MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
JANUARY 9, 2020
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its Annual meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, January 9, 2020, at 10:07 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

The invocation was done by Pastor Kenny Hoomes, First Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was done in unison.

The following members were present:

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

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE DECEMBER 12, 2019, MEETING

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of December 12, 2019.

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION HONORING ALABAMA MILKEN EDUCATOR, MS. RAISA EADY, RECIPIENT OF THE 2019 MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD

WHEREAS, Alabama officially joined the Milken Educator Awards Program in 1998, and a total of 37 Alabama educators have earned this prestigious award; and

WHEREAS, the Milken Educator Award, which is hailed as the "Oscars of Teaching," has inspired America’s educators for more than 30 years; and

WHEREAS, Alabama’s 2019 Milken Educator Award recipient is Ms. Raisa Eady, a biology teacher at Pinson Valley High School, Jefferson County School System, where she creates engaging and dynamic lessons with an emphasis on improving students verbal and communication skills; and

WHEREAS, she is a positive presence in the classroom and engages students through extracurricular activities and mentors new teachers by promoting professional growth opportunities to her colleagues; and

WHEREAS, research indicates teacher quality is an important factor for student achievement; and
WHEREAS, highly qualified educators are playing a vital role in the growth and achievement of Alabama's K-12 students; and

WHEREAS, developing student achievement through science and STEM education has earned Alabama teacher Raisa Eady the great distinction of being named a 2019 Milken Educator Award recipient; and

WHEREAS, engaging young minds through the study of science-related areas has allowed this top Pinson Valley High School educator to prepare students for a lifetime of career and postsecondary learning success; and

WHEREAS, Milken Educator Raisa Eady inspires confidence in her students and leads them toward greater educational achievement:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Ms. Raisa Eady upon the honor of being selected as Alabama’s 2019 recipient of the Milken Educator Award.

Done this 9th day of January 2020

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following.

RESOLUTION HONORING CYNDI TOWNLEY SELECTED AS “BARBARA FANNIN MEMORIAL EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER” JANUARY-MARCH 2020

WHEREAS, The Alabama State Department of Education has awarded the January-March 2020 Employee of the Quarter Award to Cyndi Townley for her outstanding service to our state and local education systems; and

WHEREAS, Cyndi Townley has worked for the Alabama State Department of Education for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Cyndi Townley has demonstrated to fellow employees that she is supportive of the entire Federal Programs team, knowledgeable, and willing to help when needed; and

WHEREAS, Cyndi Townley is very supportive in leading and training her team. Cyndi Townley is extremely professional, caring, understanding, has a great sense of humor, and is considered a role model; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Department of Education and the Federal Programs Section hereby express their gratitude to Cyndi Townley for her dedicated and caring service;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Cyndi Townley for her selection as the recipient of the “Barbara Fannin Memorial Employee of the Quarter Award” for January-March 2020 and expresses its appreciation for her exemplary service to the department, to this Board, and, ultimately, the students of Alabama’s public elementary and secondary schools.

Done this 9th day of January 2020
On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW
OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
Spring Hill University

WHEREAS, Alabama Administrative Code, Rule No. 290-3-3-.56(4)(b)2., requires that approval by the Alabama State Board of Education shall be secured before a proposal for new programs 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 President of Spring Hill College a written request to develop a Class A Reading Specialist (P-12) program and a Class A Instructional Leadership (P-12) program; and

WHEREAS, the request lists the specific proposed programs for which the Alabama State Board of Education approval is being sought, together with information concerning the factors to be taken into account in determining the need for the programs; and

WHEREAS, Spring Hill College personnel have been advised that the proposed programs 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 programs 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 programs:

Class A Reading Specialist (P-12)
Class A Instructional Leadership (P-12)

Done this 9th day of January 2020

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

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW
OF AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM
University of West Alabama

WHEREAS, Alabama Administrative Code, Rule No. 290-3-3-.56(4)(b)2., 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 Provost at the University of West Alabama a written request to develop an innovative Class A program; and

WHEREAS, the request lists the specific proposed program for which the Alabama State Board of Education approval is being sought, together with information concerning the factors to be taken into account in determining the need for the programs; and

WHEREAS, University of West Alabama 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:

Innovative Class A Dyslexia Therapy (P-12)

Done this 9th day of January 2020
On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following.

**Adopt New Alabama Administrative Code, Rule 290-3-2-.37, Pertaining to Dyslexia Therapist Endorsement**

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

**Announce Intent to Amend Alabama Administrative Code, Rule 290-3-3-.01, Pertaining to Academic Major**

**ALABAMA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION NOMINEES**

In accordance with the Alabama Code, the Governor submitted two names for one position on the Alabama Public Charter School Commission.

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve Eddie J. Hill, Jr., nominee of Governor Kay Ivey.

**EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)**

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

**STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Dr. Eric G. Mackey congratulated and welcomed Dr. Tommie Stewart to the Board. Dr. Mackey thanked the Governor for appointing Dr. Stewart and thanked Dr. Stewart for accepting the appointment.

Dr. Mackey stated that the National Association for ESEA State Program Administrators (NAESPA) formerly the National Title I Association selects examples of superior, federally funded school programs for national recognition through the National ESEA Distinguished Schools Program. Two schools from Alabama were selected in the following two categories.

- **Category 1: Exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years**
  Eligibility – Title I School, Poverty rate of at least 60% or greater, Demonstrate high achievement for two or more consecutive years; achievement rate of 70% or greater (combined reading and math)

- **Category 2: Closing the achievement gap between student groups**
  Eligibility – Title I School, Poverty rate of at least 90% or greater, Growth rate of 90% or greater (combined reading and math)

Guin Elementary School in Marion County School System will receive the award for Category 1 showing significant growth in reading and math for the past two years and rising above the 70% threshold. Meadowlaine Elementary School in Phenix City School System will receive the award for Category 2 closing the achievement gap for all students above the 90% threshold. The two Alabama schools will be recognized and receive their awards at the National ESEA conference in Atlanta, Georgia, February 4-7, 2020.

Dr. Mackey stated that the New Hampshire Department of Education started sending thank you cards to veterans around the world. Dr. Mackey congratulated the Board, department, and state on receiving a wonderful note from the New Hampshire Department of Education acknowledging that Alabama provided the most thank you cards to veterans this year. Alabama plans to be at the top for next year.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2020, at 10 a.m. The Work Session was held immediately following the meeting.

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**Vice President**

**Secretary and Executive Officer**