

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
MARCH 11, 2021
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its Annual meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, March 11, 2021, at 10 a.m., in the auditorium 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 Mrs. Stephanie Bell, Alabama State Board of Education Member, District Three, 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
Dr. Tonya Chestnut via electronic means
Governor Kay Ivey via electronic means
Dr. Cynthia McCarty in person
Mrs. Belinda McRae in person
Dr. Wayne Reynolds via electronic means
Dr. Yvette Richardson via electronic means
Mrs. Tracie West in person
Mrs. Jackie Zeigler in person

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

On motion by Mrs. Tracie West 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TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 290-010-010.04, WHICH ARE IN CONFLICT AND SUPERSEDED BY THE GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION RELATED TO THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT ISSUED ON MARCH 18, 2020; NAMELY, THE REQUIREMENT TO VOTE BY RAISED HAND AND THOSE PROVISIONS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 AGENDA

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Belinda McRae, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 11, 2021, MEETING

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of February 11, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF ALICE KELLER
GUNTERSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
GUNTERSVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2021 ELEMENTARY BEST OF SHOW
STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S VISUAL ARTS EXHIBIT**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize that the visual arts are a vital and enriching segment of children's education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent's Visual Arts Exhibit provides an opportunity for K-12 students in every school system to participate; and

WHEREAS, the criteria set for judging are sanctioned by recognized and prestigious organizations—the National Art Education Association, the Alabama Art Education Association, the Alabama Arts Alliance, the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts; and

WHEREAS, support should be given to visual arts programs and teachers as they attempt to strengthen and strive for artistic literacy, educational excellence, and for a well-rounded education for every student; and

WHEREAS, the visual arts contribute powerful educational benefits to all elementary and secondary students by enhancing metacognitive abilities and engaging students to learn; promoting curiosity, creativity, innovation, critical-thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration; provide opportunities to access, develop, express, and integrate meaning across a variety of content, other curricula experiences, and the human condition:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Alice Keller, Guntersville Middle School, Guntersville City School System; her teacher, Mrs. Valerie Jones; her principal, Dr. Vohn Enloe; and her superintendent, Dr. Frederic E. Ayer, and congratulates her for winning Elementary Best of Show in the 2021 State Superintendent's Visual Arts Exhibit.

Done this 11th day of March 2021

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF SUMMER BURRESS
ENTERPRISE HIGH SCHOOL
ENTERPRISE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2021 SECONDARY DIVISION BEST OF SHOW
STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S VISUAL ARTS EXHIBIT**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize that the visual arts are a vital and enriching segment of children's education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent's Visual Arts Exhibit provides an opportunity for K-12 students in every school system to participate; and

WHEREAS, the criteria set for judging are sanctioned by recognized and prestigious organizations—the National Art Education Association, the Alabama Art Education Association, the Alabama Arts Alliance, the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts; and

WHEREAS, support should be given to visual arts programs and teachers as they attempt to strengthen and strive for artistic literacy, educational excellence, and for a well-rounded education for every student; and

WHEREAS, the visual arts contribute powerful educational benefits to all elementary and secondary students by enhancing metacognitive abilities and engaging students to learn; promoting curiosity, creativity, innovation, critical-thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration; provide opportunities to access, develop, express, and integrate meaning across a variety of content, other curricula experiences, and the human condition:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Summer Burress, Enterprise High School, Enterprise City School System; her teacher, Ms. Amber Henson; her principal, Mr. Stan Sauls; and her superintendent, Mr. Gregory S. Faught, and congratulates her for winning Secondary Best of Show in the 2021 State Superintendent's Visual Arts Exhibit.

Done this 11th day of March 2021

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF THE
2021 ANNUAL STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S VISUAL ARTS EXHIBIT**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize that the visual arts are a vital, enriching, and core segment of children's education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent's Visual Arts Exhibit provides an opportunity for K-12 students in every school system to participate; and

WHEREAS, the criteria set for judging are sanctioned by recognized and prestigious organizations—the National Art Education Association, the Alabama Art Education Association, the Alabama Arts Alliance, the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts; and

WHEREAS, support should be given to visual arts programs and teachers as they attempt to strengthen and strive for educational excellence and artistic literacy for students; and

WHEREAS, the visual arts contribute powerful educational benefits to all elementary and secondary students by enhancing metacognitive abilities and engaging students to learn; promoting curiosity, creativity, innovation, critical-thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration; provide opportunities to access, develop, express, and integrate meaning across a variety of content, other curricula experiences, and the human condition:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the 2021 State Superintendent’s Visual Arts Exhibit award-winning students and their teachers upon the honor of being selected as Alabama’s outstanding young artists and visual arts educators.

Done this 11th day of March 2021

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MARCH 2021 AS
“ARTS EDUCATION MONTH” IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize the arts as a vital and enriching segment of children’s well-rounded education; and

WHEREAS, the National Art Education Association has designated March as “Youth Art Month”; the National Association for Music Education has designated March as “Music in Our Schools Month”; the American Alliance for Theatre Education has designated March as “Theatre in Our Schools Month”; and the National Dance Education Organization has designated March as “Dance in Our Schools Month”; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Council on the Arts, the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, the Alabama Music Educators Association, the Alabama Art Education Association, the Alabama Arts Alliance, the Alabama Chapter of the Educational Theatre Association, the Alabama Dance Educators Association K-12, the Alabama Dance Council, the Alabama Conference of Theatre, and the Alabama Artistic Literacy Consortium have voiced their support for designating March 2021 as “Arts Education Month” in Alabama schools; and

WHEREAS, the arts education teachers in the public schools of Alabama continue to strive for educational excellence and artistic literacy for their students; and

WHEREAS, support should be given to arts teachers as they attempt to strengthen arts education programs in their schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, arts education provides powerful benefits to all elementary and secondary students including the following: arts education develops students’ creativity through problem-solving and critical-thinking abilities; arts education teaches sensitivity to beauty, order, and all other expressive qualities; arts education gives students a deeper understanding of multicultural values and beliefs; arts education connects arts learning with and enlivens what students learn in other subjects; and arts education interrelates students’ learning in arts processes of creation, production, performance, presentation, and responding:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That support should be given to arts education teachers as they attempt to strengthen arts education in their schools and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That education in the arts, including dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts, is an essential component of a well-rounded K-12 public education in Alabama; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby express its appreciation to arts educators, classroom teachers, and administrators for their efforts to improve arts education in Alabama public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby designate March 2021 as “Arts Education Month” in the public schools of Alabama.

Done this 11th day of March 2021

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted 6-3-0 to adopt the following. Mrs. Stephanie Bell, Dr. Wayne Reynolds, and Mrs. Jackie Zeigler opposed.

**RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
STATE COURSE OF STUDY**

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 Alabama State Board of Education; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the attached report by the State Course of Study Committee on Career and Technical Education is approved by the Alabama State Board of Education on March 11, 2021.

Done this 11th day of March 2021

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

**RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION
CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
STATE COURSE OF STUDY
(Career Clusters: Business Management and Administration, Finance, Manufacturing,
Marketing, 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 Alabama State Board of Education; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the attached report by the State Course of Study Committee on Career and Technical Education is approved by the Alabama State Board of Education on March 11, 2021.

Done this 11th day of March 2021

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

**RESOLUTION TO RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE TEXTBOOK
COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION OF TEXTBOOKS FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL
EDUCATION CLUSTERS: AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NATURAL RESOURCES; LAW,
PUBLIC SAFETY, CORRECTIONS, AND SECURITY; SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,
ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS (STEM)**

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 Career and Technical Education clusters: Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); 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 May 13, 2021.

Done this 11th day of March 2021

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

**RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO COMPONENTS OF THE
ALABAMA LITERACY ACT REGARDING
EDUCATOR ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS**

WHEREAS, the *Alabama Literacy Act*, enacted June 10, 2019, and now codified as Section 16-6G-1, *et seq.*, *Code of Alabama* (1975) affirms Alabama's commitment to improving K-3 reading proficiency by establishing specific guidelines for the licensure and certification of Alabama educators; and

WHEREAS, a passing score on a foundational reading assessment is a precondition for initial certification, via the Alabama-approved Educator Preparation Program Approach, and other certification approaches, in the areas of elementary education (K-6), early childhood education (P-3), and collaborative special education (K-6); and

WHEREAS, Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary, a foundational reading assessment administered by Educational Testing Service (ETS), is currently required for initial certification, via the Alabama-approved Educator Preparation Program Approach, and other certification approaches, in the areas of elementary education (K-6), early childhood education (P-3), and collaborative special education (K-6); and

WHEREAS, *Foundations of Reading 90* is a Massachusetts foundational reading assessment administered by the Evaluation Systems Group of Pearson. An updated version, *Foundations of Reading 190*, will be available for use by other states on August 23, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama statewide pass rate for Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary is 85% for the 2018-2019 scholastic year and 89% for the 2017-2018 scholastic year; and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts statewide pass rate for *Foundations of Reading 90* is 63% for the 2018-2019 scholastic year and 64% for the 2017-2018 scholastic year; and

WHEREAS, a subcommittee of the Literacy Task Force established in Section 16-6G-3 of the *Alabama Literacy Act* has conducted a review of Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary and *Foundations of Reading 190*; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education determines the *Foundations of Reading 190* assessment is more closely aligned with the science of reading:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby confirms its intention to discontinue the use of Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary for certification in the areas of elementary education (K-6), early childhood education (P-3), and collaborative special education (K-6), and adopts, as a replacement, *Foundations of Reading 190*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That for the areas of elementary education (K-6), early childhood education (P-3), and collaborative special education teacher (K-6), *Foundations of Reading 190* will now be utilized as:

- An initial certification precondition for individuals unconditionally admitted to an approved program at an Alabama Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) on September 1, 2022, and thereafter;
- A certification requirement for initial Alabama certification based upon all certification approaches other than the completion of an EPP for applications received in the Educator Certification Section of the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) on September 1, 2022, and thereafter;
- A reinstatement requirement for a lapsed certificate for certification applications received in the Educator Certification Section of the ALSDE on September 1, 2022, and thereafter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Superintendent of Education is hereby directed to take any and all actions necessary to implement this resolution.

Done this 11th day of March 2021

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

**RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO COMPONENTS OF THE
ALABAMA LITERACY ACT REGARDING
SUMMER READING ASSESSMENTS**

WHEREAS, the *Alabama Literacy Act*, enacted June 10, 2019, and now codified as Section 16-6G-1, *et seq.*, *Code of Alabama* (1975) affirms Alabama's commitment to improving K-3 reading proficiency; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, each local education agency shall provide summer reading camps to all K-3 students identified with a reading deficiency; and

WHEREAS, the Act also establishes the Alabama Summer Achievement Program for all K-3 students in public elementary schools that are among the lowest performing five percent of elementary schools; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, the Alabama State Superintendent of Education shall provide guidelines for the administration of the Alabama Summer Achievement Program and convene a standing task force (Alabama Literacy Task Force) to provide recommendations for comprehensive core reading and reading intervention programs, a state continuum of teacher development, and an annual list of vetted and approved assessments that are valid and reliable reading screening, formative, and diagnostic assessment systems for selection and use by local education agencies; and

WHEREAS, also pursuant to the Act, summer reading camps shall be staffed with highly effective teachers, shall provide direct, explicit, and systematic reading intervention services, shall include 70 hours of reading instruction and intervention, and shall include the administration of an Alabama State Board of Education approved reading assessment system at the beginning and end of the summer reading camp to measure student progress; and

WHEREAS, multiple early reading assessment systems were submitted for consideration by the Alabama State Department of Education and reviewed by the Alabama Literacy Task Force; and

WHEREAS, following said review, the Alabama State Superintendent of Education published the first annual vetted and approved early reading assessment list on or about March 11, 2020. Not only will schools be able to use these assessment systems for the identification of students at risk for math and literacy difficulties, including dyslexia, but the reading assessment systems may also assist schools in meeting annual screening and reporting requirements of the *Alabama Literacy Act*:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby adopts the Alabama State Superintendent of Education's annual vetted and approved early reading assessment list and those replacement lists that continue hereafter, as the Alabama State Board of Education approved reading assessment system to be used at the beginning and end of the summer reading camp to measure student progress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Superintendent of Education is hereby directed to take any and all actions necessary to implement this resolution.

Done this 11th day of March 2021

**SELECTION OF ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER TO SERVE ON THE
ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE FOR STATE JUDGING**

On motion by Mrs. Jackie Zeigler and seconded by Dr. Wayne Reynolds, the Board voted unanimously for Dr. Tonya Chestnut, State School Board District Five, to serve on the Alabama Teacher of the Year Committee as the State Board's representative.

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

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

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mackey thanked the English Language Arts (ELA) and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committees that put together the Courses of Study. He said the committees took a lot of time and effort to do the difficult work. Dr. Mackey stated that it has been more challenging this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He said the committees began their work a year ago and was only able to meet in person once. Dr. Mackey stated that the committees consist of teachers, volunteers of parents, and business people in our communities across the state who volunteered their time to do the work. Dr. Mackey thanked Mrs. Catherine Jones, Mr. Sean Stevens, and many others who led the work of the committees. He also thanked Governor Ivey and the Board for adopting the ELA and CTE Courses of Study in order to help the department move forward with the work.

Dr. Mackey stated that a discussion of the textbook process will take place in April. He said that the Board can take some time during the Work Session to discuss the process as it goes forward.

Dr. Mackey gave a big thank you to the Arts group and Mr. Andy Meadows who single handedly coordinates the Arts for the state. Arts are also in Mr. Stevens' area. He said again, it has been a very difficult year. Dr. Mackey stated that Mr. Meadows tells him all the time that Arts are core. Arts are a core to life, core to civilization, core to history, and core to our future. Dr. Mackey decided to skip some of his speech because Summer Burress did a great job explaining Arts and the importance of Arts. Dr. Mackey stated that it has been so difficult to teach Art, but Alabama teachers have risen to the challenge and above making sure that their students are engaged. He said that many people have come to the visual arts and performing arts for comfort. He said congratulations again to Alice Keller and Summer Burress for winning the Elementary and Secondary Best of Show in the 2021 State Superintendent's Visual Arts Exhibitions. Dr. Mackey acknowledged that Mrs. Belinda McRae, Alabama State Board of Education Member, District Seven, is also an Arts person and director of the Northwest Alabama Arts Council.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Dr. Cynthia McCarty and seconded by Mrs. Belinda McRae, Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:41 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer