

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

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, March 9, 2017, at 10:10 a.m. in Plaza 104 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**

State Board Member Ella B. Bell 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 FEBRUARY 9, 2017**

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Ella B. Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of February 9, 2017.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was amended to include comments from individuals who spoke in support of Career and Technical Education/Workforce Development; in addition to an Executive Session that was held later during the meeting. On motion by Mrs. Ella B. Bell and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

Three individuals, Ms. Natalie Lavender, an educator; Ms. Dana Jacobson, Alabama Teacher of the Year; and Ms. Ann Gilmore, Alabama Association for Career and Technical Education, addressed the Board on the importance of the Career and Technical Education/Workforce Development office remaining a separate entity within the Department under the supervision of the State Superintendent of Education. The individuals speaking were given two minutes each. This portion of the meeting may be viewed under <http://www.alsde.edu/sites/boe/Pages/PreviousMeetings.aspx>.

**NEW BUSINESS**

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF CHASITY COLLIER, DAWES INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL,  
MOBILE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS A  
2016 SCIENCE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

**WHEREAS**, now that we have entered the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

**WHEREAS**, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, established in 1983 by the White House, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, fewer than 200 mathematics teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D. C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

**WHEREAS**, through the state selection committee, three 2016 state science finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Chasity Collier has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama science classroom for several years; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Chasity Collier of Dawes Intermediate School, Mobile County School System, was chosen as a 2016 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in science teaching:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mrs. Chasity Collier upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of science.

Done this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2017

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF NATALIE LANDRUM, HELENA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL,  
SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS A  
2016 MATHEMATICS PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

**WHEREAS**, now that we have entered the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

**WHEREAS**, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, established in 1983 by the White House, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, fewer than 200 mathematics teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D. C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

**WHEREAS**, through the state selection committee, four 2016 state mathematics finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Natalie Landrum has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama mathematics classroom for 14 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Natalie Landrum of Helena Intermediate School, Shelby County School System, was chosen as a 2016 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in mathematics teaching:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mrs. Natalie Landrum upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of mathematics.

Done this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2017

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF JENNIFER NORTHRUP, OAK MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL, SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS A  
2016 MATHEMATICS PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

**WHEREAS**, now that we have entered the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

**WHEREAS**, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, established in 1983 by the White House, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, fewer than 200 mathematics teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D. C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

**WHEREAS**, through the state selection committee, four 2016 state mathematics finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Jennifer Northrup has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama mathematics classroom for six years; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Jennifer Northrup of Oak Mountain Elementary School, Shelby County School System, was chosen as a 2016 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in mathematics teaching:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mrs. Jennifer Northrup upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of mathematics.

Done this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2017

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF HEATHER SIMPSON, HUEYTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,  
JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS A  
2016 MATHEMATICS PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

**WHEREAS**, now that we have entered the 21<sup>ST</sup> Century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

**WHEREAS**, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, established in 1983 by the White House, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, fewer than 200 mathematics teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D. C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

**WHEREAS**, through the state selection committee, five 2016 state mathematics finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Heather Simpson has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama mathematics classroom for nine years; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Heather Simpson of Hueytown Elementary School, Jefferson County School System, was chosen as a 2016 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in mathematics teaching:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mrs. Heather Simpson upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of mathematics.

Done this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2017

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF VIVIAN MILLER, WEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,  
CULLMAN CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS A  
2016 SCIENCE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

**WHEREAS**, now that we have entered the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

**WHEREAS**, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, established in 1983 by the White House, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, fewer than 200 mathematics teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D. C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

**WHEREAS**, through the state selection committee, three 2016 state science finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Vivian Miller has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama science classroom for 25 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Vivian Miller of West Elementary School, Cullman City School System, was chosen as a 2016 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in science teaching:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mrs. Vivian Miller upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of science.

Done this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2017

On motion by Mr. Jeff Newman and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted unanimously for the following:

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF JANA WALLS, PAINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,  
TRUSSVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS A  
2016 MATHEMATICS PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

**WHEREAS**, now that we have entered the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

**WHEREAS**, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, established in 1983 by the White House, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, fewer than 200 mathematics teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D. C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

**WHEREAS**, through the state selection committee, five 2016 state mathematics finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Jana Walls has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama mathematics classroom for seven years; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Jana Walls of Paine Elementary School, Trussville City School System, was chosen as a 2016 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in mathematics teaching:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mrs. Jana Walls upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of mathematics.

Done this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2017

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF ANN IOTT, HERITAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,  
MADISON CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS A 2016 SCIENCE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

**WHEREAS**, now that we have entered the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

**WHEREAS**, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, established in 1983 by the White House, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, fewer than 200 mathematics teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

**WHEREAS**, through the state selection committee, three 2016 state science finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Ann Iott has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama science classroom for several years; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Ann Iott of Heritage Elementary School, Madison City School System, was chosen as a 2016 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in science teaching:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mrs. Ann Iott upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of science.

Done this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2017

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF LISA LARGE, MILL CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,  
MADISON CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS A  
2016 MATHEMATICS PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

**WHEREAS**, now that we have entered the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

**WHEREAS**, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, established in 1983 by the White House, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, fewer than 200 mathematics teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D. C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

**WHEREAS**, through the state selection committee, four 2016 state mathematics finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Lisa Large has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama mathematics classroom for 15 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Lisa Large of Mill Creek Elementary School, Madison City School System, was chosen as a 2016 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in mathematics teaching:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mrs. Lisa Large upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of mathematics.

Done this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2017

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPOINT THE TECHNOLOGY  
STATE COURSE OF STUDY COMMITTEE**

**WHEREAS**, the *Code of Alabama* (1975) §16-35-1 through 5, provides that the Alabama State Board of Education shall constitute Courses of Study Committees for the purposes and functions as provided within the statute; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education appoints those persons listed on the attachment as members of the Technology State Course of Study Committee for a period of one year or until their successors are appointed.

Done this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2017

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

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PREPARING PRE-K TEACHERS

**WHEREAS**, Alabama law 16-23-1 requires public school teachers to hold a certificate; and

**WHEREAS**, State policy requires the lead teacher in each First-Class Pre-K class and federal guidelines require at least half of Head Start teachers to hold an appropriate bachelor's degree; and

**WHEREAS**, staff from the Alabama State Department of Education and staff from the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education worked together at the request of former Interim State Superintendent of Education Dr. Phillip C. Cleveland and Secretary Jeanna Ross, to draft criteria for the preparation of Pre-K teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, input has been solicited and modifications have been made based on input from members of the education community; and

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

**WHEREAS**, efforts are underway to facilitate a smooth transition from Career and Technical Education pre-teaching courses for which credit is earned prior to high school graduation, to child development courses taken to earn community college associate degrees and/or senior college degrees that may not lead to educator certification:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent of Education to implement the certification options summarized on the attached document in as timely a manner as possible and to incorporate any needed changes in the Educator Preparation and Educator Certification Chapters of the *Alabama Administrative Code*.

Done this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2017

### Personnel Requests

Mr. Michael Sentance submitted the staff members he would like to promote: Dr. Jeff Langham, Deputy State Superintendent of Education; Mrs. Shanthia Washington, Assistant State Superintendent of Education, and Dr. Tony Thacker, Assistant State Superintendent of Education. Also, included was the hiring of Dr. Jermall D. Wright, Assistant Superintendent, School District of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dr. Wright would serve as Manager of the Office of School Improvement. There was considerable discussion among Board members as to whether or not a Board vote was needed in the hiring process, justification for the proposed raises, job descriptions, and the selection process for Dr. Wright. Dr. Yvette Richardson asked Mrs. BeLinda Cooley, Human Resources Director, for clarification regarding the hiring of individuals in these job classifications. Mrs. Cooley stated that the resolution adopted on June 11, 2015, Resolution Granting Authority to the State Superintendent of Education to Appoint Individuals to Certain Positions Within the Alabama State Department of Education, authorized the State Superintendent of Education to approve hiring of staff members. Mr. Jeff Newman, who made an earlier motion in support of the promotions, withdrew the motion with the understanding that additional information was needed pertaining to job descriptions.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Yvette Richardson called for a motion for adjournment into Executive Session at 11:35 a.m. On motion by Mrs. Ella B. Bell and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously in support of the motion. Those attending were Board Members, State Superintendent Sentance, and Mr. Ben Albritton, Office of the Attorney General. Immediately following lunch, the Board reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

### Superintendent's Report

Mr. Michael Sentance informed Board members of his participation in "Read Across America" at Highland Avenue Elementary School in the Montgomery County School System. The Alabama State Department of Education and the Department of Archives and History will share in the state of Alabama's Biennial that will be held in 2020. Mr. Sentance stated that he attended the Charter School Symposium, visited the Opelika Chamber of Commerce and related how impressed he was with the Opelika City School System and Dr. Mark Neighbors, Superintendent. He also stated how pleased he was during his visit to the Saraland City School System and admired the creative work of Dr. Aaron Milner, Superintendent. Board members were also apprised of the events that took place during Career and Technical Education/Workforce Development Month. Mr. Sentance commended Dr. Philip Cleveland, Deputy State Superintendent of Education, and staff for the wonderful job.

Mr. Sentance stated that the Department received a report from the Inspector General's office of the United States Department of Education regarding the graduation rates. He said that two systems were visited in place of three. Board members were informed that no new information has been received; however, the staff will submit a report on their findings. Mr. Sentance felt that the Department's acceptance of responsibility was well received in Washington. In response to questions regarding AdvancED, Mr. Sentance stated that this would be a topic for discussion during a Work Session.

On motion by Mr. Jeff Newman and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the meeting adjourned at 2 p.m. and was followed by the Work Session.

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Vice President

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Secretary and Executive Officer