MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
OCTOBER 8, 2026
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 10:00 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 Reverend Shane Isner, Pastor, First Christian Church, Montgomery, Alabama, and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag that was done in unison.

The following members were present:

Present
Dr. Tonya Chestnut in person
Governor Kay Ivey in person
Dr. Allen Long in person
Mrs. Marie Manning in person
Mrs. Kelly Mooney in person
Dr. Wayne Reynolds in person
Dr. Yvette Richardson in person
Mrs. Tracie West in person
Mrs. Jackie Zeigler in person

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 SEPTEMBER 10, 2026, MEETING

On motion by Dr. Tonya Chestnut and seconded by Mrs. Kelly Mooney, the Board voted 8-0-1 to approve the minutes for the meeting of September 10, 2026. Mrs. Marie Manning abstained.

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

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MR. BENJAMIN "BEN" BAKER
SUPERINTENDENT OF THE DALE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS THE 2027 ALABAMA SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, Mr. Benjamin "Ben" Baker has dedicated nearly three decades of exemplary service to public education, serving students and communities as a classroom teacher, coach, assistant principal, athletic director, principal, and superintendent; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benjamin "Ben" Baker has served as Superintendent of the Dale County School System since 2016 and is the first three-term and longest-serving superintendent in Dale County history, earning the trust of his community through his steadfast commitment to academic excellence, responsible leadership, and student success; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Benjamin "Ben" Baker's leadership, the Dale County School System has achieved historic academic success, including a record State Report Card score of 95, recognition as the highest-scoring county school system in Alabama three times during his tenure, and graduation and College and Career Readiness rates of 100 percent; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benjamin "Ben" Baker has demonstrated a commitment to innovation and workforce development through the creation of the Bridge Academy, a regional career and technical education center providing students with pathways in high-demand fields, while also expanding dual enrollment, work-based learning, and partnerships with local industries and institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benjamin “Ben” Baker dedication to service extends throughout the Wiregrass region through his involvement with the Wiregrass United Way, Ozark Rotary Club, Vivian B. Adams School, youth mentorship, and his church, reflecting his enduring commitment to strengthening the students, families, and communities he serves; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benjamin “Ben” Baker’s passion for education, visionary leadership, and unwavering commitment to creating opportunities for every student have earned him the respect and admiration of educators, students, families, and community members throughout Dale County and the state of Alabama:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby recognizes Mr. Benjamin “Ben” Baker as the 2027 Alabama Superintendent of the Year and commends his outstanding contributions to public education, his distinguished record of leadership and service, and his unwavering commitment to fostering a brighter future for all students in Alabama.

Done this 8th day of October 2026

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

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MRS. ERICA CRUTHIRDS
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, FLORENCE B. MATHIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BALDWIN COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
ALABAMA'S NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
(NAESP) NATIONAL OUTSTANDING
ELEMENTARY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

WHEREAS, the Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators (AAESA) has named Mrs. Erica Cruthirds, Assistant Principal of Florence B. Mathis Elementary School in the Baldwin County School System, as Alabama's National Outstanding Elementary Assistant Principal, an honor awarded through the NAESP; and

WHEREAS, the NAESP National Outstanding Elementary Assistant Principal Program recognizes assistant principals who demonstrate exceptional instructional leadership, professional excellence, and an unwavering commitment to improving teaching, learning, and student achievement; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Erica Cruthirds has distinguished herself through exemplary instructional leadership, a steadfast commitment to supporting teachers, and a relentless focus on improving outcomes for every student at Florence B. Mathis Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, among her many accomplishments, Mrs. Erica Cruthirds led a comprehensive initiative to reduce chronic absenteeism by strengthening communication with families, collaborating closely with teachers, and implementing innovative attendance incentives, resulting in a reduction in chronic absenteeism from 15.82 percent to 9.67 percent, a remarkable 39 percent decrease from the previous year; and

WHEREAS, these efforts contributed significantly to increasing the school's state report card score from 73 to 82, representing the largest improvement of any elementary school in Baldwin County; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Erica Cruthirds has fostered a positive, inclusive, and welcoming school culture through mentoring initiatives, staff engagement opportunities, and strong community partnerships that encourage success for both students and educators; and

WHEREAS, as an accomplished instructional leader, Mrs. Erica Cruthirds facilitates weekly Professional Learning Community meetings, leads the analysis of student achievement data, and collaborates with teachers to strengthen instructional practices that improve student learning; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Erica Cruthirds’ leadership, dedication, and commitment to educational excellence have positively impacted the students, faculty, families, and community of Florence B. Mathis Elementary School, bringing great distinction to the Baldwin County School System and the state of Alabama:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby recognize and congratulate Mrs. Erica Cruthirds upon being named the Alabama

recipient of the 2026 NAESP National Outstanding Elementary Assistant Principal Award and commends her for her exemplary leadership, unwavering dedication to students and educators, and significant contributions to public education in Alabama; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education expresses its sincere appreciation for Mrs. Erica Cruthirds' outstanding service and extends its best wishes for her continued success as she continues to represent the state of Alabama with distinction.

Done this 8th day of October 2026

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

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MRS. BRENDA SUE BOX
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, MARY G. MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL
MOBILE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS THE 2025-2026 ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, Mrs. Brenda Sue Box, Assistant Principal at Mary G. Montgomery High School in the Mobile County School System, has been selected as the 2025-2026 Alabama High School Assistant Principal of the Year by the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP); and

WHEREAS, the Alabama High School Assistant Principal of the Year Program recognizes assistant principals who demonstrate exemplary instructional leadership, professional excellence, and an unwavering commitment to advancing student achievement and strengthening school communities; and

WHEREAS, with 21 years of distinguished service in education, including five years as an assistant principal, Mrs. Brenda Sue Box has earned the respect of colleagues, students, and families through her dedication to fostering a positive, student-centered learning environment and supporting high-quality instructional practices; and

WHEREAS, as a proud alumna of Mary G. Montgomery High School, Mrs. Brenda Sue Box brings a unique sense of purpose and commitment to serving the school and community that helped shape her own educational journey, inspiring students through her example of leadership and service; and

WHEREAS, under her leadership, Mary G. Montgomery High School has experienced notable improvements in ACT performance, graduation rates, and workforce credential attainment, reflecting her steadfast commitment to academic excellence, educational equity, and expanded opportunities for all students; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Brenda Sue Box has been instrumental in implementing a comprehensive system of academic interventions, including the addition of part-time support staff, mathematics and English interventionists, and expanded Tier III services to ensure students receive targeted assistance and the resources needed to achieve success; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Brenda Sue Box has provided visionary leadership in establishing and sustaining the schoolwide character education initiative, promoting the values of Venture, Accountability, Leadership, Optimism, and Respect (VIKING V.A.L.O.R.) through intentional character education lessons, student-led media productions, and recognition programs that celebrate positive citizenship; and

WHEREAS, through her collaborative leadership, Mrs. Brenda Sue Box has successfully integrated the VIKING V.A.L.O.R. initiative throughout the school's academic, athletic, fine arts, and extracurricular programs, strengthening school culture and fostering meaningful relationships among students, educators, families, and the community; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Brenda Sue Box's outstanding leadership, unwavering dedication to students, and commitment to educational excellence bring great distinction to Mary G. Montgomery High School in the Mobile County School System and the state of Alabama:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby recognize and congratulate Mrs. Brenda Sue Box upon being named the 2025-2026 Alabama High School Assistant Principal of the Year and commends her for her exceptional

leadership, commitment to student success, and outstanding contributions to public education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education expresses its sincere appreciation for Mrs. Brenda Sue Box's exemplary service to the students, educators, families, and community of Mobile County and extends its best wishes for her continued success and lasting impact on public education in the state of Alabama.

Done this 8th day of October 2026

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

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MRS. KATHERINE "KELLI" FISCHER PRINCIPAL, OPELIKA HIGH SCHOOL, OPELIKA CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM AS THE 2025-2026 ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, Mrs. Katherine "Kelli" Fischer, Principal of Opelika High School in the Opelika City School System, has been selected as the 2025–2026 Alabama High School Principal of the Year by the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP); and

WHEREAS, the Alabama High School Principal of the Year Program recognizes exceptional school leaders who demonstrate excellence in instructional leadership, school culture, innovation, and student achievement, and Mrs. Fischer has exemplified each of these qualities through her outstanding service to the students, faculty, families, and community of Opelika; and

WHEREAS, with 15 years of service in education, including ten years in administrative leadership, Mrs. Katherine "Kelli" Fischer has demonstrated visionary leadership at Opelika High School through meaningful relationships, strategic, system-level improvements, and an unwavering commitment to ensuring that every student feels valued, supported, and prepared for future success; and

WHEREAS, following the tragic events of 2023 when members of the Opelika High School community were impacted by the Dadeville mass shooting, Mrs. Katherine "Kelli" Fischer led with extraordinary courage, compassion, and resilience, helping the school community heal while fostering an environment centered on belonging, hope, purpose, and perseverance; and

WHEREAS, under Mrs. Katherine "Kelli" Fischer’s leadership, Opelika High School has cultivated a culture in which high expectations are balanced with genuine care and support for students, exemplified by the inspiring return of two students injured in the tragedy who proudly crossed the graduation stage with the Class of 2024; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Katherine "Kelli" Fischer transformed her vision into action by establishing Dawg Impact Groups (DIG), a daily advisory program that connects every student with a consistent adult mentor and peer group, strengthening relationships, fostering accountability, and providing timely academic and social-emotional support; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Katherine "Kelli" Fischer implemented Dedicated Dawgs, a schoolwide recognition program that celebrates excellence in attendance, academic achievement, behavior, and personal responsibility, reinforcing positive habits while strengthening school pride and student engagement; and

WHEREAS, these innovative initiatives have produced measurable improvements, including reductions in chronic absenteeism and student behavior referrals, increased engagement in school, and stronger student-reported feelings of belonging, connectedness, and purpose; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Katherine "Kelli" Fischer's exceptional leadership, unwavering commitment to students, and dedication to educational excellence have brought great distinction to Opelika High School, the Opelika City School System, and the state of Alabama:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby recognizes and congratulates Mrs. Katherine "Kelli" Fischer on being named the 2025–2026 Alabama High School Principal of the Year and commends her exemplary instructional leadership, compassionate service, and extraordinary contributions to public education in Alabama; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education expresses its sincere appreciation for Mrs. Katherine "Kelli" Fischer's steadfast commitment to the success and well-being of Alabama's students and educators and extends its best wishes for her continued success as a leader in education and an advocate for excellence in public education.

Done this 8th day of October 2026

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

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING DR. PREETI NICHANI, PRINCIPAL
TUSCALOOSA MAGNET SCHOOLS-ELEMENTARY
TUSCALOOSA CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
ALABAMA'S 2026 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS (NAESP) NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL

WHEREAS, Dr. Preeti Nichani, Principal of Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools-Elementary in the Tuscaloosa City School System, has been named Alabama's 2026 NAESP National Distinguished Principal by the Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators (AAESA); and

WHEREAS, the NAESP National Distinguished Principal Program recognizes outstanding elementary and middle school principals who exemplify excellence in instructional leadership, student achievement, and service to their schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Preeti Nichani has served as principal of Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools-Elementary since 2017, providing visionary leadership centered on instructional excellence, innovation, and student-focused learning; and

WHEREAS, under her leadership, Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools-Elementary has continued its tradition of academic excellence while expanding opportunities for students to develop critical thinking, creativity, and leadership skills within a diverse, collaborative, and engaging learning environment; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Preeti Nichani is recognized for her unwavering commitment to instructional leadership, partnering with teachers to strengthen classroom instruction through collaboration, professional learning, and data-informed decision-making that improves student achievement; and

WHEREAS, her leadership emphasizes empowering educators, cultivating meaningful partnerships with families, and ensuring that every student has access to rigorous, engaging, and equitable learning experiences; and

WHEREAS, a defining characteristic of Dr. Preeti Nichani's leadership is her commitment to developing the character and leadership capacity of every student by intentionally fostering empathy, integrity, responsibility, and respect while creating opportunities for students to lead, collaborate, and take ownership of their learning; and

WHEREAS, through these efforts, students at Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools-Elementary are prepared not only for academic success but also to become confident, compassionate, and responsible citizens who are equipped for lifelong success; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Preeti Nichani's selection as Alabama's 2026 NAESP National Distinguished Principal reflects her extraordinary leadership and brings great honor to Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools-Elementary, Tuscaloosa City School System, and the state of Alabama:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby recognize and congratulate Dr. Preeti Nichani upon being named the Alabama recipient of the 2026 NAESP National Distinguished Principal Award and commends her for her exemplary instructional leadership, unwavering commitment to educational excellence, and outstanding service to the students, educators, families, and community she serves; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education expresses its sincere appreciation for Dr. Preeti Nichani's exceptional contributions to public education and extends its best wishes for her continued success as she represents the state of Alabama with distinction at the national level.

Done this 8th day of October 2026

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

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MR. CLINT BRANNON
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, SARDIS MIDDLE SCHOOL
ETOWAH COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS THE 2025–2026 ALABAMA MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, Mr. Clint Brannon, Assistant Principal of Sardis Middle School in the Etowah County School System, has been selected as the 2025–2026 Alabama Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year by the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP); and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year Program recognizes assistant principals who exemplify outstanding instructional leadership, professional excellence, and an unwavering commitment to advancing student achievement and strengthening school communities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clint Brannon brings 20 years of distinguished service in education, including seven years as an assistant principal, and is widely respected for his steady leadership, relationship-centered approach, and commitment to continuous improvement in teaching and learning; and

WHEREAS, prior to entering school administration, Mr. Clint Brannon served as a teacher at West End High School, where he was named Teacher of the Year for the 2013-2014 school year after earning recognition as the Etowah County Coach of the Year the previous year, reflecting his longstanding commitment to excellence in education, leadership, and student development; and

WHEREAS, since joining Sardis Middle School as assistant principal in 2019, Mr. Clint Brannon has faithfully served a rural school community by supporting the academic, social, and emotional needs of students in grades six through eight while fostering meaningful partnerships with teachers, families, and the broader community; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure, Mr. Clint Brannon has cultivated a school environment in which students and educators feel safe, supported, valued, and empowered to reach their full potential through leadership grounded in trust, accessibility, and strong relationships; and

WHEREAS, his collaborative leadership has strengthened communication among teachers, instructional leaders, and district partners while promoting a shared commitment to continuous school improvement and student success; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clint Brannon has demonstrated exceptional instructional leadership through his emphasis on data-informed decision-making, instructional coaching, classroom walkthroughs, and meaningful professional learning, including close collaboration with the Alabama State Department of Education's Office of School Improvement to provide high-quality professional development tailored to the needs of educators; and

WHEREAS, one of Mr. Clint Brannon's signature accomplishments has been the development of Camp Kaizen, an innovative academic initiative inspired by the Japanese philosophy of continuous improvement designed to prepare students for the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) through engaging, camp-themed instructional experiences led by teachers and regional Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) specialists; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Camp Kaizen Theme, *"ACE the ACAP,"* inspired exceptional student participation and teacher collaboration, contributing to the highest ACAP performance and academic growth in the history of Sardis Middle School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clint Brannon's outstanding leadership, dedication to instructional excellence, and unwavering commitment to the success of students and educators have brought great distinction to Sardis Middle School, the Etowah County School System, and the state of Alabama:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby recognizes and congratulates Mr. Clint Brannon on being named the 2025–2026 Alabama Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year and commends his exemplary leadership, commitment to educational excellence, and outstanding service to the students, educators, and families of Alabama; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education expresses its sincere appreciation for Mr. Clint Brannon's exceptional contributions to public education and extends its best wishes for his continued success as an educational leader dedicated to improving opportunities and outcomes for all students.

Done this 8th day of October 2026

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

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MRS. HEATHER RENEE BARDWELL
PRINCIPAL, MOUNTAIN GAP MIDDLE SCHOOL
HUNTSVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS THE 2025-2026 ALABAMA MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell, Principal of Mountain Gap Middle School in the Huntsville City School System, has been selected as the 2025–2026 Alabama Middle School Principal of the Year by the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP); and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Middle School Principal of the Year Program recognizes outstanding school leaders who exemplify excellence in instructional leadership, student achievement, school culture, and service to their school communities, and Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell has distinguished herself through exemplary leadership in each of these areas; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell brings 26 years of distinguished service in education, including 22 years in administrative leadership across multiple schools and grade levels. She has served as principal of Mountain Gap Middle School since 2019, following successful leadership as principal of Mountain Gap P–8 and Weatherly Heights Elementary School and as assistant principal of Whitesburg Middle School; and

WHEREAS, her longstanding commitment to the Mountain Gap community has enabled her to cultivate meaningful relationships with students, educators, families, and community partners, fostering a culture built upon trust, collaboration, and shared purpose; and

WHEREAS, throughout her 15 years as a principal, Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell has remained steadfast in her commitment to creating a safe, inclusive, and academically rigorous learning environment where every student is valued, supported, challenged, and empowered to succeed; and

WHEREAS, under Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell’s leadership, Mountain Gap Middle School has experienced significant improvements in academic performance, attendance, school climate, and overall student success, including an increase the school's state report card grade from a low B to an A, a nearly 50 percent reduction in chronic absenteeism, fewer discipline referrals, and increased student engagement and achievement across all student groups; and

WHEREAS, a hallmark of Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell's leadership is the implementation of the school's comprehensive advisory program, which features weekly 30-minute advisory sessions and monthly Town Hall meetings that promote goal setting, reflection on student achievement data, recognition of accomplishments, and meaningful connections between students and educators; and

WHEREAS, the advisory program is closely integrated with Mountain Gap Middle School's House System, a defining feature of the school's culture that fosters belonging, accountability, collaboration, leadership, and school pride through friendly competitions, service opportunities, and shared celebrations across grade levels; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell has further strengthened the school's positive culture by integrating the advisory program with the school's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework, including initiatives such as the Golden Bucket Awards and School Resource Officer Challenge Coins, which recognize positive behavior, leadership, citizenship, and service while reinforcing high expectations for all students; and

WHEREAS, through her commitment to transparency, collaborative leadership, and family engagement, Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell has strengthened partnerships with parents and the community while advancing Mountain Gap Middle School's mission to *"Learn. Grow. Achieve. Ready for the Future,"* creating a unified school community dedicated to continuous improvement and student success; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell's exceptional leadership, unwavering dedication to educational excellence, and commitment to serving students and families have brought great distinction to Mountain Gap Middle School, the Huntsville City School System, and the state of Alabama:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby recognizes and congratulates Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell on being named the 2025-2026 Alabama Middle School Principal of the Year and commends her exemplary instructional leadership, commitment to student success, and outstanding contributions to public education in Alabama; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education expresses its sincere appreciation for Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell's distinguished service to the students, educators, families, and community she serves and extends its best wishes for her continued success as a leader in advancing excellence in Alabama's public schools.

Done this 8th day of October 2026

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

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID MICHAEL MARTIN, JR.
VERBENA HIGH SCHOOL
CHILTON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS ALABAMA'S 2026 HISTORY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, David Michael Martin, Jr., a teacher at Verbena High School in the Chilton County School System, was selected as the Alabama recipient of the 2026 History Teacher of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the nation's leading organization dedicated to K-12 American history education, sponsors the History Teacher of the Year Award to honor outstanding teachers of American history from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense, and U.S. Territories; and

WHEREAS, David Michael Martin, Jr., was selected by the state selection committee based upon his outstanding leadership and teaching abilities in the field of American history, his creativity and passion for bringing history to life through reenactments and immersive learning experiences, and his exceptional ability to engage students through the effective use of primary sources, allowing students to develop a deeper understanding of the people, events, and ideas that shaped our nation while experiencing history in meaningful and memorable ways; and

WHEREAS, as Alabama's 2026 History Teacher of the Year, David Michael Martin, Jr., receives a certificate and $1,000 from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, and Verbena High School receives an archive of primary historical materials; and

WHEREAS, David Michael Martin, Jr., will represent Alabama as the state finalist for the National History Teacher of the Year Award in a selection process to be held in New York City this fall:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate David Michael Martin, Jr., upon the honor of being selected as Alabama's 2026 History Teacher of the Year.

Done this 8th day of October 2026

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

RESOLUTION OF DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION
2025 ALABAMA SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAMS OF DISTINCTION

WHEREAS, the Alabama School Counseling Programs of Distinction recognizes school counseling programs that demonstrate an exemplary level of implementation of a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program; and

WHEREAS, the program components align with the Comprehensive School Counseling and Guidance Model for K-12 Alabama Public Schools; and

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

WHEREAS, the Alabama School Counselor Association recognizes schools and school systems as 2025 Alabama School Counseling Programs of Distinction:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the following school systems on achieving the status of an Alabama School Counseling Programs of Distinction in 2025.

CHILTON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
Thorsby High School, State School Board District Three
CULLMAN CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
East Elementary School, State School Board District Six
CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
Holly Pond Middle School, State School Board District Six
Vinemont Middle School, State School Board District Six
ENTERPRISE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
Enterprise High School, State School Board District One
HARTSELLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
Hartselle High School, State School Board District Seven
HOOVER CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
Deer Valley Elementary School, State School Board District Three
MADISON CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
James Clemens High School, State School Board District Eight
Madison Elementary School, State School Board District Eight
Rainbow Elementary School, State School Board District Eight
MOBILE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
Mattie T. Blount High School, State School Board District Five
Peter F. Alba Middle School, State School Board District One
Wilmer Elementary School, State School Board District Five
PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
Pike County High School, State School Board District Two
SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
Helena Intermediate School, State School Board District Three
Oak Mountain Elementary School, State School Board District Three
Oak Mountain Intermediate School, State School Board District Three
VESTAVIA HILLS CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
Louis Pizitz Middle School, State School Board District Three

Done this 8th day of October 2026

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

RESOLUTION HONORING MS. SHUMEKA ROBINSON AS THE BARBARA FANNIN MEMORIAL EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2026

WHEREAS, Ms. Shumeka Robinson, Administrative Support Assistant III with the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), Office of Evaluation, Accountability, and Support, Special Education Services Section, has faithfully served for approximately 19 years demonstrating exceptional dedication, professionalism, and commitment to serving the educators and students of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shumeka Robinson has served in the Alabama State Department of Education since 2007 and consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic, dependable support, and an unwavering commitment to the success of her section and team; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shumeka Robinson consistently exceeds expectations by willingly assuming additional responsibilities and helping to ensure the smooth operation of Special Education Services and the Integrated Monitoring Team, particularly during demanding periods and staff absences; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shumeka Robinson possesses exceptional organizational skills, meticulous attention to detail, and a proactive approach that streamline workflows, improve efficiency, and reduce errors across multiple teams; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shumeka Robinson communicates clearly, courteously, and effectively with staff, leadership, and external partners and fosters a positive and collaborative work environment; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shumeka Robinson demonstrates an unwavering commitment to team success by volunteering for additional duties, supporting her colleagues, and ensuring that important responsibilities are completed; and her positive attitude, professionalism, and cheerful disposition exemplify the spirit of teamwork and contribute significantly to team morale and organizational culture:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Department of Education expresses its sincere appreciation to Ms. Shumeka Robinson for her commitment to public education, exceptional work ethic, and meaningful contributions to the students and educators of Alabama; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Ms. Shumeka Robinson for her exceptional service, unwavering dedication, exemplary professionalism, and commitment to teamwork and congratulates her upon being named the Barbara Fannin Memorial Employee of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 2026.

Done this 8th day of October 2026

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

RESOLUTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE NUMERACY COURSE SEQUENCE APPROVAL

WHEREAS, the *Alabama Numeracy Act* (Act #2022-249) is Alabama's statewide K-5 math reform law that prohibits the use of Common Core mathematics standards and mandates mathematics coaches, high-quality curricula, early assessments, and intensive interventions to raise elementary mathematics proficiency; and

WHEREAS, the *Alabama Numeracy Act* requires that Alabama Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) align with the Act's mathematics standards and training expectations; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's EPPs were required to revise curriculum to include 12 hours of numeracy coursework that provide pre-service Early Childhood, Elementary, and Collaborative K-6 teachers with instruction on high-quality mathematics practices and learning specific to dyscalculia; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Office of Mathematics Improvement examined the proposed syllabi from EPPs and offered training, feedback, and suggestions as they navigated the process of obtaining approval for these syllabi; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Office of Mathematics Improvement noted that Alabama's 24 EPPs produced syllabi that incorporated the required tenets of the *Alabama Numeracy Act* and will follow a process outlined by the Department to make changes to the numeracy course sequence; and

WHEREAS, the EPPs will continue to engage in course refinement while remaining committed to continuous improvement and ensuring that candidates are prepared to work toward the goal of ensuring all students reach grade-level mathematics proficiency by the end of fifth grade and are prepared for the upcoming Foundations of Numeracy Assessment:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby recognizes the approval of the numeracy course sequence for Alabama's EPPs for Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, and Collaborative K-6 programs.

Done this 8th day of October 2026

Educator Preparation Programs
***Alabama Numeracy Act* Course Sequence Approvals**

Alabama A&M University
Class B
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education
Collaborative Special Education K-6

Alternative Class A
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education
Collaborative Special Education K-6

Alabama State University
Class B
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education
Collaborative Special Education K-6

Alternative Class A
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education
Collaborative Special Education K-6

Athens State University
Class B
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education
Collaborative Special Education K-6

Auburn University
Class B
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education
Collaborative Special Education K-12

Alternative Class A
Collaborative Special Education K-12

Auburn University Montgomery
Class B
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education
Early Childhood Special Education
Collaborative Special Education K-6

Alternative Class A
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education
Early Childhood Special Education
Collaborative Special Education K-6

Faulkner University
Class B
Elementary Education

Alternative Class A
Elementary Education

Huntingdon College
Class B
Elementary Education
Collaborative Special Education K-6

Jacksonville State University
Class B
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education
Collaborative Special Education K-6

Alternative Class A
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education
Collaborative Special Education K-6

Miles College
Class B
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education

Oakwood University
Class B
Elementary Education

Samford University
Class B
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Special Education
Collaborative Special Education K-6

Spring Hill College
Class B
Elementary Education

Stillman College
Class B
Elementary Education
Collaborative Special Education K-6

Talladega University
Class B
Elementary Education
Collaborative Special Education K-6

Troy University
Class B
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education
Collaborative Special Education K-6

Alternative Class A
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education

Tuskegee University
Class B
Elementary Education

University of Alabama
Class B
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education
Collaborative Special Education K-6
Multiple Abilities Program

Alternative Class A
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education

University of Alabama at Birmingham
Class B
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education

Alternative Class A
Special Education

University of Alabama Huntsville
Class B
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education
Early Childhood Special Education

Alternative Class A
Elementary Education

University of Mobile
Class B
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education
Collaborative Special Education K-6

Alternative Class A
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education

University of Montevallo
Class B
Elementary Education
Collaborative Special Education K-6

Alternative Class A
Elementary Education

University of North Alabama
Class B
Elementary Education
Collaborative Special Education K-6

Alternative Class A
Early Childhood Education

University of South Alabama
Class B
Elementary Education
Collaborative Special Education K-6

Alternative Class A
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education
Collaborative Special Education K-6

University of West Alabama
Class B
Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education
Collaborative Special Education K-6

Alternative Class A
Elementary Education
Early Childhood
Collaborative Special Education K-6

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

RESOLUTION ENDORSING ALABAMA SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK
(October 19-23, 2026)

WHEREAS, approximately 354,094 Alabama elementary and secondary students are transported to and from school each day of the school year; and

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of these students are of paramount importance to the citizens of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's school bus drivers, transportation supervisors, mechanics, and other transportation personnel work diligently each day to provide safe, reliable, and efficient transportation services for students throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, School Bus Safety Week provides an opportunity to recognize the dedication of school transportation professionals and to raise public awareness of the importance of school bus safety:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby recognizes and endorses October 19-23, 2026, as Alabama School Bus Safety Week and encourages all Alabamians, particularly motorists, to exercise caution and vigilance whenever school buses and schoolchildren are present; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education calls upon all citizens to support safe transportation practices and to work together to make every week a safe one for Alabama's students and school buses.

Done this 8th day of October 2026

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

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2026
AS "PRINCIPALS MONTH"

WHEREAS, the Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators, the Alabama Association of Middle School Principals, and the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals have declared October 2026 as "National Principals Month" in coordination with the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the National Association of Secondary School Principals; and

WHEREAS, the vision, dedication, and determination of a principal provide the mobilizing force behind any school reform effort; and

WHEREAS, principals are expected to be educational visionaries, instructional leaders, assessment experts, disciplinarians, community builders, public relations experts, budget analysts, facility managers, special programs administrators, and guardians of various legal, contractual, and policy mandates and initiatives, all while being entrusted with our most valuable resource, our young people; and

WHEREAS, principals set the academic tone for their schools and work collaboratively with teachers to develop and maintain high curriculum standards, establish mission statements, and set performance goals and objectives for to achieve educational excellence; and

WHEREAS, principals work tirelessly in communities across Alabama to maintain academic accountability, to ensure a safe and productive learning environment, and to encourage and facilitate teachers and parents' efforts to make a positive difference in the lives of our young people; and

WHEREAS, in celebration of National Principals Month, the State of Alabama honors elementary, middle, and high school principals and recognizes the importance of school leadership in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education; and

WHEREAS, to honor and recognize the contribution of all school principals and assistant principals, at all grade levels, to the success of students in Alabama's elementary, middle, and high schools and to encourage residents of Alabama to observe Principals Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of school leadership in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby proclaims October 2026 as Principals Month in the state of Alabama.

Done this 8th day of October 2026

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

FISCAL YEAR 2028 BUDGET REQUEST

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

RESOLUTION RELATED TO THE ALABAMA PUBLIC EDUCATION EMPLOYEE INJURY COMPENSATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature passed into law *Act 2025-223*, which creates the Public Education Employee Injury Compensation Program; and

WHEREAS, said Act also requires the State Board of Education to adopt a uniform physician certification form and a local education agency reimbursement to employer form to be used as required in connection with said Act:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby adopt the attached forms to be used as required in connection with Alabama *Act 2025-223*.

Done this 8th day of October 2026

PHYSICIAN CERTIFICATION FORM

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY EMPLOYEE:

Name of Injured Employee (PLEASE PRINT) _____ (Last) _____ (First) (MI)	Date of Injury ___/___/___ Time of Injury _____	Date of Birth ___/___/___ Sex: M F	Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____	
Home Address:	School: Did the injury occur on school grounds? ____ Yes ____ No		Job Title	Job Status __ Full Time __ Part Time/Sub __ Contract
Describe how the injury occurred and specify the body parts affected:			Employee Signature _____ Date: _____	

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY PHYSICIAN:

Attending Physician (Please Print) _____	Medical Facility _____ Address: _____ Telephone: _____
Employee's Date of Injury ___/___/___	Today's Date ___/___/___
	_____ This is patient's 1st visit for this injury _____ This is a follow up visit due to this injury

Please provide a **DETAILED** diagnosis:	Please provide the treatment plan:

Is there a reasonable expectation that the employee should be able to return to work? _____ **YES** _____ **NO**

If **YES**, date the employee can return to work: _____/_____/_____

If **NO**, please explain why not: _____

_____

Will the employee have any restrictions when returning to work? _____ **YES** _____ **NO**

If **YES**, please explain restrictions: _____

_____

Is the employee being referred to another physician for follow up treatment or physical therapy at this time? **YES** or **NO**

Signature of Physician: _____ **Date**: _____

LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY
REIMBURSEMENT TO EMPLOYER FORM

1. Employing Agency	2. Agency Address (Number and Street) (City or Town) (State) (Zip)

3.

Name of Injured Employee	Social Security Number	Job Title

4. Number of Days Employee(s) Absent	5. Cost

6.

_____

Signature of Superintendent **Date**

Act 2025-223 - "Any reasonable on-the-job injury costs incurred by the employer to hire a substitute per absent injured employee in a fiscal year shall be reimbursed to the employer by the state during the next succeeding fiscal year upon application by the employer to the appropriate State Board of Education department on a form adopted by the state board, not to exceed 90 working days. The department shall subsequently submit the request to the Legislature as a line-item in its budget request for reimbursement to the employer, and, if approved by the Legislature, shall reimburse the employer at the amount per day for sick leave authorized and funded in the annual budget act for public schools and colleges."

Please return this form to: ALSDE Finance (Re: Workers Compensation Reimbursement)
Alabama State Department of Education
Gordon Persons Building, Room 5301
50 North Ripley Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

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

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 18-24, 2026, AS FARM TO CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP) WEEK IN ALABAMA

WHEREAS, the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federally funded program that provides nutritious meals and snacks to children and adults in care settings, supporting healthy growth, development, and overall well-being; and

WHEREAS, Farm to CACFP Week, observed October 18-24, 2026, promotes connections between local agriculture and CACFP-participating organizations through the use of locally grown foods, nutrition education, gardening activities, and agricultural learning experiences; and

WHEREAS, Farm to CACFP initiatives help children and adults develop healthy eating habits, gain knowledge about agriculture and food systems, and increase access to fresh, locally sourced foods; and

WHEREAS, Farm to CACFP activities provide valuable educational opportunities that increase awareness of agriculture, nutrition, environmental stewardship, and healthy lifestyle choices among children and adults participating in care programs; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's farmers and agricultural producers play a vital role in supporting healthy communities by supplying nutritious foods that contribute to the success of Child and Adult Care Food Program participants throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, partnerships among CACFP operators, farmers, producers, educators, families, and community stakeholders support Alabama agriculture, strengthen local economies, and expand access to fresh, locally sourced foods; and

WHEREAS, participation in Farm to CACFP activities supports the Alabama State Department of Education's commitment to promoting wellness, nutrition education, and lifelong healthy lifestyles:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby recognizes October 18-24, 2026, as Farm to Child and Adult Care Food Program Week in Alabama and encourages all Child and Adult Care Food Program sponsors, centers, family day care homes, educators, families, and community partners to participate in activities that celebrate local agriculture, healthy eating, nutrition education, and community engagement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education commends the dedicated Child and Adult Care Food Program professionals, farmers, producers, educators, and community partners whose commitment advances nutrition education, wellness, and healthy communities throughout Alabama.

Done this 8th day of October 2026

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

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

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mackey welcomed attendees and expressed his appreciation for those wearing red in recognition of Dyslexia Awareness Month. He noted that the Board adopted a resolution at its September meeting designating October as Dyslexia Awareness Month. Dr. Mackey recognized Alabama Reading Initiative staff, dyslexia advocates, principals, assistant principals, educators, and reading specialists across the state for their dedication to supporting students with dyslexia and improving literacy outcomes. He also thanked all those wearing red in solidarity with these efforts. Dr. Mackey highlighted the significant work taking place in schools statewide to increase awareness and support for students with dyslexia. He noted that approximately one in five students experiences some level of dyslexia and emphasized that, with appropriate instruction and support, students with dyslexia can learn to read successfully and excel academically. He reiterated that reading is the foundation of educational success and expressed appreciation to Alabama Reading Initiative staff, school leaders, and educators who work daily to ensure that every child has the opportunity to become a proficient reader and achieve success in life. He also requested that Governor Kay Ivey and Board Members remain following the meeting for a photograph recognizing Dyslexia Awareness Month.

Dr. Mackey extended congratulations to the following education leaders and educators for their outstanding professional accomplishments: Mr. Benjamin “Ben” Baker, Superintendent, Dale County School System, named the 2027 Alabama Superintendent of the Year; Mrs. Katherine “Kelli” Fischer, Principal, Opelika High School, Opelika City School System, named the 2025-2026 Alabama High School Principal of the Year; Mrs. Heather Renee Bardwell, Principal, Mountain Gap Middle School, Huntsville City School System, named the 2025-2026 Alabama Middle School Principal of the Year; Mrs. Brenda Sue Box, Assistant Principal, Mary G. Montgomery High School, Mobile County School System, named the 2025-2026 Alabama High School Assistant Principal of the Year; Mr. Clint Brannon, Assistant Principal, Sardis Middle School, Etowah County School System, named the 2025-2026 Alabama Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year; Mrs. Erica Cruthirds, Assistant Principal, Florence B. Mathis Elementary School, Baldwin County School System, named Alabama's National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) National Outstanding Elementary Assistant Principal; Dr. Preeti Nichani, Principal, Northridge Middle School, Tuscaloosa City School System, named Alabama's 2026 National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) National Distinguished Principal; and Mr. David Michael Martin, Jr., Verbena High School, Chilton County School System, named Alabama's 2026 History Teacher of the Year. Dr. Mackey expressed his appreciation to the honorees for their exemplary leadership and service and thanked Dr. Farrell Seymore, Executive Director of the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools, and his staff for their continued support of educational excellence across the state.

Dr. Mackey recognized Ms. Shumeka Robinson as the Barbara Fannin Memorial Employee of the Quarter for October-December 2026. He commended Ms. Robinson for her dedication and service as an Administrative Support Assistant in the Special Education Services Section of the Alabama State Department of Education. He also expressed appreciation to the Board for its continued recognition of outstanding employees through the quarterly award program.

Dr. Mackey discussed the Numeracy Course Sequence adopted by the Board earlier in the meeting, noting that the initiative represents more than two years of collaborative work. He explained that the effort was developed in response to legislation requiring Alabama's public colleges of education to revise coursework for elementary and special education teacher preparation programs to strengthen mathematics instruction. Through Board action, the initiative was expanded to include all educator preparation programs in the state, including six private institutions. Dr. Mackey acknowledged the leadership of Dr. Ann Dominick, who facilitated the work with participating institutions over the past 24 months. He reported that all Alabama institutions met the requirements and will now begin implementing the revised coursework. Dr. Mackey stated that the changes will better prepare future teachers to deliver effective mathematics instruction and noted that Alabama is the first state in the nation to implement a statewide numeracy course sequence of this type. He thanked Board Members for their leadership and commitment to improving mathematics achievement.

Dr. Mackey also addressed the Board's budget request and highlighted several priorities, including the expansion of successful literacy initiatives into the middle grades. He emphasized the goal of ensuring that all students are reading on grade level by the end of third grade and continue to make progress through grades four through eight. Dr. Mackey stated that Alabama's objective is for all students to enter high school reading at or above grade level and prepared for rigorous coursework.

Dr. Mackey provided an update on the Alabama Public Employee Injury Compensation Program. He explained that, through the leadership of Governor Kay Ivey and the Alabama Legislature, a workers' compensation program has been established for public education employees for the first time in state history. While workers' compensation coverage has long existed for state employees and is required for private-sector employees, local education agencies’ personnel previously lacked such coverage. Legislation enacted in 2025 established the new compensation fund, and Governor Ivey signed the measure into law. Dr. Mackey reported that the program becomes effective this month and indicated that Alabama State Department of Education staff will meet with local superintendents during the upcoming School Superintendents of Alabama Conference to provide guidance regarding program implementation and required documentation.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Marie Manning, Board Members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:24 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2026, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

_____
Vice President

_____
Secretary and Executive Officer