MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2011
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, June 9, 2011, at 9:50 a.m., in the auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building, Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting was called by the Vice President of the Board in accordance with Alabama Code (1975), §16-3-7, as amended.

PRESIDING: MR. RANDY MCKINNEY, VICE PRESIDENT
ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Randy McKinney called the meeting to order. The invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance were held during the Special-Called Postsecondary Education meeting. On roll call, the following members were present.

Mrs. Ella B. Bell
Mrs. Stephanie Bell
Dr. Charles E. Elliott
Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter
Dr. Yvette Richardson
Mr. Randy McKinney, Vice President
Mrs. Betty Peters
Mr. Gary Warren, President Pro Tem

Absent
Governor Robert Bentley

Dr. Joseph B. Morton, State Superintendent of Education and Secretary and Executive Officer of the Board, was present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2011

On motion by Mrs. Ella B. Bell and seconded by Dr. Charles E. Elliott, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of May 12, 2011.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

RESOLUTION COMMENDING SMITH STATION PRIMARY SCHOOL, LEE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HEALTHIERUS SCHOOL CHALLENGE GOLD AWARD OF DISTINCTION FOR PROMOTING A HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, Smith Station Primary School, Lee County School System, will be receiving the U.S. Department of Agriculture HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment”; and

WHEREAS, Smith Station Primary School is one of only forty-six schools in Alabama to have earned the Gold Award of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, Smith Station Primary School earned this national recognition for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment”; and

WHEREAS, this program involves students, staff, and parents in its implementation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be presenting the HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction to Smith Station Primary School for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment” to the Lee County School System:
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate the Smith Station Primary School Child Nutrition Manager, Child Nutrition Staff, Child Nutrition Director (Ms. Debbie Page), faculty, and Superintendent (Dr. Stephen Nowlin) for supporting the Child Nutrition Program in achievement of this outstanding accomplishment as recipient of the HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, and for making the commitment to offer students healthy food choices, provide physical activity, and promote healthy life styles, all of which have earned Smith Station Primary School this prestigious national recognition.

Done this 9th day of June 2011

RESOLUTION COMMENDING BEAUREGARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, LEE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HEALTHIERUS SCHOOL CHALLENGE GOLD AWARD OF DISTINCTION FOR PROMOTING A HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, Beauregard Elementary School, Lee County School System, will be receiving the U.S. Department of Agriculture HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment”; and

WHEREAS, Beauregard Elementary School is one of only forty-six schools in Alabama to have earned the Gold Award of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, Beauregard Elementary School earned this national recognition for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment”; and

WHEREAS, this program involves students, staff, and parents in its implementation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be presenting the HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction to Beauregard Elementary School for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment” to the Lee County School System:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate the Beauregard Elementary School Child Nutrition Manager, Child Nutrition Staff, Child Nutrition Director (Ms. Debbie Page), faculty, and Superintendent (Dr. Stephen Nowlin) for supporting the Child Nutrition Program in achievement of this outstanding accomplishment as recipient of the HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, and for making the commitment to offer students healthy food choices, provide physical activity, and promote healthy life styles, all of which have earned Beauregard Elementary School this prestigious national recognition.

Done this 9th day of June 2011

RESOLUTION COMMENDING SMITH STATION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, LEE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HEALTHIERUS SCHOOL CHALLENGE GOLD AWARD OF DISTINCTION FOR PROMOTING A HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, Smith Station Elementary School, Lee County School System, will be receiving the U.S. Department of Agriculture HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment”; and

WHEREAS, Smith Station Elementary School is one of only forty-six schools in Alabama to have earned the Gold Award of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, Smith Station Elementary School earned this national recognition for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment”; and

WHEREAS, this program involves students, staff, and parents in its implementation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be presenting the HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction to Smith Station Elementary School for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment” to the Lee County School System:
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate the Smith Station Elementary School Child Nutrition Manager, Child Nutrition Staff, Child Nutrition Director (Ms. Debbie Page), faculty, and Superintendent (Dr. Stephen Nowlin) for supporting the Child Nutrition Program in achievement of this outstanding accomplishment as recipient of the HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, and for making the commitment to offer students healthy food choices, provide physical activity, and promote healthy life styles, all of which have earned Smith Station Elementary School this prestigious national recognition.

Done this 9th day of June 2011

On motion by Mrs. Betty Peters and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION COMMENDING SYCAMORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, TALLADEGA COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HEALTHIERUS SCHOOL CHALLENGE GOLD AWARD OF DISTINCTION FOR PROMOTING A HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, Sycamore Elementary School, Talladega County School System, will be receiving the U.S. Department of Agriculture HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment”; and

WHEREAS, Sycamore Elementary School is one of only forty-six schools in Alabama to have earned the Gold Award of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, Sycamore Elementary School earned this national recognition for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment”; and

WHEREAS, this program involves students, staff, and parents in its implementation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate the Sycamore Elementary School Child Nutrition Manager, Child Nutrition Staff, Child Nutrition Director (Mrs. Mary Thomas), faculty, and Superintendent (Dr. Suzanne Lacey) for supporting the Child Nutrition Program in achievement of this outstanding accomplishment as recipient of the HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, and for making the commitment to offer students healthy food choices, provide physical activity, and promote healthy life styles, all of which have earned Sycamore Elementary School this prestigious national recognition.

Done this 9th day of June 2011

RESOLUTION COMMENDING A.H. WATWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, TALLADEGA COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HEALTHIERUS SCHOOL CHALLENGE GOLD AWARD OF DISTINCTION FOR PROMOTING A HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, A.H. Watwood Elementary School, Talladega County School System, will be receiving the U.S. Department of Agriculture HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment”; and

WHEREAS, A.H. Watwood Elementary School is one of only forty-six schools in Alabama to have earned the Gold Award of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, A.H. Watwood Elementary School earned this national recognition for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment”; and

WHEREAS, this program involves students, staff, and parents in its implementation; and
WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be presenting the HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction to A.H. Watwood Elementary School for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment” to the Talladega County School System:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate the A.H. Watwood Elementary School Child Nutrition Manager, Child Nutrition Staff, Child Nutrition Director (Mrs. Mary Thomas), faculty, and Superintendent (Dr. Suzanne Lacey) for supporting the Child Nutrition Program in achievement of this outstanding accomplishment as recipient of the HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, and for making the commitment to offer students healthy food choices, provide physical activity, and promote healthy life styles, all of which have earned A.H. Watwood Elementary School this prestigious national recognition.

Done this 9th day of June 2011

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

RESOLUTION COMMENDING DANIEL PRATT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AUTAUGA COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HEALTHIERUS SCHOOL CHALLENGE
SILVER AWARD FOR PROMOTING
A HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, Daniel Pratt Elementary School, Autauga County School System, will be receiving the U.S. Department of Agriculture HealthierUS School Challenge Silver Award for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment”; and

WHEREAS, Daniel Pratt Elementary School is one of only nine schools in Alabama to have earned the Silver Award; and

WHEREAS, Daniel Pratt Elementary School earned this national recognition for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment”; and

WHEREAS, this program involves students, staff, and parents in its implementation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be presenting the HealthierUS School Challenge Silver Award to Daniel Pratt Elementary School for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment” to the Autauga County School System:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate the Daniel Pratt Elementary School Child Nutrition Manager, Child Nutrition Staff, Child Nutrition Director (Ms. Audra Segers), faculty, and Superintendent (Mr. Greg Faulkner) for supporting the Child Nutrition Program in achievement of this outstanding accomplishment as recipient of the HealthierUS School Challenge Silver Award established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, and for making the commitment to offer students healthy food choices, provide physical activity, and promote healthy life styles, all of which have earned Daniel Pratt Elementary School this prestigious national recognition.

Done this 9th day of June 2011

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

RESOLUTION COMMENDING MUNFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, TALLADEGA COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HEALTHIERUS SCHOOL CHALLENGE
GOLD FOR PROMOTING
A HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, Munford Elementary School, Talladega County School System, will be receiving the U.S. Department of Agriculture HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment”; and
WHEREAS, Munford Elementary School is one of only three schools in Alabama to have earned the Gold; and

WHEREAS, Munford Elementary School earned this national recognition for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment”; and

WHEREAS, this program involves students, staff, and parents in its implementation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be presenting the HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award to Munford Elementary School for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment” to the Talladega County School System:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate the Munford Elementary School Child Nutrition Manager, Child Nutrition Staff, Child Nutrition Director (Mrs. Mary Thomas), faculty, and Superintendent (Dr. Suzanne Lacey) for supporting the Child Nutrition Program in achievement of this outstanding accomplishment as recipient of the HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, and for making the commitment to offer students healthy food choices, provide physical activity, and promote healthy life styles, all of which have earned Munford Elementary School this prestigious national recognition.

Done this 9th day of June 2011

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

RESOLUTION COMMENDING NICHOLS-LAWSON MIDDLE SCHOOL, SYLACAUGA CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HEALTHIERUS SCHOOL CHALLENGE SILVER AWARD FOR PROMOTING A HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, Nichols-Lawson Middle School, Sylacauga City School System, will be receiving the U.S. Department of Agriculture HealthierUS School Challenge Silver Award for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment”; and

WHEREAS, Nichols-Lawson Middle School is one of only nine schools in Alabama to have earned the Silver Award; and

WHEREAS, Nichols-Lawson Middle School earned this national recognition for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment”; and

WHEREAS, this program involves students, staff, and parents in its implementation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be presenting the HealthierUS School Challenge Silver Award to Nichols-Lawson Middle School for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment” to the Sylacauga City School System:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate the Nichols-Lawson Middle School Child Nutrition Manager, Child Nutrition Staff, Child Nutrition Director (Ms. Kelley Wassermann), faculty, and Superintendent (Mrs. A Renee’ Riggins) for supporting the Child Nutrition Program in achievement of this outstanding accomplishment as recipient of the HealthierUS School Challenge Silver Award established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, and for making the commitment to offer students healthy food choices, provide physical activity, and promote healthy life styles, all of which have earned Nichols-Lawson Middle School this prestigious national recognition.

Done this 9th day of June 2011

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

RESOLUTION COMMENDING STEMLEY ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, TALLADEGA COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HEALTHIERUS SCHOOL CHALLENGE GOLD AWARD OF DISTINCTION FOR PROMOTING A HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT
WHEREAS, Stemley Road Elementary School, Talladega County School System, will be receiving the U.S. Department of Agriculture HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment”; and

WHEREAS, Stemley Road Elementary School is one of only forty-six schools in Alabama to have earned the Gold Award of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, Stemley Road Elementary School earned this national recognition for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment”; and

WHEREAS, this program involves students, staff, and parents in its implementation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be presenting the HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction to Stemley Road Elementary School for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment” to the Talladega County School System, Talladega, Alabama:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate the Stemley Road Elementary School Child Nutrition Manager, Child Nutrition Staff, Child Nutrition Director (Mrs. Mary Thomas), faculty, and Superintendent (Dr. Suzanne Lacey) for supporting the Child Nutrition Program in achievement of this outstanding accomplishment as recipient of the HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, and for making the commitment to offer students healthy food choices, provide physical activity, and promote healthy life styles, all of which have earned Stemley Road Elementary School this prestigious national recognition.

Done this 9th day June 2011.

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

RESOLUTION COMMENDING F.S. ERVIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WILCOX COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HEALTHIERUS SCHOOL CHALLENGE GOLD AWARD OF DISTINCTION FOR PROMOTING A HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, F.S. Ervin Elementary School, Wilcox County School System, will be receiving the U.S. Department of Agriculture HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment”; and

WHEREAS, F.S. Ervin Elementary School is one of only forty-six schools in Alabama to have earned the Gold Award of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, F.S. Ervin Elementary School earned this national recognition for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment”; and

WHEREAS, this program involves students, staff, and parents in its implementation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be presenting the HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction to F.S. Ervin Elementary School for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment” to the Wilcox County School System:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate the F.S. Ervin Elementary School Child Nutrition Manager, Child Nutrition Staff, Child Nutrition Director (Ms. Peggy Terry), faculty, and Superintendent (Dr. Rosa Ashmon) for supporting the Child Nutrition Program in achievement of this outstanding accomplishment as recipient of the HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award of Distinction established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, and for making the commitment to offer students healthy food choices, provide physical activity, and promote healthy life styles, all of which have earned F.S. Ervin Elementary School this prestigious national recognition.

Done this 9th day of June 2011

On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Mrs. Ella B. Bell, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following:
RESOLUTION COMMENDING ATHENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, ATHENS CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HEALTHIERUS SCHOOL CHALLENGE
BRONZE AWARD FOR PROMOTING
A HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, Athens Elementary School, Athens City School System, will be receiving the U.S. Department of Agriculture HealthierUS School Challenge Bronze Award for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment”; and

WHEREAS, Athens Elementary School is one of only five schools in Alabama to have earned the Bronze Award; and

WHEREAS, Athens Elementary School earned this national recognition for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment”; and

WHEREAS, this program involves students, staff, and parents in its implementation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be presenting the HealthierUS School Challenge Bronze Award to Athens Elementary School for “Promoting a Healthy School Environment” to the Athens City School System:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate the Athens Elementary School Child Nutrition Manager, Child Nutrition Staff, Child Nutrition Director (Ms. Tandy Norris), faculty, and Superintendent (Dr. Orman L. Bridges, Jr.) for supporting the Child Nutrition Program in achievement of this outstanding accomplishment as recipient of the HealthierUS School Challenge Bronze Award established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, and for making the commitment to offer students healthy food choices, provide physical activity, and promote healthy life styles, all of which have earned Athens Elementary School this prestigious national recognition.

Done this 9th day of June 2011

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

RESOLUTION HONORING CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS FOR WINNING NATIONAL 2011 TEAM AWARD FROM CONSORTIUM FOR SCHOOL NETWORKING

WHEREAS, for its visionary leadership, the Cullman City School System won the National 2011 TEAM Award from the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN); and

WHEREAS, the TEAM Award honors a team of technology leaders in a K-12 school district for effectively using technology to make an impact and transform teaching and learning and is based on leadership, building community, innovation, impact, and public/private partnerships; and

WHEREAS, the Cullman City School System technology team was selected as this year’s winner for its effective leadership in using technology to increase opportunities and accessibility for student learning, build community with parents, teachers and school leaders, and improve instruction, teacher training, and student learning; and

WHEREAS, the team from the Cullman City School System works closely with the local and state government officials and community partners to receive input on the design and implementation of its technology program; and

WHEREAS, five years ago, the Cullman City School System was the first school district in Alabama to adopt a One-to-One Laptop Initiative, providing thousands of laptops and wireless Internet access to students and educators; and

WHEREAS, since launching the initiative, the Cullman City School System has enjoyed drastically improved student test scores, increased student attendance, and improved discipline in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, through the laptop initiative, the district has established an online classroom management system – an all-in-one online portal enabling students and teachers to complete assignments and post grades/assignment feedback instantly; and
WHEREAS, the district participates in online learning through ACCESS – Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators & Students Statewide – offering a variety of educational courses to its students; and

WHEREAS, Cullman City Schools has been active in the community, from conducting research to providing education technology guidance, and has been recognized for its visionary leadership, including receiving over $500,000 in grants and the 2010 eSchool News Tech-Savvy Superintendent Award being given to Dr. Jan Harris, Cullman City Schools superintendent:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby congratulate the Cullman City School System for garnering the 2011 National TEAM Award for its visionary leadership in the role of technology to enhance teaching and learning.

Done this 9th day of June 2011

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

RESOLUTION HONORING DONNA WILLIAMSON, DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR, MOUNTAIN BROOK CITY SCHOOLS, FOR WINNING NATIONAL WITHthrow CTO AWARD FOR EDUCATORS HONORABLE MENTION FROM CONSORTIUM FOR SCHOOL NETWORKING

WHEREAS, for her visionary leadership, Donna Williamson, District Technology Coordinator, Mountain Brook City School System, won the National Withrow CTO Award for Educators Honorable Mention from the Consortium for School Network (CoSN); and

WHEREAS, the Withrow CTO Award for Educators recognizes an ed tech leader in a K-12 school district or educational service agency who has been a true technology champion and demonstrates outstanding vision in the use of information technologies and the Internet in K-12 education; and

WHEREAS, the Withrow CTO Award for Educators is based on leadership, building community, innovation, impact, and public/private partnerships; and

WHEREAS, on a recent Saturday, the Mountain Brook City School System was the first public school system in Alabama to attempt an e-day, which allows students to receive instruction and assignments over the Internet; and

WHEREAS, an experiment in light waves using lasers, a lesson in how to travel in French-speaking countries, reading a French mystery and discussing the French police and judicial system, a contest shouting “Stella!” in honor of Tennessee Williams’ A Streetcar Named Desire, and first-graders finding links to the Pledge of Allegiance on Moodle were just some of the ingredients for a full day of school online; and

WHEREAS, Donna Williamson and the Mountain Brook City School System staff are committed to providing effective, challenging and engaging work for students within or outside the brick and mortar walls of classrooms; and

WHEREAS, Donna Williamson explains that “as in e-commerce and e-banking, e-school is not about the ‘work,’ it is about the method of delivery”; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1992, the CoSN mission is to empower K-12 school district technology leaders to use technology strategically to improve teaching and learning, and Donna Williamson is such a leader:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby congratulate Donna Williamson for garnering the 2011 National Withrow CTO Award for Educators Honorable Mention and does hereby commend her visionary leadership in the role of technology to enhance teaching and learning.

Done this 9th day of June 2011

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mr. Gary Warren, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following:
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE NOMINATIONS FOR ALABAMA SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

WHEREAS, the Alabama School of Fine Arts has submitted the list of individuals nominated for positions on the board; and

WHEREAS, as required by the Code of Alabama, Section 16-26B-4, three names, along with biographical information, in order of preference have been submitted for each position:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby approve the recommendations of the Alabama Board of Trustees.

Done this 9th day of June 2011

Note: A copy of pertinent information from the Alabama School of Fine Arts pertaining to this request is filed in the Board Folder dated June 9, 2011.

Superintendent’s Report:

Dr. Joseph B. Morton informed Board members of the information placed in their notebooks on the Foundation program, the budget, and other key legislative bills. Dr. Morton advised that today, June 9, 2011, is the last legislative day, and he felt that the session had been quite successful with all the bills passed pertaining to K-12 education. Dr. Morton stated that he felt other bills will pass. He said the budget was the best we could have.

Dr. Morton advised the Board of his plans to retire on August 31, 2011. Having begun teaching immediately after completing his college education and becoming a local superintendent at the age of 27 he said public education was his passion; however, after listening to an inner voice he felt that this was the right time for him to retire. He said God has always played a strong hand in his life, and he felt that the inner voice was God. Dr. Morton stated that public education is much stronger than it has ever been, and the future is limitless. He said it is time to lay aside small issues in order to work on big issues. Board members were told that he had a letter for each of them that will explain his retirement. Dr. Morton thanked the Board and explained that it had been an honor to serve. Speaking from a biblical point of view, he stated that he would be the biggest supporter of public education until he is no longer here.

Mr. Randy McKinney, Vice President, thanked Dr. Morton for an admirable job and stated that further accolades would come later. Mr. McKinney said that he felt the Board made the right decision in selecting him as State Superintendent and stated that he had made a major impact.

Mrs. Ella B. Bell, State Board Member for District V, described Dr. Morton as being an element of trust, one who allowed her to believe that the children in District V could succeed.

Dr. Yvett Richardson, State Board Member for District IV, stated that she had enjoyed working with Dr. Morton and thanked him for getting her to the point where she is today.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the regular meeting of the Alabama State Board of Education for elementary/secondary education matters adjourned at 10:35 a.m. on June 9, 2011.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer