

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
JUNE 11, 2015
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met on Thursday, June 11, 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: MRS. ELLA B. BELL, VICE PRESIDENT

A guest minister in the audience 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
Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter
Dr. Cynthia McCarty
Mr. Jeff Newman
Mrs. Betty Peters
Dr. Yvette Richardson

Absent

Governor Robert Bentley

Note: With the exception of the July meeting that is required by state law to be held on the second Tuesday the State Board meetings and work sessions will now be held the second Thursday of each month at 10:30 a.m., and 1 p.m., respectively. The Department of Postsecondary Education is now under the supervision of the Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 13, 2015, AND THE SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING OF MAY 26, 2015

On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board approved the minutes for the meeting of May 13, 2015, and the Special-Called meeting of May 26, 2015.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Thomas R. Bice requested that Agenda Item G.2.C., Approval of the Comprehensive Counseling and Guidance Model for Alabama Public Schools be removed from the agenda. Dr. Bice stated that the item, at this point, would be removed indefinitely. On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted in unison to adopt the agenda as amended.

At this time, the individuals who signed up to speak to the State Board of Education pertaining to the Comprehensive Counseling and Guidance Model for Alabama Public Schools did so individually from the podium. Their speeches may be viewed in full, as well as the complete Board meeting, at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/alabama-department-of-education>. The Board members and State Superintendent thanked the members of the public for providing their input and sharing their views.

On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted 4-0-3 to Adopt the Emergency Rules for Charter Schools, *Alabama Administrative Code*, 290-3-6.

Voted Yes

Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter
Dr. Cynthia McCarty
Mr. Jeff Newman
Dr. Yvette Richardson

Abstained

Mrs. Ella B. Bell
Mrs. Stephanie Bell
Mrs. Betty Peters

On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted 4-0-3 to Announce Intent to Adopt Final Regulations Governing Charter Schools.

Voted Yes

Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter
Dr. Cynthia McCarty
Mr. Jeff Newman
Dr. Yvette Richardson

Abstained

Mrs. Ella B. Bell
Mrs. Stephanie Bell
Mrs. Betty Peters

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

RESOLUTION TO REMOVE BIRMINGHAM CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM FROM FINANCIAL INTERVENTION

WHEREAS, under provisions of the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 16-6B-4, and the *Alabama Administrative Code*, Chapter 290-4-1, the Alabama State Board of Education voted on June 14, 2012, to authorize state intervention by the Alabama State Department of Education into the Birmingham City School System due to financial reasons; and

WHEREAS, the Birmingham City School System has instituted many leadership strategies and effective management techniques during the period of financial state intervention that have resulted in the Birmingham City School System now having the state-required budget reserves; and

WHEREAS, the Birmingham City School System has made significant organization and personnel changes to reflect the needs of its students and has met criteria established by the State Superintendent of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Birmingham City School System now has a fully engaged and focused superintendent and a determined cadre of board members who are ready, willing, and able to provide leadership for the school system both financially and academically; and

WHEREAS, under authority of the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 16-6B-4, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Education are appreciative of cooperation and assistance provided to state staff by employees of the Birmingham City School System during the period of state intervention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the State Superintendent of Education does hereby recommend that the Alabama State Board of Education release the Birmingham City School System from state financial intervention effective today, June 11, 2015.

Done this 11th day of June 2015.

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

ANNOUNCE INTENT TO REPEAL AND ADOPT NEW CHAPTER 290-3-3, ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, PERTAINING TO EDUCATOR PREPARATION

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

**APPOINTMENT, 2015-16 STATE TEXTBOOK COMMITTEE
SCIENCE, GRADES K-12**

WHEREAS, the *Code of Alabama 1975*, §16-36-60, provides for the appointment of a State Textbook Committee; and

WHEREAS, said law provides that four elementary teachers and four high school teachers are to be selected to serve on the State Textbook Committee and are to come from each of the seven congressional districts of Alabama and one statewide; and

WHEREAS, said law provides that four people who shall be teachers, principals, supervisors, or superintendents are to be selected from the state-at-large; and

WHEREAS, said law provides that two members of said State Textbook Committee are to be selected from the institutions of higher learning; and

WHEREAS, said law provides that the fourteen people on the attached list are to be nominated to the Alabama State Board of Education by the State Superintendent of Education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the people on the attached list are hereby appointed to the 2015-2016 State Textbook Committee for a term beginning June 1, 2015, and ending on May 31, 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Board recognizes that said law provides that the Governor of Alabama is to appoint nine people not in the field of education to serve on this State Textbook Committee and welcomes them to full membership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That State Superintendent of Education Thomas R. Bice is hereby authorized to fill any vacancy that may occur on this State Textbook Committee until the next meeting of this Alabama State Board of Education after such vacancy occurs and same to be added as ad interim business.

**2015-2016 STATE TEXTBOOK COMMITTEE
SCIENCE, GRADES K-12**

TERM: JUNE 1, 2015 - May 31, 2016
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

I	Julie Neidhardt	Elementary	Mobile County
II	Maria Franco	Elementary	Tallassee City
III	Greg Gidley	Secondary	Clay County
IV	Curtis Jordan	Elementary	Jasper City
V	Gus Hembree	Secondary	Jackson County
VI	Jeana Gilbert	Secondary	Trussville City
VII	April Henderson	Elementary	Tuscaloosa County

STATE-WIDE Synauri Boykin Secondary Monroe County

STATE-AT-LARGE

A.	Latta Johnston	Principal	Homewood City
B.	Tessie Williams	Supervisor	Tallassee City
C.	Melvin Preyer	Supervisor	Monroe County
D.	John Harkness	Teacher	Clay County

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

A.	Dr. Anna McEwan	Professor/Elementary	University of Montevallo
B.	Dr. Hassan Moore	Professor/Secondary	University of Alabama at Birmingham

Done this 11th day of June 2015

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

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING NORMAN IPPOLITO
UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT**

WHEREAS, Norman Ippolito has served the Alabama State Department of Education, Office of Disability Determination Service (DDS), in Birmingham and Mobile for 43 years in an exemplary manner; and

WHEREAS, Norman Ippolito is an administrator who is knowledgeable in every aspect of the DDS operation and Social Security Disability Insurance Program and who knows how each business process affects other business processes; and

WHEREAS, since becoming DDS Director in 2012, Norman Ippolito has looked for ways to make the agency better, including reclassifying the disability specialists' and supervisors' positions; coordinating and administering the relocation of the Mobile DDS; and establishing the credentialing program for all consultative examination panelists, among other significant contributions that have already and will continue to positively impact the agency for years to come; and

WHEREAS, Norman Ippolito exhibits a high regard for each employee by having open communication and respect for them, including involving the DDS Management Team in discussions regarding budgetary matters, workload accomplishments, operational procedures, agency quality, and personnel matters; and

WHEREAS, Norman Ippolito has built an organizational culture that fosters teamwork, which has led to team momentum, enthusiasm, and pride throughout the entire DDS staff; and

WHEREAS, Norman Ippolito is well respected as a fair and trustworthy administrator of the DDS, and his colleagues consider him the standard that all DDS employees should aspire to attain:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby express its gratitude to Norman Ippolito for his dedicated and distinguished service to the Alabama State Department of Education, Office of Disability Determination Service, and its employees, and does hereby commend Norman Ippolito for 43 years of exemplary service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby extend its best wishes to Norman Ippolito for a long and enjoyable retirement.

Done this 11th day of June 2015

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

RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE 2015-2016 ALTERNATE ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR AND ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR, MINNETTE R. WIGGINS, TRACE CROSSINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HOOVER CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Minnette R. Wiggins, a first-grade teacher at Trace Crossings Elementary School since 2013, Hoover City School System, strives to create a 21st century learning environment for her first graders where instruction is personalized, project-based, and hands-on; and

WHEREAS, having taught in both rural and suburban school systems, Minnette R. Wiggins does not believe there is a one-size-fits-all curriculum and works continually to meet individual student needs in and outside of the educational setting; and

WHEREAS, when Minnette R. Wiggins reflects back on her 30-plus year career, the National Board Certified teacher considers her greatest accomplishments to be those that are based on the personal growth and the academic growth of each student; and

WHEREAS, Minnette R. Wiggins treasures her students' enthusiasm for learning and their unconditional trust in her to lead them toward achievement; and

WHEREAS, students of Minnette R. Wiggins inspire her daily to be the best teacher she can be, and she believes they deserve nothing less; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of the University of South Alabama and Troy University, Minnette R. Wiggins is "so very proud to be a small part of the teaching world"; and

WHEREAS, Minnette R. Wiggins personifies the time, attention, and patience that great educators show every day in the classroom:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby congratulate Minnette R. Wiggins for being named the 2015-2016 Alternate Alabama Teacher of the Year and the Elementary Teacher of the Year and commends her for her dedication to her students, her commitment to excellence, her achievement in the field of education, and the recognition she has brought to the teaching profession for the benefit of students throughout Alabama.

Done this 11th day of June 2015

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

RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE 2015-2016 ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR JENNIFER BROWN, VESTAVIA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL, VESTAVIA HILLS CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Jennifer Brown dreamed of becoming a starting player in the WNBA—that is until teaching young athletes how to play another sport (softball) made her realize she was destined instead for a career in education; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Brown, an instructor of Applied Physical Science, Physical Science, and Biology at Vestavia Hills High School since 2002, delights in sharing her love of science and longing for learning with her students every day; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Brown is passionate about student achievement and believes all of the ninth- and tenth-graders who enter her classroom have the ability to succeed; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Brown, a graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of Montevallo, presents varied, applicable, and interesting learning experiences in order to impact every type of learner; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Brown, who serves as the co-sponsor of the Vestavia Hills High School Key Club and advisor for the Ultimate Frisbee Club, is passionate about servant leadership, believing that “service to others is one of the greatest feelings in the world”; and

WHEREAS, now in her 16th year as an educator, Jennifer Brown cannot imagine doing anything else as a career; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Brown personifies the time, attention, and patience that great educators show every day in the classroom:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education congratulates Jennifer Brown for being named the 2015-2016 Alabama Teacher of the Year and expresses its gratitude to Jennifer Brown for her dedication to education, her commitment to learning, and the inspiration that her career has brought to the teaching profession for the benefit of students and teachers in the state.

Done this 10th day of June 2015

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

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE 2015-2016
DISTRICT TEACHERS OF THE YEAR**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education seeks to recognize and encourage excellence in education, both in teaching and learning; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Teacher of the Year Program is a means of identifying and rewarding some of the state’s outstanding teachers each year; and

WHEREAS, well-trained, dedicated, caring, enthusiastic, and innovative elementary and secondary teachers are among the ingredients essential to achieving excellence in preparing Alabama’s children and youth to become capable adults; and

WHEREAS, the following honorees in the 2015-2016 Alabama Teacher of the Year Program exhibit these qualities and more:

**Renee Busby Phelps
Summerdale School, Baldwin County
District I**

**Marilyn Ward
Foley Middle School, Baldwin County
District I**

**Sonia Crutchfield
Montana Street Academic Magnet School, Dothan City Schools
District II**

**Jon Segars
Auburn High School, Auburn City Schools
District II**

**Minnette R. Wiggins
Trace Crossings Elementary School, Hoover City Schools
District III**

**Jennifer Brown
Vestavia Hills High School, Vestavia Hills City Schools
District III**

**Emma Black
Adamsville Elementary School, Jefferson County Schools
District IV**

**Leverth Hedgemon, Jr.
Westlawn Middle School, Tuscaloosa City Schools
District IV**

**Elena Ramona Pop
Pike County Elementary School, Pike County Schools**

District V

J. Mark Coleman
Booker T. Washington Magnet High School, Montgomery County Schools
District V

Jordyn Pollard
Centre Middle School, Cherokee County Schools
District VI

Jeanna Justice Plunkett
Arab High School, Arab City Schools
District VI

Sarah Reznikov Stroud
Northport Elementary School, Tuscaloosa County Schools
District VII

Gerilynnne Shadeed
Mountain Brook Junior High School, Mountain Brook City Schools
District VII

Kellie Evans
Riverton Elementary School, Madison County Schools
District VIII

Jenny Massey
Buckhorn High School, Madison County Schools
District VIII

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education commends these teachers and expresses its gratitude to each of them for their commitment, sacrifice, dedication, and service to the children and youth of Alabama that have earned them the distinction of 2015-2016 District Teachers of the Year.

Done this 11th day of June 2015

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

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW OF TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS
Talladega College

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.55(2)(b)2.(ii), requires that approval by the Alabama State Board of Education shall be secured before a proposal for new programs 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 Chief Administrative Officer of Talladega College a written request to develop Class B Music, Instrumental and Physical Education Programs (P-12); and

WHEREAS, the request lists the specific proposed programs for which the Alabama State Board of Education approval is being sought; and

WHEREAS, Talladega College personnel have been advised that the proposed programs 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 programs 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 programs:

Class B Music, Instrumental (P-12)
Class B Physical Education (P-12)

Done this 11th day of June 2015

During the discussion period pertaining to the resolution below, Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter stated that test is renewed and the scores represent mastery of more not less content by the candidate.

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

**RESOLUTION TO MODIFY CERTAIN PASSING SCORES AND TO ADOPT
ADDITIONAL PRAXIS II TESTS AS A PRECONDITION FOR INITIAL
CERTIFICATION**

WHEREAS, by resolutions of October 10, 2002; May 8, 2003; and other resolutions from time to time, the Alabama State Board of Education has adopted various tests from the *ACT WorkKeys* skills assessments and minimum passing scores as conditions for initial teacher certification in the state of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, by resolutions of April 14, 2005; February 9, 2006; October 12, 2006; December 14, 2006; March 8, 2007; July 10, 2012; July 9, 2013; February 12, 2014; August 13, 2014; and other resolutions from time to time, the Alabama State Board of Education has adopted certain Praxis II content knowledge assessments and minimum passing scores as conditions for initial teacher certification in the state of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, all elementary, middle, and secondary teachers of core academic subjects in Alabama must be "highly qualified" to teach the grade levels and subjects they teach; and

WHEREAS, the Praxis II subject-area tests are suitable means by which teachers may demonstrate their "highly qualified" status through "rigorous test" of content knowledge; and

WHEREAS, certain Praxis II content knowledge assessments previously approved by the Alabama State Board of Education have recently been updated and revised; and

WHEREAS, certain additional Praxis II tests are needed in non-academic core areas; and

WHEREAS, additional validation studies have been performed under the supervision of the Alabama State Superintendent of Education in accordance with accepted psychometric principles; and

WHEREAS, as a result of such studies, such tests and recommended passing scores have been found to be appropriate for use in the state of Alabama:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby discontinues and adopts the following Praxis II tests as a precondition for initial teacher certification in the state of Alabama:

Discontinued Test	Former Passing Score	New or Replacement Test	Recommended Passing Score for New or Replacement Test	Effective Date
5022 Early Childhood: Content Knowledge	163	5025 Early Childhood Education	150	September 1, 2015

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Superintendent of Education is hereby directed to take any and all actions necessary to implement this resolution.

Done this 11th day of June 2015

On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted 5-0-2 for the following:

Voted Yes

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

Abstained

Mrs. Stephanie Bell
Mrs. Betty Peters

RESOLUTION GRANTING AUTHORITY TO THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION TO APPOINT INDIVIDUALS TO CERTAIN POSITIONS WITHIN THE ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education is responsible for setting policy and overseeing the K-12 public education system in the state of Alabama, and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education appoints an individual to serve as State Superintendent of Education to carry out the policies and oversee the day-to-day implementation of said policies; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of qualified individuals to carry out specific areas of work within the department is crucial to the fulfillment of the role of the State Department of Education:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby authorize the State Superintendent of Education to appoint individuals to serve in "at will" positions of Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Director, and Coordinator as needs and vacancies arise and report such appointments to the Alabama State Board of Education at its regularly scheduled meetings.

Done this 11th day of June 2015.

Superintendent's Report

During the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Thomas R. Bice introduced Ms. Denise Berkhalter, Alabama Association of School Boards, as the presenter of the "How to Achieve Excellence in Our Schools Video Contest." The videos were completed by the students in participating school systems. The first place winner was George Washington Carver High School, Birmingham City School System; second place, Demopolis Middle School, Demopolis City School System; third place, Dadeville High School, Tallapoosa County School System; and honorable mention, Central Middle School, Coosa County School System. Dr. Bice also informed Board members of the innovative Alabama Technology Conference that was held in Birmingham with an attendance of 1200, along with the 1500-plus attendance at the FFA Conference consisting of students, teachers, and administrators.

On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted in unison for the meeting to conclude at 11:50 a.m.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer