

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
SEPTEMBER 14, 2017
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, September 14, 2017, at 10 a.m. in the auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building, Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting was called to order by the President of the Board in accordance with *Alabama Code* (1975), §16-3-7, as amended.

PRESIDING: GOVERNOR KAY IVEY, PRESIDENT

Associate Pastor Tyler Vittetoe, St. James United Methodist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, did the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

Present

Mrs. Ella B. Bell
Mrs. Stephanie Bell
Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter
Governor Kay Ivey
Dr. Cynthia McCarty
Mr. Jeff Newman
Mrs. Betty Peters
Dr. Yvette M. Richardson
Mrs. Jackie Zeigler

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF AUGUST 10, 2017

On motion by Mrs. Ella B. Bell and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of August 10, 2017.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Governor Kay Ivey presented a substitute agenda for the Board meeting and advised Board members of items reflected in the minutes. On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING

Governor Kay Ivey informed individuals who came to address Special Education matters that the October 12, 2017, Work Session would be designated for this purpose.

Dr. Donna Hester addressed the Board pertaining to the *Every Student Succeeds Act*. The archived video is available at <http://www.alsde.edu/sites/boe/Pages/PreviousMeetings.aspx>.

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

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM BLAKE BUSBIN, AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL, AUBURN CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS ALABAMA'S 2017 HISTORY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, William Blake Busbin, a teacher at Auburn High School in the Auburn City School System, was selected as the Alabama recipient of the 2017 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, William Blake Busbin was selected based upon his 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 his dedicated efforts in attending

workshops and sharing the information with not only his students but also with other history teachers in his school system; and

WHEREAS, as Alabama's 2017 History Teacher of the Year, William Blake Busbin receives a certificate and \$1,000 from the Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History, and Auburn High School receives an archive of primary historical materials; and

WHEREAS, William Blake Busbin 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 William Blake Busbin upon the honor of being selected as Alabama's 2017 History Teacher of the Year.

Done this 14th day of September 2017.

Governor Kay Ivey also recognized Mr. William Blake Busbin as a finalist for National History Teacher of the Year.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S SEPARATION AGREEMENT AND RESIGNATION

Governor Ivey informed Board members that she was looking forward to working together on behalf of Alabama's students. She stated that our students are first priority. Governor Ivey informed the Board that she plans to attend as many meetings as possible. She said that Education continues to be the foundation of our communities, and a key piece of the fabric that holds our state together. Now is the time to strengthen our educational system.

In her role as President of the Alabama State Board of Education, Governor Ivey informed Board members that she had signed a Separation Agreement with Mr. Michael Sentance that would become effective immediately, pending the Board's vote. Also, she received a letter of resignation from Mr. Sentance.

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted 8-0-1, to approve the Separation Agreement. Mrs. Ella B. Bell abstained.

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Ella B. Bell, the Board voted unanimously to accept Mr. Sentance's letter of resignation.

Governor Ivey informed Board members that Mr. Sentance will receive a lump sum payment of \$57,750, and he will be reimbursed \$23,000 for COBRA and insurance, including dental. This agreement assures no lawsuits and includes non-disparagement clauses. Mr. Sentance will not receive any further benefits.

Governor Ivey stated that Alabama has experienced challenges in the past two years in leadership roles. She sees this as an opportunity for the Board to move forward. She said the 60-day notice period allows the Board to go forward. Governor Ivey said, "Over the past two years, Alabama has experienced far too many changes in state government. As with previous changes in leadership positions, we will use the resignation of the state superintendent as an opportunity to move forward and begin a new chapter in public education."

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Governor Ivey informed Board members that she had a conversation with Dr. Ed Richardson, former State Superintendent of Education. She stated that a strong interim superintendent was needed to steady the "ship." Governor Ivey said she has confidence in Dr. Richardson serving in this role.

Dr. Yvette Richardson and Mr. Jeff Newman concurred on Dr. Richardson's leadership as well as being a "man of his word." Mrs. Stephanie Bell stated that she was elected to the Board during a rather difficult time. She stated that there were many accomplishments made due to the leadership of Dr. Ed Richardson (State Superintendent, October 1995 – January 2004). The Alabama Reading Initiative; Math, Science, and Technology Initiative; background check for teachers; and many other accomplishments during his tenure, including experience with intervention. He was very knowledgeable in relation to student learning.

On motion by Mr. Jeff Newman and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted 8-1-0 to appoint Dr. Ed Richardson as Interim State Superintendent of Education. Mrs. Betty Peters voted no. Governor Ivey will call Dr. Richardson after the meeting.

Governor Ivey appointed Mrs. Stephanie Bell, Chair, Dr. Yvette Richardson, and Mr. Jeff Newman as committee members to negotiate a contract for Dr. Ed Richardson. The committee will report back to the Board during the Special-Called meeting on September 27.

ESSA Plan

Governor Ivey reported that she had reviewed the ESSA Plan and noted deficiencies. Additionally, there was a joint letter representing six education-related organizations with request that the Plan be revised. She stated that she had spoken with U.S. Department of Education Secretary Betsy Devos and requested a 60-day extension; however, due to the effects of Hurricane Irma, she has agreed to grant Alabama a 29-day extension. The Plan is due on October 13. Governor Ivey will request another extension if the Plan does not meet necessary guidelines. Governor Ivey stated while this does not give the Department the full 60 days, it does allow appropriate time to join together and present a stronger Plan. If the revised Plan does not cover these issues, Governor Ivey will reach out to Secretary Devos for additional time. She stated that all stakeholders need to have a role in this endeavor.

Special-Called Board Meeting and Work Session

The September 14, 2017, Work Session was cancelled. Governor Ivey proposed the next meeting, a Special-Called Board Meeting for Wednesday, September 27, 2017, at 10 a.m. The Interim State Superintendent Contract will be placed on the meeting agenda. A Special-Called Work Session will be held immediately following the State Board meeting.

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

President

Secretary and Executive Officer