

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
OCTOBER 14, 2021
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, October 14, 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 Coley C. Chestnut, Fresh Anointing House of Worship, Selma, Alabama, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was done in unison.

The following members were present:

Present

Mrs. Stephanie Bell in person
Dr. Tonya Chestnut in person
Governor Kay Ivey 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

Dr. Cynthia McCarty

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TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 290-010-010.04, WHICH ARE IN CONFLICT AND SUPERSEDED BY THE GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION RELATED TO THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT ISSUED ON AUGUST 13, 2021; NAMELY, THE REQUIREMENT TO VOTE BY RAISED HAND AND THOSE PROVISIONS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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2021, MEETING

On motion by Dr. Tonya Chestnut and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of September 9, 2021.

PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ADOPTING AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE 290-040-040-.02, PERTAINING TO CERTAIN TEACHING TECHNIQUES, AS A PERMANENT RULE

At this time, Ms. Hamida Labi; Ms. Kijana Mitchell; Ms. Virginia Applebaum; Ms. Camille Bennett, Executive Director of Project Say Something; Mr. Bernard Simelton, President of Alabama NAACP; Phillip Ensler; Bobby Mays, Elmore County NAACP; Ms. Karen Barwick; Reverend Rayford Mack; and Ms. Terri Michal, who registered to speak prior to the Alabama State Board of Education meeting on agenda item H.2.u (Adopt Amended *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule 290-040-040-.02, Pertaining to Certain Teaching Techniques, as a permanent rule), did so individually via in person. Their speeches may be viewed in full, as well as the complete Board meeting, at <https://www.alabamaachieves.org/state-board-of-education/meeting-videos>. During the meeting, the clerk received additional correspondence related to the agenda item to be referenced in the records. The Board Members and State Superintendent thanked the members of the public for providing their input and sharing their views.

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF ELIZABETH BARANOV
HUTCHENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MOBILE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS A 2020 MATHEMATICS PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

WHEREAS, now that we have entered the 21st century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching established by Congress in 1983, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon Grades K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 200 teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D. C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

WHEREAS, through the state selection committee, two 2020 state mathematics finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Baranov of Hutchens Elementary School, Mobile County School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama mathematics classroom for 16 years; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Baranov was chosen as a 2020 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in mathematics teaching:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Elizabeth Baranov upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of mathematics.

Done this 14th day of October 2021

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF JESSICA ELLZEY
DAWES INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
MOBILE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS A 2020 SCIENCE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

WHEREAS, now that we have entered the 21st century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching established by Congress in 1983, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon Grades K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 200 teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D. C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

WHEREAS, through the state selection committee, three 2020 state science finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Jessica Ellzey of Dawes Intermediate School, Mobile County School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama science classroom for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Jessica Ellzey was chosen as a 2020 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in science teaching:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Jessica Ellzey upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of science.

Done this 14th day of October 2021

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF KRISTA MARCUM
GULF SHORES HIGH SCHOOL
GULF SHORES CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS A 2021 SCIENCE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

WHEREAS, now that we have entered the 21st century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching established by Congress in 1983, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon Grades K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 200 teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D. C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

WHEREAS, through the state selection committee, three 2021 state science finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Krista Marcum of Gulf Shores High School, Gulf Shores City School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama science classroom for 15 years; and

WHEREAS, Krista Marcum was chosen as a 2021 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in science teaching:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Krista Marcum upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of science.

Done this 14th day of October 2021

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF JUSTIN SWASEY
HEADLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL
HENRY COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS A 2021 MATHEMATICS PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

WHEREAS, now that we have entered the 21st century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching established by Congress in 1983, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon Grades K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 200 teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D. C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

WHEREAS, through the state selection committee, three 2021 state mathematics finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Justin Swasey of Headland Middle School, Henry County School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama mathematics classroom for 12 years; and

WHEREAS, Justin Swasey was chosen as a 2021 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in mathematics teaching:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Justin Swasey upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of mathematics.

Done this 14th day of October 2021

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF STEPHANIE CONNOR
CREEK VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ALABASTER CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS A 2020 MATHEMATICS PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

WHEREAS, now that we have entered the 21st century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching established by Congress in 1983, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon Grades K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 200 teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D. C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

WHEREAS, through the state selection committee, two 2020 state mathematics finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Stephanie Connor of Creek View Elementary School, Alabaster City School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama mathematics classroom for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Stephanie Connor was chosen as a 2020 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in mathematics teaching:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Stephanie Connor upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of mathematics.

