

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
FEBRUARY 9, 2017
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, February 9, 2017, at 10:10 a.m. in the auditorium 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 M. RICHARDSON

Reverend Rosa Lindahl, Church of the Ascension, 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
Mr. Jeff Newman
Mrs. Betty Peters
Dr. Yvette M. Richardson
Mrs. Jackie Zeigler

Absent

Governor Robert Bentley

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2017

On motion by Mrs. Ella B. Bell and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of January 12, 2017.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2017 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, and Alabama Alliance for Arts Education, the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, and the Alabama 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 and artistic literacy for students; and

WHEREAS, the visual arts contribute powerful educational benefits to all elementary and secondary students by enhancing metacognitive abilities and engaging students to learn, promoting curiosity, creativity, innovation, critical-thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration; provide opportunities to access, develop, express and integrate meaning across a variety of content, other curricula experiences, and the human condition:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the 2017 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 9th day of February

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MARCH 2017 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 well-rounded 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 Artistic Literacy Consortium, and the Alabama Arts Advocacy Commission have voiced their support for designating March 2017 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 and artistic literacy 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 a well-rounded 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 2017 as "Arts Education Month" in the public schools of Alabama.

Done this 9th day of February 2017

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Jackie Zeigler, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following:

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH BUSH, SARALAND HIGH SCHOOL, SARALAND
CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, 2017 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 Joseph Bush, Saraland High School, Saraland City School System; his teacher, Catherine Wood; his principal, Beverly Jane Spondike; and his superintendent, Dr. Aaron Milner, and congratulates him for winning Best of Show in the 2017 State Superintendent’s Visual Arts Exhibit.

Done this 9th day of February 2017.

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

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ALABAMA’S “GROW OUR OWN” INITIATIVE AND “FUTURE TEACHERS OF ALABAMA” ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Department of Education and the Alabama Education Association (AEA) have formed a partnership dedicated to encouraging Alabama’s students to pursue a career in the teaching profession; and

WHEREAS, research shows there will be an even greater demand for highly qualified teachers in the next decade; and

WHEREAS, the *Future Teachers of Alabama* (FTA) organization and the *TEACH Alabama* program are innovative approaches focused on attracting more talented students to careers in the field of education; and

WHEREAS, the Future Teachers of Alabama organization and the TEACH Alabama program are *rigorous, progressive, and vital* parts of Alabama’s total education system; and

WHEREAS, these programs are committed to providing students with opportunities to gain valuable hands-on experiences through internships, classroom observations, and project-based learning; and

WHEREAS, Future Teachers of Alabama and TEACH Alabama started the “Grow Our Own” initiative to provide Alabama’s local school systems with additional opportunities to focus on activities that promote teaching as a career, highlight the importance of America’s educators, and encourage students to strongly consider the field of education as a future career choice; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Education Association and the Alabama State Department of Education also want to honor the service, dedication, and professionalism of Alabama’s educators:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby recognize Alabama’s “Grow Our Own” initiative and the “Future Teachers of Alabama” organization, and encourages local boards of education and all educational organizations statewide to support these special programs through activities that demonstrate the true importance of the teaching profession, and the opportunities it provides for students to achieve personal and professional success.

Done this 9th day of February 2017.

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Betty Peters, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following:

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 1-28, 2017
AS ALABAMA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH**

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

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

WHEREAS, Alabama's career and technical education programs are preparing students for "a lifetime of success" by providing them opportunities to earn industry recognized credentials, workplace experience, and college credit while still in high school; 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 1-28, 2017, 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 aspirations of excellence and personal achievement.

Done this 9th day of February 2017.

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 MARCH 6-10, 2017, AS "SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK" IN
ALABAMA SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize that for nearly 50 years the School Breakfast Program has contributed to the health and educational development of Alabama's children by making nutritious morning meals available in K-12 public schools; and

WHEREAS, every March the American School Food Service Association and the U.S. Department of Agriculture join together to celebrate National School Breakfast Week; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 theme of National School Breakfast Week, "Take the School Breakfast Challenge," reminds parents, students, and school officials that a healthy school breakfast helps students power through the day; and

WHEREAS, research has indicated that students who eat breakfast have better attention and memory; the quality of foods children eat impacts cognition; and poor nutrition is linked with absenteeism, hunger symptoms, and psychosocial problems; and

WHEREAS, scientifically based food and nutrition information contributes powerful education benefits to all elementary and secondary students; and

WHEREAS, the School Breakfast Program served over 44 million breakfast meals for the school year 2015-2016 to Alabama students:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby express its appreciation to school nutrition professionals who make the local School Breakfast Program work in 1,598 school sites statewide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education encourages Alabama schools to participate in promoting National School Breakfast Week; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does designate March 6-10, 2017, as “School Breakfast Week” in the public schools of Alabama.

Done this 9th day of February 2017

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

RESOLUTION HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, on February 7, 1926, under the leadership of Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, director of the Association for the Study of Black Afro-American Life and History, Black History Week was established to spark awareness and broaden public interest in the deeds and accomplishments of Black Americans in this nation’s history; and

WHEREAS, the celebration was expanded to Black History Month in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time of remembering and celebrating African American history, culture and the experiences of our nation’s African American community; and

WHEREAS, significant events of Black History have shaped our nation including the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, the Civil Rights Movement, and the passage of the *Voting Rights Act of 1965* and the *Civil Rights Act of 1968*; and

WHEREAS, distinguished Black Alabamians and Black Americans with Alabama connections who have achieved state, national and global recognition for their contributions and sacrifices include Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and General Colin Powell; and

WHEREAS, since 2011, the Alabama State Department of Education has teamed with AT&T to produce the African American History Calendar, a publication that highlights social justice advocates, medical pioneers, entrepreneurs, and entertainers whose contributions have made a lasting impact on Alabama and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the calendar that was created to identify role models for youth and honor notable African American achievers with ties to Alabama, is distributed to schools across the state as a resource tool for educators and students; and

WHEREAS, it is important that we continue to salute the positive contributions and achievements of African Americans throughout our nation and the state of Alabama:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby endorse February 2017 as Black History Month in Alabama in appreciation of these and other Black Americans and Alabamians, and does hereby encourage the public schools to participate in this month-long celebration and to pay tribute to these and other men and women by teaching our children about them and their legacies to us today.

Done this 9th day of February 2017

On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Mrs. Ella B. Bell, the Board voted 7-0-1 to adopt the mission statement below. Mrs. Stephanie Bell abstained.

In the knowledge-based economy of the future, a dynamic, healthy and prosperous Alabama will increasingly rely on the education of its population. The first step to realizing that vision is a high-performing system of public schools that challenges all children with world-class expectations for understanding English and its rich literature, mathematics, history and the requirements of a democracy, the sciences and the arts. Such a system demands educators with a deep understanding of the subject being taught, a personal allegiance to continuous self-improvement and a commitment to helping all children find their success in school and their lives thereafter.

It is the Board’s vision and plan to promote and support such an equitable, accountable, and just system.

A copy of this PowerPoint presentation is filed in the Board folder dated February 9, 2017, and placed in the State Superintendent’s receptionist area.

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

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW
OF AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM
Spring Hill College
Mobile, Alabama**

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.56(4)(b)2., 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 State Superintendent of Education has received from the Provost of Spring Hill College a written request to develop a Class B Chemistry (6-12) 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, Spring Hill College 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 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 Chemistry (6-12)

Done this 9th day February 2017

On Motion by Dr. Cynthia McCarty and seconded by Mrs. Ella B. Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW
OF AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM
University of Mobile
Mobile, Alabama**

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.56(4)(b)2., 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 State Superintendent of Education has received from the president of the University of Mobile a written request to develop a Class B Special Education Teacher (K-6) 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 Mobile 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 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 Collaborative Special Education Teacher (K-6)

Done this 9th day of February 2017

On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted 6-0-2 to approve the FY-2018 Budget.

Voted in Favor of the Motion

Mrs. Ella B. Bell
Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter
Dr. Cynthia McCarty
Mr. Jeff Newman
Dr. Yvette Richardson
Mrs. Jackie Zeigler

Abstained

Mrs. Stephanie Bell
Mrs. Betty Peters

A copy of this document is filed in the Board folder dated February 2017. Mr. Michael Sentance stated that information had been received from some Board members pertaining to the budget; however, with his employment beginning in October of 2016, he stated that future budget discussions will begin in August in order to have sufficient time to receive feedback from Board members and meet the November 1 deadline. Mr. Andy Craig will make adjustments based on information received.

REPRESENTATION OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ON THE 2017 STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Ella B. Bell, the Board voted unanimously for Mrs. Jackie Zeigler to serve as the State Board Representative on the Alabama Teacher of the Year Committee.

On motion by Mrs. Ella B. Bell and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the resolution below and appoint Dr. Barbara Cooper as the Chief Administrative Officer for the Montgomery County School System.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS INTERVENTION

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Education are vested by the Alabama Constitution and the laws of the state of Alabama with authority to exercise general control and supervision over the public schools of the State; and

WHEREAS, Alabama law further authorizes the State Superintendent of Education to review actions and orders of boards and superintendents of education related to matters seriously affecting the financial and/or education interests, to enforce the education laws and regulations of the Alabama State Board of Education, and to implement the educational policies of the Alabama State Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, local boards of education perform a state function at a local level and function as an arm of the state, subject to the general supervision of the Alabama State Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, more particularly, the *Code of Alabama*, including the *Educational Accountability and Intervention Act of 2013* (the "Act"), codified at Ala. Code §§ 16-6E-1 to -7, provides for intervention by the State Superintendent of Education of local boards under certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, on January 17, 2017, the State Superintendent of Education issued a show-cause letter to the Montgomery County Public Schools ("MPS") Board of Education, notifying MPS that intervention was being considered, explaining the deficiencies warranting the potential intervention, and instructing MPS to provide a written response to the letter; and

WHEREAS, at its January 20, 2017, meeting, the MPS Board of Education decided to consent to the intervention; and

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2017, the MPS Board of Education responded to the show-cause letter affirming the decision to accept intervention and work collaboratively with the Alabama State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, in a spirit of collaboration, MPS provided extensive information and updates regarding the areas of concern; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education finds that the criteria set forth in the Act, including Ala. Code § 16-6E-4(5), that are necessary for educational intervention have been met:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does authorize education intervention of MPS under the Act and in such intervention the State Superintendent of Education shall be vested with all authority and power afforded to him under the Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, pursuant to the request of the State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Barbara Cooper is hereby appointed Chief Administrative Officer with full power and authority to exercise intervention authority under the Act subject to the supervision of the State Superintendent of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That intervention of MPS shall continue until MPS has become compliant with Chapter 13A, Title 16, *Code of Alabama* 1975 and, in the judgment of the State Superintendent of Education, has made suitable progress towards correcting the deficiencies leading to intervention including, but not limited to, in the areas of fiscal procedures, budgeting, accountability, and accuracy; CNP procedures; student transportation operations; student academic achievement; College and/or Career Ready rates; the gap between graduation rates and College and/or Career Ready rates; and the MPS graduation rate.

Done this 9th day of February 2017.

Mr. Michael Sentance stated that the meetings between the Alabama State Department of Education and the Montgomery County Board of Education have been productive. He commended Montgomery County Superintendent Margaret Allen and Montgomery County Board of Education members for their work in this matter. Mr. Sentance stated that the Montgomery County Board Members voted on January 20 to accept the Intervention and on February 7, 2017, sent a letter to the Alabama State Department of Education that acknowledged the Board members' vote. Mr. Sentance stated that the Department has a plan and are interviewing future individuals for employment. Board Members Ella B. Bell and Stephanie Bell expressed their support of the system and concurred that a great deal could be accomplished working together.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Michael Sentance informed Board members that the Strategic Planning Committee for Math had a successful meeting and the Strategic Planning Committee for Science is excited about a scheduled meeting. Mr. Sentance stated that he attended the Governor's State of the State address and had been asked by Governor Robert Bentley to work with Secretary Jeana Ross in developing a coordinated plan from Pre-K through 16. He stated that Dr. Barbara Cooper, Mrs. Shanthia Washington, and Ms. Chasidy White will lead on developing a plan with Secretary Ross.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. for the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer