

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
SEPTEMBER 9, 2021
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, September 9, 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 Pastor Courtney Meadows, Hutchinson Missionary Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was done in unison.

The following members were present:

Present

Dr. Tonya Chestnut in person
Governor Kay Ivey in person
Dr. Cynthia McCarty in person
Mrs. Belinda McRae via electronic means
Dr. Wayne Reynolds in person
Dr. Yvette Richardson in person
Mrs. Tracie West in person
Mrs. Jackie Zeigler in person

Absent

Mrs. Stephanie Bell

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

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, 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TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 290-010-010.04, WHICH ARE IN CONFLICT AND SUPERSEDED BY THE GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION RELATED TO THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT ISSUED ON AUGUST 13, 2021; NAMELY, THE REQUIREMENT TO VOTE BY RAISED HAND AND THOSE PROVISIONS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 Mrs. Tracie West and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 12, 2021, MEETING

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Jackie Zeigler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of August 12, 2021.

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

**RESOLUTION HONORING MS. MICHELLE WELLMAN ON BEING SELECTED
"BARBARA FANNIN MEMORIAL EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER"
JULY-SEPTEMBER 2021**

WHEREAS, Ms. Michelle Wellman, Paralegal in the Alabama State Department of Education, Office of General Counsel, exhibits a positive attitude and is always cooperative; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Michelle Wellman has worked for the Alabama State Department of Education for 11 years and clearly believes in and has a passion for public education; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Michelle Wellman interacts well with her coworkers, other employees of the Department, and members of the public, regardless of their position, and is pleasant and positive with her interactions; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Michelle Wellman not only possesses a wealth of both institutional and professional knowledge, but is also a creative problem-solver; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Michelle Wellman worked diligently, in spite of the challenges of the pandemic, in order to meet the needs of everyone in her division; and

WHEREAS, as much as her strong professional skills and expertise in her field set characterizes her as an effective employee, it is her interpersonal skills and caring spirit that draws people, superiors, and subordinates alike to her and make for a positive and supportive environment; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Department of Education and the Legal Section specifically, hereby express its gratitude to Ms. Michelle Wellman for her dedication and caring service:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Ms. Michelle Wellman for her commitment to the Alabama State Department of Education and does hereby express its sincere congratulations.

Done this 9th day of September 2021

On motion by Dr. Tonya Chestnut and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM
Faulkner University**

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 Alabama State Board of Education authorized a review of a proposed Class B Physical Education (P-12) program to be provided by Faulkner University; and

WHEREAS, a review of the proposed program determined that all applicable standards were met or met with conditions; 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 with conditions to be addressed as noted on the attached pages, until June 30, 2024:

Class B Physical Education (P-12)

Done this 9th day of September 2021

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

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE TEACHER OBSERVATION PROGRAM FOR ALABAMA'S
TEACHERS**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education, 1988, adopted a resolution requiring the evaluation of all professional public education personnel; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature enacted legislation endowing the Alabama State Board of Education with the full force of the law regarding personnel evaluation; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Teacher Observation Program (ATOP) was developed to address the above enactments; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education adopted the Alabama Core Teaching Standards in 2021; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the adoption of these standards and the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) 2016 requirements, a subsequent revision of the EDUCATEAlabama was directed; and

WHEREAS, a representative committee of all stakeholder groups was formed to conduct the revision based on the Alabama Core Teaching Standards and ESSA requirements:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does accept and adopt the recommendations of the above referenced committee and retires the current EDUCATEAlabama teacher evaluation system and adopts the Alabama Teacher Observation Program to meet the 1998 requirement of personal evaluation.

Done this 9th day of September 2021

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

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 1-30, 2021, AS
ALABAMA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Department of Education and the National Educational Organizations have proclaimed September 1-30, 2021, 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 8,700 Alabama students, from 267 different high schools and career technical centers in Grades 10-12 participate in work-based learning job placements, working over 4.4 million hours, earning over \$40.5 million, and impacting Alabama's economy over \$284 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, 2021, 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 9th day of September 2021

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF CASH FOR COLLEGE AWARDS
FOR ALABAMA SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, all students must have an opportunity to reach their full potential and realize their lifelong aspirations; and

WHEREAS, over the past decade, there has been a growing movement among educators, national employers, and top business professionals to further focus American's high school curriculum on college preparation and career development to remain competitive in today's growing global economy, Alabama's students must continue to be provided the highest quality educational experience possible; and

WHEREAS, the for the tenth consecutive year, our state has celebrated the Alabama College Application Campaign (ALCAC) and fifth year Cash for College Campaign annual events developed by the Alabama State Department of Education and Alabama Possible to celebrate the importance of students continuing their educational goals after graduating high school; and

WHEREAS, each year, millions of students nationwide apply for financial and services and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); and

WHEREAS, an estimated fifty seven percent of high school seniors qualify for a Pell Grant in Alabama. Forty seven percent completed the FAFSA as of June 4, 2021, leveraging an estimated \$58,969,816 in Pell Grant aid across the state of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Alabama had over 200 host sites, over 50 high schools recognized for 100% of their seniors completing a college application, 75 colleges and universities participated in the Alabama College Application Campaign Fee Waiver Program, and over 70,000 applications were submitted; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education recognize the 2020-2021 Cash for College Campaign MVP and Most Improved Award Schools, Alabama Award of Excellence Recipient, and 100% Participation High School, and encourages local boards of education, schools, business professionals, and local educational organizations to participate in this recognition that demonstrates the importance of Alabama's students achieving their aspirations of academic excellence and personal achievement.

Cash for College MVP Award

Large-size schools – Ramsay High School (Birmingham City School System)

Medium-size schools – Loveless Academic Magnet Program (LAMP) High School (Montgomery County School System)

Small-size schools – Sulligent School (Lamar County School System)

Cash for College Most-Improved Award

Large-size schools – Spanish Fort High School (Baldwin County School System)

Medium-size schools – West Limestone High School (Limestone County School System)

Small-size schools – Genesis Innovative School (Conecuh County School System)

Alabama Award of Excellence Recipient

Dr. Steven Tarver, Ramsay High School (Birmingham City School System)

Done this 9th day of September 2021

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

ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FISCAL YEAR 2022 OPERATING BUDGET

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

ANNOUNCE INTENT TO REPEAL AND ADOPT NEW ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE CHAPTER 290-4-2, PERTAINING TO INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

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

ANNOUNCE INTENT TO AMEND ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE CHAPTER 290-8-8, PERTAINING TO SPECIALIZED TREATMENT CENTERS IN ALABAMA

ALABAMA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION NOMINEES

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to carryover the Alabama Public Charter School Commission nominees of Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth to the October 14, 2021, Alabama State Board of Education Meeting.

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 stated that he wanted to take some time to recognize outstanding students every month throughout the year. He said that last month the Jobs for Alabama Graduates (JAG) program was recognized and earned a national award. Dr. Mackey stated that students' producers are being recognized today. He said a big push from the Governor and Board has been to get more Computer Science into Alabama schools and for students not to learn only the clerical computer skills, but to actually perform the programming. Dr. Mackey stated that the Department has partnered with the Alabama Association of School Boards to provide students' videos that are produced by students and submitted for judging. He said the following winners of those videos are showcased today. First place, South Girard School in the Phenix City School System; Second place, Central High School in the Phenix City School System; Third place, Section High School in the Jackson County School System; Honorable mention, Calera High School in the Shelby County School System.

Dr. Mackey thanked the Board for recognizing a truly outstanding employee who works in the General Counsel Office of the Alabama State Department of Education, Ms. Michelle Wellman. He said Michelle does a marvelous job in the Legal Office making sure that all the legal paperwork flows. Dr. Mackey thanked Ms. Wellman for all she does for the schools in Alabama and the Department.

Dr. Mackey recognized some Colleges of Education representatives in attendance. Dr. Fred Figliano, Department Chair, Department of Teacher Education and Dr. Joseph Johnson, Head of Secondary Education, Troy University in Troy; Dr. Shirley Farrell, Assistant Professor, Coordinator of Gifted Education, Co-Coordinator of Assessment, College of Education, Troy University in Montgomery; Dr. Kathy Wetzel, Associate Dean for Student Services and Certification, The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

Dr. Mackey thanked the Board for adopting the Teacher Observation Program for Alabama Teachers resolution, which is a huge move forward that consist of hundreds of hours of educators working across the state to develop a new updated teacher observation system. He said that principals and assistant principals across the state are training this fall with plans to implement the program in 2022 under the new federal guidelines.

Dr. Mackey stated that the Governor presented her proclamation on Workforce Development Month, and he too is excited to recognize Alabama's Workforce Development Month. He said that over 8,700 Alabama students from 267 different high schools and career technical centers in Grades 10-12 participate in work-based learning job placements, working over 4.4 million hours, earning over \$40.5 million, and impacting Alabama's economy over \$284 million.

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 10:30 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, October 14, 2021, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer