

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
THE STATE OF ALABAMA  
DECEMBER 8, 2016  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, December 8, 2016, at 10:09 a.m. in Plaza 104 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: DR. YVETTE RICHARDSON**

Father Bob Hennagin, Church of the Holy Comforter, did the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was done in unison.

The following members were present:

**Present**

Mrs. Ella B. Bell  
Mrs. Stephanie Bell  
Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter  
Dr. Cynthia McCarty  
Mrs. Betty Peters  
Dr. Yvette Richardson

**Absent**

Governor Robert Bentley  
Mr. Matthew Brown  
Mr. Jeff Newman

Mr. Michael Sentance, State Superintendent of Education, was also present.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 10, 2016**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Dr. Yvette Richardson informed Board members that a response had been received from General Counsel Hugh Evans, Ethics Commission, in reference to the request on behalf of the Board to determine if there was an ethical or legal violation regarding the confidential information described in the resolution. General Counsel Evans stated that for the Ethics Commission to investigate, the name of the individual(s) would have to be provided. There also has to be use of office for personal gain alleged. If the information is provided, the Ethics Commission will be glad to review. During the discussion period, Board members concurred that there was no authorization for anyone to act on the Board's behalf. Mrs. Stephanie Bell stated that the Board had no liability, the Board never voted, and it was an individual Board member who went to the Ethics Commission with an anonymous complaint. She stated that if someone had signed the letter, it was still past the statute of limitations as to whether it should be dealt with. It was the consensus of the Board that the State Board Resolution, adopted on October 13, 2016, Authorizing an Investigation into the Unauthorized and Potentially Illegal Dissemination of Confidential Information, would also serve as documentation on behalf of the State Board. This document is included in the State Board minutes of October 13, 2016, and also filed in the Board folder. The Board did not collectively authorize for any complaint to go to the Ethics Commission because it was anonymous and past the statute of limitations.

**APPROVAL OF THE EVALUATION INSTRUMENT FOR THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF  
EDUCATION**

Dr. Yvette Richardson stated that Board members met on October 12, November 9, and December 7, 2016, to complete and finalize the evaluation document. Board members and Mr. Michael Sentance were pleased with the evaluation instrument. A copy of the document has been placed in the Board folder dated December 10, 2016.

On motion by Mrs. Ella B. Bell and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Evaluation Instrument for the State Superintendent of Education.

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Betty Peters, the Board approved the following:

**RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM  
University of Mobile**

**WHEREAS**, a review of a proposed educator preparation program was conducted on June 21-24, 2016, by the Alabama State Department of Education in accordance with the Alabama State Board of Education, *State Department of Education Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.56(3)(b) under the Continuous Improvement in Educator Preparation (CIEP) process; and

**WHEREAS**, compliance with Alabama State Board of Education rules has been verified; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Superintendent of Education recommends conditional approval of the program; and

**WHEREAS**, all other educator preparation programs at the University of Mobile are also approved as of this date with an expiration date of May 31, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the program review process resulted in a recommendation for conditional approval for three years; and

**WHEREAS**, the program must submit a written report on August 1, 2019, discussing and documenting how the program is making significant progress in meeting conditions:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby approves the following program with conditional approval to expire on May 31, 2020:

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

Done this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December 2016

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Michael Sentance stated that he had met with District II Superintendents who expressed concern regarding the lack of mathematics and science teachers. He said that he also met with the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools Board of Directors.

Mr. Sentance said there was an error in calculation of \$1.4 million that was sent to the Pike Road School System instead of the Montgomery County School System. He has met with Dr. Suzanne Freeman, Superintendent, regarding repayment to the Montgomery County School System during the school year. Mr. Sentance stated the error was internal and all would be done to make sure this did not happen again.

With a new administration, Mr. Sentance informed Board members he could not confirm the status of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA); however, he stated that he would like to present a resolution thanking Secretary Jeana Ross and committee members for their efforts. The resolution will be presented during the January 12, 2017, State Board of Education meeting.

On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Mrs. Ella B. Bell, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m. The Work Session began at 11 a.m.

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Vice President

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Secretary and Executive Officer