

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
JANUARY 12, 2017
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, January 12, 2017, at 10:07 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

Bishop J. L. Dasher, Word of Life 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
Mr. Matthew Brown
Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter
Dr. Cynthia McCarty
Mr. Jeff Newman
Mrs. Betty Peters
Dr. Yvette M. Richardson

Absent

Governor Robert Bentley

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 8, 2017

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE WORK AND SERVICE OF MATTHEW S. BROWN, J.D.,
ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER, DISTRICT ONE**

WHEREAS, Matthew S. Brown, J.D., received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Pensacola Christian College and a juris doctorate from Samford University, Cumberland School of Law; and

WHEREAS, after practicing law in Fairhope, Matthew S. Brown was hired to manage a newly formed Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in Baldwin County. As the MPO administrator, Mr. Brown utilized his engineering and legal background and worked closely with local elected officials and community leaders to prepare for the rapid growth in Baldwin County; and

WHEREAS, in June 2015, Matthew S. Brown accepted a position as the Design Engineer for the Baldwin County Highway Department, which is committed to constructing and maintaining the infrastructure under its control in a reasonably safe condition for travel; and

WHEREAS, Matthew S. Brown is a member of Clear Springs Baptist church where he serves as deacon and treasurer, and he is also the chairman (and former Vice Chairman) of

the Baldwin County Young Republicans and the District One Vice Chairman for the Alabama Federation of Young Republicans; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as an officer of the Baldwin County Young Republicans, Matthew S. Brown has helped rebuild the local Young Republican club into one of Baldwin County's most active Republican groups; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Matthew S. Brown became the Alabama State Board of Education Representative for District One, allowing him to professionally and diplomatically address various statewide education issues affecting students, teachers, parents, and others in the field of public education; and

WHEREAS, while serving on the Alabama State Board of Education, Matthew S. Brown supported significant education policies, including, but not limited to, expansion of career and technical education programs; refinement of criteria for initial and continued certification for educators; enhancement of professional development criteria and opportunities for school personnel; and implementation of innovative and flexible programs in schools:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education do hereby express their deepest gratitude to Matthew S. Brown for his selfless service and commitment to education and his professionalism during his tenure on the Alabama State Board of Education.

Done this 12th day of January 2017

Mr. Matthew Brown extended appreciation to his family, Board members, and staff. Also, he expressed appreciation to his successor, Mrs. Jackie Zeigler, for her support. Final thanks went to Mr. Michael Sentance and how he got his attention during the interview process for State Superintendent. Mr. Brown stated that the experience as a Board member will stay with him for a lifetime. Board members thanked him for his support.

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

RESOLUTION HONORING THE WORK AND SERVICE OF THE ALABAMA EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), is a bipartisan federal bill reauthorizing the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) that was signed into law on December 10, 2015; and

WHEREAS, ESSA replaces the previous version of the law, No Child Left Behind (NCLB), and takes decisions out of the hands of the federal government, shifting power and control over education back to the states; and

WHEREAS, offering greater stability and flexibility, ESSA allows states to determine best practices for the implementation of academic standards, testing, accountability, school improvement, and teacher quality; and

WHEREAS, ESSA Implementation Committee was created to develop a plan to implement ESSA in Alabama by Executive Order 16 signed by Governor Robert Bentley on March 14, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the committee had 32 members, consisting of superintendents and members of local school boards, school principals, teachers, Alabama State Department of Education officials and education policy advocates from across Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama ESSA Implementation Committee was led by Chairman Jeana Ross, Secretary of the Department of Early Childhood Education; Vice Chairman Shanthia Washington, Director of the Alabama State Department of Education Office of Student Learning; and Vice Chairman Dr. Matt Akin, Superintendent of the Piedmont City School System; and

WHEREAS, the committee and its subcommittee working groups met on many occasions to develop the state plan for Alabama, of which a draft of key decisions was presented to the Alabama State Board of Education on November 10, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Alabama ESSA Implementation Committee members and Alabama State Department of Education staff also traveled across the state to provide an overview of ESSA to receive stakeholders' feedback as part of the ESSA Engagement Tour; and

WHEREAS, the ESSA Community Engagement Tour was hosted by school systems in each of the eight Alabama State Board of Education board districts; and

WHEREAS, feedback received from stakeholders during the ESSA Community Engagement Tour was shared with the Alabama ESSA Implementation Committee members, and has been taken into consideration as the committee formulated its key decisions:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes the Alabama ESSA Implementation Committee for its diligence in serving Alabama and our schoolchildren; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution is presented to Secretary Jeana Ross, Chairman of the Alabama ESSA Implementation Committee, with the sincere thanks and genuine appreciation of the Alabama State Board of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution will be presented to each member of the Alabama ESSA Implementation Committee as an expression of this Board's appreciation of their outstanding service.

Done this 12th day of January 2017

Mrs. Shanthia Washington, Director of the Office of Student Learning, accepted the resolution on behalf of Secretary Jeana Ross. Board members expressed appreciation for the committee's work as a whole.

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 HORIZON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER
AMARA ALEXANDER, MADISON CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, 2016 MILKEN EDUCATOR
AWARDS RECIPIENT**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education supports efforts to reward Alabama's outstanding educators for their contributions to the educational experiences of Alabama's students; and

WHEREAS, the Milken Family Foundation and the Alabama State Department of Education provide Alabama teachers the opportunity to participate in the Milken Educator Awards, the nation's largest teacher recognition program; and

WHEREAS, the Milken Educator Awards were first presented in 1987 to acknowledge educators' crucial contributions to our national well-being and to provide public recognition and financial rewards to talented elementary and secondary educators; and

WHEREAS, Amara Alexander is the Alabama recipient of the prestigious 2016 Milken Educator Award in honor of her efforts on behalf of the nation's schoolchildren; and

WHEREAS, Amara Alexander is a sixth-grade science and social studies teacher who has used her educational talent to effectively implement creative instructional strategies and to provide care and compassion to each of her students; and

WHEREAS, Amara Alexander's students learn about science by dancing, singing, writing songs, researching, designing, building, and teaching their peers; and

WHEREAS, Amara Alexander works to incorporate organizational skills into her class procedures, such as coaching students on note taking; and

WHEREAS, for English Language Learners (ELLs), Amara Alexander deftly differentiates curriculum, providing appropriately leveled materials and grouping students to support the ELLs' participation in discussions and experiments; and

WHEREAS, Amara Alexander strives to build positive relationships with all stakeholders by inviting families, colleagues, and administrators to participate in classroom activities with her students; and

WHEREAS, Amara Alexander is active in Project Lead the Way, leads Horizon's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) efforts, and directs the school's extended-day program; and

WHEREAS, Amara Alexander, a long-time Girl Scout, is a cadet leader and meets weekly with middle school girls to discuss issues such as bullying, advocacy, budgeting, and time management; and

WHEREAS, it should also be noted that Amara Alexander is the second member of her family to receive the prestigious Milken Educator Award as well as the unrestricted \$25,000 financial reward that accompanies it; and

WHEREAS, her mother, Dr. Tammy Alexander, was named Alabama's Milken Educator in 1998:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Amara Alexander for becoming Alabama's 34th National Milken Educator and for being a role model for what rigorous and relevant instruction looks like in action.

Done this 12th day of January 2017

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

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING JEFFERY BEAMS ON BEING SELECTED AS THE
"BARBARA FANNIN MEMORIAL EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER"
JANUARY – MARCH 2017**

WHEREAS, Jeffery Beams, Senior Programmer Analyst in the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) Division of Technology & Data, Information Systems, exhibits a positive attitude and is always cooperative; and

WHEREAS, Jeffery Beams has been a member of the Information Systems team at the ALSDE for 13 years, and during this time has not only excelled in his assigned duties, but also goes above the minimum requirements to ensure that tasks are completed in a thorough manner; and

WHEREAS, Jeffery Beams is very resourceful, dependable, goal-orientated, and maintains his composure and professionalism under all circumstances, even if they are stressful; and

WHEREAS, Jeffery Beams works with the Office of Student Learning, Student Assessment, to create/produce data files for all assessments, which means many different files with their own unique criteria and requirements for each of the state assessments; and

WHEREAS, regardless of how crunched he is for time, Jeffery Beams always manages to create the files and troubleshoot any errors; and

WHEREAS, Jeffery Beams is willing to go to extraordinary lengths to assist others in getting tasks accomplished, including working long hours to ensure all assessment reports are accurate; and

WHEREAS, Jeffery Beams possesses a calm presence and positive demeanor and is courteous when interacting with his peers and ALSDE personnel; and

WHEREAS, Jeffery Beams also communicates extremely well with the public and represents the department well:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Jeffrey Beams for his selection as the recipient of the “Barbara Fannin Memorial Employee of the Quarter Award” for January - March 2017 and expresses its appreciation for his exemplary service to the department, to this board, and, ultimately, to Alabama’s public elementary and secondary schools.

Done this 12th day of January 2017.

On motion by Mrs. Betty Peters and seconded by Mr. Matthew Brown, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS
Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama

WHEREAS, a review of teacher education programs was conducted on June 21-24, 2016, by the Alabama State Department of Education in accordance with the Alabama State Board of Education, *Alabama State Department of Education Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.56(2)(b)2; and

WHEREAS, additional documentation was reviewed on October 13-19, 2016; and

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

WHEREAS, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) reviewed Auburn University programs during 2014 and granted continuing accreditation on April 29, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Superintendent of Education recommends approval of the programs:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby approves the following programs with approval to expire on May 31, 2022:

Class AA French (6-12)
Class AA Music Education, Choral (P-12)
Class AA Music Education, Instrumental (P-12)

Done this 12th day of January 2017

Mr. Michael Sentance provided a summary regarding the resolution below that pertains to the Montgomery County School System. He stated that he had spoken with the two Board members who represent Montgomery County, Mrs. Ella B. Bell and Mrs. Stephanie Bell, and each expressed their concern regarding achievement and the long-term status of some of the schools in the district. Mr. Sentance said he felt schools in the capitol city should be a shining example as well as a model. He stated that he has talked with Superintendent Margaret Allen and Board Members and there is a consensus among them in doing what is right for children. He stated that the resolution is a first step and a second vote will be required. The Montgomery County School System has 21 days to respond before there is a determination on intervention. If this occurs, Mr. Sentance stated that the Alabama State Department of Education would begin on a school-by-school basis; however, specific details are not available. In the event of intervention, there will be discussion with stakeholders as well as community meetings. He said that underperformance in the school system would have to be addressed. At this time, there is no timeline as to how long the intervention will last. He stated that the school system has some of the best schools in the state and those schools would not be included in the intervention. The discussion will be continued during the next Board meeting scheduled on February 9.

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

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ISSUANCE OF NOTICE TO SHOW CAUSE
JANUARY 12, 2017**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education may, under the *Educational Accountability and Intervention Act of 2013* ("the Act"), codified at Ala. Code §§16-6E-1 to -7, intervene in the educational operations of a city or county board of education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education has concerns regarding the financial and academic performance of the Montgomery Public Schools (MPS) System; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education understands that the Montgomery County Board of Education shares these concerns and has expressed a desire to cooperate with the State Superintendent of Education to correct the deficiencies that exist within MPS; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with state law, the State Superintendent of Education may, under certain circumstances and after notice has been given, intervene in order to implement organizational reforms and accountability measures as may be necessary to restore and maintain stable and efficient provision of sound and educationally appropriate services; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education understands that the Montgomery County Board of Education has expressed a desire to work with the State Superintendent of Education toward the common goal of realizing financial and academic improvement in MPS; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education encourages such cooperation and believes that a collaborative approach to any intervention will benefit the students of MPS:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Alabama State Board of Education that it supports the State Superintendent of Education's intention to issue a written notice to the Montgomery County Superintendent of Education and the presiding officer of the Montgomery County Board of Education regarding the potential intervention of MPS.

Approved this 12th day of January 2017

Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Michael Sentance informed Board members of his visit to schools in Dr. Cynthia McCarty's district. He was pleased with the visit and brought back information for discussion with staff. Mr. Sentance stated the Department had communicated with the United States Department of Education regarding the state consolidation plan for *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA). The Department's final Plan will be submitted in September. The Board was also informed that due to weather conditions, the Math committee meeting was cancelled.

On motion by Mrs. Ella B. Bell and seconded by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter, the Board adjourned for the press conference pertaining to the Montgomery County School System. The Work Session was held following the press conference.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer