

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
AUGUST 10, 2023
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, August 10, 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: MRS. TRACIE WEST, VICE PRESIDENT

The invocation was done by Bishop Yvonne Jones of Covenant Ministries International, 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. Yvette Richardson in person
Mrs. Tracie West in person
Mrs. Jackie Zeigler in person

Absent

Governor Kay Ivey
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 Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE JULY 11, 2023, MEETING

On motion by Mrs. Jackie Zeigler and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of July 11, 2023.

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

**RESOLUTION RELATED TO INTERVENTION INTO THE
SUMTER COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, the Constitution and laws of the State of Alabama vest the Alabama State Board of Education and Dr. Eric G. Mackey, State Superintendent of Education, with the authority to exercise general control and supervision over the State's public schools; and

WHEREAS, Alabama law further authorizes the State Superintendent to (1) review actions and orders of boards and superintendents of education related to matters that seriously affect financial and/or education interests, (2) enforce the education laws and regulations on behalf of the Board, and (3) implement the Board's educational policies; and

WHEREAS, local boards of education perform a State function at a local level and function as an arm of the State, subject to the general supervision of the State Board; and

WHEREAS, Alabama law, including the *Educational Accountability and Intervention Act of 2013* (§§ 16-6E-1 through -7, Ala. Code 1975) authorizes the State Superintendent to intervene in local school boards under certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Education received information of deficiencies in the Sumter County School System and, as a result, conducted a site visit at the Sumter County schools on June 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the site visit revealed that the Sumter County Board of Education (SCBOE) has extreme challenges related to facilities, personnel, and finances; and

WHEREAS, after receiving the information from the site visit, the State Superintendent issued a show-cause Notice on July 13, 2023, notifying the SCBOE that the site visit revealed significant deficiencies that warrant consideration of intervention in the Sumter County School System and instructed the SCBOE to submit a written response to the show-cause letter within 21 days or on or before August 3, 2023; and

WHEREAS, instead of providing a written response, the SCBOE held a meeting on Thursday, August 3, 2023, and voted 4-0 to fully consent to the proposed intervention of the Sumter County School System as provided by law and thereby has received all required notices and information due; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the SCBOE meets the criteria for intervention set forth in the *Educational Accountability and Intervention Act of 2013* (§§ 16-6E-1 through -7, Ala. Code 1975):

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT IS RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does fully authorize the State Superintendent of Education to intervene in the Sumter County School System pursuant to the *Educational Accountability and Intervention Act of 2013* and that he be vested with any and all authority and power afforded to him under the Act, as well as any other authority Alabama law allows; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, pursuant to the State Superintendent's request, the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby appoint John Heard as Chief Administrative Officer with full power and authorization to exercise intervention authority under the Act, subject to the State Superintendent's supervision; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the State Superintendent shall maintain intervention in the Sumter County School System until such time the SCBOE becomes compliant with Chapter 13A, Title 16, Ala. Code 1975, and, in the State Superintendent's judgment, demonstrates suitable progress towards correcting the deficiencies that led to intervention, including but not limited to a written financial plan, a personnel hiring plan, and a facilities plan.

Done this the 10th day of August 2023

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

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University**

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.58(2), requires that approval by the Alabama State Board of Education shall be secured before a proposal for an innovative 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 Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University a written request to develop several UTeach programs; 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 taken into account in determining the need for the program; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University 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 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:

AAMU Teach Biology, Class B Program
AAMU Teach Chemistry, Class B Program
AAMU Teach Mathematics, Class B Program
AAMU Teach Physics, Class B Program

Done this 10th day of August 2023

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 EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
Athens State University**

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.58(2), requires that approval by the Alabama State Board of Education shall be secured before a proposal for an innovative 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 Interim President at Athens State University a written request to develop several UTeach programs; 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 taken into account in determining the need for the program; and

WHEREAS, Athens State University 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 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:

AthensStateTeach Biology, Class B Program
AthensStateTeach Chemistry, Class B Program
AthensStateTeach Mathematics, Class B Program

Done this 10th day of August 2023

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 EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
Auburn University**

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.58(2), requires that approval by the Alabama State Board of Education shall be secured before a proposal for an innovative 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 Auburn University a written request to develop several UTeach programs; 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 taken into account in determining the need for the program; and

WHEREAS, Auburn University 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 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:

AUTeach Biology, Class B Program
AUTeach General Science, Class B Program
AUTeach Chemistry, Class B Program
AUTeach Physics, Class B Program

Done this 10th day of August 2023

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

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
Auburn University at Montgomery**

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.58(2), requires that approval by the Alabama State Board of Education shall be secured before a proposal for an innovative 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 Chancellor at Auburn University Montgomery a written request to develop several UTeach programs; 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 taken into account in determining the need for the program; and

WHEREAS, Auburn University at Montgomery 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 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:

AUMTeach Biology (Pre-Health), Class B Program
AUMTeach General Science (Chemistry), Class B Program
AUMTeach General Science (Biology), Class B Program
AUMTeach Computer Science, Class B Program
AUMTeach Mathematics, Class B Program

Done this 10th day of August 2023

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

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
University of South Alabama**

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.58(2), requires that approval by the Alabama State Board of Education shall be secured before a proposal for an innovative 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 South Alabama a written request to develop several UTeach programs; 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 taken into account in determining the need for the program; and

WHEREAS, University of South Alabama 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 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:

UTeach South Biology, Class B Program
UTeach South General Science, Class B Program
UTeach South Chemistry, Class B Program
UTeach South Physics, Class B Program
UTeach South Mathematics, Class B Program

Done this 10th day of August 2023

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

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
University of West Alabama**

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.58(2), requires that approval by the Alabama State Board of Education shall be secured before a proposal for an innovative 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 West Alabama a written request to develop several UTeach programs; 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 taken into account in determining the need for the program; and

WHEREAS, University of West Alabama 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 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:

UWATeach Biology, Class B Program
UWATeach General Science, Class B Program
UWATeach Computer Science, Class B Program
UWATeach Chemistry, Class B Program
UWATeach Mathematics, Class B Program

UWATeach Biology, Alternative-A Program
UWATeach General Science, Alternative-A Program
UWATeach Computer Science, Alternative-A Program
UWATeach Mathematics, Alternative-A Program

Done this 10th day of August 2023

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

**ANNOUNCE INTENT TO ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE 290-2-1-.01,
PERTAINING TO ANNUAL APPORTIONMENT OF FOUNDATION PROGRAM FUNDS**

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

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING GABE MARSH, GUNTERSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL,
GUNTERSVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS THE
2023 RECIPIENT OF THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
SPIRIT OF SPORTS AWARD**

WHEREAS, Gabe Marsh, a para-athlete swimmer from Guntersville High School, Guntersville City School System, has demonstrated exceptional determination, perseverance, and a strong spirit in the face of adversity; and

WHEREAS, Gabe Marsh was recognized at the opening ceremonies of the 104th National Federation of High School (NFHS) Summer Meeting as the 2023 recipient of the National High School Spirit of Sports Award, an honor bestowed upon individuals who exemplify the true essence of participation in high school sports, embodying the values of dedication, sportsmanship, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, Gabe Marsh, born without legs and with only one arm, was adopted by Ed and Ann Marsh, who have both devoted their lives serving foster and adopted children, including those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, Ed and Ann Marsh, Gabe's adoptive parents, supported his love for swimming despite his physical limitations, leading to Gabe's discovery of his natural talent in the water; and

WHEREAS, Gabe Marsh's journey in competitive swimming began at the age of six, he achieved remarkable success in para-athletic swimming. Winning state titles at the Alabama High School Athletic Association State Championships and the Alabama Para-Olympics, he inspired countless individuals through his unwavering spirit; and

WHEREAS, Gabe Marsh's impact extends beyond the pool, as he has exhibited exceptional character, becoming Mr. Journalism at Guntersville High School for his contributions to the school's media and earning the title of Alabama High School Employee of the Year by McDonald's; and

WHEREAS, Gabe Marsh has shared his story and life experiences with youth groups in northeast Alabama, aiming to inspire and guide others through his example of overcoming challenges and adversity; and

WHEREAS, Gabe Marsh's ultimate aspiration is to become a minister, using his remarkable journey and the recognition received from the NFHS Spirit of Sports Award to inspire and positively influence individuals across the nation:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does honor and recognize Gabe Marsh for his exceptional achievements and his embodiment of the true spirit of sportsmanship and resilience. We applaud his dedication to his craft, his unwavering faith, and his commitment to inspire others to overcome obstacles and achieve greatness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education congratulates Gabe Marsh on his remarkable journey, his positive impact on his community, and his well-deserved recognition as the 2023 recipient of the National High School Spirit of Sports Award.

Done this 10th day of August 2023

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

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

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mackey stated that Mr. Chuck Marcum, Chief of Staff, Alabama State Department of Education, is the delegate to the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA). He said Mr. Marcum is his intranet on sports statistics. Dr. Mackey stated that Mr. Marcum attended the National Meeting and met Gabe Marsh, the 2023 recipient of the National High School Spirit of Sport Award.

Mr. Marcum was so fascinated by Gabe that he wanted the Alabama State Board of Education to recognize the young para-athlete. Gabe was accompanied by his mother, Ann Marsh; family friend, Attorney General Steve Marshall; Alvin Briggs, Executive Director of AHSAA; Kim Vickers, Associate Executive Director of AHSAA; Ron Ingram, Director of Communications at AHSAA; and Brandon Dean, Assistant Director at AHSAA. The audience viewed a brief video about Gabe Marsh's life and journey. Dr. Mackey allowed Attorney General Marshall and Mr. Briggs to share some comments on Gabe. Finally, Gabe thanked the Board Members for honoring him and shared some amazing comments.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, Board Members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer