

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
FEBRUARY 9, 2023
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, February 9, 2023, 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. WAYNE REYNOLDS, VICE PRESIDENT

The invocation was done by Dr. Coley Chestnut, Pastor, 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
Mrs. Marie Manning 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 Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 12, 2023, MEETING

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Belinda McRae, the Board voted 7-0-1 to approve the minutes for the meeting of January 12, 2023. Mrs. Marie Manning abstained.

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

**RESOLUTION OF DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION FOR
ALABAMA'S 2023 SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR
MRS. REBECCA JOHNSON
DAPHNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BALDWIN COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, an innovative Alabama educator, who makes it her personal mission to incorporate strategies to make learning more engaging and relevant for students, has earned the prestigious Alabama School Counselor of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama School Counselor of the Year Award is one of the highest honors bestowed by the Alabama School Counselor Association; and

WHEREAS, the School Counselor of the Year Award honors school counseling professionals who devote their careers advocating for students – helping them to achieve success in school and throughout life; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's school counselors make significant contributions to the total and overall well-being of students and advocate for academic achievement, career development, and social growth; and

WHEREAS, Alabama School Counselor of the Year Rebecca Johnson, is a counselor at Daphne Elementary School, located in the Baldwin County School System; and

WHEREAS, this is her seventh year as a school counselor and her fifth year at Daphne Elementary School, where she has been instrumental in developing a variety of student-centered programs including the peer helper program and the weekend food bag program; and

WHEREAS, Alabama School Counselor of the Year, Rebecca Johnson, is described as, empathetic, caring, bubbly, energetic, fun, and creative; and

WHEREAS, her colleagues and peers in education truly feel that she embodies the spirit of a counselor – engaged, tech savvy, and a mentor to all students; and

WHEREAS, Alabama School Counselor of the Year, Rebecca Johnson, received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees from the University of South Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the Great State of Alabama is proud of Alabama School Counselor of the Year, Rebecca Johnson, and her many accomplishments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby extend appreciation and heartfelt congratulations to Alabama’s 2023 School Counselor of the Year, Rebecca Johnson.

Done this 9th day of February 2023

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MAYA YANG
VESTAVIA HILLS ELEMENTARY WEST SCHOOL
VESTAVIA HILLS CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2023 ELEMENTARY BEST OF SHOW
STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S VISUAL ARTS EXHIBIT**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize that the visual arts are a vital and enriching segment of children’s education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent’s Visual Arts Exhibit provides an opportunity for K-12 students in every school system to participate; and

WHEREAS, the criteria set for judging are sanctioned by recognized and prestigious organizations—the National Art Education Association, the Alabama Art Education Association, the Alabama Arts Alliance, the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts; and

WHEREAS, support should be given to visual arts programs and teachers as they attempt to strengthen and strive for artistic literacy, educational excellence, and for a well-rounded education for every student; and

WHEREAS, the visual arts contribute powerful educational benefits to all elementary and secondary students by enhancing metacognitive abilities and engaging students to learn; promoting curiosity, creativity, innovation, critical-thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration; provide opportunities to access, develop, express, and integrate meaning across a variety of content, other curricula experiences, and the human condition:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Maya Yang, Vestavia Hills Elementary West, Vestavia Hills City School System; her teacher, Mrs. Jamie Kolb Lord; her principal, Ms. Kim Hauser; and her superintendent, Dr. Michael Todd Freeman, and congratulates her for winning Elementary Best of Show in the 2023 State Superintendent’s Visual Arts Exhibit.

Done this 9th day of February 2023

On motion by Mrs. Marie Manning and seconded by Mrs. Belinda McRae, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF SKYLAR BUSH
SPRINGVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
ST. CLAIR COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2023 SECONDARY DIVISION BEST OF SHOW
STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S VISUAL ARTS EXHIBIT**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize that the visual arts are a vital and enriching segment of children’s education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent’s Visual Arts Exhibit provides an opportunity for K-12 students in every school system to participate; and

WHEREAS, the criteria set for judging are sanctioned by recognized and prestigious organizations—the National Art Education Association, the Alabama Art Education Association, the Alabama Arts Alliance, the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts; and

WHEREAS, support should be given to visual arts programs and teachers as they attempt to strengthen and strive for artistic literacy, educational excellence, and for a well-rounded education for every student; and

WHEREAS, the visual arts contribute powerful educational benefits to all elementary and secondary students by enhancing metacognitive abilities and engaging students to learn; promoting curiosity, creativity, innovation, critical-thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration; provide opportunities to access, develop, express, and integrate meaning across a variety of content, other curricula experiences, and the human condition:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Skylar Bush, Springville Middle School, St. Clair County School System; her teacher, Mrs. Laura Wilkerson; her principal, Mr. Wesley Graham; and her superintendent, Mr. Justin Burns, and congratulates her for winning Secondary Best of Show in the 2023 State Superintendent’s Visual Arts Exhibit.

Done this 9th day of February 2023

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF THE
2023 ANNUAL STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S VISUAL ARTS EXHIBIT**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize that the visual arts are a vital, enriching, and core segment of children’s education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent’s Visual Arts Exhibit provides an opportunity for K-12 students in every school system to participate; and

WHEREAS, the criteria set for judging are sanctioned by recognized and prestigious organizations—the National Art Education Association, the Alabama Art Education Association, the Alabama Arts Alliance, the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts; and

WHEREAS, support should be given to visual arts programs and teachers as they attempt to strengthen and strive for educational excellence and artistic literacy for students; and

WHEREAS, the visual arts contribute powerful educational benefits to all elementary and secondary students by enhancing metacognitive abilities and engaging students to learn; promoting curiosity, creativity, innovation, critical-thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration; provide opportunities to access, develop, express, and integrate meaning across a variety of content, other curricula experiences, and the human condition:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the 2023 State Superintendent's Visual Arts Exhibit award-winning students and their teachers upon the honor of being selected as Alabama's outstanding young artists and visual arts educators.

Done this 9th day of February 2023

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

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 6-10, 2023, AS ALABAMA SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

WHEREAS, Alabama school counselors are employed in public and private schools to help students reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, Alabama school counselors are actively committed to helping students explore their abilities, strengths, interests, and talents as these traits relate to career awareness and development; and

WHEREAS, Alabama school counselors help parents focus on ways to further the educational, personal, and social growth of their children; and

WHEREAS, Alabama school counselors work with teachers and other educators to help students explore their potential and set realistic goals for themselves; and

WHEREAS, Alabama school counselors seek to identify and utilize community resources that can enhance and compliment comprehensive school counseling programs and help students become productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, Alabama comprehensive school counseling programs are considered an integral part of the educational process that enables all students to achieve success in school; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby proclaim February 6-10, 2023, as Alabama School Counseling Week.

Done this 9th day of February 2023

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

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 1-28, 2023, AS ALABAMA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

WHEREAS, February 2023 has been designated National Career and Technical Education month by the Association for Career and Technical Education; and

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 that stimulates growth and vitality in Alabama's local, regional, and state 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, two out of every three high school students in Alabama currently participates in a career and technical education program; 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, 2023, 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 9th day of February 2023

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MARCH 2023 AS
“ARTS EDUCATION MONTH” IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS**

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

WHEREAS, the National Art Education Association has designated March as “Youth Art Month”; the National Association for Music Education has designated March as “Music in Our Schools Month”; the American Alliance for Theatre Education has designated March as “Theatre in Our Schools Month”; and the National Dance Education Organization has designated March as “Dance in Our Schools Month”; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Council on the Arts, the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, the Alabama Music Educators Association, the Alabama Art Education Association, the Alabama Arts Alliance, the Alabama Chapter of the Educational Theatre Association, the Alabama Dance Educators Association K-12, the Alabama Dance Council, the Alabama Conference of Theatre, and the Alabama Artistic Literacy Consortium have voiced their support for designating March 2023 as “Arts Education Month” in Alabama schools; and

WHEREAS, the arts education teachers in the public schools of Alabama continue to strive for educational excellence and artistic literacy for their students; and

WHEREAS, support should be given to arts teachers as they attempt to strengthen arts education programs in their schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, every chance given, arts education provides to every child every day powerful benefits including the following: arts education develops students’ creativity through problem-solving and critical-thinking abilities; arts education teaches sensitivity to beauty, order, and all other expressive qualities; arts education gives students a deeper understanding of multicultural values and beliefs; arts education connects arts learning with and enlivens what students learn in other subjects; and arts education interrelates students’ learning in arts processes of creation, production, performance, presentation, and responding:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That support should be given to arts education teachers as they attempt to strengthen arts education in their schools and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That education in the arts, including dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts, is an essential component of a well-rounded K-12 public education in Alabama to every child; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby express its appreciation to arts educators, classroom teachers, and administrators for their efforts to improve arts education in Alabama public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby designate March 2023 as “Arts Education Month” in the public schools of Alabama.

Done this 9th day of February 2023

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

ANNOUNCE INTENT TO ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE 290-3-3-.03, PERTAINING TO COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

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

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mackey stated that the two Arts students, Maya Yang the 2023 Elementary Best of Show and Skylar Bush the 2023 Secondary Best of Show, were not in attendance due to the fact that they will be honored on March 8, 2023, at the Arts celebration at the Shakespeare Festival. He said the Board Members adopted the resolutions and will have them for Mrs. Stephanie Bell and Mrs. Marie Manning to present to the students at the Arts celebration. Dr. Mackey reminded the Board Members that all of the Arts winners will attend the celebration. Mr. Andy Meadows, Education Specialist II in the Instructional Services Section, has planned a genuinely nice celebration.

Dr. Mackey congratulated Mrs. Rebecca Johnson, Alabama's 2023 School Counselor of the Year at Daphne Elementary School in the Baldwin County School System. Dr. Mackey acknowledged Mr. Eddie Tyler, Superintendent, and other guest from the Baldwin County School System. Dr. Daniel Birdsong, Assistant Professor of Counseling at the University of Montevallo was also in attendance. Dr. Mackey stated that he had the opportunity to visit Daphne Elementary School in the past and considers it a great school. He invited the honoree and guest to remain for portraits after the meeting.

Dr. Mackey stated that February is Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month. He introduced Dr. Jimmy Hull, Assistant State Superintendent of Career and Technical Education/Workforce Development (WFD). Dr. Hull provided a brief presentation with updates on CTE/WFD that included positive facts. There were 167,405 students enrolled in at least one CTE course in Alabama schools during the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Hull stated that 586 CTE courses were taken and 79.05% of students were enrolled in CTE during the same school year. Dual enrollment had 510 courses with 31,565 students enrolled. Dr. Hull stated that they see an increase in that number for the 2022-2023 school year. Dr. Hull shared an Alabama CTE program spotlight video series.

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 10:33 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, March 9, 2023, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer