

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
JUNE 8, 2023
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, June 8, 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 Father Saleth Mariadoss, Pastor, St. Peter 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
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 Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MAY 11, 2023, 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 May 11, 2023.

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

**RESOLUTION HONORING DR. DAVID G. BRONNER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO) OF
THE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS OF ALABAMA (RSA)**

The Alabama State Board of Education Celebrates Dr. Bronner's 50 Years as CEO of RSA

WHEREAS, The Retirement Systems of Alabama (RSA) serves as the administrator of the pension fund for employees of the state of Alabama and, over the past 50 years Dr. David G. Bronner has played a significant role in the success of the RSA; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bronner has successfully guided the RSA from a retirement system with approximately \$500 million in funds to a retirement system with more than \$43.9 billion in funds under management; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bronner and RSA manage the pensions and secure the retirement for more than 385,000 public school teachers and public employees through the Employees' Retirement System and the Teachers' Retirement System, both financially sound systems that are fully funded; and

WHEREAS, the state of Alabama has benefitted greatly from the multiple investments Dr. Bronner has made, most notably the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, a chain of 11 golf course complexes throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the structural developments added under Dr. Bronner's leadership have forever changed the skyline across several Alabama cities, including, but not limited to the RSA Tower, a 23-story building in downtown Montgomery, AL; the RSA Battle House Tower in Mobile, AL; the Grand Hotel, Point Clear, AL; the RSA Dexter Avenue Building in Montgomery, AL; and the Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort and Spa in Birmingham, AL; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bronner attended elementary and high school in Minnesota and came to Alabama to study law, receiving his Law Degree and Ph.D., from The University of Alabama and served as the Assistant Dean of the Law School at The University Alabama before becoming CEO of the RSA at only 28 years of age; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Bronner's leadership, the state's economy has been bolstered by a combination of profits from the golf trails, shrewd investments, the state's attractiveness for corporate recruitment, and increased tourism; and

WHEREAS, increased economic prowess throughout the state inevitably and positively impacts education and the citizens of Alabama in countless ways and the entire state benefits from Dr. Bronner's management:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education congratulates Dr. David G. Bronner on 50 outstanding years at the helm of the RSA, for his commitment to the financial stability and security of the state of Alabama, and his dedication to workers who rely on his wisdom and guidance for the safekeeping of their retirement.

Done this 8th day of June 2023

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

**RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF AN INNOVATIVE
EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM
The University of Alabama**

WHEREAS, a review of an innovative educator preparation program at The University of Alabama was conducted on October 14, 2021, by the Alabama State Department of Education in accordance with the Alabama State Board of Education State Department of Education *Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.58(2); and

WHEREAS, additional documentation was reviewed in February 2023 and April 2023; and

WHEREAS, the innovative program will allow Local Education Agencies (LEAs) the option of having trained specialists at improving mathematics education outcomes for students; and

WHEREAS, the innovative program leads to an Education Specialist degree and a Class AA Professional Educator Certificate; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Superintendent of Education recommends approval of the program:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby approves the following new program, with approval to expire on June 30, 2024:

Class AA Mathematics Specialist

Done this 8th day of June 2023

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

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW OF
EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
The University of Alabama at Birmingham**

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.03(6)(h)2. requires that approval by the Alabama State Board of Education shall be secured before a proposal for new programs are reviewed by the Office of Teaching and Learning Section of the Alabama State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education has received from the President of The University of Alabama at Birmingham a written request to develop new programs and submit it for review; and

WHEREAS, the request lists the specific proposed programs for which Alabama State Board of Education approval is being sought and the factors to be taken into account in determining the need for the programs; and

WHEREAS, The University of Alabama at Birmingham personnel have been advised that the proposed programs may not be implemented prior to Alabama State Board of Education approval based on documentation of compliance with all applicable standards; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends that the Office of Teaching and Leading, of the Alabama State Department of Education, review the programs:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby authorize a review of the following programs:

- Class AA School Psychology (P-12)
- Class B UABTeach Computer Science teacher certification track—Innovative Program Review
- Class Alternative A Computer Science teacher certification—Innovative Program Review

Done this 8th day of June 2023

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

ADOPT NEW ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE 290-080-030-.05, PERTAINING TO SCHOOL-BASED CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM PERSONNEL

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

ADOPT NEW ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE 290-080-030-.06, PERTAINING TO CONTINUOUS TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

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

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mackey stated that this is the first school year in three years that did not have a single school closure due to COVID. He said there were very few closures this school year due to flu cases. Healthwise, it has been the best school year since COVID. Dr. Mackey stated that the 2018-2019 school year had a high volume of flu cases. This school year has been the best health year since 2017-2018. He is optimistic that is an indication that Alabama is on its way to many more healthy years of schools getting back to normalcy. Dr. Mackey thanked everyone who supported the Department through the challenging times, and he looks forward to the good times moving forward.

Dr. Mackey stated that Julia Wall, Regional Literacy Specialist in the Alabama Reading Initiative Section, saw a beautiful billboard at Hayes K-8 School in the Birmingham City School System. The billboard read "an awesome day at Hayes K-8 School." The school is one of Alabama's turnaround schools with very high poverty and a lot of challenges. Support personnel has been in and out of the school all year on a regular basis trying to help and support. The Hayes Alumni Association provided breakfast and lunch for the faculty and staff. Dr. Mackey stated that many people are investing in the lives of young people, and he wanted to share that information at the end of this school year. It is a reminder of the good work that is going on as the Department continue to support schools that are struggling. There have been numerous turnovers in students in the turnaround schools due to highly transient communities.

Dr. Mackey informed everyone that the Future Farmers of Alabama (FFA) had their luncheon on June 7, 2023, at the Alabama Cattlemen's Association in Montgomery. Dr. Mackey was accompanied by Dr. Wayne Reynolds at the FFA Convention that was held June 7-9, 2023, at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa at the Convention Center. Over 2,000 students attended the convention. Dr. Mackey stated that he was proudly wearing his FFA tie.

Dr. Mackey recognized the Student VOICES Team, a program created by A+ Education Partnership. The Team is a statewide, student-led advocacy group for high school students that work to make education better for Alabama students. Dr. Mackey acknowledged the Team by asking them to stand and to remain for portraits with their respective Board Members after the meeting.

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 10:26 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer