

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
JANUARY 11, 2024
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 10 a.m., in the auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building, Montgomery, Alabama. 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. TRACIE WEST, VICE PRESIDENT

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

The following members were present:

Present

Mrs. Stephanie Bell in person
Dr. Tonya Chestnut in person
Mrs. Marie Manning in person
Mrs. Belinda McRae in person
Dr. Wayne Reynolds in person
Dr. Yvette Richardson in person
Mrs. Tracie West in person
Mrs. Jackie Zeigler in person

Absent

Governor Kay Ivey

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE DECEMBER 14, 2023, 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 December 14, 2023.

On motion by Mrs. Jackie Zeigler and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
MARY GRAY WRIGHT, W. P. DAVIDSON HIGH SCHOOL
MOBILE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2023 SCIENCE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

WHEREAS, now that we have entered the 21st Century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, established by Congress in 1983, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 200 teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

WHEREAS, through the state selection committee, three 2023 state science finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mary Gray Wright of W. P. Davidson High School, Mobile County School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama science classroom for 19 years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mary Gray Wright was chosen as a 2023 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in science teaching:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mrs. Mary Gray Wright upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of science.

Done this 11th day of January 2024

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Jackie Zeigler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
SHERRI WHITEHEAD, MOUNTAIN BROOK JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
MOUNTAIN BROOK CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2023 MATHEMATICS PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

WHEREAS, now that we have entered the 21st Century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, established by Congress in 1983, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 200 teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

WHEREAS, through the state selection committee, three 2023 state mathematics finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sherri Whitehead of Mountain Brook Junior High School, Mountain Brook City School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama mathematics classroom for 15 years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sherri Whitehead was chosen as a 2023 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in mathematics teaching:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mrs. Sherri Whitehead upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of mathematics.

Done this 11th day of January 2024

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
NATHAN KENNY, HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL
TUSCALOOSA COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2023 MATHEMATICS PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

WHEREAS, now that we have entered the 21st Century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, established by Congress in 1983, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 200 teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

WHEREAS, through the state selection committee, three 2023 state mathematics finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nathan Kenny of Hillcrest High School, Tuscaloosa County School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama mathematics classroom for 8 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nathan Kenny was chosen as a 2023 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in mathematics teaching:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mr. Nathan Kenny upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of mathematics.

Done this 11th day of January 2024

On motion by Dr. Tonya Chestnut and seconded by Mrs. Jackie Zeigler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
DAVID DAI, BARTON ACADEMY FOR ADVANCED WORLD STUDIES
MOBILE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2023 MATHEMATICS PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

WHEREAS, now that we have entered the 21st Century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, established by Congress in 1983, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 200 teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

WHEREAS, through the state selection committee, three 2023 state mathematics finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Mr. David Dai of Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies, Mobile County School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama mathematics classroom for 6 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. David Dai was chosen as a 2023 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in mathematics teaching:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mr. David Dai upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of mathematics.

Done this 11th day of January 2024

On motion by Mrs. Belinda McRae and seconded by Mrs. Marie Manning, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
MELANIE DIMLER, HEWITT TRUSSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
TRUSSVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2023 SCIENCE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

WHEREAS, now that we have entered the 21st Century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, established by Congress in 1983, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 200 teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

WHEREAS, through the state selection committee, three 2023 state science finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Melanie Dimler of Hewitt Trussville High School, Trussville City School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama science classroom for 11 years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Melanie Dimler was chosen as a 2023 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in science teaching:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mrs. Melanie Dimler upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of science.

Done this 11th day of January 2024

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Marie Manning, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
BRANDON RENFROE, GERALDINE HIGH SCHOOL
DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2023 SCIENCE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FINALIST**

WHEREAS, now that we have entered the 21st Century, proficiency in mathematics and science is more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, established by Congress in 1983, are the nation's highest honor bestowed upon K-12 mathematics and science teachers; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 200 teachers throughout the nation, including Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the United States territories, are selected each year as state finalists; and

WHEREAS, through the state selection committee, three 2023 state science finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Brandon Renfro of Geraldine High School, DeKalb County School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama science classroom for 18 years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Brandon Renfro was chosen as a 2023 finalist in Alabama to receive the award for excellence in science teaching:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Dr. Brandon Renfro upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of science.

Done this 11th day of January 2024

On motion by Mrs. Belinda McRae and seconded by Mrs. Jackie Zeigler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JASPER CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM AS THE FIRST SCHOOL
SYSTEM IN ALABAMA TO ACHIEVE LEVEL ONE CERTIFICATION IN MARZANO HIGH
RELIABILITY SCHOOLS (HRS)**

WHEREAS, Jasper City School System is committed to providing a high-quality education and fostering a positive learning environment for all students; and

WHEREAS, Jasper City School System is the first school system in Alabama to achieve Level 1 certification in Marzano High Reliability Schools (HRS) – a program designed to transform schools into organizations that proactively ensure student success; and

WHEREAS, Level 1 certification signifies the establishment of a "Safe, Supportive, and Collaborative Culture" in the Jasper City School System, which serves as the foundation for subsequent levels within the HRS framework; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a safe, supportive, and collaborative culture is crucial for maintaining the integrity of day-to-day school operations, and without such a culture, student achievement may be compromised; and

WHEREAS, the HRS program, developed by Marzano Resources, employs a research-based five-level hierarchy, utilizing leading and lagging indicators to enable educators to assess, monitor, and confirm the effectiveness of their schools; and

WHEREAS, the HRS framework, grounded in 50 years of educational research, defines five progressive levels of performance that schools must master to become an HRS, ensuring that all students acquire the content and skills necessary for success in college, careers, and beyond; and

WHEREAS, schools, including the Jasper City School System, are required to collect data and validate their performance to ascend each level of the HRS hierarchy, with certification determined by Marzano Resources analysts in collaboration with school data teams; and

WHEREAS, the HRS framework and indicators empower schools to drive sustained, positive, and significant impacts on student achievement by synthesizing multiple complex initiatives into one harmonious system:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education congratulates the Jasper City School System and commends the students, educators, and administrators for the achievement of Level 1 certification in Marzano High Reliability Schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education expresses its commitment to supporting Jasper City School System and the continued implementation of the HRS framework to enhance the learning environment and ensure the success of all students in the Jasper City School System.

Done this 11th day of January 2024

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**HONORING MR. JAMIE DANIELS
AS THE
“BARBARA FANNIN MEMORIAL EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER”
JANUARY - MARCH 2024**

WHEREAS, Mr. Jamie Daniels, Stock Clerk I in the Alabama State Department of Education, Operations Section, exhibits a consistent, positive attitude, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jamie Daniels has worked for the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) for over 10 years and clearly believes in and has a passion for public education; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jamie Daniels exhibits an elevated level of team-work skills, which is an enormous asset to our Department’s Office of Operations and the entire ALSDE staff; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jamie Daniels provides a cooperative attitude and works professionally with all ALSDE staff to ensure that the Department functions smoothly and reliably; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jamie Daniels’ quiet and calm manner under stress ensures tasks will be executed in a timely and professional manner:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Department of Education and the Operations Section specifically, hereby express its gratitude to Mr. Jamie Daniels for his dedication and caring service:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Mr. Jamie Daniels for his commitment to the Alabama State Department of Education and does hereby express its sincere congratulations.

Done this 11th day of January 2024

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF JANUARY 2024 AS
“GIFTED EDUCATION MONTH” IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize and support the special needs of students in gifted education; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Association for Gifted Children has designated January as “Gifted Education Month”; and

WHEREAS, gifted children can be found in all ethnic, socioeconomic, and cultural groups and provide our state with a vast resource for potential leadership and innovation in all areas of society; and

WHEREAS, gifted students have special needs in the following areas: intellectual, academic, and creative; and

WHEREAS, providing rigor, challenge, and acceleration in the classroom for Alabama’s gifted students is vital to ensuring their intellectual, affective, and academic development for college and career readiness:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That gifted programs are an essential component of K-12 public education in Alabama; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby express its appreciation to gifted coordinators, gifted specialists, classroom teachers, counselors, administrators, and superintendents for their efforts to support gifted education programs in Alabama public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby designate January 2024 as “Gifted Education Month” in the public schools of Alabama.

Done this 11th day of January 2024

On motion by Dr. Tonya Chestnut and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
Faulkner University**

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.59(3), allows a program leading to an Alabama Professional Educator Certificate be approved through the Continuous Improvement in Educator Preparation (CIEP) program review process; and

WHEREAS, Faulkner University submitted their Class B Elementary Education (K-6) and Class A School Counseling (P-12) programs for review June 11, 2020, and were granted conditional approval through June 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Faulkner University submitted their Alternative Class A Elementary Education (K-6) program for review June 11, 2020, and was granted probationary approval until June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Faulkner University resubmitted their Alternative Class A Elementary Education (K-6) program documenting compliance with Alabama State Board of Education (ALSBOE) standards and was granted approval until June 30, 2023, to allow time for the program to meet reading course requirements in the *Alabama Literacy Act*; and

WHEREAS, Faulkner University submitted their Class B Physical Education (P-12) program for review in 2021 and was approved with conditions until June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Faulkner University submitted a request to develop programs for Class B Music, Choral (P-12); Class B Music, Instrumental (P-12); Class B Computer Science (6-12); Class B English Language Arts (6-12); Class B General Science (6-12); Class B General Social Studies (6-12); Alternative Class A English Language Arts (6-12); Alternative Class A General Science (6-12); and Alternative Class A General Social Studies (6-12) in January 2023; and

WHEREAS, Faulkner University previously deactivated these programs prior to the comprehensive review process to address the standards of the ALSBOE and the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP); and

WHEREAS, the ALSBOE authorized review of the programs requested in January 2023 during the May 2023 board meeting; and

WHEREAS, Faulkner University submitted all programs for review during the August 2023 CIEP review session except Class B Computer Science (6-12), Class B General Science (6-12), and Alternative Class A General Science (6-12); and

WHEREAS, during the program review all programs submitted were deemed met pending a few clarifications; and

WHEREAS, a review team visited Faulkner University for discovery and clarification on October 27, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Faulkner University was able to address all concerns during the onsite review of programs and documented compliance with all standards for the programs submitted; and

WHEREAS, Faulkner University had their last accreditation review by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) April 2019; and

WHEREAS, the CAEP visit for Faulkner University resulted in them receiving full accreditation with the next visit scheduled for Spring 2026; and

WHEREAS, Faulkner University submitted a progress report in September 2023 (i.e., revised course syllabi, matrix of program progression, evidence of faculty training in the Science of Reading, evidence of newly adopted textbooks, etc.) detailing their efforts toward meeting the Alabama Literacy Act and the recommendations provided by Barksdale Institution for Science of Literacy; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama literacy review team examined the evidence presented by Faulkner University and determined that significant progress has been made toward implementing the Alabama Literacy Act requirements and recommendations submitted by Barksdale; and

WHEREAS, Faulkner University is engaged in a process of continuous improvement:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants approval of the following programs until January 31, 2031:

- Class B Elementary Education (K-6)
- Class B English Language Arts (6-12)
- Class B General Social Science (6-12)
- Class B Music, Choral (P-12)
- Class B Music, Instrumental (P-12)
- Class B Physical Education (P-12)
- Alternative Class A Elementary Education (K-6)
- Alternative Class A English Language Arts (6-12)
- Alternative Class A General Social Science (6-12)
- Class A School Counseling (P-12)

Done this 11th day of January 2024

On motion by Dr. Tonya Chestnut and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

ANNOUNCE INTENT TO ADOPT NEW ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE, 290-3-3-.61, PERTAINING TO LITERACY COURSEWORK: SCIENCE OF READING (SOR)

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

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

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mackey stated that January is Gifted Education Month. He asked all Gifted Education representatives to stand and be recognized. The Gifted Education group included Dr. Shirley Farrell, Associate Professor in the Master of Science Program/Program Coordinator for Gifted Education at Troy University, and the Alabama State Department of Education staff that works in Gifted Education.

Dr. Mackey congratulated and thanked the Mathematics and Science teachers who were honored today. He informed everyone that he is a former Science teacher. Dr. Mackey stated that a particular honoree, Mr. Nathan Kenny, taught his two oldest sons who sent their congratulations. He expressed to Mr. Kenny that he would like to make a visit to his classroom one day. Dr. Mackey stated that all the honored teachers are making a difference in the lives of young people who are experiencing a lifelong impact. Dr. Mackey thanked the honorees for touching the lives of children in Alabama schools.

Dr. Mackey recognized and congratulated Mrs. Donna Hoomes, wife of Pastor Kenny Hoomes, who provided the innovation today. Mrs. Hoomes recently retired after thirty-two and half years in the Autauga County School System.

Dr. Mackey acknowledged Jasper City School System representatives who were there in support of being recognized as the first school system in Alabama to achieve level one certification in Marzano High Reliability Schools (HRS). Representatives in attendance were Dr. Ann Jackson, Superintendent of Jasper City School System, and all her administrators. Dr. Mackey mentioned one other educator who had Jasper City connections, Dr. Mary Allen Jolley. Dr. Jolley was ninety-four years old and passed away before Christmas. Dr. Jolley was from Sumter County. She had about forty honors and awards. She earned her degree from The University of Alabama and went to serve on the staff of Alabama U.S. Congressman Carl Elliott who was a native of Jasper, Alabama. Dr. Jolley played a major role in the passage of the first National Student Loan Program, *the National Defense Education Act of 1958*. In 1977, Dr. Jolley became Vice President for Development at Trident Technical College in Charleston, South Carolina. She innovated education for women in non-traditional jobs. In 1984 until her retirement in 1994, she served as The University of Alabama's Director of Economic and Community Affairs. One of her practiced achievements at that post was the initiation of community-based Family Resource Centers, culminating in the Alabama Network of Family Resource Centers (ANFRC). Dr. Jolley continued to support its twenty-two centers that served forty-four Alabama counties with wise counsel until her death. Dr. Mackey stated that Alabama lost a giant in education.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, Board Members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer