

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
NOVEMBER 10, 2021
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Wednesday, November 10, 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 Kenny Hoopes, First Baptist Church, Montgomery, 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
Dr. Cynthia McCarty 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

*Dr. Richardson arrived during the discussion of Action Item G.2.h and remained for the duration of the meeting

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER 14, 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 October 14, 2021.

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. CAROLINE OBERT, PRINCIPAL
CHELSEA MIDDLE SCHOOL, SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS ALABAMA'S 2021
MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR**

WHEREAS, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) sponsors a national program to honor outstanding middle and high school principals from across the United States and more than 45 countries; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Caroline Obert, Principal of Chelsea Middle School in the Shelby County School System, was selected as Alabama's 2021 Middle School Principal of the Year by the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals, and is currently serving as principal of Huntsville Junior High School; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Caroline Obert earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama in Huntsville, a master's degree, and her Ed S. from the University of Alabama in Birmingham; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Caroline Obert has accumulated fifteen years' worth of educational experience with eight of those years as an administrator; she has also served as a teacher, instructional assistant, assistant principal, long-standing member of the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools, and current President of the Middle School Principals Association for District V; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Caroline Obert is known for mentoring, helping to grow leaders by helping others see their own potential as well as mentored and trained more than twenty-five aspiring administrators; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Caroline Obert, Principal of Chelsea Middle School, through her leadership is credited with the development of the SWARM program for student achievement that helped the Chelsea Middle School report card improve from “B” to earning an “A”; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Caroline Obert was a leader in Compact Chelsea, which is a collaborative partnership of concerned citizens that helped to raise awareness of youth substance use issues and educate youth and adults to take action to prevent substance use; and

WHEREAS, each year, the National Association of Secondary School Principals congratulates principals from across the nation for their exemplary achievements by recognizing them in its Principal of the Year Program; and

WHEREAS, the Principal of the Year Program, established in 1993, honors outstanding secondary and middle level principals who ensure that America's students acquire a sound foundation for lifelong learning and achievement, and the program annually honors secondary and middle level principals who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students as well as demonstrating exemplary contributions to the profession; and

WHEREAS, secondary and middle-level principals are nominated for this achievement by peers in their state and final selections are made by committees appointed by each of the National Association of Secondary School Principals' state affiliate offices; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Caroline Obert with an unwavering commitment to excellence in the rewarding field of education reflects immense credit upon the entire State of Alabama, and she is truly deserving of special commendation and praise:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mrs. Caroline Obert upon the honor of being selected as the 2021 Alabama Middle School Principal of the Year.

Done this 10th day of November 2021

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

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MR. RONALD PINSON, PRINCIPAL, CHILTON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL, CHILTON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS ALABAMA’S 2021 HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) sponsors a national program to honor outstanding middle and high school principals from across the United States and more than 45 countries; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ronald Pinson, Principal of Chilton County High School in the Chilton County School System, was selected as Alabama’s 2021 High School Principal of the Year by the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ronald Pinson has been the principal at Chilton County High School since 2017 and prior to that served as an assistant principal for five years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ronald Pinson is a resident of Clanton, Alabama and earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Auburn University and his master’s degree in Instructional Leadership from the University of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ronald Pinson serves as a member of the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools, served in the United States Army, implemented programs at Chilton County High School that are student centered, and focus on rewarding student accomplishments as well as giving the community a glimpse into the world of public education; and

WHEREAS, each year, the National Association of Secondary School Principals congratulates principals from across the nation for their exemplary achievements by recognizing them in its Principal of the Year Program; and

WHEREAS, the Principal of the Year Program, established in 1993, honors outstanding secondary and middle level principals who ensure that America's students acquire a sound foundation for lifelong learning and achievement, and the program annually honors secondary and middle level principals who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students as well as demonstrating exemplary contributions to the profession; and

WHEREAS, secondary and middle-level principals are nominated for this achievement by peers in their state and final selections are made by committees appointed by each of the National Association of Secondary School Principals' state affiliate offices; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ronald Pinson with an unwavering commitment to excellence in the rewarding field of education reflects immense credit upon the entire State of Alabama, and he is truly deserving of special commendation and praise:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mr. Ronald Pinson upon the honor of being selected as the 2021 Alabama High School Principal of the Year.

Done this 10th day of November 2021

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

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MR. HARLAND DREW GLASS, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, WETUMPKA HIGH SCHOOL, ELMORE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS ALABAMA'S 2021 ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) sponsors a national program to honor outstanding assistant principals from across the United States and more than 45 countries; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harland Drew Glass, Assistant Principal at Wetumpka High School in the Elmore County School System, was selected as Alabama's 2021 Assistant Principal of the Year by the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harland Drew Glass earned his undergraduate degree from Troy University and a master's degree from Auburn University at Montgomery. Mr. Glass has accumulated fifteen years' worth of educational experience with five of those years as an assistant principal, ten as a special education teacher, and is now serving as the principal of Tallassee High School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harland Drew Glass is a member of the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools, Vice President of AASSP District IV, and instrumental in building positive relationships among his peers. He is known for having a positive outlook and the ability to identify the good in every situation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harland Drew Glass as the coordinator, is credited with the success of the Advanced Placement Program which has seen tremendous growth both in percent of exams and percent of students with qualifying scores; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harland Drew Glass puts his heart into every aspect of his job and his willingness to offer support and motivation to faculty and staff. Being very passionate about the care and well-being of his students and the staff, he is indeed deserving of the prestigious title that he has received; and

WHEREAS, each year, the National Association of Secondary School Principals congratulates assistant principals from across the nation for their exemplary achievements by recognizing them in its Assistant Principal of the Year Program; and

WHEREAS, the Assistant Principal of the Year Program honors outstanding secondary assistant principals who ensure that America's students acquire a sound foundation for lifelong learning and achievement, and the program annually honors secondary assistant principals who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students as well as demonstrating exemplary contributions to the profession:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mr. Harland Drew Glass upon the honor of being selected as the 2021 Alabama Assistant Principal of the Year.

Done this 10th day of November 2021

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

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. AQILA MALPASS, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, ROCKY RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HOOVER CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS ALABAMA'S 2021 OUTSTANDING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) sponsors a national program to honor outstanding elementary and middle-school assistant principals from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense, and U.S. Territories; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Aqila Malpass, Assistant Principal at Rocky Ridge Elementary School in the Hoover City School System, was selected as the Alabama recipient of the 2021 Assistant Principal of the Year by the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Aqila Malpass has been an outstanding educator in Alabama and served as an instructional coach and assistant principal in the Hoover City School System; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Aqila Malpass earned a bachelor's degree from Howard University, a master's and specialist degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and currently working towards her Doctorate degree at the University of Alabama at Birmingham; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Aqila Malpass is an intentional instructional leader who has a positive impact on her school as a result of her encouragement of quality, equitable instruction, and her emotional and academic support of her staff; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Aqila Malpass strives to lead by example by modeling lessons, engaging all families, and having high expectations of all students; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Aqila Malpass is a member of the NAESP where she serves on the Editorial Advisory Board, a member of AAESA, and CLAS; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Aqila Malpass has been recognized by her peers for exemplary service to the students, teachers, parents, and other stakeholders at Rocky Ridge Elementary School:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mrs. Aqila Malpass upon the honor of being selected as the 2021 Alabama Elementary School Assistant Principal of the Year.

Done this 10th day of November 2021

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

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MS. AMY MASON, PRINCIPAL MADISON COUNTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS THE 2021 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL FROM ALABAMA

WHEREAS, the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) National Distinguished Principal Program was established to recognize elementary and middle-level principals who set high standards for instruction, student achievement, character, and climate for the students, families, and staffs in their learning communities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Amy Mason was named the 2021 NAESP National Distinguished Principal from Alabama by the Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Amy Mason has served as the Principal of Madison County Elementary School in the Madison County School System for six years, prior to that served as a principal and assistant principal in Huntsville City School System, assistant principal in Maryland, an elementary school teacher in Maryland, Virginia, Indiana, Arizona, and a school administrator since 2009; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Amy Mason has served as a facilitator for community partnerships with the CARE Center, Graces of Gurley, the North Alabama Arts Education Alliance, the Heart of the Valley YMCA, Community Foundation of Huntsville, involved in leadership positions in AAESA, ACLD, NAESP, and a mentor for Johns Hopkins University;

WHEREAS, Ms. Amy Mason obtained her bachelor's degree from Purdue University in Hammond, Indiana, and her master's degree from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Amy Mason always puts her students first and works tirelessly to create an atmosphere that supports the social emotional needs of students, allows her teachers to be successful, has a positive impact on her school and school system for its students, teachers, and parents; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Amy Mason has been honored by Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools, Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators, and Madison County School System for her work and commitment to everyone under her care:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Ms. Amy Mason upon the honor of being selected as the 2021 Alabama NAESP National Distinguished Principal.

Done the 10th day of November 2021

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF DECEMBER 6-10, 2021
AS "INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS WEEK" IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, Governor Ivey's proclamation originating in 2018, decreed a week committed to educating students in inclusive schools and classrooms, it is with reverence that we seize and proclaim the resurgence and focus on Inclusive Schools Week; and

WHEREAS, educational practices have been impacted by enormous change and disruption through a global pandemic, Alabama's administrators, educators, and support staff have prevailed in doing what is necessary to continuously provide Alabama's students opportunities to be a part of high-performing inclusive schools and classrooms; and

WHEREAS, when support by the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) could have proceeded with business as usual, the ALSDE faced the challenges head on. The ALSDE collaborated together to lead a charge in providing resources and guidance in conjunction with Alabama's Strategic Plan motto, Every Child. Every Chance. Every Day; and

WHEREAS, fairness in program application and access might have floundered through the pandemic, it is with unity and dedication that resources and initiatives were put in place, support was re-emphasized, and programs were created to bridge gaps in learning, while consistently providing fairness for all students through a lens of inclusiveness; and

WHEREAS, since children are unique, it is with excitement that we embody the whole child concept in strategies and supports from this day forward. These inclusive practices embrace each child who learns differently, while providing equitable teaching that is responsive to the abilities and interests of every child; and

WHEREAS, embracing this concept is not a solitary commitment, the ALSDE and the Alabama Board of Education invites all stakeholders of Alabama to embrace Inclusive Schools Week, December 6-10, 2021, and stand committed to providing equitable opportunities to Every Child. Every Chance. Every Day:

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does designate December 6-10, 2021, as Inclusive Schools Week in Alabama public schools.

Done this 10th day of November 2021

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF NOVEMBER 2021 AS
"SCHOOL LIBRARY MONTH" IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS**

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

WHEREAS, the Alabama School Library Association has designated November as Alabama School Library Month; and

WHEREAS, school libraries promote literacy and the enjoyment of reading, viewing, and listening; and

WHEREAS, school libraries promote diversity and inclusion by curating a collection of books in which all students can see themselves and by providing a safe haven for students to explore their interests without judgment; and

WHEREAS, school libraries provide resources and learning activities designed to enhance reading motivation and establish the information literacy skills necessary for lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, school libraries provide access to a wide variety of print and digital educational materials and the technology needed to utilize these resources; and

WHEREAS, school libraries promote competencies in new and developing technologies; and

WHEREAS, school libraries support the classroom curriculum and are integral to a quality educational program; and

WHEREAS, Alabama recognizes the importance of qualified, certified school librarians by allocating a librarian for every school with 250 or more students:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That school libraries are 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 school librarians, classroom teachers, and administrators for their efforts to support library media programs in Alabama public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby designate November 2021 as School Library Month in Alabama public schools.

Done this 10th day of November 2021

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

**RESOLUTION TO
APPOINT THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
STATE COURSE OF STUDY COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, *Code of Alabama* (1975) §16-35-1 through 5, provides that the Alabama State Board of Education shall constitute Courses of Study Committees for the purposes and functions as provided within the statute; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education appoints those persons listed on the attached as members of the Career and Technical Education State Course of Study Committee for a period of one year or until their successors are appointed.

Done this 10th day of November 2021

2022 Career and Technical Education
Course of Study Committee

Committee Members			
Name	Congressional District	Board District	System
Mr. Brandy A. White	2	2	Houston County Public Schools
Cherea Baker	2	5	Autauga County Schools
Rachel Baxter	1	1	Mobile County Public Schools
Danielle Booth	1	1	Mobile County Public Schools
Belinda Brooks	7	4	Birmingham City Schools
Brock Dunn	2	5	Autauga County Schools
Stacy Garrett	6	3	Shelby County Schools
Portia Houston	5	6	Decatur City Schools
Terri Jenkins	4	8	Gadsden City Schools
Annette Johnson	1	1	Mobile County Public Schools
Sherry Laster	3	6	Calhoun County School District
Marulynn Lockett	4	7	Jasper City School District
Cliff Pope	7	4	Jefferson County Schools
Fa'aniniva Roberson	6	3	Alabaster City Schools
Karen Rodriguez	5	8	Huntsville City Schools
Ken Sealy	3	2	Chambers County School District
Leslie Sellers	1	1	Escambia County Schools
Jenny Shawn	2	2	Ozark City Schools
Amethyst Vineyard	3	3	Sylacauga City School District
Higher Education			
Donna Bell	6	3	University of Montevallo
Denise Sauls	2	2	Lurleen B. Wallace Community College
Gerri Wallace	5	7	Northwest-Shoals Community College

Congressional District Representation

Congressional District Representation							
District	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
Committee	5	4	3	2	3	3	2

Board District Representation

District	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
Committee	4	3	4	2	2	2	2	2

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

ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CUT SCORE FOR THE LOWEST LEVEL IN READING FOR THE ALABAMA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (ACAP)

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education supports increasing student achievement, including an emphasis on reading in the early grades, as witnessed by its continued commitment to high-quality reading instruction, assessment, and professional development, and

WHEREAS, the *Alabama Literacy Act* specifically provides, in part,

“(h) Commencing with the 2021-2022 school year, third grade students shall demonstrate sufficient reading skills for promotion to fourth grade. Students shall be provided all of the following options to demonstrate sufficient reading skills for promotion to fourth grade, and the State Superintendent of Education shall provide guidelines for the implementation of this subsection:

(1) Scoring above the lowest achievement level, as determined by rule of the State Board of Education, on a board-approved assessment in reading as provided in Section 16-6G-3.

(2) Earning an acceptable score on an alternative standardized reading assessment as determined and approved by the State Superintendent of Education.

(3) Demonstrating mastery of third grade minimum essential state reading standards as evidenced by a student reading portfolio. The State Superintendent of Education and the task force established under subsection (a) of Section 16-6G-3 shall establish criteria for minimum essential standards and the student reading portfolios and a definition of what constitutes mastery of all third grade state reading standards.

(i) If a student does not demonstrate sufficient reading skills on one of the three options listed in subsection (h) and does not qualify for a good cause exemption, the student may not be promoted to fourth grade.” *Section 16-6G-5, Code of Alabama (1975)*:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education establishes that for purposes of promotion to fourth grade under provisions of the *Alabama Literacy Act*, the lowest achievement level for the reading subset of the ACAP English Language Arts will include any raw scores below 452; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education intends to review this lowest achievement level on a regular basis following future administrations of the statewide English Language Arts reading assessment and reserves the right to make amendments as deemed necessary by the Board.

Done this 10th day of November 2021

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

ADOPT NEW ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE CHAPTER 290-4-2, PERTAINING TO STUDENT ASSESSMENT

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

ADOPT NEW 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. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted 6-2-1 to recommend Mrs. Julie Ann McCulley, Principal of Cherokee Elementary School in Guntersville City School System, to serve on the Alabama Public Charter School Commission. Mrs. Stephanie Bell abstained. The Board ratified the recommendation on an 8-0-1 vote. Mrs. Stephanie Bell abstained.

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

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

STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Mackey thanked several principals who were in attendance for recognition today. Dr. Mackey stated that last month was Principals’ Appreciation Month and they were being feted in many ways last month. Dr. Mackey and Dr. Vic Wilson, Executive Director of the Council of Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS), developed a plan for the principals to be the featured theme today. He asked the principals and their guests to remain after the meeting for portraits with the Board Members. Dr. Mackey stated that the work principals and assistant principals do to keep our schools functioning is appreciated. Dr. Mackey stated that he has served in that role and knows how difficult a principal’s life can be. He said a principal can receive a telephone call as early as 4:30 a.m. until the last student goes home at night.

Dr. Mackey stated that he has two videos to show today. One is Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) that the Board started several years ago and put lots of effort behind. He said AMSTI has been revamped under Dr. Sandy Ledwell's leadership. Dr. Mackey stated that previously, an entire school had to agree to send at least 80% of its faculty in order to attend training and receive support. He said the new change will allow teachers in any school to participate in training. Dr. Mackey stated that AMSTI added some very important programs like NUMBERS, by Voyager Sopris, the sister product to LETRS. He said AMSTI has offerings to help with Digital Literacy, Computer Science, Robots, coding, and many others. Dr. Mackey stated that he is announcing today, the Iron Bowl STEM Challenge. He said this year's challenge is done in partnership with Learning Blade and SCORE at Auburn University. Dr. Mackey stated that the teachers download and take photos of students completing the challenges, tag AMSTI on social media, and use the hashtag for either Auburn or Alabama. He said the winners will be announced on November 27, 2021. Dr. Mackey stated that the teachers try to teach Math and Science in a way that is fun for the students.

Dr. Mackey stated that another big announcement is about Computer Science. He said that Alabama participates with other states to expand Computer Science opportunities. Dr. Mackey informed the Board Members that Dawn Morrison of Career and Technical Education will present in the Work Session on what Alabama is doing with Computer Science. He said that Alabama has officially been named one of only six states to meet all of the Code.org requirements of being one of the leading states in Computer Science. Dr. Mackey stated that there were two in the southeast and only six in the nation. He said that he had the opportunity to meet Hadi Partovi, CEO of Code.org, in person to discuss Alabama's plan to expand Computer Science. Dr. Mackey stated that Alabama is surpassing all of the southeast neighbors with an exception to Arkansas.

Dr. Mackey thanked all of the Special Education Section and educators. He said that December 6-10, 2021, is declared Inclusive Schools' Week in Alabama schools. Dr. Mackey informed everyone that inclusive schools mean students with special needs can be in the least restrictive environment. He said how much he appreciates the Board Members for adopting the resolution and for sharing their appreciation to all of the teachers who works with special need students across the state.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, Board Members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:28 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, December 9, 2021, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer