

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
JANUARY 13, 2022
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, January 13, 2022, 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

Mrs. Stephanie Bell in person
Dr. Tonya Chestnut in person
Governor Kay Ivey in person
Mrs. Belinda McRae in person
Dr. Yvette Richardson in person
Mrs. Tracie West in person
Mrs. Jackie Zeigler in person

Absent

Dr. Cynthia McCarty
Dr. Wayne Reynolds

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 DECEMBER 9, 2021, MEETING

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Belinda McRae the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of December 9, 2021.

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

**RESOLUTION HONORING MRS. REBECCA CORNELIUS, SELECTED AS “BARBARA
FANNIN MEMORIAL EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER”
JANUARY–MARCH 2022**

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rebecca Cornelius, Health Science Education Specialist in the Alabama State Department of Education, Career and Technical Education/Workforce Development Section, exhibits a positive attitude and is always cooperative; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rebecca Cornelius has worked for the Alabama State Department of Education for three years and clearly believes in and has a passion for public education. She has ensured success by providing support to school administrators and teachers in the development and opening of Health Science programs as well as training of new teachers; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rebecca Cornelius is a top Education Specialist who exhibits a level of knowledge and personal experience that is a great asset to our Department’s Career and Technical Education processes, her commitment to excellent customer service, and passion for healthcare teachers greatly impacts her contributions to Health Science Career and Technical Education; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rebecca Cornelius not only possesses a wealth of both institutional and professional knowledge, but is also willing to go to extraordinary lengths to assist in helping to meet the needs of every local education agency (LEA); provides regional, state, and national trainings regarding Career and Technical Education; and is widely respected as a leader in the field of Career and Technical Education; serves as the Alabama HOSA Future Health Professionals State Advisor that oversees approximately 200 chapters; and

WHEREAS, as much as her strong professional skills and expertise in her field set characterizes her as an effective leader, it is her interpersonal skills, kindness, and caring spirit that draws people, superiors, and colleagues 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 Career and Technical Education/Workforce Development Section specifically, hereby express its gratitude to Mrs. Rebecca Cornelius for her dedication and caring service:

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

Done this 13th day of January 2022

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF JANUARY 2022 AS
“GIFTED EDUCATION MONTH” IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize and support the special needs of students in gifted education; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Association for Gifted Children has designated January as Gifted Education Month; and

WHEREAS, gifted children can be found in all ethnic, socioeconomic, and cultural groups, as well as provide our state with a vast resource for potential leadership and innovation in all areas of society; and

WHEREAS, gifted students have special needs in the following areas: intellectual, academic, and creativity; and

WHEREAS, providing rigor, challenge, and acceleration in the classroom for Alabama’s gifted students is vital to ensuring their intellectual, social-emotional, and academic development for college and career readiness:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That gifted programs are an essential component of K-12 public education in Alabama; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby express its appreciation to gifted coordinators, gifted specialists, classroom teachers, and administrators for their efforts to support gifted education programs in Alabama public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby designate January 2022 as Gifted Education Month and declares this year’s theme as Launching New Directions in Gifted Education in Alabama public schools.

Done this 13th day of January 2022

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

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 1-28, 2022
AS ALABAMA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH**

WHEREAS, Alabama’s career and technical education programs have become a rigorous and vital part of the total educational system, which is committed to providing students with rewarding opportunities to gain valuable academic, career, and life skills; and

WHEREAS, Alabama’s career and technical education builds collaborative connections among education and workforce development in support of a healthy Alabama economy; and

WHEREAS, Alabama’s career and technical education programs are successfully partnering with international business and industry to ensure students are equipped with communication and leadership skills required for college and career success; and

WHEREAS, Alabama’s career and technical education programs are continually providing students with opportunities to gain valuable hands-on experience through apprenticeships and internship programs; and

WHEREAS, Alabama’s career and technical education programs are preparing students for “a lifetime of success” by providing them opportunities to earn industry recognized credentials, workplace experience, and college credit while still enrolled in high school; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby proclaim February 1-28, 2022, as Alabama Career and Technical Education Month and encourages local boards of education, schools, business professionals, and community organizations to participate in this celebration through activities that demonstrate the importance of Alabama’s career and technical education programs and their positive impact on student achievement.

Done this 13th day of January 2022

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

**RESOLUTION TO EXTEND APPROVAL OF AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY**

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

WHEREAS, the Class B Health Education (6-12) and Physical Education (P-12) program provided by Jacksonville State University was granted approval with a condition until June 30, 2024, pending documentation of compliance with Alabama State Board of Education rules; and

WHEREAS, the program documented compliance with all Alabama State Board of Education rules pertaining to the program previously granted approval with condition; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Superintendent of Education recommends approval of those programs:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby approves the following program with approval to expire on June 30, 2028, to align with the expiration date for other approved programs at Jacksonville State University:

Class B Health Education (6-12) and Physical Education (P-12)

Done this 13th day of January 2022

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

**RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION OF
CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
STATE COURSE OF STUDY
(Career Clusters: Architecture and Construction, Information Technology, and
Transportation, Distribution and Logistics)**

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 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 January 13, 2022.

Done this 13th day of January 2022

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE TEXTBOOK
COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION OF TEXTBOOKS FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL
EDUCATION CLUSTERS: BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION,
FINANCE, MARKETING, MANUFACTURING, AND WORK-BASED LEARNING**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Textbook Law provides for the adoption of textbooks by the Alabama State Board of Education, the same to be adopted from recommendations made by the State Textbook Committee; and

WHEREAS, the State Textbook Committee has made its recommendations in keeping with said law; and

WHEREAS, the State Textbook Committee has worked long and hard hours in making such recommendations; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with said law, the Alabama State Board of Education received the recommendations at its December 9, 2021, meeting and 30 days prior notice of the date of consideration by the Alabama State Board of Education was given to news media:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education extends thanks to the State Textbook Committee and to all those who have worked to prepare the attached recommendations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the attached recommendations for the adoption of textbooks for Career and Technical Education are approved.

Done this 13th day of January 2022

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE NOMINATIONS FOR
TWO OPEN POSITIONS ON THE
ALABAMA SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

WHEREAS, the *Code of Alabama (1975)*, Section 16-26B-4, states that as terms of board members of the Alabama School of Fine Arts Board of Trustees expire that the school shall recommend to the State Superintendent of Education and the Alabama State Board of Education qualified persons for appointment to the Board; and

WHEREAS, said statute also requires the Alabama School of Fine Arts to submit the names of qualified persons for appointment to the board in order of preference; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama School of Fine Arts has submitted for consideration and approval via the attached information the names of individuals nominated for two open positions on its Board of Trustees in order of preference with biographical information on the top nominee for each open position:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby approve the recommendations submitted for the two open positions on the Alabama School of Fine Arts Board of Trustees.

Done this the 13th day of January 2022

Note: Mr. Nelvin Short for open position one, and Mrs. Lori Lein for open position two.

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

Dr. Mackey stated that there was no report necessary for the month of January.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mackey stated that his report today is slightly longer than a typical superintendent's report because of a number of good things that are happening in the month of January. He said that Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month would be recognized in February, and we have a student in attendance who will share his story about how one of the many programs in CTE had a positive impact in his life. Dr. Mackey stated that January is also Gifted Education Month, and some students will be recognized for their outstanding achievements. He said both groups will join the Board Members in the Work Session to share short presentations with the Board. Dr. Mackey stated that he had some reports to share first.

Dr. Mackey gave a big thank you to Mrs. Rebecca Cornelius, Health Science Education Specialist in the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) Career and Technical Education/Workforce Development Section, for her honor of being the Employee of the Quarter for January through March 2022. Mrs. Cornelius is a registered nurse from Crenshaw County, and it is appropriate that this honor comes during CTE Month. Dr. Mackey thanked her for her commitment, dedication, and hard work she does to support CTE across the state.

Dr. Mackey acknowledged an article published in *Site Selection* magazine, which is an industry magazine that industrial companies refer to when trying to choose a location for new business sites. Alabama was listed as number six in the nation as a place to open new businesses and more importantly for us as number one in south central states of what schools are doing for the Workforce Development Program. Dr. Mackey extended congratulations to Governor Kay Ivey, partners in Workforce Development, the two-year college system, Department of Commerce, and others in areas across the state.

Dr. Mackey indicated that the National Computer Science Teacher Association named Alabama the number six state in the nation for computer science education. He attributed this success to what the Board has been working on for the last few years and most of the work has been administered through Mrs. Dawn Morrison, Education Administrator in the CTE Section of the ALSDE. As referenced in the theme today, three different sections in ALSDE are linked together through work in computer science.

In response to questions asked about the upcoming legislative session, Dr. Mackey stated that the Governor's excellent State of the State address on January 11, 2022, focused on education as a top priority. He was excited about this legislative session and the time together going forward. From the information received pertaining to the Governor's speech, meeting with legislators, superintendents, and others in the field is that everyone seems to be building a consensus around the principles that are important in moving Alabama schools forward. He reflected upon Governor Ivey's statement, "our children's education is our single most important issue," and the importance of after-school programs and putting more money into building the after-school programs. Dr. Mackey stated that there are tens of thousands of students in after-school programs this year. As noted by the Governor, the only way to close some of the achievement gaps that resulted during COVID is through after school and summer programs. He recapped that in summer 2021, there were 37,549 students in summer reading camps (K-3) that did not include the tens of thousands more students in other summer programs such as STEM camp and others. He said that tens of thousands more students were in after-school programs across the state. The Department wants to make sure and offer high-quality and high dosage tutoring in the after school and summer school programs. The ALSDE will continue to work with the local school districts as they spend ESSER and state funds to make sure there is high-quality instruction offered outside the classroom for all students.

Dr. Mackey reported that the Governor announced additional support for literacy. He said the Board has rolled out a major Literacy plan. There are almost 12,000 teachers either LETRS trained or enrolled in LETRS training. Dr. Mackey referenced Governor Ivey and other Board Members discussion on mathematics and stated the topic will be discussed during the Work Session following the Board meeting. Board Members and audience were advised that Senator Arthur Orr would like to support efforts to move forward in order to have high-quality standards, high-quality assessments, and high-quality resources for teachers. Dr. Mackey said that during his presentation to the legislators during the budget hearing, he spent a great deal of time discussing mathematics. He informed the legislators that this school year was the first time high-quality standards, assessments, and resources for teachers all aligned to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). He further stated that a conscientious effort was never made to do this before and the fact that it was done during the COVID-19 Pandemic shows great commitment to high-quality support for our teachers going forward.

Dr. Mackey stated that presently, there are 1,623 TEAMS teachers in Mathematics and Science in Alabama's middle and high schools. He said there has been a 262% increase in the number of schools that are participating in AMSTI since converting to the "AMSTI for All" model that allows all teachers who want to participate and not only those in schools with the majority of the faculty participating. Dr. Mackey reported that 3,892 teachers in the state are trained in OGAP and 2,635 are trained in AMSTI model. He stated that 1,685 are in the highly acclaimed NUMBERS program that was rolled out two years ago and 11,820 LETRS trained teachers. Dr. Mackey stated that although teachers are overworked and exhausted, tens of thousands volunteer to attend on their extra time during the summer to do the professional development because they care so much. He said this is why he and others appreciate the Governor seeking the four percent raise for educators that would be the largest raise Alabama teachers ever received in one year in a very long time. Dr. Mackey thanked Governor Ivey for the vote of confidence in Alabama teachers.

Dr. Mackey stated that an announcement was sent out Wednesday, January 12, 2022, to city and county superintendents notifying them of ten changes to certification to open up the pipeline. He stated that another memorandum would be sent out on today notifying them that Special Education will offer temporary certificates for eligible applicants. Dr. Mackey said that this will give superintendents an opportunity to bring back some retirees, get individuals into the special education field, and classrooms who want to teach starting on day one. He expressed appreciation to Governor Ivey for her support of autism therapy. Dr. Mackey stated that getting autism specialists in every school district has been discussed for many years, and again in the Governor's speech, she mentioned this as something we are going to move forward with this year as well as getting school-based mental health counselors in ever school district. Currently, there are 114 but more are needed.

Dr. Mackey stated that his last point is the failing schools list. The Department's goal is to get all elementary schools in Alabama off the list. He said the *Triple A Act* states the bottom six percent of schools measured in achievement in mathematics and reading go on a list referred to as the failing schools list. Dr. Mackey stated that the Governor made it clear that she wants all elementary schools off the list. He reported that the schools have been identified and conversations have started with the superintendents in those school districts regarding their plan to use the funds the Governor set aside to make an intensive plan to remove those schools from the list. Dr. Mackey stated that the Office of School Improvement (OSI) will continue to work with those schools. He said under federal law, there is a formula used to identify Comprehensive

Support and Improvement (CSI) and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) schools. There are approximately 55 CSI schools and several hundred ATSI schools in Alabama. The ALSDE will continue to support and work with all of those schools, but we are targeting the elementary schools on the failing schools list. Dr. Mackey expressed how excited he was about this spring, the direction we are headed, and the true consensus we see coming together. He is sure the Board is going to talk about some legislative issues and would not be surprised if every bill that the Board supports will pass unanimously during the legislative session. Dr. Mackey stated that 85 percent of the ideas coming together would result in an exciting future.

Dr. Mackey allowed Mr. Craig Collins, Educator Administrator in the Career and Technical Education Section to introduce guests that included Dr. Jeremy Childers, Assistant Superintendent of Career and Technical Education/Workforce Development, Morgan County School System; Ms. Brooke Hudson, former JAG Specialist and current Assistant Principal of Albert P. Brewer High School; Ms. Jill Faulkner, current JAG Specialist at Albert P. Brewer High School; and Caleb Hopkins, a 2020 graduate and former JAG student at Albert P. Brewer High School. Caleb shared an emotional story in reference to how JAG assisted him in getting his life together.

Dr. Mackey allowed Ms. Emily Hurst, Gifted Education Specialist in the Special Education Section to acknowledge some gifted students and principals from Montgomery County School System and Pike Road City School System, who were in the audience. Dr. Shirley Farrell who coordinates the Gifted Education program at Troy State University in Montgomery was also present. Ms. Hurst showed a video highlighting some of the engaging projects that some gifted students are involved in throughout Alabama. Dr. Mackey concluded his report by stating that it cannot make him more proud to work for a Board that cares about every child in this state.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, Board Members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, February 10, 2022, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer