

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

The Alabama State Board of Education met on Thursday, February 11, 2016, at 10:10 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

Minister Billy Joseph, Eastwood Presbyterian Church, Montgomery, Alabama, did the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was done in unison

The following members were present:

Present

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

Absent

Mrs. Ella B. Bell
Governor Robert Bentley

Dr. Thomas R. Bice, State Superintendent of Education and Secretary and Executive Officer of the Board, was present at the meeting but arrived late due to traffic issues while enroute to the meeting. (Mrs. Juliana Dean, General Counsel, represented Dr. Thomas R. Bice until his arrival.)

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JANUARY 14, 2016

On motion by Mrs. Betty Peters and seconded by Mr. Matthew Brown, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the minutes for the meeting of January 14, 2016.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following:

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF SAMUEL C. SHIN, BOB JONES HIGH SCHOOL, MADISON CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, 2016 BEST OF SHOW STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S VISUAL ARTS EXHIBIT

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize that the visual arts are a vital and enriching segment of children's education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent's Visual Arts Exhibit provides an opportunity for K-12 students in every school system to participate; and

WHEREAS, the criteria set for judging are sanctioned by recognized and prestigious organizations—the National Art Education Association, the Alabama Art Education Association, the Alabama Alliance for Arts Education, the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts; and

WHEREAS, support should be given to visual arts programs and teachers as they attempt to strengthen and strive for educational excellence for students; and

WHEREAS, the visual arts contribute powerful educational benefits to all elementary and secondary students, including enhancing cognitive capacities and motivating students to learn; promoting sophisticated reading skills and interpretation of text through visualization training, promoting content and organization writing skills through drawing skills, and establishing essential connections between the art itself and other curricula experiences:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Samuel C. Shin, Bob Jones High School, Madison City School System; his teacher,

Robin Lakso; his principal, Sylvia Moffatt Lambert; and his superintendent, Dr. Dee O. Fowler, and congratulates him for winning Best of Show in the 2016 State Superintendent's Visual Arts Exhibit. Samuel C. Shin addressed the Board pertaining to the importance of the arts and the major impact the arts has made on his education. He emphasized how crucial arts integration is with other subjects and his passion for the arts. He expressed appreciation for the recognition and to his arts teacher, Ms. Robin Lakso.

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following:

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2016 ANNUAL STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S VISUAL ARTS EXHIBIT

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize that the visual arts are a vital and enriching segment of children's education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent's Visual Arts Exhibit provides an opportunity for K-12 students in every school system to participate; and

WHEREAS, the criteria set for judging are sanctioned by recognized and prestigious organizations – the National Art Education Association, the Alabama Art Education Association, the Alabama Alliance for Arts Education, the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts, and

WHEREAS, support should be given to visual arts programs and teachers as they attempt to strengthen and strive for educational excellence for students; and

WHEREAS, the visual arts contribute powerful educational benefits to all elementary and secondary students, including enhancing cognitive capacities and motivating students to learn; promoting sophisticated reading skills and interpretation of text through visualization training; promoting content and organization writing skills through drawing skills; and establishing essential connections between the art itself and other curricula experiences:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the 2016 State Superintendent's Visual Arts Exhibit award-winning students and their teachers upon the honor of being selected as Alabama's outstanding young artists and visual arts educators.

Done this 11th day of February 2016

Mr. Jeff Newman, Vice President of the Board, recognized the students in the audience on their participation in the 2016 Annual State Superintendent's Visual Arts Exhibit.

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

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MARCH 2016 AS "ARTS EDUCATION MONTH" IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize the arts as a vital and enriching segment of children's education; and

WHEREAS, the National Art Education Association has designated March as "Youth Art Month"; the National Association for Music has designated March as "Music in Our Schools Month"; the American Alliance for Theatre Education has designated March as "Theatre in Our Schools Month"; and the National Dance Education Organization has designated March as "Dance in Our Schools Month"; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Council on the Arts, the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, the Alabama Music Educators Association, the Alabama Art Education Association, the Alabama Alliance for Arts Education, the Alabama Chapter of the Educational Theatre Association, the Alabama Dance Council, the Alabama Conference of Theatre, the Alabama Literacy Consortium, and the Alabama Arts Advocacy Commission have voiced their support for designating March 2016 as "Arts Education Month" in Alabama schools; and

WHEREAS, the arts education teachers in the public schools of Alabama continue to strive for educational excellence for their students; and

WHEREAS, support should be given to arts teachers as they attempt to strengthen arts education programs in their schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, arts education contributes powerful education benefits to all elementary and secondary students including the following: arts education develops students' creative problem-solving and critical-thinking abilities; arts education teaches sensitivity to beauty, order, and other

expressive qualities; arts education gives students a deeper understanding of multicultural values and beliefs; arts education reinforces and brings to life what students learn in other subjects; and arts education interrelates students' learning in arts production, arts history, arts criticism, and aesthetics:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That support should be given to arts education teachers as they attempt to strengthen arts education in their schools and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That education in the arts, including dance, music, theatre, and visual arts, is an essential component of K-12 public education in Alabama; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby express its appreciation to arts educators, classroom teachers, and administrators for their efforts to improve arts education in Alabama public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby designate March 2016 as "Arts Education Month" in the public schools of Alabama.

Done this 11th day of February 2016

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

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 1-29, 2016, AS
ALABAMA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH**

WHEREAS, the Association for Career and Technical Education and other national educational organizations have proclaimed the month of February as Career and Technical Education Month; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's career and technical education programs have become a *rigorous, progressive, and vital* part of the total educational system, which is committed to providing Alabama's students with rewarding opportunities to learn valuable career and life skills; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's career and technical education programs are successfully partnering with international business and industry to ensure students are equipped with the advanced communication, time management, and leadership skills required for lifelong success; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's career and technical education programs are continually providing students with opportunities to gain valuable *hands-on experience* through apprenticeships, internships, and cooperative education programs; and

WHEREAS, profound economic and technological changes in our society are rapidly reflected in the structure and nature of work, thereby placing new and additional responsibilities on our educational system; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's career and technical education programs have shown a genuine commitment to preparing students for "life after high school" by providing them opportunities to earn industry-recognized credentials and college credit while still in high school; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's career and technical education programs are committed to recruiting highly qualified and focused educators who are fully dedicated to preparing students for their futures; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Department of Education has been awarded certification from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) for its Business/Industry Certification (BIC) process, which is used to certify all Alabama career and technical education programs to international industry standards; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby proclaim February 1-29, 2016, as Career and Technical Education Month and encourages local boards of education, schools, business professionals, and local educational organizations to participate in this celebration through activities that demonstrate the importance of Alabama's career and technical education programs and the realization of students achieving their lifelong aspirations of academic excellence and personal achievement.

Done this 11th day of February 2016.

The Board members and Dr. Thomas R. Bice commented on the importance of Career and Technical Education and Workforce Development. It was the consensus of the members that the students are the workforce of the future. In memoriam to Mr. Gary Warren, Board members and Dr. Bice, spoke of Mr. Warren's dedication to career tech and his work with the legislature in support of Career and Technical Education and Workforce Development. The success of today's Career and Technical

Education programs was attributed to the work of Mr. Warren while in service to Alabama public education.

State Board Member Matthew Brown recognized Baldwin County constituents who were present: Angie Swiger, Dr. Ernie Rosado, Mrs. Julie Bryant, Mrs. Susan Nelson, Mrs. Joanna Mercer, and Dr. Stephanie Harrison. He stated how proud he was of what is taking place in the system as it relates to Career and Technical Education and Workforce Development.

