

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
MARCH 10, 2016
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met on Thursday, March 10, 2016, at 10:02 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

Reverend Geoffrey P. Evans, Rector, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Auburn, Alabama, 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 Richardson

Absent

Governor Robert Bentley

Dr. Thomas R. Bice, State Superintendent of Education and Secretary and Executive Officer of the Board, was also present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2016

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Betty Peters, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the minutes for the meeting of February 11, 2016.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Thomas R. Bice informed Board members that the two students, Deja Chappell, Loveless Academic Magnet Program, and Steven Higgins, Brewbaker Technology Magnet High School, Montgomery County School System, were in Washington, D.C., receiving recognition and would be in attendance at the April 14, 2016, State Board of Education meeting and requested that the agenda be amended to reflect this change. On motion by Mrs. Ella B. Bell and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

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

**ADOPT NEW ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, CHAPTER 290-3-2, PERTAINING TO
EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION**

Dr. Thomas R. Bice stated that the Endorsement of the Arts Plan was an endorsement only with no financial attachment. Expressions were made on behalf of Dr. Bice's work with the Arts Council. On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously for the following:

ENDORSEMENT OF THE ARTS PLAN (SCHOOLS/SYSTEMS)

**PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE
TEXTBOOK COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION OF TEXTBOOKS FOR SCIENCE**

Four individuals, Ms. Tijuanna Adetunja, Ms. Joan Kindall, Mr. Bill Payne, and Mr. Jacob Marchio, spoke before the Board pertaining to the textbooks and the inserted message from the Board regarding the selection of science textbook. This information may be viewed at <http://www.alsde.edu/sites/boe/Pages/PreviousMeetings.aspx>.

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE TEXTBOOK COMMITTEE
FOR ADOPTION OF TEXTBOOKS FOR SCIENCE**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Textbook Law provides for the adoption of textbooks by the Alabama State Board of Education, the same to be adopted from recommendations made by the State Textbook Committee; and

WHEREAS, the State Textbook Committee has made its recommendations in keeping with said law; and

WHEREAS, the State Textbook Committee has worked long and hard hours in making such recommendations; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with said law, the Alabama State Board of Education received the recommendations at its January 14, 2016, meeting, and the required 30-days' notice prior to consideration by the Alabama State Board of Education was given:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education extends its thanks to the State Textbook Committee and to all those who have worked to prepare the attached recommendations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the attached recommendations for the adoption of textbooks for science are approved.

Done this 10th day of March 2016.

A copy of the recommendations is filed in the Board file dated March 10, 2016.

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF CITRONELLE HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER
DR. MELODY TUCKER, MOBILE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, 2015 MILKEN
EDUCATOR AWARD 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, Dr. Melody Tucker is the only educator in Alabama selected to receive the prestigious 2015 Milken Educator Award in honor of her efforts on behalf of the nation's schoolchildren; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Melody Tucker is a high school science teacher who instills in her students an appreciation for the sciences and inspires them to excel; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Melody Tucker creates a college atmosphere in the classroom and uses innovative, project-based instructional techniques to engage her students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Melody Tucker’s use of real-world examples, technology, and labs has led her students to maintain a 93 percent passing rate at this high-poverty school; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Melody Tucker’s classroom presence is commanding, and she paces herself to work with all students, including honors, regular and special needs; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Melody Tucker is Mobile County Public Schools’ sixth teacher to be named a Milken Educator:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Dr. Melody Tucker for becoming Alabama’s 33rd National Milken Educator and for being a role model for what rigorous and relevant instruction looks like in action.

Done this 10th day of March 2016

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

**RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF A TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM
Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama**

WHEREAS, a review of a teacher education program was conducted on July 9-13, 2014, by the Alabama State Department of Education in accordance with the *Alabama State Board of Education, State Department of Education Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.56(2)(b)2; and

WHEREAS, additional documentation was reviewed on August 7, 2014; September 25, 2014; and March 27, 2015; 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 this Auburn University program during October 19-21, 2014, and granted continuing accreditation on April 29, 2015; and

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

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

Class AA Collaborative Teacher (K-12)

Done this 10th day of March 2016

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama**

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 Auburn University a written request to develop Class AA French, Class AA Music Education – Instrumental, and Class AA Music Education – Choral (P-12); and

WHEREAS, the request lists the specific proposed programs 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 programs; and

WHEREAS, Auburn University 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 AA French
Class AA Music Education – Instrumental
Class AA Music Education – Choral

Done this 10th day of March 2016

**RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
Talladega College
Talladega, Alabama**

WHEREAS, a review of educator preparation programs was conducted on July 21-24, 2011, and additional materials were reviewed through April 28-31, 2013, by the Alabama State Department of Education in accordance with the *Alabama State Board of Education, State Department of Education Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.56(2)(b)2; and

WHEREAS, Talladega College was approved by the Alabama State Board of Education to provide several Class B programs through May 31, 2016, a three-year time span rather than the more typical seven-year time span; and

WHEREAS, a follow-up review of educator preparation programs provided by Talladega College was conducted on June 24-27, 2015, by the Alabama State Department of Education in accordance with the *Alabama State Board of Education, State Department of Education Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.56(2)(b)2; and

WHEREAS, additional documentation was reviewed on November 15, 2015, and January 22, 2016; and

WHEREAS, continued compliance with Alabama State Board of Education rules has been verified; 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, 2020:

Class B Biology (6-12)
Class B Collaborative Special Education (K-6)
Class B Elementary Education (K-6)
Class B English Language Arts (6-12)
Class B History (6-12)
Class B Mathematics (6-12)
Class B Music-Choral (P-12)

Done this 10th day of March 2016

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM
Faulkner University
Montgomery, Alabama**

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 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 Chief Administrative Officer of Faulkner University a written request to develop a Class A School Counseling (P-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, Faulkner University 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 A School Counseling (P-12)

Done this 10th day of March 2016

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

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING,
THE EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION BACKGROUND CLEARANCE OFFICE, AND THE
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL FOR THEIR WORK IN PROVIDING A SAFE
ENVIRONMENT FOR ALABAMA'S CHILDREN**

WHEREAS, of all the magnificent assets the state of Alabama has as a resource, none is as valuable, treasured, or precious as its children; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education adheres to a commitment to provide every child in the state of Alabama not only a quality education, but a safe and supportive environment that is conducive to growing and learning; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Department of Education has taken the safety and well-being of Alabama students seriously and, as such, has implemented some of the most stringent and dependable processes to check the background and credentials of those seeking the honor of standing before children in Alabama classrooms; and

WHEREAS, the Educator Certification Background Clearance staff in the Alabama State Department of Education's Office of Teaching and Leading have worked diligently to make sure that only the most qualified candidates are considered for teaching certification; and

WHEREAS, when an individual is found to have betrayed the standards of the teaching profession that individual is removed from the classroom immediately; and

WHEREAS, when the *USA Today* Network, a nationally respected media conglomerate, researched all 50 states to identify the states that best ensured the safety of America's children in the nation's more than 13,000 school districts and graded them accordingly, Alabama received the grade of A, leading the nation as one of only seven states to receive this distinction; and

WHEREAS, the *USA Today* Network has taken note of the hard work and commitment provided by the staff in the Alabama State Department of Education's Educator Certification Background Clearance Office and the Office of General Counsel, which consistently screen candidates for infractions that would prohibit them from obtaining teaching certifications and provide regular reporting through the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Clearinghouse to identify and report misbehavior and keep unfit teachers out of classrooms in states nationwide; and

WHEREAS, a collaborative effort between local superintendents, deans of education, and certification officers at Alabama colleges and universities contributes to the consistent execution of processes that create a comprehensive background check and reporting system; and

WHEREAS, the combined efforts of all involved will continue to make sure Alabama's classrooms are safe havens for all students and that only the most impeccably qualified

candidates are allowed the opportunity to fill one of the most trusted roles in a student's life—that of an educator:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend staff in the Office of Teaching and Leading, the Educator Certification Background Clearance Office, and the Office of General Counsel for their outstanding involvement in the betterment of the profession of education and their consistent leadership in the quest for safe and professional educational environments for all the children of Alabama.

Done this 10th day of March 2016

APPOINTMENT OF STATE BOARD PROXY FOR STATE SUPERINTENDENT

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Ella B. Bell, the Board voted unanimously for Mrs. Juliana Dean, General Counsel, to serve as State Board Proxy for State Superintendent of Education. Mrs. Dean will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the State Department of Education. This becomes effective on April 1, 2016.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S RETIREMENT

Reluctantly, Mrs. Stephanie Bell made the motion to accept the retirement of Dr. Thomas R. Bice. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ella B. Bell. The Board voted unanimously to accept Dr. Bice's retirement as State Superintendent of Education effective March 31, 2016.

With the imminent retirement of Dr. Thomas R. Bice, Board members thanked Dr. Bice for his devoted service as State Superintendent of Education. Board members were in consensus with statements made concerning Dr. Bice's tenure in the Department. Board Member Matthew Brown reminisced on how impressed he was with Dr. Bice's interaction with the faculty and students in the Butler County School System; Board Member Betty Peters expressed appreciation for his work and specifically referenced a meeting Dr. Bice organized between superintendents and local college staff in Board District II. Board Member Stephanie Bell reflected on how pleased she was with Dr. Bice's response to questions raised and commented on his work at the Alabama School for the Deaf and Blind; Board Member Yvette Richardson commented on his commitment to PLAN 2020 and programs in place, State Board Member Ella B. Bell expounded on her confidence in Dr. Bice as a result of excellence in education; State Board Member Cynthia McCarty expressed appreciation and gratitude on the work Dr. Bice is doing; Board Member Jeff Newman stated that it would take some time to list all Dr. Bice's accomplishments; however, in summation, Mr. Newman stated that his true heart is in education and the children in the state; and Board Member Mary Scott Hunter spoke of his vision and communication with stakeholders as well as Board members that has created an environment of cohesiveness.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Thomas R. Bice's last Superintendent's Report ended with a presentation by the Real World Design Challenge Team of Fort Payne High School. The students were being recognized by the Legislature; however, at the request of Dr. Bice, the students, along with local school officials and parents, attended the Board meeting before going to the Legislature. Dr. Bice stated that he and Dr. Cynthia McCarty had an opportunity to meet the students during their visit to Fort Payne High School. The Board and audience were introduced to Project Drones, the students' special project, used to survey crops. The students are the recipients of a second-place national award for designing the unmanned aerial system.

On motion by Mrs. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m. Shortly after the meeting the State Board Work Session was held in Plaza 104 of the Gordon Persons Building.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer

