A Special-Called Meeting of the Alabama State Board of Education was held at 6 p.m., Monday, March 14, 2016, at the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools.

The meeting was called to order by the President of the Board, Governor Robert Bentley.

The following members were present:

Mrs. Ella B. Bell
Mrs. Stephanie Bell
Governor Robert Bentley
Mr. Matthew Brown
Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter
Mr. Jeff Newman
Dr. Cynthia McCarty
Mrs. Betty Peters
Dr. Yvette Richardson

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Dr. Eric Mackey, Executive Director, School Superintendents of Alabama, did the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was held in unison.

Approval of Agenda – On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Mr. Matthew Brown, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

New Business

Process for Selecting and Parameters of the Position of Interim State Superintendent of Education.

On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board members voted unanimously to discuss the Process for Selecting and Parameters of the Position of Interim State Superintendent of Education.
There was considerable discussion concerning the selection and parameters regarding the Interim State Superintendent of Education’s eligibility to apply for state superintendent. Four Board members, Mrs. Ella Bell, Governor Robert Bentley, Mr. Jeff Newman and Dr. Yvette Richardson were in favor of an interim superintendent’s eligibility for State Superintendent, stating if the individual is eligible to serve as interim he or she should not be prohibited from serving. Board members Mrs. Stephanie Bell, Mr. Matthew Brown, Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter, Dr. Cynthia McCarty, and Mrs. Betty Peters were not in favor of the Interim State Superintendent being eligible to serve as State Superintendent. It was felt that this would close the door to many who would be serious as well as individuals who would risk losing their present position.

On motion by Mr. Matthew Brown and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted 5-4 that the Interim State Superintendent not be eligible to serve as State Superintendent.

Voted No
Mrs. Stephanie Bell  
Mr. Matthew Brown  
Mrs. Mary Scott-Hunter  
Dr. Cynthia McCarty  
Mrs. Betty Peters

Voted Yes
Mrs. Ella B. Bell  
Governor Robert Bentley  
Mr. Jeff Newman  
Dr. Yvette Richardson

Qualifications and Desired Skill Set of Interim State Superintendent of Education

Mr. Jeff Newman, Vice President, Alabama State Board of Education, directed the Board’s attention to the information package he sent to members prior to the meeting that pertained to the appointment schedule. A copy is filed in the State Board folder dated March 14, 2016.

On motion by Mr. Jeff Newman and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted unanimously to discuss the qualifications. It was reiterated that the Interim State Superintendent cannot apply for State Superintendent. The deadline for individuals to submit applications for Interim Superintendent is 12 noon on March 25, 2016. Board members discussed having a superintendent in place by August 1. Mrs. Juliana Dean, General Counsel, and staff member who has been recommended for State Board Proxy, responded to questions pertaining to the time limit for the Interim to serve in the role. Mrs. Dean clarified that an individual may serve, based on state law, a term up to two six-months period with an Interim Superintendent in place; however it is the intent of the Board to hire a superintendent in the 120-day time frame.
During the discussion period, Mr. Matthew Brown added a friendly amendment to Stephanie Bell’s motion. She accepted the amendment to her motion, which was seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, to select Option B listed below. The Board voted 8-0-1. Mrs. Ella B. Bell abstained.

March 14, 2016 The State Board Meeting Establishing Process for Appointment of Interim Superintendent

March 16, 2016 State Department of Education Releases Notice of Interest Packets to the Public

March 25, 2016 12 p.m., Deadline for Parties Interested in Interim Superintendent Position to Submit Completed Notice of Interest Packets to the Attention of Mrs. Juliana Dean (at packet@alsde.edu)

Completed Packets Provided to Board Members by Close of Business on March 25, 2016

Interested applicants will submit a resumé, letter of intent, and respond to the first question in the application packet, knowledge of educational policy development and implementation in a large-scale system. The individual will also be subject to a background check. The minimum requirements must be met.

Motion was made by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Mrs. Ella B. Bell for Board members to discuss the timetable for getting the process in place for selecting the next State Superintendent of Education during the April 14, Alabama State Board of Education meeting.

On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Mrs. Ella B. Bell, the Board voted 7-2-0 in favor of the motion. Mrs. Stephanie Bell and Mrs. Betty Peters opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

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President