FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 11, 2016

MICHAEL SENTANCE SELECTED AS NEW ALABAMA STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

Montgomery, Ala. – Michael Sentance has been selected as the new Alabama State Superintendent of Education.

The Alabama State Board of Education voted today to offer the post to Sentance, a consultant on Education Policy and Improvement. The next step is for a sub-committee chaired by Board Vice President Dr. Yvette Richardson to determine the terms of Sentance’s salary and benefits package. President Pro Tem Mary Scott Hunter and Board members Stephanie Bell and Dr. Cynthia McCarty will also serve on the committee, which will make its recommendations to the full Board at a special called meeting to be announced at a later date.

As an education consultant, Sentance has worked with state, federal and local officials, and advocacy groups on strategies to improve public education. He has also served as the President of Education Reform Strategies for Tribal USA; as the New England Regional Representative for the U.S. Department of Education; and as the Senior Education Advisor to the Governor of Massachusetts. A graduate of Georgetown University, Sentance earned his Juris Doctor from Duquesne University of Law, and his Master of Laws from the Boston University School of Law.

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In his application for the state schools chief post, Sentance shared some of his core beliefs about school improvement: “I believe it is a moral imperative that standards be internationally benchmarked and the best public schools educators working with the best available academics from the state’s universities should be responsible for this endeavor. Academic standards constitute the covenant with the future of the state to raise achievement and create opportunity.”

Sentance was among six finalists who were interviewed by the Board on August 4, 2016, for the state schools chief post. The other candidates were: Dr. Williamson Evers, Research Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University; Dr. Dee Fowler, Superintendent, Madison City Schools; Dr. Craig Pouncey, Superintendent, Jefferson County Schools; Ms. Jeana Ross, Secretary, Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education; and Dr. Janet Womack, Superintendent, Florence City Schools.

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