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

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 15-19, 2016, AS
ALABAMA DIGITAL LEARNING WEEK**

WHEREAS, the state of Alabama provides equal access to high-quality instruction to improve student achievement through digital learning; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, and Students Statewide (ACCESS) Program and the Alabama Learning Exchange (ALEX) effectively use technology to strengthen the student learning experience by providing access to high-level and challenging online content, lesson plans, and instruction; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's Technology in Motion (TiM) Program delivers on-site, job-embedded professional development to assist teachers in their professional growth to create a technology-rich learning environment and project-based learning for the benefit of Alabama's students as they enter a digital world; and

WHEREAS, ACCESS Virtual Learning, one of the state's premier initiatives, brings true equity in instructional opportunities to all Alabama high school students using a blended delivery model of Web-based and videoconferencing instruction allowing schools to customize an academic program addressing the learning styles and needs of all students by allowing them to be part of a world of learning to which they would not normally have access; and

WHEREAS, the world has been transformed by technology, making modern life more efficient, accessible, richer, and faster, and ACCESS Virtual Learning, ALEX, and TiM strive to prepare Alabama's students for college and career readiness with an infusion of digital learning and the effective use of technology; and

WHEREAS, ACCESS Virtual Learning along with the Alabama Supercomputer Authority have worked in partnership to provide quality virtual programs to the students of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, ACCESS Virtual Learning, ALEX, and TiM have brought award-winning exposure to Alabama through national and international visitors as well as through a number of articles in major educational and professional journals:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby proclaim the week of February 15-19, 2016, as "Alabama Digital Learning Week" and urges schools and local communities to celebrate the 5th anniversary of National Digital Learning Day.

Done this 11th day of February 2016

In observance of Alabama Digital Learning Week, Ms. Earlene Patton, Educational Technology Coordinator, and staff invited two students to speak before the Board.

Mr. James B. Cunningham, Jr., Superintendent, Fort Payne City School System, addressed the Board on how much it meant to the system for Dr. Thomas R. Bice and Dr. Cynthia McCarty to visit and emphasized how innovative ideas and techniques have made an impact on the school system. He expressed appreciation and excitement to receive the invitation for one of his students to speak before the Board and introduced student Emma Goggans, a 7th grade student at Fort Payne Middle School. Using her i-Pad as a visual, Emma explained to Board members and the audience what she does on the iPad to enhance learning. She explained the importance of technology and the impact it has made on her education, personal life, and future. She indicated that the iPad had replaced the textbooks she once carried.

Dr. Stephanie Harrison, Coordinator, Middle Curriculum/Instruction with the Baldwin County School System, introduced John Smith, a 12th grade student at Gulf Shores High School and a national merit finalist. John addressed the Board on the impact made on his education through the use of technology. As a senior at Gulf Shores High School, he is also a participant in A+ College Readiness and serves as President of his senior class. A student in the career academy program, John has interned at the regional medical facility as well as a dentist office and feels that his success in the program has made all of this possible.

On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following:

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA**

A Resolution Calling a Portion of the Board's Athens State University Revenue Bonds, Series 2007, dated July 15, 2007 for Redemption on July 15, 2017

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education of the State of Alabama (the "Board"), has heretofore issued its Athens State University Revenue Bonds, Series 2007 (the "Series 2007 Bonds"), on July 15, 2007 in order to refinance certain outstanding debt of the Board and finance certain capital improvements to the facilities of Athens State University (the "University");

WHEREAS, the Series 2007 Bonds were issued pursuant to a resolution of the Board duly adopted on July 10, 2007 and a Definitive Terms Certificate dated July 25, 2007 (collectively the "2007 Authorizing Resolution");

WHEREAS, pursuant to Act No. 2012-497, adopted at the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature of Alabama (the "Athens State Act"), the Alabama Legislature provided for the removal of the University from the jurisdiction, supervision and control of the Board and provided for the governance of the University by a Board of Trustees;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Athens State Act, the University and Board entered into that certain Agreement Concerning Outstanding Bonds, dated as of October 1, 2012 (the "Bonds Agreement"), pursuant to which the University and the Board agreed to certain terms and procedures relating to outstanding bonds of the Board that were issued for the benefit of the University, including the Series 2007 Bonds.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Athens State Act, the University has the power to issue its own bonds for the purposes of financing capital improvements to the facilities of the University and refinancing existing indebtedness issued for the benefit of the University;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms and conditions of that certain Financing Agreement dated as of October 1, 2015 between the University and Regions Capital Advantage, Inc., the University has issued that certain Tuition and Fee Revenue Bond, Series 2015 (the "Series 2015 Bond"), the proceeds of which will be used to redeem and retire a portion of the Series 2007 Bonds (the "Refunded Bonds");

WHEREAS, pursuant to that certain Refunding Trust Agreement (the "Refunding Trust Agreement") between the University and Regions Bank, as paying agent for the Refunded Bonds pursuant to the 2007 Authorizing Resolution (the "Escrow Trustee"), it will be necessary and desirable for Escrow Trustee to call the Refunded Bonds for redemption on July 15, 2017;

WHEREAS, a portion of the proceeds of the Series 2015 Bond has been deposited with the Escrow Trustee, and such amount is sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the Refunded Bonds until and including July 15, 2017 and the redemption price of the Refunded Bonds on July 15, 2017; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Bonds Agreement, the Board has agreed to authorize such call for redemption upon the request of the University;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (the "Board")
AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. The foregoing recitals to this Resolution and the definitions therein are hereby incorporated by referenced.

Section 2. All principal and interest that has matured or come due with respect to the Refunded Bonds has been paid in full. The Board is not in default under the 2007 Authorizing Resolution and no such defaults are imminent.

Section 3. The Series 2007 Bonds are outstanding in the aggregate principal amount of \$9,290,000. The Refunded Bonds, as more particularly described on Exhibit A hereto, are outstanding in the aggregate principal amount of \$7,405,000.

Section 4. The Refunded Bonds are hereby called for redemption on July 15, 2017 (the "Redemption Date"). The Escrow Trustee is hereby directed to take all action necessary to effect the redemption of the Refunded Bonds on the Redemption Date pursuant to the Refunding Trust Agreement. The Board is not in default in the payment of the principal of or interest on any of the Refunded Bonds and the Refunded Bonds are to be retired on the Redemption Date. The Escrow Trustee shall give notice of redemption of the Refunded Bonds to the registered owners of the Refunded Bonds which are to be redeemed in accordance with the provisions of the 2007 Authorizing Resolution and the Refunding Trust Agreement.

Section 5. All actions heretofore taken, and all agreements, documents, instruments and notices heretofore executed, delivered or made, by any of the officers of the Board with respect to any matters referenced herein are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Section 6. All resolutions, or parts thereof, of the Board in conflict or inconsistent with any provision of this resolution hereby are, to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency, repealed.

Section 7. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

EXHIBIT A

The Refunded Bonds

<u>Year of Maturity</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
2019	\$685,000	4.375%
2020	715,000	4.375
2021	745,000	4.375
2022	775,000	4.500
2027	4,485,000	5.000

CERTIFICATE OF VICE PRESIDENT

I, the undersigned, duly elected, qualified and acting Vice President of the State Board of Education of the State of Alabama (the "Board"), do hereby certify that (1) the above and foregoing pages constitute a complete, verbatim and compared copy of excerpts of the minutes of a meeting of the Board duly held on the 11th day of February, 2016, the original of which is on file and of record in the minute book of the Board in my custody; and (2) the resolution set forth herein is a complete, verbatim and compared copy of such resolution as introduced and adopted by the Board on such date.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand as Vice President of the State Board of Education of the State of Alabama and have affixed the official seal of the Board, this 11th day of February, 2016.

Vice President of the State Board of Education
of the State of Alabama

**REPRESENTATION OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ON THE ALABAMA
TEACHER OF THE YEAR SELECTION COMMITTEE**

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter, Mr. Matthew Brown was selected as the Board's representative on the Alabama Teacher of the Year Selection Committee.

Due to the Arts Luncheon that would recognize students who participated in the 2016 Annual State Superintendent's Visual Arts Exhibit, Dr. Thomas R. Bice informed Board members that follow up discussion from the Board Retreat held on Wednesday, February 10, 2016, would be held during the State Board Work Session that will be held immediately following the luncheon at 1 p.m. in Plaza 104. The Board members were informed that the luncheon would begin at 11:30 a.m., at the RSA Plaza Terrace.

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer