MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
MAY 12, 2016
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

The Alabama State Board of Education met on Thursday, May 12, 2016, at 9:36 a.m., for a regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters. 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: MR. JEFF NEWMAN, VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Kathy McFadden, Pastor, Old Ship AME Zion Church, Montgomery, Alabama, did the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was done in unison.

The following members were present:

Present
Mrs. Ella B. Bell
Mrs. Stephanie Bell
Mr. Matthew Brown
Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter
Dr. Cynthia McCarty
Mr. Jeff Newman
Mrs. Betty Peters
Dr. Yvette Richardson

Absent
Governor Robert Bentley

Dr. Philip C. Cleveland, Interim State Superintendent of Education, was also present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF APRIL 14, 2016

On motion by Mrs. Ella B. Bell and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the minutes for the meeting of April 14, 2016.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

Dr. Philip C. Cleveland asked Juliana Dean, General Counsel, to preside over this portion of the meeting. Mrs. Dean introduced Logan Searcy, Public Charter School Section.

Mrs. Searcy updated the State Board of Education by stating that the Commission had developed sound procedures and guidelines, including an application template for charter schools, as well as a performance contract (all located on the Public Charter School Commission Webpage). She informed the Board that some of the Commission members had attended professional development classes and that the State Department of Education and the Commission have worked collaboratively together.

After Mrs. Searcy’s introductory remarks, the Board members proceeded to consider the action item at hand, the selection of five candidates to serve on the Charter School Commission. Two candidates for each position were presented by their respective recommending authorities; the Board members were to select one of the two names listed for each position. Four of the five candidates listed were incumbents (see below). The term limit for selected commissioners will be June 1, 2016, to May 31, 2018.

There was an in-depth discussion among Board members regarding the selection of Charter School Commission members. Mrs. Stephanie Bell raised potential concerns regarding conflicts of interest pertaining to certain candidates. Mrs. Betty Peters stated that she was concerned about some of the individuals whom she did not know. Mrs. Ella B. Bell said she had not received any concerns from her constituents pertaining to charter schools, but she concurred with Mrs. Stephanie Bell and Mrs. Betty Peters. Mrs. Searcy was charged with obtaining additional information to address the questions posed by Mrs. Bell and the Board members.

On motion by Mrs. Betty Peters and seconded by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to table the voting process until the end of the meeting, at which time Mrs. Searcy would report on the information requested on the nominees, i.e., their background information and current employment status.

On motion by Mrs. Betty Peters and seconded by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to table the voting process until the end of the meeting, at which time Mrs. Searcy would report on the information requested on the nominees, i.e., their background information and current employment status.
Mr. Jeff Newman clarified that pursuant to the law, the Board’s only role was to choose one of the two candidates submitted for consideration for each position. Dr. Philip C. Cleveland stated that to his knowledge there was not a conflict of interest as far as receiving state funds.

Before the end of the meeting, Mrs. Searcy returned to the podium and relayed to the Board the information presented by the Commission candidates. All of them gave assurances that they did not and/or would not have any conflicts of interest if selected.

Mrs. Searcy further stated that the telephone numbers for all individual candidates would be available to Board members at their request and that the candidates welcomed their call.

Mrs. Juliana Dean presided over the Board vote for the Charter School Commission.

**Governor Robert Bentley’s Recommendations**
- Mr. Blake Harris and Ms. Lisa Williams
- Dr. Ed Richardson (Incumbent) and Mr. Ryan Cantrell

Mr. Matthew Brown, Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter, and Dr. Cynthia McCarty voted for Lisa Williams. Mr. Jeff Newman and Dr. Yvette Richardson voted for Blake Harris. Mrs. Ella B. Bell, Mrs. Stephanie Bell, and Mrs. Betty Peters did not vote for either candidate.

On a majority vote, Mr. Matthew Brown, Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter, Dr. Cynthia McCarty, Mr. Jeff Newman, and Dr. Yvette Richardson voted for Dr. Ed Richardson, Incumbent, and Governor Robert Bentley’s Appointee. Mrs. Ella B. Bell, Mrs. Stephanie Bell, and Mrs. Betty Peters did not vote for either candidate.

**Lieutenant Governor Kay Ivey Recommendations**
- Ms. Melinda McClendon and Mr. Mark Colson

On a majority vote, Mrs. Stephanie Bell, Mr. Matthew Brown, Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter, Dr. Cynthia McCarty, Mr. Jeff Newman, Mrs. Betty Peters, and Dr. Yvette Richardson voted for Ms. Melinda McClendon, Lieutenant Governor Kay Ivey’s Appointee. Mrs. Ella B. Bell did not vote for either candidate.

**Speaker Mike Hubbard Recommendations**
- Ms. Terri Tomlinson, (Incumbent) and Mr. Hunter Oswalt

The Board members voted unanimously for Ms. Terri Tomlinson, Incumbent. Ms. Tomlinson was Speaker of the House Mike Hubbard’s appointee.

**President Pro Tempore of the Senate Del Marsh Recommendations**
- Mr. Chad Fincher (Incumbent) and Mrs. Charlotte Meadows

By a majority vote, Mr. Matthew Brown, Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter, Dr. Cynthia McCarty, Mr. Jeff Newman, and Dr. Yvette Richardson voted for Mr. Chad Fincher, President Pro Tempore of the Senate Del Marsh’s Appointee. Mrs. Ella B. Bell, Mrs. Stephanie Bell, and Mrs. Betty Peters did not vote for either candidate.

The biographical information, etc., for selected commissioners, Ms. Lisa Williams, Dr. Ed Richardson, Ms. Melinda McClendon, Ms. Terri Tomlinson, and Mr. Chad Fincher, is filed in the State Board folder dated May 12, 2016.

Mrs. Juliana Dean commended Board members for their due diligence in the action taken.

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

**RESOLUTION HONORING A.H. WATWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, TALLADEGA COUNTY SCHOOLS, AS A STATE NOMinee FOR THE 2016 GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS AWARD (SCHOOLS/SYSTEMS) (STATE SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT III)**

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes the importance of saving energy, reducing costs, creating environmentally sustainable learning spaces, and protecting health and fostering wellness for Alabama students and educators; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Education recognizes those schools in the nation that are striving to achieve an energy-efficient and healthy school environment with the Green Ribbon School Award; and

**WHEREAS**, A. H. Watwood Elementary School, Talladega County Schools, is awarded the Alabama Green Ribbon School Award for its innovation to improving its environmental impact and energy efficiency and environmental and sustainability education; and
WHEREAS, A. H. Watwood Elementary School's unique culture and climate are the result of "Leader In Me" paradigm shifts where everyone can be a leader. The school serves approximately 375 students, pre-school through fourth grade. Watwood Elementary is a Title I School; and

WHEREAS, Leadership resonates through the student body at Watwood Elementary when observing practices such as leadership roles, notebooks, celebrations and clubs, all of which are embedded in daily routines. One habit that has become an important focus is Habit 7, "Sharpen the Saw". This habit promotes a balanced lifestyle and encourages children to take care of their body by eating right, exercising, getting enough sleep, and finding meaningful ways to help others; and

WHEREAS, School clubs compliment a Project-Based Learning (PBL) model by providing experiences filled with communication and collaboration challenges. For example, the "Curb Appeal" club is responsible for campus enhancements. The "Green Thumb" club takes care of all the planters and gardens on campus; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend A. H. Watwood Elementary School for its commitment to environmental awareness and education and does hereby express its congratulations to the students and educators.

Done this 12th day of May 2016

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

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO AS STATE NOMINEE FOR THE 2016 ALABAMA GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS AWARD

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes the importance of saving energy, reducing costs, creating environmentally sustainable learning spaces, and protecting health and fostering wellness for Alabama students and educators; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Education recognizes those schools in the nation that are striving to achieve an energy-efficient and healthy school environment with the Green Ribbon School Award; and

WHEREAS, the University of Montevallo is awarded the Alabama Green Ribbon School Award by the Alabama State Department of Education and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education for its innovation to improving its environmental impact and energy efficiency and environmental and sustainability education; and

WHEREAS, the University of Montevallo demonstrates its commitment to its role in helping to create a sustainable world through the pursuit of strategies that improve environmental conditions, enhance individual wellbeing, and develop well-educated, thoughtful, and engaged graduates; and

WHEREAS, the University of Montevallo was the first university in the state to implement a Green Fund, which has contributed to the reduction of UM's ecological footprint. This initiative generates approximately $30,000 per year, funding campus grants for projects that cut energy costs, decrease the university's carbon footprint, and reduce waste; and

WHEREAS, the University of Montevallo encourages recycling on campus. The University recycles approximately 3,000 pounds of aluminum, 18,000 pounds of plastic, and 65,000 pounds of paper annually. Also, the "Table to Garden to Table" initiative reduces food waste on the UM campus by composting unused vegetable matter from the Cafeteria to fertilize the UM Organic Community Garden; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend University of Montevallo for its commitment to environmental awareness and education and does hereby express its congratulations to the students and educators.

Done this 12th day of May 2016

On motion by Dr. Cynthia McCarty and seconded by Mr. Matthew Brown, the Board voted unanimously for the following:
RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF ELLA HOLLOWAY, FORT PAYNE MIDDLE SCHOOL, FORT PAYNE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM,
WINNER OF THE 2016 “BRING OUR MISSING CHILDREN HOME” POSTER CONTEST

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Interim State Superintendent of Education strongly support the national effort to commemorate the valiant and unselfish acts of the many organizations and individuals who work to keep Alabama students safe; and

WHEREAS, each year 1.3 million children are reported missing; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement, citizens, and even children have been instrumental in keeping children safe and returning them home to their families, community, and school; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education is committed to working with the United States Department of Justice through the Alabama Department of Public Safety and the Alabama Center for Missing and Exploited Children in sponsoring a poster contest entitled “Bring Our Missing Children Home”; and

WHEREAS, the statewide “Bring Our Missing Children Home” poster contest is an excellent opportunity for Alabama’s public schools to emphasize and increase community involvement, to partner with law enforcement officials to raise awareness and increase support for assistance in finding missing children, and to educate parents and others about child safety:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Ella Holloway, a fifth-grader at Fort Payne Middle School in the Fort Payne City School System, as the winner of the 2016 “Bring Our Missing Children Home” poster contest and wishes her well in the national poster competition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes all of the Alabama educators who participated, including Ms. Suzanne Camp, Teacher; Mr. Shane Byrd, Principal; and Mr. James B. Cunningham, Jr., Superintendent, Fort Payne City School System.

Done this 12th day of May 2016

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

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 13, 2016, AS SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (SFSP) KICKOFF DAY IN ALABAMA

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), administered in Alabama by the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), Child Nutrition Unit, was established to ensure that children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session; and

WHEREAS, meals that meet federal nutrition guidelines are provided to all children at approved SFSP sites; and

WHEREAS, the SFSP is one of the most underutilized federal programs, with approximately 10 percent of children who are eligible for the program receiving meals; and

WHEREAS, more than 51 million meals were served through the National School Lunch Program during the school year in 2014-15, but only about 2.6 million meals were served through the federal Summer Food Service Program in summer 2015; and

WHEREAS, as a result, the ALSDE Child Nutrition Unit has worked to reach new sponsors through partnerships with national, state, and local organizations, which resulted in a 30 percent increase in participation in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the annual Summer Food Service Program Rally, hosted this year by the ALSDE and Alabaster City Schools, aims to bring awareness to the SFSP and encourage more organizations to help fill the summer “nutrition gap” in underserved areas in Alabama:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby proclaim May 13, 2016, as “Summer Food Service Program Kickoff Day” in the state of Alabama and urges schools, churches, governmental agencies, college and universities, and private non-profit organizations to sponsor SFSP feeding sites to help ensure that all children in Alabama have access to nutritious meals in the summer.
Ms. June Barrett, Program Coordinator, Child Nutrition Program, introduced Mr. Robin Bailey, Administrator, Southeast Regional Office of the United States Department of Education, who presented the Department with a commendation for the work being done through the Summer Food Service Feeding Program.

On motion by Mrs. Ella B. Bell and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted 7-0-1 to approve the resolution. Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter abstained.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW
OF AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM
The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

WHEREAS, Alabama Administrative Code, Rule No. 290-3-3-.55(2)(b)(2)(ii), 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 Interim State Superintendent of Education has received from the President of The University of Alabama a written request to develop an Alternative Class A Early Childhood Education (P-3) 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 program; and

WHEREAS, The University of 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 Interim 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:

Alternative Class A Early Childhood Education (P-3)

Done this 12th day of May 2016

Interim State Superintendent's Report
Dr. Philip C. Cleveland introduced the 2016-2017 Alabama Teacher of the Year, Dana Jacobson, Clay-Chalkville High School, Jefferson County School System, State School Board District VII. Mrs. Jacobson stated she was looking forward to her year as Alabama Teacher of the Year and thanked the Board members. Mrs. Betty Peters, expressed appreciation for Dawn Davis, Montana Street Magnet School, Dothan City School System, as the Elementary Teacher of the Year and Alternate State Teacher of the Year. The Alabama Teacher of the Year, Alternate State Teacher of the Year, and district finalists will be recognized with State Board resolutions during the June 9, 2016, Alabama State Board of Education meeting. Jointly, Dr. Cynthia McCarty and Mrs. Stephanie Bell expressed appreciation to the outgoing Teacher of the Year Jennifer Brown. Dr. McCarty articulated how pleased she was with Ms. Brown's work in her school district, and Ms. Bell voiced the same sentiments on Ms. Brown's work in general.

Dr. Cleveland’s stated that his definition of the Innovation Tour Day in the Enterprise City School System could best be described as amazing and innovative. He witnessed hands-on project based learning in the curriculum and overall student learning from elementary to senior high school. Dr. Cleveland stated there was a display of PLAN 2020 taking place.

Dr. Cleveland apprised Board members of a great partnership in the Birmingham area through Workforce Development with 12 schools within a 30-miles radius. Students from seven of the schools will participate in selected craft areas at no cost to the school system. The private/public partnership between industry and education will fund the project as well as instructors and materials needed. The initiative will begin in August. This is also connected to PLAN 2020. He stated superintendents and local career tech representatives were also present.

Mr. Jeff Newman recognized school superintendents who were in attendance.

On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. The Work Session began at 12:30 p.m.
Vice President

Interim Secretary and Executive Officer