

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
MAY 12, 2022
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, May 12, 2022, at 10 a.m., in the auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building, Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting was called to order by the Vice President of the Board in accordance with *Alabama Code* (1975), §16-3-7, as amended.

PRESIDING: DR. YVETTE RICHARDSON, VICE PRESIDENT

The invocation was done by Father Manuel Williams, Pastor, Resurrection Catholic 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
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

Absent

Governor Kay Ivey

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 14, 2022, MEETING

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of April 14, 2022.

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

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE 2022-2023 ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR AND
ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR REGGIE WHITE,
BOOKER T. WASHINGTON K-8 SCHOOL,
BIRMINGHAM CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, Alabama's 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year Reggie White is an excellent example of educational leadership, mentorship, and classroom innovation; and

WHEREAS, he was reared from an early age to be both supportive and helpful to others, and his family instilled a lasting appreciation for education; and

WHEREAS, over the span of his exciting 25-year career, Alabama Teacher of the Year Reggie White has focused his efforts on developing the essential life skills of his students, while also providing them with a solid foundation of engaging classroom experiences and support; and

WHEREAS, he is a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) and a dynamic fifth-grade educator at Booker T. Washington K-8 School in the Birmingham City School System; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Teacher of the Year Reggie White grew up in Choctaw County and attended Alabama State University with the intention of majoring in communications; and

WHEREAS, the Baptist Student Union at Alabama State University provided him with a wonderful opportunity to serve as a missionary in San Jose, California, where he helped children learn English and showed local families top educational methods to improve student reading; and

WHEREAS, during this same time he also decided to fully commit his efforts to becoming an effective educator who utilized a *student-centered approach* to teach young people; and

WHEREAS, he also began to focus his efforts on developing authentic classroom approaches to help every student achieve; and

WHEREAS, top Alabama educator Reggie White subscribes to the personal belief that parents want teachers to genuinely care about their families' overall well-being and success; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Teacher of the Year Reggie White works each day to ensure that every student is connected to their community and appreciates the opportunities around them; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Teacher of the Year Reggie White wants all students to be prepared for bright futures – he works to teach every student the true value of academic excellence; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Teacher of the Year Reggie White is a great professional example for all educators statewide:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby congratulate Reggie White for being selected the 2022-2023 Alabama Teacher of the Year and Elementary Teacher of the Year and expresses gratitude for his dedication and service to K-12 excellence.

Done this 12th day of May 2022

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

RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE 2022-2023 ALTERNATE STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AND SECONDARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR WILLIAM EDMONDS, BARTON ACADEMY FOR ADVANCED WORLD STUDIES, MOBILE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Alternate State Teacher of the Year William Edmonds is a highly respected Mobile County School System educator, who is genuinely appreciated by parents and students; and

WHEREAS, his family instilled a lasting appreciation for education in him; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Citronelle High School in 1992, Alternate State Teacher of the Year William Edmonds pursued a degree in Global Business at the University of Mobile; and

WHEREAS, while at the University of Mobile he studied in France and then Belgium and ended up adding a French major to his degree; and

WHEREAS, little did he know that this effort to meet his college foreign language requirement would one day lead him to a successful 24-year teaching career; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, while working for a top international bank, Alternate State Teacher of the Year William Edmonds decided to pursue a new career path; and

WHEREAS, he applied immediately to become a teacher in the Mobile County School System and has never looked back; and

WHEREAS, Alternate State Teacher of the Year William Edmonds began teaching French at Burns Middle School and then transferred to Davidson High School where he spent 20 years teaching at all levels; and

WHEREAS, he gained a personal appreciation for learning more about highly effective classroom management and instructional methods; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Alternate State Teacher of the Year William Edmonds earned National Board Certification and in 2021 embraced a new opportunity to teach Grades 6-9 at the reopened Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies in the Mobile County School System; and

WHEREAS, his instructional methods promote academic success through a focus on building each student's base of overall learning experiences while providing them opportunities to explore new levels of knowledge.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby congratulate William Edmonds for being named the 2022-2023 Alternate State Teacher of the Year and the Secondary Teacher of the Year and commends him for his dedication to Grades K-12 student learning and achievement.

Done this 12th day of May 2022

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

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING
THE 2022-2023 DISTRICT TEACHERS OF THE YEAR**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education seeks to recognize and encourage excellence in education, both in teaching and learning, and celebrates the commitment of educators who demonstrate each day they enter the classrooms, engage students, and communicate with families who together make learning possible; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Teacher of the Year Program is a means of identifying and rewarding some of the state's outstanding teachers who continue to hold true to their core values and belief that all students can learn and will learn; and

WHEREAS, well-trained, dedicated, caring, enthusiastic, and innovative teachers are among the ingredients essential to achieving excellence in preparing Alabama's children and youth to become capable adults; and

WHEREAS, the honorees in the 2022-2023 Alabama Teacher of the Year Program exhibit these qualities and more:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education commends the teachers and expresses its gratitude to each of them for the commitment, sacrifice, dedication, and service to the children and youth of Alabama that have earned them the distinction of District Teachers of the Year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we recognize them on this day for making our schools beacons of hope and opportunity.

Done this 12th day of May 2022

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

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING MRS. JACLYN WRIGHT, PRINCIPAL, BREWBAKER
PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, RECIPIENT FOR
TRANSFORMATION AND TRIUMPH IN CLOSING THE READING ASCHIEVEMENT GAP,
2022 MODEL SCHOOLS CONFERENCE, INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP IN
EDUCATION AWARD**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes and appreciates strong leadership that results in schools and school districts attaining higher levels of academic achievement, especially an achievement that is nationally recognized by leading education organizations; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the International Center for Leadership Award (ICLE), established in 1991, mission is to assist schools in providing all students with a rigorous and relevant instructional program that is future-focused and grounded in a culture that fosters strong personal relationships between students and adults alike; and

WHEREAS, the ICLE recognizes and shares innovative practices for improving schools across the nation with more than 6,000 educators who attend their annual Model School Conference; and

WHEREAS, because the ICLE has identified three Alabama schools and only 16 schools across the nation as Model Schools that show exemplary progress in various categories, including School Turnaround, Integrating Technology, and Closing the Achievement Gap to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Brewbaker Primary School, Montgomery County School System, under the leadership of Mrs. Jaclyn Wright, Principal, has received the Model School Award for Transformation and Triumph in Closing the Reading Achievement Gap and is one of only six elementary schools in the nation to be acknowledged by ICLE; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Wright has spearheaded innovative practices that resulted in significantly decreasing the reading achievement gap at Brewbaker Primary School and serves as a model for how schools can employ exceptional techniques to bolster a positive school culture and student achievement:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby extend congratulations to Brewbaker Primary School for being selected as a recipient of this distinguished award from the International Center for Leadership in Education.

Done this 12th day of May 2022

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

RESOLUTION COMMENDING DR. TERESHA JONES-HAMILTON, PRINCIPAL, AND DR. TONYA CREWS, SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND TURNAROUND ADMINISTRATOR, CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, TUSCALOOSA CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, RECIPIENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION AWARD

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes and appreciates strong leadership that results in schools and school districts attaining higher levels of academic achievement, especially an achievement that is nationally recognized by leading education organizations; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the International Center for Leadership Award (ICLE), established in 1991, mission is to assist schools in providing all students with a rigorous and relevant instructional program that is future-focused and grounded in a culture that fosters strong personal relationships between students and adults alike; and

WHEREAS, the ICLE recognizes and shares innovative practices for improving schools across the nation with more than 6,000 educators who attend their annual Model School Conference; and

WHEREAS, because the ICLE has identified three Alabama schools and only 16 schools across the nation as Model Schools that show exemplary progress in various categories, including School Turnaround, Integrating Technology, and Closing the Achievement Gap to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Central High School, Tuscaloosa City School System, under the leadership of Dr. Tonya Crews, School Improvement and Turnaround Administrator, and Dr. Teresha Jones-Hamilton, Principal, has received the Model School Award for School Turnaround and is one of only five high schools in the nation to be acknowledged by ICLE; and

WHEREAS, Drs. Tonya Crews and Teresha Jones-Hamilton have spearheaded innovative practices that resulted in significant turnaround at Central High School and serves as a model for how schools can employ exceptional techniques to bolster a positive school culture and student achievement:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby extend congratulations to Central High School for being selected as a recipient of this distinguished award from the International Center for Leadership in Education.

Done this 12th day of May 2022

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

RESOLUTION COMMENDING DR. LUCRETIA PRINCE, PRINCIPAL, CRESTMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, TUSCALOOSA COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, RECIPIENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION AWARD

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes and appreciates strong leadership that results in schools and school districts attaining higher levels of academic achievement, especially an achievement that is nationally recognized by leading education organizations; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the International Center for Leadership Award (ICLE), established in 1991, mission is to assist schools in providing all students with a rigorous and relevant instructional program that is future-focused and grounded in a culture that fosters strong personal relationships between students and adults alike; and

WHEREAS, the ICLE recognizes and shares innovative practices for improving schools across the nation with more than 6,000 educators who attend their annual Model School Conference; and

WHEREAS, because the ICLE has identified three Alabama schools and only 16 schools across the nation as Model Schools that show exemplary progress in various categories, including School Turnaround, Integrating Technology, and Closing the Achievement Gap to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Crestmont Elementary School, Tuscaloosa County School System, under the leadership of Dr. Lucretia Prince, Principal, received the Model School Award for School Turnaround through a Thriving Culture and Building Relationships, and one of only six elementary schools in the nation to be acknowledged by ICLE; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lucretia Prince spearheaded innovative practices that resulted in a positive impact in the school culture and improved relationships at Crestmont Elementary School and serves as a model for how schools can employ exceptional techniques to bolster a positive culture and student achievement:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby extend congratulations to Crestmont Elementary School for being selected as a recipient of this distinguished award from the International Center for Leadership in Education.

Done this 12th day of May 2022

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

RESOLUTION COMMENDING CHARLES R. DREW MIDDLE SCHOOL, TALLADEGA COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS 2022 AWARDEE FOR ALABAMA GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes the importance of saving energy, reducing costs, creating environmentally sustainable learning spaces, protecting health, and fostering wellness for Alabama students and educators; and

WHEREAS, Charles R. Drew Middle School, located in the Talladega County School System, is awarded the Alabama Green Ribbon School Award by the Alabama State Department of Education and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education for its commitment to improving its overall environmental impact, energy efficiency, and environmental education efforts; and

WHEREAS, Charles R. Drew Middle School is focused on increasing our state's environmental stewardship and sustainability by reducing all negative ecological impact through facility management, waste reduction, and energy conservation; and

WHEREAS, Charles R. Drew Middle School also is positively impacting the Talladega County community with research-based environmental education and awareness; and

WHEREAS, Charles R. Drew Middle School is utilizing Project-Based Learning classroom lessons to further build sustainable green living practices throughout the local community; and

WHEREAS, Charles R. Drew Middle School is committed to the health and well-being of all students, faculty, and staff through extensive recycling initiatives that integrate effective facilities management practices; and

WHEREAS, through its innovative *Recycling in Drew* (RID) schoolwide initiative, more than 950 pounds of used paper and plastic were collected and recycled throughout the academic school year; and

WHEREAS, for this special initiative students also created a successful community awareness campaign, which utilized communication flyers, Public Service Announcement (PSA) videos, and informative community displays to share their important messages about the positive impact of eco-friendly and green living; and

WHEREAS, this program has also received national recognition – Charles R. Drew Middle School students recently competed against more than 1,500 students from across the country at the national *NatGeo Competition* and placed second overall for their innovative approach to recycling and community outreach; and

WHEREAS, the students and faculty at Charles R. Drew Middle School truly take their environmental commitment seriously and continue to integrate additional positive recycling-minded measures into their school organizations, daily practices, and classroom curriculum; and

WHEREAS, approximately 100 percent of Charles R. Drew Middle School’s landscaping is water-efficient, less than 15 percent of its campus is covered with impermeable surfaces, 75 percent of campus driveways are porous surfaces, and approximately 85 percent of the schools’ total paper is chlorine-free and post-consumer material certified with fibers produced from forests that are responsibly managed; and

WHEREAS, Charles R. Drew Middle School is fully committed to environmental education and also utilizes STEAM curriculum offerings to allow students to explore their career options and talents in areas that promote environmental research, public service, and volunteer opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Charles R. Drew Middle School parents and faculty have a strong partnership in creating successful school service programs, which broaden community awareness, student leadership, and environmental stewardship:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Charles R. Drew Middle School located in the Talladega County School System for its commitment to environmental education and does hereby express its sincere congratulations.

Done this 12th day of May 2022

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

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ALABAMA’S “GROW OUR OWN” INITIATIVE AND
“FUTURE TEACHERS OF ALABAMA” ORGANIZATION**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Department of Education and the Alabama Education Association (AEA) have formed a partnership dedicated to encouraging Alabama’s students to pursue a career in the teaching profession; and

WHEREAS, research shows there will be an even greater demand for highly qualified teachers in the next decade; and

WHEREAS, the Future Teachers of Alabama (FTA) organization and the TEACH Alabama program are innovative approaches focused on attracting more talented students to careers in the field of education; and

WHEREAS, the Future Teachers of Alabama organization and the TEACH Alabama program are rigorous, progressive, and vital parts of Alabama's total education system; and

WHEREAS, these programs are committed to providing students with opportunities to gain valuable hands-on experiences through internships, classroom observations, and project-based learning; and

WHEREAS, Future Teachers of Alabama and TEACH Alabama started the "Grow Our Own" Initiative to provide Alabama's local school systems with additional opportunities to focus on activities that promote teaching as a career, highlight the importance of America's educators, and encourage students to strongly consider the field of education as a future career choice; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Education Association and the Alabama State Department of Education also want to honor the service, dedication, and professionalism of Alabama's educators:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby recognize Alabama's "Grow Our Own" Initiative and the Future Teachers of Alabama Organization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education encourages local boards of education and all educational organizations statewide to support these special programs through activities that demonstrate the true importance of the teaching profession and the opportunities teaching provides for students to achieve personal and professional success.

Done this 12th day of May 2022

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

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW OF AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM
University of Alabama in Huntsville**

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.59(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 the University of Alabama in Huntsville a written request to develop a Class A Instructional Leadership (P-12) program; and

WHEREAS, the request lists the specific proposed program for which the Alabama State Board of Education approval is being sought, together with information concerning the factors to be considered in determining the need for the program; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alabama in Huntsville personnel have been advised that the proposed program 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 program 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 program:

Class A Instructional Leadership (P-12)

Done this 12th day of May 2022

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

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW OF AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM
University of Montevallo**

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.59(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 the University of Montevallo a written request to develop a Class A Collaborative Special Education (K-6) program and a Class A Collaborative Special Education (6-12) program; and

WHEREAS, the request lists the specific proposed programs for which the Alabama State Board of Education approval is being sought, together with information concerning the factors to be considered in determining the need for the program; and

WHEREAS, current University of Montevallo students have expressed an interest in a Class A program in Special Education; and

WHEREAS, the University of Montevallo personnel wish to provide more teachers to help address the acute shortage of certified applicants; and

WHEREAS, the University of Montevallo personnel have been advised that the proposed program 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 Collaborative Special Education (K-6)
Class A Collaborative Special Education (6-12)

Done this 12th day of May 2022

**SELECTION OF ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DELEGATE FOR THE
HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE TASK FORCE**

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously for Dr. LaBrenda Marshall, Nurse Manager, to serve as the Alabama State Board of Education Delegate on the Health Care Workforce Task Force.

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

**ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE CHAPTER 290-4-5, PERTAINING
TO STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES**

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

**ANNOUNCE INTENT TO ADOPT NEW ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE 290-3-1-
.03, PERTAINING TO EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

On motion by Mrs. Belinda McRae and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted 6-0-2 to approve the following. Mrs. Stephanie Bell and Dr. Wayne Reynolds abstained.

**DR. BRANDON T. PAYNE AS DEPUTY STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF ADMINISTRATION
AND FINANCE**

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

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

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mackey stated that it was a pleasure to have teachers and principals recognized today. He has been in some of their schools and would like to go into all their schools but cannot commit to that. Dr. Mackey placed emphasis on the common theme from all the honorees who approached the podium. It is all about students and their commitment to students. Dr. Mackey stated that Alabama is fortunate to have countless great teachers and principals to recognize. He asked the Alabama Teacher of the Year, Mr. Reggie White, Alternate Teacher of the Year, Mr. William Edmonds, and all the District Teachers of the Year to remain after the meeting for portraits with the Board Members.

Dr. Mackey reported that the U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona announced the 58th Class of U.S. Presidential Scholars today, and Alabama has three: Yewon Lee, James Clemons High School, Madison City School System; Hailey Mullins, Brewbaker Technology Magnet School, Montgomery County School System; and James Shi, Alabama School of Fine Arts in Birmingham, Alabama. Dr. Mackey stated that the Board will have an opportunity to recognize the scholars in the July meeting.

Dr. Mackey gave an update on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion. He reminded the Board about the *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule 290-3-1-.02 (21) that was adopted on April 8, 2021. Effective for the 2021-2022 school year, graduating seniors must complete the FAFSA or complete a non-participation waiver. The waiver can be completed by a parent, legal custodian, legal guardian, or a minor legally emancipated or of the legal age of majority. The local education agency (LEA) superintendent can also waive a student upon recommendation of the school principal and school counselor. The LEA shall provide students in Grades 11-12 and the students' parents, legal custodians, or legal guardians reasonable support and assistance necessary to comply with the rule. FAFSA submissions are up 18 percent. In 2022, the state had 7,800 more students that completed the FAFSA than it had in 2021. Alabama is in the top 20 states for FAFSA completion. Approximately 40 percent of students are utilizing the non-participation waiver. Some local superintendents will issue blanket waivers to allow students to complete the process for graduation.

Dr. Mackey allowed Ms. Laura Bailey, Education Administrator of Health Science, Hospitality and Tourism, and Human Services, to introduce some adults and students who attended the Board Meeting to represent Alabama's Grow Our Own Initiative and the Future Teachers of Alabama Organization. Several students shared briefings on their winning projects.

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 11:20 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer