MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
MARCH 12, 2020
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its Annual meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 10:00 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 Dr. Kathy McFadden, Old Ship AME Zion 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
Dr. Yvette Richardson
Dr. Tommie Stewart
Mrs. Tracie West
Mrs. Jackie Ziegler

Absent
Mr. Jeff Newman
Dr. Wayne Reynolds

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 13, 2020, MEETING

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of February 13, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN CURTIS CROW
ASHVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SAINT CLAIR COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2020 ELEMENTARY BEST OF SHOW STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S VISUAL ARTS EXHIBIT

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize that the visual arts are a vital and enriching segment of children’s education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent’s Visual Arts Exhibit provides an opportunity for K-12 students in every school system to participate; and

WHEREAS, the criteria set for judging are sanctioned by recognized and prestigious organizations—the National Art Education Association, the Alabama Art Education Association, the Alabama Arts Alliance, the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts; and

WHEREAS, support should be given to visual arts programs and teachers as they attempt to strengthen and strive for artistic literacy, educational excellence, and for a well-rounded education for every student; and
WHEREAS, the visual arts contribute powerful educational benefits to all elementary and secondary students by enhancing metacognitive abilities and engaging students to learn; promoting curiosity, creativity, innovation, critical-thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration; provide opportunities to access, develop, express and integrate meaning across a variety of content, other curricula experiences, and the human condition:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend John Curtis Crow, Ashville Elementary School, Saint Clair County School System; his teacher, Susan Murry; his principal, Dr. Melanie Glover; and his superintendent, Mr. Mike Howard, and congratulates him for winning Elementary Best of Show in the 2020 State Superintendent’s Visual Arts Exhibit.

Done this 12th day of March 2020

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

RESOLUTION COMMENDING DR. JAMES A. THACKER, ASSISTANT STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, Dr. James A. Thacker, Assistant State Superintendent, Office of Evaluation, Accountability, and Support, has announced his intent to retire from the Alabama State Department of Education effective on April 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James A. Thacker graduated with honors from Troy University, Dothan with a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Biology, a Master of Arts Degree in Education, and was named the Distinguished Graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James A. Thacker earned an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, Policy, and Law after being the first candidate to successfully defend his dissertation in Alabama State University’s new doctoral program; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James A. Thacker was a Middle School Teacher of the Year, athletic director, and principal while with the Daleville City School System; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James A. Thacker joined the Alabama State Department of Education in 2004 as an Education Specialist for the Prevention and Support Services Section; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James A. Thacker also served in the Alabama Leadership Academy as the Coordinator of the Governor’s Commission on Quality Teaching for Governor Bob Riley, and as the Coordinator of Research and Development; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James A. Thacker has been a member of the Editorial Board for The Professional Educator, College of Education, Auburn University; State Council Member for AdvancED of Alabama; Regional Advisory Board Member, Southeast Comprehensive Center; Governing Board Member, Regional Education Laboratory Southeast; and Regional Advisory Committee Member for the United States Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James A. Thacker is the co-author of three books, From At-Risk to Academic Excellence, What Successful Leaders Do; Creating School Cultures That Embrace Learning; and Schools Where Teachers Lead, in addition to numerous other peer reviewed articles; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James A. Thacker is described by his coworkers as a dynamic individual who serves as an inspiration to all who know him because he genuinely cares about others; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James A. Thacker, while exhibiting intelligence, integrity, work ethic, and professionalism in everything he does, is truly characterized by his compassion, grace, poise, and southern charm, thereby making him a true and genuine leader; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Dr. James A. Thacker for his years of service to the students in Alabama’s public schools and does hereby wish him a very happy, healthy, and long retirement.

Done this 12th day of March 2020
On motion by Dr. Tommie Stewart and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following.

APPOINTMENT OF MRS. ANGELA MARTIN AS AN ASSISTANT STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

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

RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO COMPONENTS OF THE ALABAMA LITERACY ACT REGARDING EDUCATOR ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, earning a passing score on a Praxis subject assessment is a precondition for issuance of initial certification via the Alabama-approved Educator Preparation Program Approach, and other certification approaches, in all teaching fields for which there is an Alabama-prescribed Praxis subject assessment; and

WHEREAS, Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary, a foundational reading assessment, is a requirement for initial certification in elementary education (K-6); and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education adopted Praxis #5001 Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects, a package assessment composed of subtests #5002 Reading Language Arts, #5003 Mathematics, #5004 Social Studies, and #5005 Science, on August 13, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Literacy Act, enacted June 10, 2019, and now codified as Section 16-6G-1, et seq., Code of Alabama (1975) states, in part:

“As a requirement of initial licensure, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, candidates for initial elementary certification shall receive a passing score, as determined by the State Board of Education ... on a foundational reading assessment for entry level teachers of reading. Beginning with the graduating class of 2021, teachers seeking an initial elementary certification who have passed the edTPA and a foundational reading assessment may no longer be required to pass an additional reading assessment:”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to comply with The Alabama Literacy Act and only require one reading assessment, the Alabama State Board of Education hereby discontinues the use of Praxis #5001 Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects, which includes four subtests for the areas of program admission and certification, and adopts, as a replacement, Praxis # 5901, which includes the three subtests #5003 Mathematics, #5004 Social Studies, and #5005 Science:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That with the discontinuation of subtest #5002 Reading Language Arts, the Alabama State Board of Education hereby adopts the foundational reading assessment, Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary as a certification requirement for collaborative special education teacher (K-6):

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That for the areas of elementary education (K-6) and collaborative special education teacher (K-6), Praxis # 5901 and Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary will now be utilized as:

- An initial certification precondition for individuals unconditionally admitted to an approved program at an Alabama Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) on July 1, 2020, and thereafter;
- A certification requirement for initial Alabama certification based upon all certification approaches other than the completion of an EPP, for applications received in the Educator Certification Section of the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) on July 1, 2020, and thereafter;
- A reinstatement requirement for a lapsed certificate, for certification applications received in the Educator Certification Section of the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) on July 1, 2020, and thereafter; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Praxis # 5901 combined with at least 12 semester hours of acceptable credit earned in the area of English language arts, may be utilized by individuals applying for unconditional admission to an approved program at an EPP on July 1, 2020, and thereafter, in the following areas:

Early Childhood Education (P-3)
Elementary Education (K-6)
Early Childhood Special Education (P-3) or Collaborative Educator Teacher (K-6 or 6-12)

when the individual either: (1) needs a current passing score on a prescribed subtest(s) of Praxis #5901 in lieu of at least 12 semester hours of acceptable credit in the areas of mathematics, science, and social studies or (2) did not meet the current 2.75 overall grade point average (GPA) requirement for admission, but has a 2.0 or higher overall GPA, and must earn alternative (i.e., higher) scores on all subtests of Praxis #5901:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Superintendent of Education is hereby directed to take any and all actions necessary to implement this resolution.

Done this 12th day of March 2020

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

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW
OF AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Athens State 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 a 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 Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Athens State University a written request to develop a program for Class B Computer Science (6-12); 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 program; and

WHEREAS, Athens State 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 Computer Science (6-12)

Done this 12th day of March 2020

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM

The University of Alabama

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education authorized The University of Alabama to develop a new program for review; and

WHEREAS, a review of the proposed educator preparation program was conducted by staff in the Special Education and Educator Preparation Sections of the Alabama State Department of Education in accordance with the Alabama State Board of Education, State Department of Education Administrative Code, Rule No. 290-3-3-.56(3)(b); and

WHEREAS, content suggestions made by program reviewers were incorporated in required program courses; and
WHEREAS, compliance with Alabama State Board of Education rules has been verified; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Superintendent of Education recommends approval of the program:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby approves the following program, with approval to expire on June 30, 2024, the date on which approval of other University of Alabama programs will expire:

Class A Special Education – Autism (P-12)

Done this 12th day of March 2020

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

ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, RULE 290-3-3-.01, PERTAINING TO ACADEMIC MAJOR

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

Dr. Eric G. Mackey stated that in lieu of the superintendent's report, he would like to share some updates to the Board on the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Dr. Mackey thanked the Governor for her leadership in appointing the task force ahead of time so everyone began working in state government to coordinate all their efforts. Dr. Mackey stated that he in conjunction with Dr. Scott Harris, State Health Officer, have been coordinating for several weeks talking about what could be coming, what we need to be planning for, and what we need to be expecting to happen.

Dr. Mackey informed the Board that as of this minute, we do not have any confirmed cases of the COVID-19 in the state of Alabama. Dr. Mackey stated that we certainly do not have any cases of COVID-19 in our schools. Dr. Mackey stated we know there are some confirmed cases in our sister states and, most likely, will eventually have some cases in Alabama. Dr. Mackey informed the Board that the department has made several decisions and sent out four correspondence to superintendents. Dr. Mackey stated that the latest correspondence went out this morning.

Dr. Mackey stated that the department is monitoring the situation and asking the school nurses, superintendents, principals, and others to be very cognizant of anyone who is sick and has symptoms of the Coronavirus. Dr. Mackey informed them to refer the person(s) who have symptoms to Public Health or their own healthcare provider. Dr. Mackey stated that if someone that is a part of the school's community tested positive for COVID-19, the department in conjunction with the local school system and the Department of Public Health will close that school for 24 to 48 hours, clean that school, and work with Public Health to determine the next step. Dr. Mackey stated that the school may have to be closed for a longer timeframe. Dr. Mackey stated that the department gave guidance that overseas trips should be cancelled.

Dr. Mackey stated that after consulting with the Governor and the State Health Officer, it was decided that if an employee or a dependent of the employee test positive for COVID-19, the employee goes home for 14 days and not be charged sick or personal leave. Dr. Mackey stated that the school will be closed for 24 to 48 hours and an assessment will be conducted to determine what to do next for the rest of the school.

Dr. Mackey informed the Board that he has been contacted regarding trips. Dr. Mackey stated that according to the Alabama High School Athletics Association, ball games and tournaments have not been cancelled at this time. Dr. Mackey stated that fan participation has been limited, but that may change. Dr. Mackey stated the decision was left to the superintendents. Dr. Mackey also stated that travel to other states will be determined by the local superintendents and parents have the right to decide for their children. Dr. Mackey stated that the patience and work of everyone is greatly appreciated.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Dr. Cynthia McCarty and seconded by Stephanie Bell, Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 a.m. The Work Session was held in Plaza 103. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2020, at 10 a.m. in the auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

President

Secretary and Executive Officer