

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
OCTOBER 8, 2015
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met on Thursday, October 8, 2015, at 10:35 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

Associate Pastor John Blount, First United Methodist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, 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
Mr. Matthew Brown
Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter
Dr. Cynthia McCarty
Mr. Jeff Newman
Mrs. Betty Peters

Absent

Governor Robert Bentley
Dr. Yvette Richardson

Dr. Thomas R. Bice, State Superintendent of Education, was also present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the minutes of the September 10, 2015, meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

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

ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, RULE 290-3-1-.02, PERTAINING TO REGULATIONS GOVERNING PUBLIC SCHOOLS (DYSLEXIA)

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Betty Peters, the Board voted 7-0-1 to adopt the items below. Mrs. Ella B. Bell abstained.

ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, RULE 290-2-1-.01 PERTAINING TO ANNUAL APPORTIONMENT OF THE FOUNDATION PROGRAM FUNDS

ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, RULE 290-2-1-.02, PERTAINING TO ANNUAL APPORTIONMENT OF CURRENT UNIT FUNDS

ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, RULE 290-2-1-.05, PERTAINING TO ANNUAL APPORTIONMENT OF AT-RISK FUNDS

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

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING LYNN SHOWS ON BEING SELECTED AS THE "BARBARA FANNIN MEMORIAL EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER"
OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2015**

WHEREAS, Lynn Shows, Accounting Manager in the Alabama State Department of Education Accounting Unit, Office of Financial Management, exhibits a positive attitude and is always cooperative; and

WHEREAS, Lynn Shows is a team player and always meets goals and deadlines in a timely and confidential manner; and

WHEREAS, Lynn Shows is always helpful and has a willing attitude, and interacts well with coworkers, colleagues, superiors, and subordinates, no matter how difficult or detailed the problem; and

WHEREAS, Lynn Shows is very resourceful, professional, and exhibits total dedication and cooperation in performing assigned tasks and assisting employees; and

WHEREAS, Lynn Shows maintains a positive image, 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 Lynn Shows for her selection as the recipient of the “Barbara Fannin Memorial Employee of the Quarter Award” for October–December 2015 and expresses its appreciation for her exemplary service to the department, to this Board, and, ultimately, to Alabama’s public elementary and secondary schools.

Done this 8th day of October 2015.

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

**RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE
THE MONTH OF OCTOBER
AS DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, dyslexia is defined as a language-based learning challenge that is neurological in origin and characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities; and

WHEREAS, dyslexia impacts between 10% and 20% of the children in Alabama schools; and

WHEREAS, through effective dyslexia screening, students with dyslexia can be identified as early as kindergarten, long before their learning challenges have resulted in learning disabilities; and

WHEREAS, early identification and intervention will equip many students with dyslexia for success in school and in life; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education has specifically addressed dyslexia within the *Alabama Administrative Code*; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education has established a dyslexia advisory council to work with the Alabama State Department of Education staff to develop and maintain a dyslexia resource guide for use in public schools by teachers, and for parents:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education designates the month of October as Dyslexia Awareness Month.

Done this 8th day of October 2015

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

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ANDREA L. DENNIS, THEODORE HIGH SCHOOL,
MOBILE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, 2015-2016 ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR FOR
ALABAMA**

WHEREAS, Andrea L. Dennis has served as an educator in Alabama for 17 years, with 3 of those years as an administrator at Theodore High School in the Mobile County School System; and

WHEREAS, Andrea L. Dennis was selected as the 2015-2016 Assistant Principal of the Year for Alabama by the National Association of Secondary School Assistant Principals and the Alabama Association of Secondary School Assistant Principals; and

WHEREAS, Andrea L. Dennis earned her Bachelor’s degree in 1996 from Xavier University in Louisiana, a Master’s degree in 2002 from the University of South Alabama, and a Certificate in Educational Administration from the University of South Alabama in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Andrea L. Dennis, an assistant principal of Theodore High School, has positively affected the students and the faculty during her tenure at Theodore High School to ensure all students graduate college-and career-ready; and

WHEREAS, as the senior class administrator, she secured the *Preparing Alabama’s Students for Success* (PASS) Grant, which funds an alternative night program targeting students for whom “life events” prevent from being successful in the traditional day program; and

WHEREAS, as the facilitator of the school improvement team, she assembled stakeholder groups (students, parents, community members, teachers, staff, and administrators) to evaluate school data to identify strengths and weaknesses in school programs and devised an improvement plan; and

WHEREAS, as a result of team effort, the school progressed from meeting 76 percent of Average Yearly Progress goals in 2005-2006 to 100 percent for school years 2008-2010, and the graduation rate increased from 64 percent in 2011 to 77 percent in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Secondary School Assistant Principals congratulates assistant principals from across the nation for their exemplary achievements by recognizing them in its Assistant Principal of the Year Program; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Secondary School Assistant Principals annually recognizes outstanding school leaders who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students; and

WHEREAS, secondary and middle-level assistant principals are nominated for this achievement by peers in their state, and final selections are made by committees appointed by each of the National Association of Secondary School Assistant Principals' state affiliate offices:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Andrea L. Dennis, Assistant Principal, Theodore High School, Mobile County School System, for being named the 2015-2016 Assistant Principal of the Year for Alabama by the National Association of Secondary School Assistant Principals and the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals.

Done this 8th day of October 2015

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

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF DR. FARRELL SEYMORE, OPELIKA HIGH SCHOOL, OPELIKA CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, 2015-2016 HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) sponsors a national program to honor outstanding middle and high school principals from across the United States and more than 45 countries; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Farrell Seymore, principal of Opelika High School in the Opelika City School System, was selected as Alabama's 2015-2016 Principal of the Year for Alabama by the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Farrell Seymore has served as an educator in Alabama for 18 years, 13 of those as an administrator; and

WHEREAS, secondary and middle-level principals are nominated for this achievement by peers in their state and final selections are made by committees appointed by each of the national association of secondary school principals' state affiliate offices; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Farrell Seymore earned his Bachelor's degree in 1997 from Auburn University, a Master's degree in 2001 from Auburn University, and a Doctorate of Philosophy degree from Auburn University in 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Principal of the Year program, established in 1993, honors outstanding secondary and middle-level principals who ensure that America's students acquire a sound foundation for lifelong learning and achievement; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Farrell Seymore is credited with changing the climate of Opelika High School to a student-centered learning culture inspired by Dufour's idea of professional learning communities, a series of book studies was launched; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the book studies and changes made during problem-solving sessions, the school's culture shifted into the desired focus areas and the school has increased in advanced placement course participation by making courses more rigorous, giving students a selection of course offerings, and helping students achieve the level of learning necessary to be successful; and

WHEREAS, as principal he has led the efforts to increase offerings in career technical education and the implementation of Alabama's College- and Career-Ready Standards that have played an integral role in defining student success and preparing students for college or the workforce; and

WHEREAS, not only do these programs help meet the needs of Opelika High School students, but they address business and industry needs in the area and the school has developed a credentialing program for Microsoft Office, a health science program, and an information technology program; and

WHEREAS, each year, the National Association of Secondary School Principals congratulates principals from across the nation for their exemplary achievements by recognizing them in its Principal of the Year program; and

WHEREAS, the program annually honors secondary and middle-level principals who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students as well as demonstrating exemplary contributions to the profession:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Dr. Farrell Seymore upon the honor of being selected as Alabama's 2015-2016 Alabama Principal of the Year.

Done this 8th day of October 2015

On motion by Mrs. Betty Peters and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following:

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF HARROW STRICKLAND, PICK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AUBURN CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS ALABAMA'S HISTORY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, Harrow Strickland, a teacher at Pick Elementary School in the Auburn City School System, was selected as the Alabama recipient of the History Teacher of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Preserve America, and HISTORY™ (the History Channel) sponsor the History Teacher of the Year Award to honor outstanding teachers of American history from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense, and U.S. territories; and

WHEREAS, through the state selection committee, Harrow Strickland was selected based upon her outstanding teaching abilities in making ancient times come alive for today's students allowing them to relive what our forefathers did many years ago and for her dedicated efforts in attending workshops and sharing the information with not only her students but also with other history teachers in her school system; and

WHEREAS, as Alabama's History Teacher of the Year, Harrow Strickland receives a plaque and \$1,000 from the Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History, and Pick Elementary School receives an archive of primary historical materials; and

WHEREAS, Harrow Strickland will represent Alabama as the state finalist for the National History Teacher of the Year Award in a selection process to be held in New York City this fall:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Harrow Strickland upon the honor of being selected as Alabama's History Teacher of the Year.

Done this 8th day of October 2015

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

RESOLUTION COMMENDING THOMPSON MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT A. J. OLLIFF FOR RESCUING AND SAVING THE LIFE OF A DROWNING MAN

WHEREAS, A. J. Olliff, a student at Thompson Middle School in the Alabaster City School System, and his family were enjoying a swimming trip to the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge in Bibb County during the Labor Day weekend when disaster struck; and

WHEREAS, when 13-year-old A. J. heard screams and saw a woman struggling to hold her husband above water on the Cahaba River on Sept. 6, he did not hesitate for a second to come to her aid; and

WHEREAS, when A. J. saw the man's wife struggling to hold her husband above water, he jumped into the water, grabbed the man, and began towing him to a shallow area in the middle of the river; and

WHEREAS, A. J.'s father, Jamie Olliff, swam to meet A. J., and the duo began performing chest compressions on the man; and

WHEREAS, the Olliffs were on a rock about a foot underwater and were having a difficult time performing chest compressions on the man, but A.J. remained calm and put his knee under the man's back so A. J.'s father could start doing compressions; and

WHEREAS, another bystander swam to the middle of the river to relieve A. J., and soon the man—who was not breathing and had no pulse when he was pulled from the current—began coughing up water and breathing on his own; and

WHEREAS, A. J. credits his involvement in Boy Scouts and a previous Alabaster Fire Department CPR class with teaching him the skills he needed to save a life:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend A. J. Olliff for reacting quickly, calmly, and selflessly to save the life of an individual in need.

Done this 8th day of October 2015.

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF LAURIE KING, CRESTLINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
MOUNTAIN BROOK CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS ALABAMA'S NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED
PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR**

WHEREAS, the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) sponsors a national program to honor outstanding elementary and middle school principals from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense, and U.S. territories; and

WHEREAS, Laurie King, Principal at Crestline Elementary School in the Mountain Brook City School System, was selected as the Alabama recipient of the National Distinguished Principal of the Year Award as sponsored by the NAESP; and

WHEREAS, Laurie King earned a Bachelor's degree from Auburn University in 1981, a Master's degree from the University of Alabama in Birmingham in 1987, a certification in reading from the University of Alabama in Birmingham in 2000, and an administration certification from the University of Alabama in Birmingham in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Laurie King has served as an educator in Alabama for 31 years, with 10 of those as an administrator; and

WHEREAS, as principal of Crestline Elementary School, she has implemented programs that support learners who are struggling and challenge learners who are excelling, while maintaining high standards; and

WHEREAS, she created an environment that ensures that all students are challenged appropriately through differentiation and relationship-building, along with the use of formative and summative assessments to drive instruction; and

WHEREAS, as principal of Crestline Elementary School, she has led the development of educational partnerships with the local community that resulted in the creation of the Brookville Elementary partnership that emphasizes community service with the focus on giving to others; and

WHEREAS, she has created opportunities for staff members to be involved with decisions regarding their daily duties that help them grow professionally, along with opportunities that include teachers participating in Professional Learning Communities with the purpose of discussing best practices and growing their craft; and

WHEREAS, each year, the National Association of Elementary School Principals congratulates principals from across the nation for their exemplary achievements by recognizing them in its National Distinguished Principals Program; and

WHEREAS, the National Distinguished Principals Program honors outstanding elementary and middle-level administrators who ensure that America's children acquire a sound foundation for lifelong learning and achievement; and

WHEREAS, the program was established in 1984 to recognize and celebrate elementary and middle-level principals who set high standards for instruction, student achievement, character, and climate for the students, families, and staffs in their learning communities; and

WHEREAS, public school elementary and middle-level principals are nominated for this achievement by peers in their state, and final selections are made by committees appointed by each of the National Association of Elementary School Principals state affiliate offices:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Laurie King upon the honor of being selected as Alabama's National Distinguished Principal of the Year.

Done this 8th day of October 2015

On motion by Mr. Jeff Newman and seconded by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following:

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AIMEE RAINEY, FLORENCE MIDDLE SCHOOL, FLORENCE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, ON HER SELECTION AS THE 2015-2016 ALABAMA MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, Aimee Rainey, Principal of Florence Middle School in the Florence City School System, was named the 2015-2016 Middle School Principal of the Year for Alabama by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the Alabama Association of Middle School Principals, and the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals; and

WHEREAS, Aimee Rainey received her Bachelor's degree in 1998 from the University of Southern Mississippi, a Master's degree in 2003 from the University of South Alabama, and an Educational Specialist degree in 2010 from Lincoln Memorial University; and

WHEREAS, Aimee Rainey has served as an educator in Alabama for 16 years, 11 of which have been spent as an administrator; and

WHEREAS, through Aimee Rainey's efforts as principal of Florence Middle School, innovative programs have been initiated that have allowed the school to adapt to an individualized instructional program for each student; and

WHEREAS, students are assessed using the same benchmarks and standards but in a way that works for each of their unique situations; and

WHEREAS, Aimee Rainey, as principal of Florence Middle School, has pioneered the virtual school program, in addition to numerous other innovative programs; and

WHEREAS, she and the leadership team have expanded the virtual class experience of Florence High School by bringing the virtual classes to Florence Middle School, where virtual classes will be available to middle school students during the 2015-2016 school year; and

WHEREAS, as principal of Florence Middle School, she has led efforts for a 1:1 student to iPad ratio for instruction using the Edmodo platform and iPad textbook portal where the teachers have collaboratively developed lessons that allow students to flourish with new instructional tools; and

WHEREAS, technology is used to enhance the school culture and family atmosphere allowing the community to get to know the school and the teachers; and

WHEREAS, this recognition program annually honors middle-level principals who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students as well as demonstrating exemplary contributions to the profession; and

WHEREAS, middle-level principals are nominated for this achievement by peers in their state, and final selections are made by committees appointed by the National Association of Secondary School Principals state affiliate offices:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby congratulate and commend Aimee Rainey, Principal, Florence Middle School, Florence City School System, on her selection as the 2015-2016 Middle School Principal of the Year for Alabama by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the Alabama Association of Middle School Principals, and the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals.

Done this 8th day of October 2015

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
2015 SUMMER LEARNING CHALLENGE READING LOG HONOREES**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize summer learning is a vital and enriching part of children's education; and

WHEREAS, the annual Summer Learning Challenge raises awareness of the summer learning loss epidemic, shares compelling research on the importance of personalized reading activities, and provides access to a variety of free resources to support targeted reading and math practice; and

WHEREAS, the Summer Learning Challenge, for the third year, encouraged students to pledge to read five to eight books selected from a personalized reading list, to keep a log of all reading, and to actively engage in math practice every day for a portion of the summer; and

WHEREAS, this year 16 students are recognized for reading over the summer months, keeping a comprehensive log, and submitting the logs to the Alabama State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, Afrika Rayborn of Booker T. Washington Magnet High School, Macon County Schools, read 16 books for 3,552 minutes; Avery Gronowski of Dawes Intermediate School, Mobile County Schools, read 43 books for 1,332 minutes; Camaryn Herman of Dawes Intermediate School, Mobile County Schools, read 4 books for 420 minutes; Gabby Hankins of Elvin Hill Elementary School, Shelby County Schools, read 146 books for 1,821 minutes; and Grace Hankins of Elvin Hill Elementary School, Shelby County Schools, read 155 books for 1,116 minutes; and

WHEREAS, Josie Howell of Creekside Elementary School, Limestone County Schools, read 55 books for 3,662 minutes (second year Summer Learning Challenge Reader), and Wyatt Howell of East Limestone High School, Limestone County Schools, read 44 books for 3,444 minutes (third year Summer Learning Challenge Reader); and

WHEREAS, students John Davis of Rockwell Elementary School, Baldwin County Schools; Claire Colvin of Gulf Shores Elementary School, Baldwin County Schools; Caleb Colvin of Gulf Shores Elementary School, Baldwin County Schools; and Morgan Bassett, Elizabeth Davis, Ian Ross, Que'mia Lee, Delonnie Barton, and Kanyjah Bell, all of Conecuh County Junior High School, Conecuh County Schools, are honored as the 2015 Summer Learning Challenge Readers:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate the 2015 Summer Learning Challenge Readers for their hard work and progress in reading.

Done this 8th day of October 2015

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

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2015 AS "PRINCIPALS MONTH"

WHEREAS, the Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators, the Alabama Association of Middle School Principals, and the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals have declared the month of October 2015 as National "Principals Month" in coordination with the efforts of the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, which are working with the U.S. Congress to designate "National Principals Month" and to enact resolutions in support thereof; and

WHEREAS, the vision, dedication, and determination of a principal provides the mobilizing force behind any school reform effort; and

WHEREAS, principals are expected to be educational visionaries, instructional leaders, assessment experts, disciplinarians, community builders, public relations experts, budget analysts, facility managers, special programs administrators, and guardians of various legal, contractual, and policy mandates and initiatives, as well as being caretakers of our young people, our most valuable resource; and

WHEREAS, principals set the academic tone for their schools and work collaboratively with teachers to develop and maintain high curriculum standards, develop mission statements, and set performance goals and objectives for schools to achieve educational excellence; and

WHEREAS, principals work tirelessly in communities across Alabama to maintain academic accountability, to ensure a safe and productive learning environment, and to encourage and facilitate teachers' and parents' efforts to make a positive difference in the lives of our young people; and

WHEREAS, in celebration of "National Principals Month" the state of Alabama honors elementary, middle, and high school principals and recognizes the importance of school leadership in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education; and

WHEREAS, the state of Alabama recognizes outstanding elementary, middle, and high school principals who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students and making exemplary contributions to the profession; and

WHEREAS, in order to honor and recognize the contribution of all school principals and assistant principals, at all grade levels, for the success of students in Alabama's elementary, middle, and high schools, and to encourage residents of Alabama to observe "Principals Month" with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of school leadership in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby proclaims October 2015 as "Principals Month" in the state of Alabama.

Done this 8th day of October 2015

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER AS
STATEWIDE PARENT VISITATION MONTH IN ALABAMA**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Education strongly support parent and family engagement in the education of Alabama students, and parent engagement is critical to student and school success; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education is committed to parent and family engagement in our schools as it strives to provide all public school children with an opportunity for a quality education with high academic standards that offer every student an opportunity to graduate and to obtain the necessary skills to be prepared for the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, more than 30 years of research identify parental engagement as a key component in ensuring a child's academic achievement, and a successful partnership between educators and parents is one of the most crucial factors influencing the success of students in school; and

WHEREAS, Statewide Parent Visitation Month provides parents the opportunity to learn how they can become more actively engaged in their children's education by visiting their children's school, learning about the curriculum, consulting with their children's teachers, and participating in school activities; and

WHEREAS, Statewide Parent Visitation Month is an excellent opportunity for Alabama's public schools to emphasize and increase parent engagement, to partner with communities to raise awareness and increase support for public education, and to educate parents and others about Alabama PLAN 2020:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education proclaims October 2015 as Statewide Parent Visitation Month in Alabama; declares this year's theme as **Homes and Schools: Cultivating Positive Relationships**, which encourages educators, communities, parents, and families to participate in this observance; and challenges educators to solicit sustained, year-round parent and family engagement.

Done this 8th day of October 2015

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING ALABAMA SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK
(October 19-23, 2015)**

WHEREAS, more than 366,944 of Alabama's elementary and secondary students are transported to and from school each day of the school year; and

WHEREAS, the safety of these students is of utmost importance to all citizens of the state; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's school bus drivers and other transportation employees work diligently to ensure safe transportation for all of Alabama students:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby endorse October 19-23, 2015, as *Alabama School Bus Safety Week* and urges all Alabamians, particularly motorists, to be especially cautious where school buses and schoolchildren are involved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education calls on every citizen of Alabama to make sure that every week is a safe one for the students on school buses in our state.

Done this 8th day of October 2015.

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPOINT A REPLACEMENT MEMBER TO THE 2015-2016 SCIENCE STATE
TEXTBOOK COMMITTEE**

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

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education appointed 14 members to the Science State Textbook Committee at its June 11, 2015, meeting; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Science State Textbook Committee, Jeana Gilbert, a high school teacher, must be replaced by Ms. Angie Simonetti, a high school teacher; 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 Science State Textbook Committee for a term beginning June 1, 2015, and ending on May 31, 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Ms. Angie Simonetti of the Trussville City School System replaces Ms. Jeana Gilbert of the Trussville City School System on the Science State Textbook Committee.

Done this 8th day of October 2015

**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	Joseph Michael Caldwell	Elementary	Andalusia City
III	Greg Gidley	Secondary	Clay County
IV	Curtis Jordan	Elementary	Jasper City
V	Gus Hembree	Secondary	Jackson County
VI	Angie Simonetti	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. Jenifer Moore Williams	Professor/Elementary	University of Montevallo
B.	Dr. Hassan Moore	Professor/Secondary	University of Alabama at Birmingham

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

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW OF AN
EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM
Samford University**

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 Dean of Samford University a written request to develop a Class B program in General Science (6-12); and

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

WHEREAS, Samford 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 B General Science (6-12)

Done this 8th day of October 2015

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

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER 2-6, 2015, AS ALABAMA COLLEGE APPLICATION WEEK

WHEREAS, all students must have an opportunity to reach their full potential and realize their lifelong aspirations; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Labor estimates 90 percent of our nation's upcoming 21st century careers will require employees to have postsecondary experience; and

WHEREAS, the college application process may be a barrier that could keep some high school students from pursuing postsecondary education because of an absence of information or support; and

WHEREAS, obtaining a postsecondary degree is linked to higher income, better health, and even increased community involvement; and

WHEREAS, to celebrate *Alabama College Application Week* special activities, official proclamation ceremonies, and other events have been planned statewide; and

WHEREAS, only 31 percent of Alabama's working population (between the ages of 25-64) currently have an Associate's degree; and

WHEREAS, if this current trend continues, it is estimated that only about 38 percent of adults in Alabama will hold a college degree in 2025; and

WHEREAS, last year, 216 of Alabama's local high schools participated in this statewide initiative, which is focused on preparing students for the exciting opportunities of the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, the *Alabama College Application Week* initiative is designed to increase the number of students who are applying to and ultimately enrolling in college with a particular focus on first-generation and low-income students; and

WHEREAS, in Alabama's PLAN 2020 a "Prepared Graduate" is partially defined as one who possesses the knowledge and skills needed to enroll and succeed in credit-bearing, first-year courses at a two- or four-year college, trade school, and technical school without the need for remediation; and

WHEREAS, this celebration will also highlight the importance of the "college- and career-readiness" concept, which focuses on creating a seamless transition between students leaving high school, entering college, and moving into the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby proclaim November 2-6, 2015, as *Alabama College Application Week* and encourages local boards of education, schools, business professionals, and educational organizations to participate in this celebration through activities that demonstrate the importance of students achieving their aspirations of excellence and personal achievement.

Done this 8th day of October 2015

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Thomas R. Bice stated that he was pleased with the dyslexia definition in the *Alabama Administrative Code*. He feels that the classification will be an asset in identifying and serving the students. The Board members and those in attendance were thanked for attending the Innovation Celebrations in the Talladega County School System and Sylacauga City School System. The celebrations were held on Friday, October 2. Dr. Bice announced that the Russellville Engineering Team had been invited to the White House. The team was recognized during the August 13, 2015, Alabama State Board of Education meeting with a Board resolution.

On motion by Mrs. Ella B. Bell and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer