MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
November 12, 2014
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

The Alabama State Board of Education met on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, at 1:10 p.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: MRS. ELLA B. BELL, VICE PRESIDENT

Reverend Fred Zeigler, Associate Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, did the invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was done in unison.

The following members were present:

Present
Mrs. Ella B. Bell
Mrs. Stephanie Bell
Dr. Charles E. Elliott
Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter
Mr. Jeff Newman
Mrs. Betty Peters
Dr. Yvette Richardson
Mr. Al Thompson

Absent
Governor Robert Bentley

Dr. Thomas R. Bice, State Superintendent of Education and Secretary and Executive Officer of the Board, was present at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 8, 2014

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Betty Peters, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the minutes for the meeting of October 8, 2014.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Dr. Charles E. Elliott, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

Upon discussing with State Board of Education members, Dr. Thomas R. Bice stated that Ms. Tammi Taylor, Ms. Sharon Sewell, Ms. Ann Eubanks, Ms. Diana Crews, Mr. Larry Nowell, and Ms. Eugenia Nowell would like to address the Board pertaining to the Comprehensive Counseling and Guidance Model for Alabama Public Schools. Permission was granted for each individual to address the Board. Dr. Bice expressed appreciation for the comments made. This will be an agenda item for the next Work Session scheduled on Thursday, December 11, 2014. Other pertinent information is available in the Board’s folder dated November 12, 2014. The discussion may be viewed at: http://www.alsde.edu/sites/boe/Pages/PreviousMeetings.aspx

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

RESOLUTION COMMENDING LORI MAGEE ON BEING SELECTED AS THE “BARBARA FANNIN MEMORIAL EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER” OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2014

WHEREAS, Lori MaGee, an Administrative Support Assistant for the Alabama State Department of Education’s Office of Student Learning–Instructional Services, exhibits a positive attitude and is always cooperative; and

WHEREAS, Lori MaGee is a team player and always meets goals and deadlines in a timely and confidential manner; and

WHEREAS, Lori MaGee is always helpful and has a willing attitude and interacts well with coworkers, colleagues, superiors, and subordinates, no matter how difficult or detailed the problem; and

WHEREAS, Lori MaGee is very resourceful, professional, and exhibits total dedication and cooperation in performing assigned tasks and assisting employees; and

WHEREAS, Lori MaGee maintains a positive image, communicates extremely well with the public, and represents the Department well:
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Lori MaGee for her selection as the recipient of the “Barbara Fannin Memorial Employee of the Quarter Award” for October - December 2014 and expresses its appreciation for her exemplary service to the Department, to this Board, and, ultimately, to Alabama’s public elementary and secondary schools.

Done this 12th day of November 2014.

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

RESOLUTION COMMENDING JERRY SNOW, PRINCIPAL, PIEDMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL, PIEDMONT CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, 2014-15 MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, Mr. Jerry Snow, principal of Piedmont Middle School in the Piedmont City School System, was named the 2014-15 Middle School Principal of the Year for Alabama by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the Alabama Association of Middle School Principals, and the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jerry Snow received his Bachelor's degree in 1998, a Master's degree in 2003, and an Educational Specialist degree in 2005, all from Jacksonville State University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jerry Snow has served as an educator in Alabama for 16 years, with 10 of those years as an administrator; and

WHEREAS, through Mr. Snow’s efforts, Piedmont Middle School implemented a one-to-one technology initiative that has furthered the school and district goals by implementing “mBolden Piedmont,” which is designed for advanced mastery, relevance, and student ownership by creating student and teacher leaders; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jerry Snow, as principal of Piedmont Middle School, works tirelessly to ensure that students are provided with instructional opportunities that will help them be successful; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jerry Snow, as principal of Piedmont Middle School, uses teacher and student input to determine programs and procedures that will be most effective in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, each year, the National Association of Secondary School Principals congratulates principals from across the nation for their exemplary achievements by recognizing them in its Principal of the Year program; and

WHEREAS, the Principal of the Year program, established in 1993, honors outstanding secondary and middle-level principals who ensure that America’s students acquire a sound foundation for lifelong learning and achievement; and

WHEREAS, the Principal of the Year program annually honors secondary and middle-level school principals who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students as well as demonstrating exemplary contributions to the profession; and

WHEREAS, secondary and middle-level principals are nominated for this achievement by peers in their state and final selections are made by committees appointed by each of the National Association of Secondary School Principals state affiliate offices:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby congratulates and commends Jerry Snow upon his selection as Alabama's 2014-15 Middle School Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the Alabama Association of Middle School Principals, and the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals.

Done this 12th day of November 2014.

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

RESOLUTION COMMENDING MS. FRANCES FINNEY, PRINCIPAL, FULTONDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, 2014-15 NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL FOR ALABAMA

WHEREAS, Ms. Frances Finney, principal of Fultondale Elementary School in the Jefferson County School System, was named the 2014-15 National Distinguished Principal for Alabama by the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Frances Finney earned a Bachelor of Science degree in early elementary education from the University of Alabama at Birmingham; her first Master's degree in 1996 in secondary education and, in 1999, she received a second Master's degree in educational
WHEREAS, Ms. Frances Finney has served as an educator in Alabama for 21 years, with 8 of those years as a principal; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Frances Finney, as former principal of Gresham Elementary School and current principal of Fultondale Elementary School, is known for her commitment to encouraging collaboration among the faculty through data meetings, developing next steps for students, and establishing continuous improvement leadership teams with efforts geared toward developing, adjusting, and improving as educators by working together; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Frances Finney has led the development of educational partnerships with local communities that resulted in the creation of programs that involve community members tutoring students in reading and math as well as serving as positive role models; and

WHEREAS, each year the National Association of Elementary School Principals congratulates principals from across the nation for their exemplary achievements by recognizing them in its National Distinguished Principals program; and

WHEREAS, the National Distinguished Principals program was established in 1984 to recognize and celebrate elementary and middle-level principals who set high standards for instruction, student achievement, character, and climate for the students, families, and staffs in their learning communities and to honor outstanding elementary and middle-level administrators who ensure that America's children acquire a sound foundation for lifelong learning and achievement; and

WHEREAS, public school elementary and middle-level principals are nominated for this achievement by peers in their state and final selections are made by committees appointed by each of the National Association of Elementary School Principals state affiliate offices:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby congratulates and commends Ms. Frances Finney upon her selection as 2014-15 National Distinguished Principal of the Year for Alabama by the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators.

Done this 12th day of November 2014

On motion by Mr. Al Thompson and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following:

RESOLUTION COMMENDING MR. RONALD ROWELL, PRINCIPAL, THEODORE HIGH SCHOOL, MOBILE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS THE 2014-15 ALABAMA PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, Mr. Ronald Rowell, principal of Theodore High School in the Mobile County School System, was named the 2014-15 Principal of the Year for Alabama by the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ronald Rowell was named a National Finalist for the 2014-15 Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ronald Rowell earned his Bachelor's degree in 1983 from the University of West Alabama and two Master's degrees, one from Alabama State University in 1999 and one from the University of South Alabama in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ronald Rowell has served as an educator in Alabama for 31 years, with 12 of those years as an administrator; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ronald Rowell was selected as one of three high school National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) National Finalists for the Principal of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ronald Rowell received a $1,500 grant for special school projects and/or professional development opportunities to improve learning at Theodore High School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ronald Rowell, as principal of Theodore High School, led efforts to create a distinct climate and culture, affectionately referred to as “Bobcat Nation,” that promotes raised expectations, professional learning communities, and individualized instruction; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ronald Rowell, as principal of Theodore High School, implemented numerous programs to ensure the success of Theodore High School students, including Freshman Jam Summer Orientation, Pre-Advanced Placement program, Check and Connect mentoring program, Anger Management programs, Alternative Night flexible scheduling program, specialized Academies, and the Club Day Initiative for student involvement; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Ronald Rowell, as principal of Theodore High School, led the development of vertical collaboration with feeder schools that allows the schools to evaluate data, discuss strategies, and align instructional objectives at all grade levels to ensure students are college- and career-ready by the time they graduate high school; and

WHEREAS, each year, the National Association of Secondary School Principals congratulates principals from across the nation for their exemplary achievements by recognizing them in its Principal of the Year program; and

WHEREAS, the Principal of the Year program, established in 1993, honors outstanding secondary and middle level principals who ensure that America’s students acquire a sound foundation for lifelong learning and achievement; and

WHEREAS, the program annually honors secondary and middle level principals who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students as well as demonstrating exemplary contributions to the profession; and

WHEREAS, secondary and middle level principals are nominated for this achievement by peers in their state and final selections are made by committees appointed by each of the NASSP state affiliate offices:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby congratulate and commend Mr. Ronald Rowell upon his selection as the 2014-15 Principal of the Year for Alabama by the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals and his selection as a national finalist for the 2014-2015 Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Done this 12th day of November 2014

On motion by Dr. Charles E. Elliott and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following:

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2014 AS “PRINCIPALS MONTH”

WHEREAS, the Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators, the Alabama Association of Middle School Principals, and the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals have declared the month of October 2014 as “National Principals Month” in coordination with the efforts of the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, which are working with the U.S. Congress to designate “National Principals Month” and to enact resolutions in support thereof; and

WHEREAS, the vision, dedication, and determination of a principal provides the mobilizing force behind any school reform effort; and

WHEREAS, principals are expected to be educational visionaries, instructional leaders, assessment experts, disciplinarians, community builders, public relations experts, budget analysts, facility managers, special programs administrators, and guardians of various legal, contractual, and policy mandates and initiatives, and are entrusted every school day with our young people—the state’s most valuable resource; and

WHEREAS, principals set the academic tone for their schools and work collaboratively with teachers to develop and maintain high curriculum standards, develop mission statements, and set performance goals and objectives for schools to achieve educational excellence; and

WHEREAS, principals work tirelessly in communities across Alabama to maintain academic accountability, to ensure a safe and productive learning environment, and to encourage and facilitate teachers’ and parents’ efforts to make a positive difference in the lives of our young people; and

WHEREAS, in celebration of “National Principals Month” the state of Alabama honors elementary, middle, and high school principals and recognizes the importance of school leadership in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education; and

WHEREAS, the state of Alabama recognizes outstanding elementary, middle, and high school principals who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students and also make exemplary contributions to the profession; and

WHEREAS, in order to honor and recognize the contributions of all school principals and assistant principals, at all grade levels, to the success of students in Alabama’s elementary, middle, and high schools and to encourage residents of Alabama to observe “Principals Month” with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of school leadership in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby proclaims October 2014 as “Principals Month” in the state of Alabama.
Done this 12th day of November 2014

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

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER 3-7, 2014, AS ALABAMA COLLEGE APPLICATION WEEK

WHEREAS, all students must have an opportunity to reach their full potential and to realize their lifelong aspirations; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Labor estimates 90 percent of our nation’s upcoming 21st century careers will require employees to have postsecondary experience; and

WHEREAS, the college application process may be a barrier that could keep some high school students from pursuing postsecondary education because of an absence of information or support; and

WHEREAS, obtaining a postsecondary degree is linked to higher income, better health, and even increased community involvement; and

WHEREAS, to celebrate Alabama College Application Week special activities, official proclamation ceremonies, and other events have been planned statewide; and

WHEREAS, only 31 percent of Alabama’s working population (those between the ages of 25-64) currently have an Associate’s degree; and

WHEREAS, if this current trend continues, it is estimated that only about 38 percent of adults in Alabama will hold a college degree in 2025; and

WHEREAS, this year more than 150 of Alabama’s local high schools will be participating in this event, which is focused on preparing students for the exciting opportunities of the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama College Application Week initiative is designed to increase the number of students who are applying to and ultimately enrolling in college with a particular focus on first-generation and low-income students; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama College Application Week initiative is particularly focused on assisting first-generation and low-income students; and

WHEREAS, in Alabama’s PLAN 2020 a “Prepared Graduate” is partially defined as possessing the knowledge and skills needed to enroll and succeed in credit-bearing, first-year courses at a two- or four-year college, trade school, and technical school without the need for remediation; and

WHEREAS, in the Class of 2013, more than 22,000 students in Alabama applied for financial aid services and completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); and

WHEREAS, during this initiative’s pilot year in 2013, seniors from 10 Alabama high schools submitted a total of 1,803 college applications to 250 different colleges across the country; and

WHEREAS, the goal this year is to substantially increase this application total; and

WHEREAS, this celebration will also highlight the importance of the “college- and career-readiness” concept, which focuses on creating a seamless transition between students leaving high school, entering college, and moving into the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby proclaim November 3-7, 2014, as Alabama College Application Week and encourages local boards of education, schools, business professionals, and local educational organizations to participate in this celebration through activities that demonstrate the importance of Alabama’s students achieving their aspirations of academic excellence and personal achievement.

Done this 12th day of November 2014
Superintendent’s Report

At the request of Dr. Thomas R. Bice, Dr. Philip Cleveland, Director, Office of Career Technical Education/Workforce Development, addressed the Board regarding the overall success of Alabama College Application Week held November 3-7, 2014. He stated there was an overall increase in the application process of students applying to enroll in community colleges and universities. The first year, 2013, was the pilot year of the program.

Dr. Bice advised Board members of the hiring of Mr. Andy Craig, Superintendent of the Hoover City School System, and Dr. Jeff Langham, Superintendent of the Elmore County School System. He stated that the credentials of both gentlemen are impeccable and their experience was exactly what he was looking for in filling the positions. Dr. Bice said that Mr. Craig will assume the role that was previously held by Dr. Craig Pouncey, Chief of Staff, Policy and Budget. Dr. Jeff Langham will fill the position, previously held by Dr. Eddie R. Johnson. This is a position that has been vacant since Dr. Johnson’s retirement due to medical reasons. In response to Mr. Jeff Newman’s question pertaining to the salary schedule of the two positions, Dr. Bice stated the positions were approved by the State Board and State Personnel years ago, and that he would follow up with the salary schedule. Dr. Bice stated that he had talked with Governor Robert Bentley pertaining to the hiring.

Dr. Bice informed Board members that a State Board representative was needed to represent the Board during the Alabama Association of School Board meeting on December 4-6, 2014, in Birmingham, Alabama. Dr. Charles E. Elliott stated that he would represent the Board. (For informational purposes. Due to Dr. Charles E. Elliott’s schedule, Dr. Yvette Richardson will serve as the State Board representative.)

On motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

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Vice President

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Secretary and Executive Officer