State Department of Education FY 2021 Operating Budget**

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted 7-1-0 to adopt the following. Mrs. Stephanie Bell opposed.

**APPOINTMENT, 2020-2021 STATE TEXTBOOK COMMITTEE  
CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CLUSTERS: Agriculture, Food and Natural  
Resources; Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security; Science, Technology,  
Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)**

**WHEREAS**, the *Code of Alabama* 1975, §16-36-60, provides for the appointment of a State Textbook Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, said law provides that four elementary teachers and four high school teachers are to be selected to serve on the State Textbook Committee and are to come from each of the seven congressional districts of Alabama and one statewide; and

**WHEREAS**, said law provides that four people who shall be teachers, principals, supervisors, or superintendents are to be selected from the state-at-large; and

**WHEREAS**, said law provides that two members of said State Textbook Committee are to be selected from the institutions of higher learning; and

**WHEREAS**, said law provides that the fourteen people on the attached list are to be nominated to the Alabama State Board of Education by the State Superintendent of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the people on the attached list are hereby appointed to the 2020-2021 State Textbook Committee for a term beginning September 11, 2020, and ending on September 11, 2021; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That this Board recognizes that said law provides that the Governor of Alabama is to appoint nine people not in the field of education to serve on this State Textbook Committee and welcomes them to full membership; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That State Superintendent of Education Eric G. Mackey is hereby authorized to fill any vacancy that may occur on this State Textbook Committee until the next meeting of this Alabama State Board of Education after such vacancy occurs and same to be added as ad interim business.

Done this 10th day of September 2020

**2020-2021 STATE TEXTBOOK COMMITTEE  
CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION, CLUSTERS: Agriculture, Food and Natural  
Resources; Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security; Science, Technology,  
Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)**

**TERM: September 11, 2020 – October 11, 2021**

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

I	Emily Dent	Secondary	Mobile County
II	Amy Garrett	Elementary	Pike County
III	Joah Wilson	Elementary	Russell County
IV	Glenn Bruce	Secondary	Marshall County
V	Amanda Haynes	Elementary	Madison City
VI	Amy Sumner	Elementary	Shelby County
VII	Clarence Latner	Secondary	Tuscaloosa City

**STATE-WIDE**

Rebecca Balkcom	Secondary	Auburn City
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**STATE-AT-LARGE**

A.	Ryan McNaughton	Teacher	Butler County
B.	Joe Hart	Teacher	Russell County
C.	Virginia Gaberlavage	Teacher	Opelika City
D.	Dr. Bradley Newton	Administrator	Limestone County

**INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING**

A.	Dr. Bill Wills	Assistant Professor	Auburn University
B.	Dr. Shannon Bland	Assistant Professor	Troy University

On motion by Dr. Cynthia McCarty and seconded by Mrs. Jackie Zeigler, the Board voted 7-1-0 to adopt the following. Mrs. Stephanie Bell opposed.

**RESOLUTION TO RECEIVE  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE TEXTBOOK COMMITTEE  
FOR ADOPTION OF TEXTBOOKS FOR MATHEMATICS**

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Textbook Law provides that textbooks be adopted by the Alabama State Board of Education according to a rotation cycle, and this is the year for mathematics; and

**WHEREAS**, said law also provides that the State Textbook Committee meet to review textbooks submitted by publishing companies and prepare recommendations for adoption and/or rejection for submission to the Alabama State Board of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2020 State Textbook Committee has met and has prepared such recommendations:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the attached recommendations for adoption of textbooks made by the State Textbook Committee are hereby received by the Alabama State Board of Education and such recommendations will be considered for approval on November 12, 2020.

Done this 10th day of September 2020

On motion by Dr. Cynthia McCarty and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted 6-1-1 to adopt the following. Mrs. Stephanie Bell opposed, and Dr. Wayne Reynolds abstained.

**RESOLUTION TO RECEIVE  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE TEXTBOOK COMMITTEE  
FOR SUBSTITUTION OF TEXTBOOKS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES**

**WHEREAS**, the *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule 290-2-3-05, Textbook substitution permits publishing companies to substitute a later edition of a textbook for the edition presently under contract with the state of Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, the textbook listed below has been submitted for substitution in accordance with the regulations set forth in said code:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education approves the following book for substitution at no increase in price:

*Our Nation Studies Weekly – American Foundations (SW5 – Grade 5, 2020), Studies Weekly  
Incompany*

Done this 10th day of September 2020

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS  
Stillman College**

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Board of Education approves educator preparation programs, including the time frame for approved program status; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Board of Education granted conditional approval to some programs at Stillman College on April 13, 2017, at the conclusion of the last comprehensive review process; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) reviewed Stillman College programs during April 3-5, 2016, and granted continuing accreditation on October 24, 2016, with an expiration date of October 23, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, additional documentation to address conditions was reviewed in March 2020 under the Continuous Improvement in Educator Preparation (CIEP) program review process; and

**WHEREAS**, compliance with Alabama State Board of Education rules has been verified; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Superintendent of Education recommends continued approval:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants approval of the following educator preparation programs at Stillman College, with conditions to be addressed as noted on the attached pages, until June 30, 2024:

Class B English Language Arts (6-12)  
Class B General Science (6-12)  
Class B Mathematics (6-12)  
Class B Physical Education (P-12)

Done this 10th day of September 2020

On motion by Mrs. Tracie West and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following.

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW  
OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS  
University of Alabama (UA)**

**WHEREAS**, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.56(4)(b)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 State Superintendent of Education has received from the President at UA a written request to develop a Class AA Library Media program; and

**WHEREAS**, the request lists the specific proposed programs for which the Alabama State Board of Education approval is being sought; and

**WHEREAS**, UA personnel have been advised that the proposed programs may not be implemented prior to Alabama State Board of Education approval, based on documentation of compliance with all applicable standards; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Superintendent of Education recommends that the programs be reviewed by the Office of Teaching and Leading of the Alabama State Department of Education:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby authorizes a review of the following program:

Class AA Library Media (P-12)

Done this 10th day of September 2020

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following.

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 1-30, 2020, AS  
ALABAMA'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Department of Education and National Educational Organizations have proclaimed September 1-30, 2020, as Workforce Development Month; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Kay Ivey launched Success+ that will prepare 500,000 more Alabamians to enter the workforce with high-quality postsecondary degrees, certificates, and credentials by 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the economic development of every region in our nation and the ability of our businesses and industries to compete in the global economy are more than ever before dependent on the availability and quality of a skilled workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, the complexity and fast-paced change in our economy and labor markets puts new demands on individuals and employers at all levels; and

**WHEREAS**, job seekers need the assistance of knowledgeable and dedicated professionals to facilitate the process by which our workforce identifies, prepares for, obtains, and maintains employment and self-sufficiency; and

**WHEREAS**, employers focus on recruiting and retaining a highly skilled and competitive workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama's career and technical education programs have become a rigorous, progressive, and vital part of the total educational system, which is committed to providing Alabama's students with rewarding opportunities to learn valuable career and life skills while earning industry-recognized credentials; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama's career and technical education programs are successfully partnering with state and local business and industry to ensure students are equipped with the advanced communication, time management, fiscal responsibility, job preparation skills, technical understanding, workplace behaviors, and leadership skills required for lifelong success; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama's career and technical education programs are continually providing students with opportunities to gain valuable hands-on experience through apprenticeships, internships, cooperative education programs, supervised agriculture experience, school-based enterprise, and simulated workplace; and

**WHEREAS**, profound economic and technological changes in our society are rapidly reflected in the structure and nature of work, thereby placing new and additional responsibilities on our educational system; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama's educational programs and innovative initiatives have shown a genuine commitment to preparing students for a successful career by providing them opportunities throughout the K-12 work-based learning continuum activities of job shadowing, career fairs, business and industry tours, and business and industry speakers; and

**WHEREAS**, over 9,800 Alabama students from 265 different high schools and career technical centers in Grades 10-12 participate in work-based learning job placements, working over four million hours, earning over \$33.8 million, and impacting Alabama's economy over \$237 million; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby proclaim September 1-30, 2020, as Workforce Development Month and encourages local boards of education, schools, business professionals, and local educational organizations to participate in this celebration through activities that demonstrate the importance of Alabama's education programs in preparing students for great career opportunities and academic excellence.

Done this 10th day of September 2020

On motion by Mrs. Jackie Zeigler and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following.

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 2020  
AS "ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH" IN ALABAMA**

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education are committed to dedicating resources and attention to reducing chronic absenteeism rates, starting as early as kindergarten, since good attendance is essential to student achievement and graduation; and

**WHEREAS**, chronic absence is now a required reporting metric under the federal *Every Student Succeeds Act*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Department of Education has developed guidelines in support of consistency for school attendance to assist school systems; and

**WHEREAS**, chronic absence is defined as missing 18 or more days of school for any reason, including excused and unexcused absences, or just two or three days a month, which is a proven predictor of academic trouble and dropout rates; and

**WHEREAS**, the definition of attendance has expanded "beyond the classroom" to include virtual and remote learning; and

**WHEREAS**, improving student attendance and reducing chronic absences takes commitment, collaboration, and tailored approaches to challenges and strengths in each community; and

**WHEREAS**, the impact of chronic absence hits low-income students and children of color particularly hard if they do not have the resources to make up for lost time in the classroom, making them more likely to face systemic barriers regarding getting to school; and

**WHEREAS**, chronic absence exacerbates the achievement gap that separates low-income students from their peers; and

**WHEREAS**, student absenteeism undermines efforts to improve struggling schools since it is hard to measure improvement in classroom instruction if students are not engaged to benefit from instruction; and

**WHEREAS**, schools and communities must do more to identify, analyze, project, and share data on how many students are chronically absent so that appropriate interventions are matched with the needs of the students; and

**WHEREAS**, *Alabama Literacy Act #2019-523* concentrates on systematic efforts to improve the reading skills of all public-school students in early literacy so that every student is reading at or above grade level by the end of third grade; and

**WHEREAS**, Campaign Grade Level Reading brings state agencies and organizations together to focus on one goal, Grade 3 reading proficiency, by enhancing school readiness, preventing chronic absenteeism, modernizing the Alabama Reading Initiative, increasing summer learning opportunities for P-3 students, and improving childhood health; and

**WHEREAS**, chronic absence can be significantly reduced when schools, parents, and communities work together to monitor and promote good attendance and address hurdles that keep children from getting to school; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby proclaim that Alabama schools will stand with the nation in recognizing September as “Attendance Awareness Month” and is hereby committed to focusing on reducing chronic absenteeism so that all children have an equitable opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive academically, emotionally, and socially.

Done this 10th day of September 2020

#### **ALABAMA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION NOMINEES**

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Rebecca Lee, former Deputy Superintendent for School and Community Support – Instructional and Operational oversight responsibilities in the Jefferson County School System, and Mr. Dick Brewbaker, President and CEO of Brewbaker Motors and former Alabama Senator, to serve on the Charter School Commission.

#### **EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)**

Dr. Eric G. Mackey stated that there was no report necessary for the month of September.

#### **STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Dr. Mackey informed the Governor and Board members that all of Alabama schools have started with the most recent this week. Dr. Mackey stated that by the middle of October, the vast majority of Alabama students will have the opportunity to attend school in person or remote. Dr. Mackey stated that most students started out remotely only. Dr. Mackey stated that most school systems plan to transition in for parents and students to choose an in-person option for attendance. Dr. Mackey stated that the start of school has gone well. Dr. Mackey expressed that some administrators and teachers had some issues, and the department continues to deal with issues on a day-to-day basis.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, October 8, 2020, at 10 a.m. in P103 of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

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Vice President

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Secretary and Executive Officer