

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
AUGUST 11, 2016
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, August 11, 2016, at 10:08 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 ROBERT BENTLEY

Minister Samuel Riemersma, Montgomery First Seventh-Day Adventist Church, did the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was done in unison.

The following members were present:

Present

Mrs. Ella B. Bell
Mrs. Stephanie Bell
Governor Robert Bentley
Mr. Matthew Brown
Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter
Dr. Cynthia McCarty
Mr. Jeff Newman
Mrs. Betty Peters
Dr. Yvette Richardson

Dr. Philip C. Cleveland, Interim State Superintendent of Education, was also present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JULY 12, 2016

On motion by Mrs. Ella B. Bell and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the July 12, 2016, meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Mr. Matthew Brown, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

SELECTION OF STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

Six candidates were interviewed for State Superintendent of Education by members of the Alabama State Board of Education: Dr. Dee Fowler, Dr. Craig Pouncey, Ms. Jeana Ross, Mr. Michael Sentance, Dr. Janet Womack, and Dr. Williamson Evers. Governor Robert Bentley informed Board members of the process that would be used for voting with paper ballots. He stated if there was not a majority vote, the Board would vote again. In response to the process referenced by Governor Bentley, Mrs. Stephanie Bell stated that there was already a process in place that the Board has used in the past (*Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule 290-010-010.04., Meetings of the State Board of Education). The process requires a motion, second, and an affirmative vote of the majority of the members. Mrs. Stephanie Bell also advised that the Board rules require a show of hands. The Board did not vote on a new process, rather chose to employ the process used previously.

Mrs. Betty Peters motioned for Dr. William Evers as State Superintendent of Education. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell. On a 2-7 vote, the motion did not carry. Mrs. Stephanie Bell and Mrs. Betty Peters voted in support of the motion. Non-voting members were Mrs. Ella B. Bell, Governor Robert Bentley, Mr. Matthew Brown, Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter, Dr. Cynthia McCarty, Mr. Jeff Newman, and Dr. Yvette Richardson.

Mr. Matthew Brown motioned for Mr. Michael Sentance, and Mrs. Betty Peters seconded. On a 4-5 vote, the motion did not carry. Mrs. Stephanie Bell, Mr. Matthew Brown, Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter, and Mrs. Betty Peters voted in support of the motion. Non-voting members were Mrs. Ella B. Bell, Governor Robert Bentley, Dr. Cynthia McCarty, Mr. Jeff Newman, and Dr. Yvette Richardson.

Mr. Jeff Newman motioned for Dr. Craig Pouncey and Mrs. Ella B. Bell seconded. On a 4-5 vote, the motion did not carry. Mrs. Ella B. Bell, Mrs. Stephanie Bell, Mr. Jeff Newman, and Dr. Yvette Richardson voted in favor of the motion. Non-voting members were Governor Robert Bentley, Mr. Matthew Brown, Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter, Dr. Cynthia McCarty, and Mrs. Betty Peters.

Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter motioned for Dr. Dee Fowler and Dr. Cynthia McCarty seconded. On a 1-8 vote, the motion did not carry. Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter voted in support of the motion. Non-voting members were Mrs. Ella B. Bell, Mrs. Stephanie Bell, Governor Robert Bentley, Mr. Matthew Brown, Dr. Cynthia McCarty, Mr. Jeff Newman, Mrs. Betty Peters, and Dr. Yvette Richardson.

Dr. Cynthia McCarty motioned for Dr. Janet Womack and Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter seconded. On a 2-7 vote, the motion did not carry. Dr. Cynthia McCarty and Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter voted in support of the motion. Non-voting members were Mrs. Ella B. Bell, Mrs. Stephanie Bell, Governor Robert Bentley, Mr. Matthew Brown, Mr. Jeff Newman, Mrs. Betty Peters, and Dr. Yvette Richardson.

Governor Robert Bentley motioned for Ms. Jeana Ross and Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter seconded. On a 3-6 vote, the motion did not carry. Governor Robert Bentley, Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter, and Dr. Cynthia McCarty voted in support of the motion. Non-voting members were Mrs. Ella B. Bell, Mrs. Stephanie Bell, Mr. Matthew Brown, Mr. Jeff Newman, Mrs. Betty Peters, and Dr. Yvette Richardson.

Mrs. Juliana Dean, General Counsel, gave a recap of vote total for each candidate.

Dr. William Evers	2
Dr. Dee O. Fowler	1
Dr. Craig Pouncey	4
Ms. Jeana Ross	3
Mr. Michael Sentance	4
Dr. Janet Womack	2

Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter re-nominated Mr. Michael Sentance and Mrs. Betty Peters seconded. The motion carried 5-4. Mrs. Stephanie Bell, Governor Robert Bentley, Mr. Matthew Brown, Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and Mrs. Betty Peters voted in favor of the motion. Non-voting members were Mrs. Ella B. Bell, Dr. Cynthia McCarty, Mr. Jeff Newman, and Dr. Yvette Richardson

During the discussion, Governor Robert Bentley asked Board members if they would like to make the vote unanimous. Based on discussion regarding the Board voting process earlier in the meeting, Governor Robert Bentley asked Mrs. Stephanie Bell if she would make the motion. Mrs. Stephanie Bell then made the motion and Mr. Matthew Brown seconded in support of Mr. Michael Sentance as State Superintendent of Education. The Board voted unanimously in support of the motion.

Dr. Yvette Richardson, Vice President, presided over the remaining portion of the meeting.

On motion by Mrs. Ella B. Bell and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted unanimously for the following:

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING EMILY THORNTON, THOMASVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM,
RECIPIENT OF THE 2016 ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS
OUTSTANDING SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIAL AWARD**

WHEREAS, the Alabama Association of School Business Officials (AASBO) has designated an annual award known as the *Outstanding School Business Official Award* to recognize an individual from the local school system level who provides services in an outstanding manner beyond their role within the business operation of the school system; and

WHEREAS, this deserving individual is part of the team that makes the business operations of the school system more efficient and effective; and

WHEREAS, Emily Thornton, currently the Child Nutrition Director and Bookkeeper for the Thomasville City School System, has demonstrated outstanding leadership and service; and

WHEREAS, Emily Thornton has also shown commitment and dedication to her job in education and her community; and

WHEREAS, Emily Thornton also holds the AASBO Chief School Financial Officer and Payroll/Personnel Certificates and is active in other educational professional organizations; and

WHEREAS, the AASBO considers Emily Thornton worthy of this recognition for her professionalism, work ethic, and leadership, and thereby wishes to bestow upon her the *Outstanding School Business Official Award* as it celebrates outstanding service in school business management:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education, in acknowledgment of Emily Thornton receiving this AASBO award, does hereby express its appreciation to Emily Thornton for her dedicated work with the Thomasville City School System and also

congratulates her for being named the 2016 recipient of the AASBO *Outstanding School Business Official Award*.

Done this 11th day of August 2016

motion by Dr. Cynthia McCarty and seconded by Mr. Matthew Brown, the Board voted unanimously for the following:

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING MELANIE MAPLES, DECATUR CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM,
RECIPIENT OF THE 2016 ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS
ROBERT L. MORTON AWARD**

WHEREAS, the Alabama Association of School Business Officials (AASBO) has established an annual award known as the *Robert L. Morton Award* in honor of the man who served as Assistant State Superintendent of the Alabama State Department of Education's Division of Administrative and Financial Services; and

WHEREAS, Robert L. Morton dedicated his life to distinguished service to America, the state of Alabama, and its children by serving in pivotal roles in the field of education including teacher, coach, principal, assistant superintendent, and superintendent; and

WHEREAS, through this award the AASBO seeks to recognize the dedication that individuals bring to their communities, their profession, and their school system in everyday life by identifying school business officials devoted to going above and beyond, both in their positions and in serving their communities; and

WHEREAS, these individuals always strive to make a difference in the lives of their peers and subordinates and have set new standards for themselves and their colleagues in their profession; and

WHEREAS, Melanie Maples has shown leadership, commitment, and dedication to her job and community during her 21 years of service in public education; and

WHEREAS, Melanie Maples currently serves as the Chief School Financial Officer for the Decatur City School System, a position she has held for 15 years; and

WHEREAS, Melanie Maples has served on numerous committees and boards and currently serves as president-elect for the AASBO; and

WHEREAS, Melanie Maples' achievements within her school system, service provided to her peers, subordinates, and community, and stellar reputation with those who recommended her for the *Robert L. Morton Award* are noted; and

WHEREAS, the AASBO considers Melanie Maples worthy of recognition and acknowledgement for her honesty, integrity, work ethic, and consummate professionalism and thereby wishes to bestow upon her the *Robert L. Morton Award* as it celebrates the best its profession of school business management has to offer:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education, in acknowledgment of Melanie Maples receiving this distinguished AASBO award, does hereby express its appreciation to Melanie Maples for her dedicated and distinguished work in public service and with the Decatur City School System and also congratulates her for being named the Tenth Annual *Robert L. Morton Award* recipient.

Done this 11th day of August 2016

On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Mrs. Ella B. Bell, the Board voted unanimously for the following:

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF SEPTEMBER 2016
AS ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, good attendance matters for school success and developing the habit of attendance prepares students for success in college and career and in life; and

WHEREAS, chronic absence, defined as missing 10 percent or more of school for any reason, is a proven predictor of lower reading proficiency and course failure and is also a leading indicator of students dropping out of school; and

WHEREAS, students who face systemic barriers in getting to school such as unreliable transportation, chronic health issues, poor nutrition, mental health and social emotional problems, and other health issues negatively impacting school attendance are more likely to be chronically absent; and

WHEREAS, effective strategies for improving attendance include monitoring attendance data, providing positive messaging, and conducting outreach with students, parents, grandparents, guardians, and other family members, and deploying resources that address health and nutrition, safety, transportation, and other issues that may cause a student to repeatedly miss school; and

WHEREAS, good attendance is essential to student achievement and graduation, and greater attention to mentoring is needed to improve student attendance and reduce chronic absenteeism in Alabama schools; and

WHEREAS, support for coordinated community action will affect thousands of children in Alabama's public schools each year by addressing the underlying causes of local chronic absenteeism:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education encourages school districts and communities to join together in reducing chronic absenteeism and ensuring an equitable opportunity for children to learn, grow, and thrive, and by doing such does hereby proclaim that September 2016 is "Attendance Awareness Month."

Done this 11th day of August 2016.

On motion by Mr. Matthew Brown and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously for the following:

**RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE RINGING OF BELLS IN ALABAMA'S
K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO COMMEMORATE THE SIGNING OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Interim State Superintendent of Education strongly support student appreciation for the American form of government including our nation's founding documents; and

WHEREAS, on September 17, 1787, delegates of the American colonies, in "Order to Form a More Perfect Union, Establish Justice, Insure Domestic Tranquility, Provide for the Common Defence, Promote the General Welfare, and Secure the Blessings of Liberty to Ourselves and Our Posterity," did ordain and establish the Constitution for the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, on August 2, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into law a Joint Resolution of Congress which stated:

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States is authorized and requested to designate the period beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as Constitution Week, and to issue annually a proclamation inviting the people of the United States to observe such week in schools, churches, and other suitable places with appropriate ceremonies and activities.
(Public Law 915); and*

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Interim State Superintendent of Education believe it is fitting and proper for students and teachers to read, study, and discuss the U.S. Constitution in Alabama's K-12 schools, with special recognition given to this founding document on the anniversary of its signing; and

WHEREAS, September 17, 2016, falls on a Saturday and, under these circumstances, Constitution Day has historically been celebrated on Friday, September 16; and

WHEREAS, the students at Olive J. Dodge Elementary School in Mobile, Alabama, have organized a Bell Ringing Ceremony at Battleship Park, home of the USS Alabama, on September 16, 2016, to celebrate Constitution Day and the signing for the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the students at Olive J. Dodge Elementary School wish to encourage Alabama's K-12 public schools to join them by ringing bells at 2 p.m. on Friday, September 16, 2016, whether by the ringing of traditional bells or through the transmission of audio replicating the ringing of the Liberty Bell through the schools' intercoms:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education encourages Alabama's K-12 public schools to participate in the ringing of bells at 2 p.m. on Friday, September 16, 2016, to commemorate the signing of the Constitution of the United States of America

and challenges educators to give special recognition to the U.S. Constitution on the same date by reading and/or discussing this founding document with students.

Done this 11th day of August 2016

On motion by Mrs. Ella B. Bell and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board approved the following:

ANNOUNCE INTENT TO ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, RULE NUMBER 290-2-1-.01, PERTAINING TO ANNUAL APPORTIONMENT OF THE FOUNDATION PROGRAM FUNDS (SCHOOLS/SYSTEMS)

ANNOUNCE INTENT TO ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, RULE NUMBER 290-2-1-.02, PERTAINING TO ANNUAL APPORTIONMENT OF CURRENT UNIT FUNDS (SCHOOLS/SYSTEMS)

ANNOUNCE INTENT TO ADOPT NEW ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, RULE 290-4-1-.03, PERTAINING TO EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY (GRADING SYSTEM FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS) (SCHOOLS/SYSTEMS)

On motion by Mrs. Betty Peters and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted unanimously for the following:

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW
OF AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM
University of Alabama in Huntsville**

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.55(2)(b)2.(ii), requires that approval by the Alabama State Board of Education shall be secured before a proposal for a new program is reviewed by the Office of Teaching and Leading of the Alabama State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Interim State Superintendent of Education has received from the President of the University of Alabama in Huntsville a written request to develop an Alternative Class A Elementary Education program; and

WHEREAS, the request lists the specific proposed program 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, the University of Alabama in Huntsville personnel have been advised that the proposed program may not be implemented prior to Alabama State Board of Education approval based on documentation of compliance with all applicable standards; and

WHEREAS, the Interim State Superintendent of Education recommends that the program 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 program:

Alternative Class A Elementary Education (K-6)

Done this 11th day of August 2016

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW
OF AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM
Jacksonville State University**

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.55(2)(b)2.(ii), requires that approval by the Alabama State Board of Education shall be secured before a proposal for a new program is reviewed by the Office of Teaching and Leading of the Alabama State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Interim State Superintendent of Education has received from the Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs at Jacksonville State University a written request to develop a combined Class B Health (6-12) and Physical Education (P-12) program; and

WHEREAS, the request lists the specific proposed program 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, Jacksonville State University personnel have been advised that the proposed program may not be implemented prior to Alabama State Board of Education approval based on documentation of compliance with all applicable standards; and

WHEREAS, the Interim State Superintendent of Education recommends that the program 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 program:

Class B Health (6-12) and Physical Education (P-12)

Done this 11th day of August 2016

RESOLUTION TO MODIFY CERTAIN PASSING SCORES AND TO ADOPT ADDITIONAL PRAXIS II TESTS AS A PRECONDITION FOR INITIAL CERTIFICATION

WHEREAS, by resolutions of April 14, 2005, February 9, 2006, October 12, 2006, December 14, 2006, March 8, 2007, July 10, 2012, July 9, 2013, February 12, 2014, August 13, 2014, and other resolutions from time to time, the Alabama State Board of Education has adopted certain Praxis II content knowledge assessments and minimum passing scores as conditions for initial teacher certification in the state of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the Praxis II subject-area tests are being used to measure the content knowledge of prospective teacher; and

WHEREAS, certain Praxis II content knowledge assessments previously approved by the Alabama State Board of Education have recently been updated and revised; and

WHEREAS, certain additional Praxis II tests are needed in non-academic core areas; and

WHEREAS, additional validation studies have been performed under the supervision of the Interim State Superintendent of Education in accordance with accepted psychometric principles; and

WHEREAS, as a result of such studies, such tests and recommended passing scores have been found to be appropriate for use in the state of Alabama:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby discontinues and adopts the following Praxis II tests as a precondition for initial teacher certification in the state of Alabama:

Discontinued Test	Former Passing Score	New or Replacement Test	Recommended Passing Score for New or Replacement Test	Effective Date
5361 English to Speakers of Other Languages	144	5362 English to Speakers of Other Languages	149	September 1, 2016

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Interim State Superintendent of Education is hereby directed to take any and all actions necessary to implement this resolution.

Done this 11th day of August 2016

Interim State Superintendent's Report

Dr. Philip C. Cleveland informed Board members that the Interim State Superintendent's Report would be given during the Work Session that would be held immediately following the Alabama State Board of Education meeting in Plaza 104 of the Gordon Persons Building.

On motion by Mr. Jeff Newman and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Vice President

Interim Secretary and Executive Officer