

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
THE STATE OF ALABAMA  
DECEMBER 10, 2015  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met on Thursday, December 10, 2015, at 10:30 a.m. for a regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters. 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: MR. JEFF NEWMAN, VICE PRESIDENT**

Pastor Robert Wagstaff, New Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, did the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was held in unison.

The following members were present:

**Present**

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

**Absent**

Governor Robert Bentley

Dr. Thomas R. Bice, State Superintendent of Education, was also present.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 12, 2015**

On motion by Mrs. Ella B. Bell and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the minutes of the November 12, 2015, meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Ella B. Bell, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the agenda.

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

**ANNOUNCE INTENT TO REPEAL ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, CHAPTER 290-3-2,  
PERTAINING TO TEACHER CERTIFICATION AND ADOPT NEW CHAPTER 290-3-2, EDUCATOR  
CERTIFICATION**

**APPROVAL OF 2016 STATE BOARD MEETING DATES**

Before voting on the Board meeting dates for 2016 there was considerable discussion among Board members regarding the reorganization of subcommittees and inclusion of a yearly Board retreat. Follow-up discussion will be held in February regarding these areas of concern; however, with the legislative session beginning in February, it was the consensus of the Board to have a retreat on January 13, 2016.

On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Mr. Matthew Brown, the Board voted unanimously to approve a three-month Board meeting schedule for January – March 2016. The Board meetings will begin at 10 a.m., instead of 10:30 a.m. The Work Session will begin immediately following the Board meeting. In February, the Board members will revisit the meeting time in order to set the schedule for the remainder of the year.

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Thomas R. Bice apprised Board members of the status of the *Every Student Succeed Act* that will replace No Child Left Behind. He emphasized there was no way of knowing at this time how the Act will affect Alabama. He informed Board members of the necessity of forming a Task Force with representation from each Board district once the state's role is known. Other stakeholders will also be invited. He advised that input from Board members on the organizational structure would be appreciated.

Dr. Bice informed the Board of his first meeting with the Student Advisory Committee and how impressed he was with the students. This group of 16 is a representative of the eight State Board of Education districts. He described the students as highly intellectual as well as inquisitive as to what is taking place

in their educational setting. Dr. Bice said that he was overwhelmed to hear the questions and concerns raised by the students during their first meeting. He stated that the Board members will have an opportunity to meet the students in the near future.

Members of the Network for Alabama Teaching Fellows for 2015-2016 were acknowledged. Dr. Bice expressed how pleased he was with the group that consists of 22 classroom teachers who will represent the state of Alabama in a collaborative effort of taking their work to the grass root areas of the state. Dr. Bice recognized Dr. Jeffery Langham, Assistant State Superintendent, whose idea it was to organize the group. Dr. Tony Thacker, Education Administrator, addressed the Board and stated how pleased he was with a group of highly skilled educators. This was the organizational meeting for the group. Fellows introduced themselves by giving their name and place of employment.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. for a five-minute break before the Work Session.

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Vice President

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Secretary and Executive Officer