Done this 14th day of October 2021

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF GERI EVANS
BLUFF PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HOOVER CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS A 2020 SCIENCE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

WHEREAS, now that we have entered the 21st century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching established by Congress in 1983, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon Grades K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 200 teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D. C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

WHEREAS, through the state selection committee, three 2020 state science finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Geri Evans of Bluff Park Elementary School, Hoover City School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama science classroom for 25 years; and

WHEREAS, Geri Evans was chosen as a 2020 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in science teaching:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Geri Evans upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of science.

Done this 14th day of October 2021

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF AMBER MASHON
SPAIN PARK HIGH SCHOOL
HOOVER CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS A 2021 SCIENCE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

WHEREAS, now that we have entered the 21st century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching established by Congress in 1983, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon Grades K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 200 teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D. C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

WHEREAS, through the state selection committee, three 2021 state science finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Amber Mashon of Spain Park High School, Hoover City School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama science classroom for 24 years; and

WHEREAS, Amber Mashon was chosen as a 2021 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in science teaching:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Amber Mashon upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of science.

Done this 14th day of October 2021

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF JANET ORT
HOOVER HIGH SCHOOL
HOOVER CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS A 2021 SCIENCE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

WHEREAS, now that we have entered the 21st century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching established by Congress in 1983, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon Grades K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 200 teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D. C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

WHEREAS, through the state selection committee, three 2021 state science finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Janet Ort of Hoover High School, Hoover City School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama science classroom for 23 years; and

WHEREAS, Janet Ort was chosen as a 2021 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in science teaching:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Janet Ort upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of science.

Done this 14th day of October 2021

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF TRACEY JONES
PARKSIDE SCHOOL
CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS A 2021 MATHEMATICS PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

WHEREAS, now that we have entered the 21st century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching established by Congress in 1983, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon Grades K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 200 teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D. C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

WHEREAS, through the state selection committee, three 2021 state mathematics finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Tracey Jones of Parkside School, Cullman County School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama mathematics classroom for 24 years; and

WHEREAS, Tracey Jones was chosen as a 2021 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in mathematics teaching:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Tracey Jones upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of mathematics.

Done this 14th day of October 2021

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF DELAURA DOWNS
JEFFERSON COUNTY INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE MIDDLE SCHOOL,
JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS A 2021 MATHEMATICS PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

WHEREAS, now that we have entered the 21st century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching established by Congress in 1983, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon Grades K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 200 teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D. C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

WHEREAS, through the state selection committee, three 2021 state mathematics finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Delaura Downs of Jefferson County International Baccalaureate Middle School, Jefferson County School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama mathematics classroom for 18 years; and

WHEREAS, Delaura Downs was chosen as a 2021 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in mathematics teaching:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Delaura Downs upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of mathematics.

Done this 14th day of October 2021

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF JENNIFER KENNEDY
SPARK ACADEMY AT COWART ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ATHENS CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS A 2020 SCIENCE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

WHEREAS, now that we have entered the 21st century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching established by Congress in 1983, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon Grades K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 200 teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D. C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

WHEREAS, through the state selection committee, three 2020 state science finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Kennedy of Spark Academy at Cowart Elementary School, Athens City School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama science classroom for 25 years; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Kennedy was chosen as a 2020 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in science teaching:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Jennifer Kennedy upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of science.

Done this 14th day of October 2021

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF OCTOBER
AS DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, dyslexia is defined as a language-based learning challenge that is neurological in origin and characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities; and

WHEREAS, dyslexia impacts approximately one out of five children in Alabama schools; and

WHEREAS, through effective dyslexia screening, students with dyslexia can be identified as early as kindergarten, long before their learning challenges have resulted in learning disabilities; and

WHEREAS, early identification and intervention will equip many students with dyslexia for success in school and in life; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education has specifically addressed dyslexia within the *Alabama Administrative Code*; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education has committed itself to supporting Alabama schools and teachers with resources, materials, and professional development; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education has committed to the goal that every child will read on grade level:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes October as Dyslexia Awareness Month and encourages school systems to engage their schools, families, and communities in activities that create a culture of understanding, support, encouragement, and learning for students having dyslexia.

Done this 14th day of October 2021

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

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 1-31, 2021,
AS MANUFACTURING MONTH**

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Education and National Educational Organizations have proclaimed October 1-31, 2021, as Manufacturing Month; and

WHEREAS, recognizing October 1-31, 2021, as Manufacturing Month in Alabama is an effective way to highlight the importance of manufacturing to the economy and draw attention to many regarding, high-skill jobs available in manufacturing; and

WHEREAS, Manufacturing Month is an opportunity to introduce state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities to a new generation of students and future workers; and

WHEREAS, partnerships between manufacturing businesses and educational institutions at all levels are essential in preparing students for manufacturing careers today and in the future; and

WHEREAS, the state of Alabama is fortunate to be the home of many great manufacturing businesses, some of which are world leaders in their respective fields; and

WHEREAS, manufacturers in Alabama account for 37.98 billion dollars of output which represents 17.18 percent of the total output in the state; and

WHEREAS, manufacturing companies employ 271,000 individuals in Alabama which signifies 13.08 percent of the workforce; and

WHEREAS, our community's manufacturing companies are vitally important to the prosperity of the state of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby proclaim October 1-31, 2021, as Manufacturing 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 14th day of October 2021

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

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING ALABAMA SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK
(October 18-22, 2021)**

WHEREAS, nearly 354,094 of Alabama's elementary and secondary students are transported to and from school each day of the school year; and

WHEREAS, the safety of these students is of utmost importance to all citizens of the state; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's school bus drivers and other transportation employees work diligently to ensure safe transportation for all of Alabama students:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby endorse October 18-22, 2021, as Alabama School Bus Safety Week and urges all Alabamians, particularly motorists, to be especially cautious where school buses and schoolchildren are involved:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education calls on every citizen of Alabama to make every week a safe one for the students and school buses of our state.

Done this 14th day of October 2021

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF OCTOBER 11-15, 2021
AS “SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK” IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education has recognized for nearly 50 years, the School Lunch Program has contributed to the health and educational development of Alabama’s children by making nutritious meals available in Grades K-12 public schools; and

WHEREAS, every October, the School Nutrition Association and the U.S. Department of Agriculture join together to celebrate the National School Lunch Week; and

WHEREAS, the National School Lunch Week 2021 (#NSLW21) theme is “Wild about School Lunch,” which spotlights the wide variety of flavors, dishes, delivery options, and tastes that can be customized in today’s school lunch; and

WHEREAS, research has indicated that students who eat lunch have better attention and memory, and the quality of foods children eat impacts cognition, and poor nutrition is linked with absenteeism, health problems, hunger symptoms, and psychosocial problems; and

WHEREAS, scientifically based food and nutrition information contributes powerful education benefits to all elementary and secondary students

WHEREAS, the School Lunch Program continued to serve lunch meals during school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby express its appreciation to school nutrition professionals who make the local School Lunch Program work in 1,475 school sites statewide; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does designate October 11-15, 2021, as “School Lunch Week” in the public schools of Alabama.

Done this 14th day of October 2021

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

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER AS
STATEWIDE PARENT ENGAGEMENT MONTH IN ALABAMA**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Education strongly support parent and family engagement in the education of Alabama students, and parent engagement is critical to student and school success; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education is committed to parent and family engagement in our schools as it strives to provide all public school children with an opportunity for a quality education with high academic standards that offer every student an opportunity to graduate and to obtain the necessary skills to be prepared for the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, more than 30 years of research identify parental engagement as a key component in ensuring a child’s academic achievement, and a successful partnership between educators and parents is one of the most crucial factors influencing the success of students in school; and

WHEREAS, Statewide Parent Engagement Month provides parents the opportunity to learn how they can become more actively engaged in their children’s education by visiting their children’s school, learning about the curriculum, consulting with their children’s teachers, and participating in school activities; and

WHEREAS, Statewide Parent Engagement Month is an excellent opportunity for Alabama's public schools to emphasize and increase parent engagement, to partner with communities to raise awareness, and increase support for public education:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education proclaims October 2021 as Statewide Parent Engagement Month in Alabama, declares this year's theme as **Home and School Partnerships: Putting the Pieces Together for Student Success** that encourages educators, communities, parents, and families to participate in this observance; and challenges educators to solicit sustained year-round parent and family engagement.

Done this 14th day of October 2021

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

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
The 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 written request to develop two new innovative programs, Class A Elementary STEM and Class AA Mathematics Specialist; 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 programs:

Class A Elementary STEM (Grades K-6)
Class AA Mathematics Specialist (Grades K-8 and 4-12)

Done this 14th day of October 2021

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

FISCAL YEAR 2023 FOUNDATION PROGRAM APPROPRIATION REQUEST

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

**ADOPT ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE 290-2-1-.01, PERTAINING TO ANNUAL
APPORTIONMENT OF FOUNDATION PROGRAM FUNDS**

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

**ADOPT REPEAL OF ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE 290-2-1-.02, PERTAINING
TO ANNUAL APPORTIONMENT OF CURRENT UNITS**

On motion by Mrs. Belinda McRae and seconded by Dr. Wayne Reynolds, the Board voted 6-2-0 to approve the following. Drs. Tonya Chestnut and Yvette Richardson opposed.

**ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE 290-040-040-.02,
PERTAINING TO CERTAIN TEACHING TECHNIQUES, AS A PERMANENT RULE**

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 November 10, 2021, Alabama State Board of Education Meeting. The Board voted 7-0-1 to adopt the Alabama Public Charter School Commission nominees of the Speaker of the House Mac McCutcheon. Mrs. Stephanie Bell abstained.

**SELECTION OF THE 2021 ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DELEGATE FOR
THE ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS ANNUAL CONVENTION**

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously for Dr. Yvette Richardson to serve as the Alabama State Board of Education Delegate during the Alabama Association of School Boards' Delegate Assembly that will be held on December 2, 2021, at the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham, Alabama.

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

Dr. Eric G. Mackey stated that one legal change is to add Mrs. Belinda McRae to the roll if there are no objections. He asked Mrs. McRae if she wanted to be added as a yes vote on adopting the agenda and minutes from the September 9, 2021, meeting, and her response was yes. There were no objections from the other Board Members.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mackey stated that in reference to COVID, something that has not been discussed as often as it has in the last past year, numbers are continuing to drop from a high in August of approximately 9,000 in one week to approximately 1,000 this week. He said that is a tremendous drop in the numbers of students and adults with positive cases in Alabama schools. Dr. Mackey stated that the report will soon be public. He said that it is fortunately a drop in cases, but also shows the tremendous work of Alabama local school districts. Dr. Mackey stated that the nurses, teachers, and administrators are doing a great job of keeping students and faculty members safe.

Dr. Mackey stated that this is school lunch week in Alabama schools, and yet the news reports that there is no food available. Dr. Mackey stated that there are two main suppliers and they both experienced trouble during the pandemic. He said there has been some supply issues, mostly dealing with the lack of delivery drivers and warehouse workers. One supplier lost some employees and had to close for a short period of time. Dr. Mackey stated that the suppliers made 108,000 deliveries last week, when on a normal week they would have delivered only 60,000. He said that most of the shortage has been replenished. Dr. Mackey informed the Board that the vendors are doing everything they can to get food to the schools. For example, schools have gone to the warehouse to pick up food, and bus drivers are driving trucks to pick up food from the warehouse. He said there are occasional issues, but the Child Nutrition Section is doing an amazing job working with the vendors and local school districts on a day-to-day basis to make sure the children of Alabama have food. Dr. Mackey stated that on October 5, 2021, Governor Kay Ivey and Dr. Cynthia McCarty visited Kate D. Smith DAR School in Marshall County and joined students for lunch. He encouraged the Board Members to go out and visit school cafeterias whenever they have time.

Dr. Mackey stated that the foundation appropriation request that the Board approved this morning, which includes a \$544,599,867 increase, will be very beneficial to the teachers and schools of Alabama. Dr. Mackey stated that he appreciates the Board working with the Department for several months through the process of developing a very strong budget request to submit for approval. He said the Department is going after every penny it thinks the teachers and schools deserve.

Dr. Mackey stated that October is Dyslexia Awareness, Manufacturing, and Statewide Parent Engagement Month. He said a lot of people in the audience today are dressed in red to celebrate the fact that we want every child to learn to read at a high level as early as possible, but no later than the third grade. Dr. Mackey stated that many people remind him that you do not want to wait until third grade, but by the third grade. He said that Alabama Reading Initiative and the Dyslexia Advisory Council are doing great work. Dr. Mackey acknowledged all attending supporters of Dyslexia by asking them to stand. He presented a video of children attending Summer Learning Reading Camp this past summer. Dr. Mackey stated that the children in the video were not attending summer school but attending summer camp. He said it is all about making the children enjoy it.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Jackie Zeigler, Board Members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer