

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
APRIL 9, 2020
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met via electronic means for its Annual meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, April 9, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., Room P103 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: JEFF NEWMAN, VICE PRESIDENT

The invocation was done by Dr. Eric G. Mackey, State Superintendent of Education, Alabama State Department of Education, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was done in unison.

The following members were present:

Present

Mrs. Stephanie Bell
Dr. Cynthia McCarty
Mr. Jeff Newman
Dr. Wayne Reynolds
Dr. Yvette Richardson
Dr. Tommie Stewart
Mrs. Tracie West
Mrs. Jackie Zeigler

Absent

Governor Kay Ivey

Dr. Eric G. Mackey, State Superintendent of Education, was also present.

On motion by Dr. Tommie Stewart and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following.

ENTERTAIN A MOTION TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 290-010-010.04, WHICH ARE IN CONFLICT AND SUPERSEDED BY THE GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION RELATED TO THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT ISSUED ON MARCH 18, 2020; NAMELY, THE REQUIREMENT TO VOTE BY RAISED HAND AND THOSE PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM BY PHYSICAL PRESENCE AND MEETING BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 12, 2020, MEETING

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of March 12, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

On motion by Dr. Cynthia McCarty and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following.

RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION OF 2020 ALABAMA COURSE OF STUDY: CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

(Career Clusters: Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources; Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics [STEM])

WHEREAS, Title 16, Chapter 35, Section 3 of the *Code of Alabama*, 1975, requires the State Courses of Study Committee to prepare the contents of the courses of study for each grade of the elementary and secondary schools; and

WHEREAS, the report of its recommendations with respect to the compulsory minimum content of courses of study and of recommended revisions of courses, materials, subject content, and treatment in specific courses in such areas are required; and

WHEREAS, said law requires that the reports be submitted to the State Superintendent of Education and to members of the State Textbook Committee for separate written recommendations to the Alabama State Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education has reviewed the State Course of Study Committee's report on Career and Technical Education and recommends its adoption:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the attached report by the State Course of Study Committee on Career and Technical Education is approved by the Alabama State Board of Education on April 9, 2020.

Done this 9th day of April 2020

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following.

**APPOINTMENT, 2020-2021 STATE TEXTBOOK COMMITTEE
MATHEMATICS, GRADES K-12**

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

WHEREAS, said law provides that four elementary teachers and four high school teachers are to be selected to serve on the State Textbook Committee and are to come from each of the seven congressional districts of Alabama and one statewide; and

WHEREAS, said law provides that four people who shall be teachers, principals, supervisors, or superintendents are to be selected from the state-at-large; and

WHEREAS, said law provides that two members of said State Textbook Committee are to be selected from the institutions of higher learning; and

WHEREAS, said law provides that the fourteen people on the attached list are to be nominated to the Alabama State Board of Education by the State Superintendent of Education; 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 2020-2021 State Mathematics Textbook Committee for a term beginning June 1, 2020, and ending on May 31, 2021:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Board recognizes that said law provides that the Governor of Alabama is to appoint nine people not in the field of education to serve on this State Textbook Committee and welcomes them to full membership:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That State Superintendent of Education Eric G. Mackey is hereby authorized to fill any vacancy that may occur on this State Textbook Committee until the next meeting of this Alabama State Board of Education after such vacancy occurs and same to be added as ad interim business.

Done this 9th day of April 2020

On motion by Mrs. Tracie West and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following.

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION CHANGES IN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has been detected in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the appearance of COVID-19 in the state poses the potential of widespread exposure to an infectious agent that poses significant risk of substantial harm to a large number of people; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Health has designated COVID-19 to be a disease of epidemic potential, a threat to the health and welfare of the public, or otherwise of public health importance; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, on recommendation of the State Health Officer, Kay Ivey, Governor of the State of Alabama, declared that a state public health emergency exists in the state of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 19, 20, and 27, 2020, the State Health Officer, in response to a rapidly growing number of cases of COVID-19, issued orders suspending certain public gatherings, requiring social distancing, prohibiting in-person instruction at all schools, and other measures as necessary to be implemented on a statewide basis to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's P-12 schools have not been providing educational opportunities in traditional school settings since March 18, 2020, or earlier based on local education agency decisions; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's institutions of higher education are providing online instruction, primarily to students who are no longer on campus; and

WHEREAS, closure of P-12 schools had a direct impact on candidates enrolled in educator preparation programs, many of whom were enrolled in internships or other P-12 school-based experiences; and

WHEREAS, some approaches to earning a subsequent Alabama educator certificate, or meeting requirements for admission to an advanced program, require documentation of a full year of full-time employment in a P-12 school; and

WHEREAS, extending certain deadlines will provide assistance to P-12 teachers and administrators; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Superintendent of Education supports the actions taken to date and to be announced via this resolution:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby endorses the flexibilities communicated via a memorandum dated March 26, 2020, to Alabama's educator preparation institutions outlining flexibilities including those related to internship and edTPA, and made part of this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That individuals who hold the First Provisional Certificate in a Teaching Field for the 2019-2020 school year will not be required to meet edTPA requirements as they progress toward meeting requirements to earn a Professional Educator Certificate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby approves extending the deadline for required surveys from new teachers and their employers to June 1, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby approves extending the deadline for educator certification continuation requirements and other requirements to October 1, 2020.

Done this 9th day of April 2020

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

Dr. Eric G. Mackey stated that there was no report necessary for the month of April.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Eric G. Mackey expressed his sincere appreciation to the Board for its leadership, support, and patience during this COVID-19 public health crisis—both on behalf of the work of the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) and local education agencies (LEAs). He noted that ALSDE was working with about 40 people in the building each day on rotating shifts. Approximately 12 people on the executive leadership staff are coming into the office almost daily, but they are hoping to begin rotating shifts for the last two weeks of April. Other ALSDE staff are working from home, but many tasks have slower or impossible to accomplish. Dr. Mackey expressed appreciation for all that the ALSDE staff, local school administrators, teachers, and staff are doing to support children during this unprecedented time.

Dr. Mackey noted some strong positives, namely, the move to distance learning via online, instructional packets, and video platforms. He also noted that Alabama Public Television began broadcasting lessons daily starting April 6, 2020, and that the ALSDE is exploring radio-broadcast lessons.

Dr. Mackey mentioned the most concerning issues the ALSDE is working on at the current time, which includes continued meal service for students. Even though millions of meals have been served across the state, direct food service is becoming more challenging, but it is ongoing in most communities. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is in the process of sending funds to the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to distribute to children who qualify for free-/reduced-price lunches via EBT cards. We hope this will be in place by late April, but USDA has yet to complete the process.

Dr. Mackey stated that the mental health of teachers and staff, students, and families. The recently appointed Superintendent's Extending Access to Learning (SEAL) task force has a subcommittee working on mental health issues. The SEAL task force also has a subcommittee working on special education services—another area of concern. An additional concern is the access to Internet services for many families. The SEAL subcommittee is working on this issue as well.

Dr. Mackey again thanked the Board for its leadership and involvement and ended his report with a message of hope that the Board would be able to meet in person in May.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, May 14, 2020, at 10 a.m. in the auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer