

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
DECEMBER 10, 2020
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its Annual meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, December 10, 2020, at 10 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 Mrs. Jackie Zeigler, Alabama State Board of Education Member, District One, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was done in unison.

The following members were present:

Present

Mrs. Stephanie Bell via electronic means
Governor Kay Ivey via electronic means
Dr. Cynthia McCarty in person
Mr. Jeff Newman via electronic means
Dr. Wayne Reynolds via electronic means
Dr. Yvette Richardson via electronic means
Dr. Tommie Stewart via electronic means
Mrs. Tracie West in person
Mrs. Jackie Zeigler in person

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

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following.

ENTERTAIN A MOTION TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 290-010-010.04, WHICH ARE IN CONFLICT AND SUPERSEDED BY THE GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION RELATED TO THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT ISSUED ON MARCH 18, 2020; NAMELY, THE REQUIREMENT TO VOTE BY RAISED HAND AND THOSE PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM BY PHYSICAL PRESENCE AND MEETING BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 12, 2020, MEETING

On motion by Dr. Cynthia McCarty and seconded by Mrs. Jackie Zeigler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of November 12, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

On motion by Dr. Cynthia McCarty and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following.

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF DECEMBER 7-13, 2020, AS
"COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK" IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, Computer Science Education Week highlights the crucial role that computer science plays in transforming our society and how computer science enables innovation and creates economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, computing technology is an integral part of modern culture and is transforming how people interact with each other and the world around them; and

WHEREAS, computer science is transforming industry, creating new fields of commerce, driving innovation in all fields of science, and bolstering productivity in established economic sectors; and

WHEREAS, the field of computer science underpins the information technology sector of our economy, which is a significant contributor to Alabama’s economic output; and

WHEREAS, the information technology sector is uniquely positioned to help with economic recovery through the research and development of new innovations; and

WHEREAS, the outlook for computer science jobs is bright with more than 3,200 open computing positions across the state of Alabama with the current average salary for a computing occupation paying \$86,870, which is significantly higher than the average salary in the state; and

WHEREAS, providing students the chance to participate in high-quality computer science courses and activities exposes them to the rich opportunities the field offers and provides critical-thinking and computational skills that will serve them throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, all students in Alabama deserve a thorough preparation in computer science education, including access to the qualified teachers, technology, and age-appropriate curriculum needed to learn computer science at the elementary and secondary levels of education; and

WHEREAS, participating in an Hour of Code during Computer Science Education Week can serve to demystify the field of computer science and encourage more students to take further studies of computer science; and

WHEREAS, the field of computer science has significant equity barriers to address, including attracting more participation by females and underrepresented minorities to all levels; and

WHEREAS, Grace Murray Hopper, one of the first females in the field of computer science, engineered new programming languages and pioneered standards for computer systems that laid the foundation for many advancements in computer science; and

WHEREAS, the week of December 7-13, 2020, in honor of Grace Hopper's birthday, is designated as national Computer Science Education Week by Code.org, the Computer Science for All Initiative, the National Center for Women in Information Technology, and other nationally recognized entities:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby designate December 7-13, 2020, as “Computer Science Education Week” in the public schools of Alabama.

Done this 10th day of December 2020

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM
Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education approved all but one of the programs provided by Samford University on June 11, 2020, based on documentation of compliance with Alabama State Board of Education rules; and

WHEREAS, Samford University’s Alternative Class A Collaborative Special Education (K-6) program was originally to be approved with conditions until June 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education approved Samford University’s Alternative Class A Collaborative Special Education (K-6) program for only one year, pending documentation of nine semester hours of required reading courses as mandated by *The Alabama Literacy Act*; and

WHEREAS, nine semester hours of required reading courses have now been verified for Samford University’s Alternative Class A Collaborative Special Education (K-6) program; 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 conditions until June 30, 2023:

Alternative Class A Collaborative Special Education (K-6)

Done this 10th day of December 2020

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
Troy University, Troy, Alabama

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education approved all but two of the programs provided by Troy University on June 11, 2020, based on documentation of compliance with Alabama State Board of Education rules; and

WHEREAS, Troy University's Alternative Class A Collaborative Special Education (K-6) and Alternative Class A Elementary Education programs were originally to be approved until June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education approved Troy University's Alternative Class A Collaborative Special Education (K-6) and Alternative Class A Elementary Education programs for only one year pending documentation of nine semester hours of required reading courses as mandated by *The Alabama Literacy Act*; and

WHEREAS, nine semester hours of required reading courses have now been verified for Troy University's Alternative Class A Collaborative Special Education (K-6) and Alternative Class A Elementary Education programs; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby approves the following programs with conditions until June 30, 2024:

Alternative Class A Collaborative Special Education (K-6)
Alternative Class A Elementary Education

Done this 10th day of December 2020

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

RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
University of South Alabama

WHEREAS, a review of proposed educator preparation programs was conducted on March 11, 2020, and October 30, 2020, by 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, compliance with Alabama State Board of Education rules has been verified; and

WHEREAS, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) reviewed University of South Alabama during April 7-9, 2013, and granted continuing accreditation on October 23, 2013; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby approves the following programs with approval to expire on May 31, 2021:

Alternative Class A Choral Music (P-12)
Alternative Class A Instrumental Musical (P-12)

Done this 10th day of December 2020

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

ANNOUNCE INTENT TO ADOPT NEW ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, RULE 290-4-3-.03, PERTAINING TO ALABAMA CORE TEACHING STANDARDS

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following.

ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, RULE 290-2-01-.01, PERTAINING TO ANNUAL APPORTIONMENT OF THE FOUNDATION PROGRAM FUNDS

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

RATIFY THE 2020-2021 STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S EVALUATION RESULTS

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Tommie Stewart, the Board voted unanimously for the 2021 Alabama State Board of Education Meeting/Work Session Dates.

ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION K-12 MEETING AND WORK SESSION DATES SCHEDULE			
2021			
MEETING DATES		WORK SESSION DATES	
January 14	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	January 14	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
February 11	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	February 11	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
March 11	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	March 11	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
April 8	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	April 8	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
May 13	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	May 13	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
June 10	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	June 10	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
*July 13	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	July 13	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
August 12	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	August 12	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
September 9	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	September 9	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
October 14	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	October 14	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
**November 10	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	November 10	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
December 9	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	December 9	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103

*Meeting required by State Law

**Meeting on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, due to November 11, 2021, is Veteran’s Day

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

Dr. Eric G. Mackey stated that during the November Board’s Work Session, he mentioned that some 2019-2020 local school board members were not in compliance with the *School Board Governance Improvement Act*. He stated that he is legally responsible for reporting the noncompliers. Dr. Mackey stated that Thomas Barnes with Colbert County School System, Joe Calvin with Tuscaloosa County School System, Charles Douthit with Homewood City School System, and John R. Ponder with Talladega County School System are not in compliance.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mackey apologized to the Governor and the Board members for not being able to attend the meeting in person due to being quarantined because of contact with the Coronavirus. Dr. Mackey stated that in the official 20-day count which is 20 school days after Labor Day, there are 9,800 fewer students in 2020 than in 2019. He said that approximately 3,025 of the 9,800 students are kindergartners and there are no records of these students because they never attended or registered for school. Dr. Mackey stated that Alabama has 3,000 fewer kindergartners in 2020 than it had in 2019. Dr. Mackey stated that in order to avoid losing funding or instructional gaps, local school systems are reaching out to the communities' Pre-K programs to try and identify those students. He said the biggest concern is when the students come to school next year, some of them will be six years old and parents may not be willing to enroll them in kindergarten. Dr. Mackey stated that some parents may choose to move their children directly to first grade and that will become an instructional issue in many ways. Dr. Mackey stated that kindergarten is not required by law in Alabama. He said the Department will continue to work on the issue throughout the year. Dr. Mackey informed the Board that as of this morning enrollment is over 220,000 students. Dr. Mackey stated that 3,300 students were added since the last day of the count in October. He said that is a testament to the good work of Alabama's local school systems. The local superintendents and principals sent resource officers and social workers out and made telephone calls to identify many of the students to return them back. Dr. Mackey stated that he, the Governor along with her budget staff, and legislative leadership had funding discussions about how they can do kind of a hold harmless for next school year. He said everyone has been very supportive in trying to do something to help with the situation. Dr. Mackey stated that the other piece is an instructional process. He said some students missed a number of weeks or months of school. The percentage is approximately 1%, which seems small in comparison, but when you add the numbers up it equals seven or eight thousand students, which is something to be concerned about. He said the Department will continue to work with local schools to do whatever they need to help catch them up.

Dr. Mackey stated that summer school for next year, before- and after-school tutoring, and summer school for 2022 are being discussed. He said that Alabama has many students on remote learning for the remainder of this school year. He said some local school systems are not able to operate due to staff shortages. Dr. Mackey stated that some school systems are delaying the start of school in January 2021 due to not having enough staff to keep schools in operation. Dr. Mackey stated that one high school in particular had 20% of students out and 20% of the faculty out. He said some rural schools have 50% of the staff on quarantine and there is no way to operate a school when half of the faculty is on quarantine. Dr. Mackey stated that normally with influenza when you reach 20% it is time to close the school and send everyone home. He said that a superintendent in the black belt area informed him that he has a rural school with 32 teachers and 14 of them were home on quarantine. Dr. Mackey stated that there is no way to operate a school when 50 % of your faculty is out on quarantine.

Dr. Mackey stated that on December 8, 2020, the Board received correspondence from Dr. Jeff Langham regarding graduation and college and career readiness rates for the recent finalized data of 2019. He said the 2020 numbers will not be available until the spring. Dr. Mackey stated that the graduation and college and career readiness rates were at an all-time high and the gap between the two was closing.

Dr. Mackey stated that the status on the *Alabama Literacy Act* implementation is moving forward. He said the Speaker of the House sent letters to his members this week asking them to support continuation to move forward with implementation. He stated that everything about school is a struggle this year. Dr. Mackey stated that the Department will continue to support the local school systems. He attended a telephone conversation earlier this week with the state reading coaches giving them strategies about the better ways to offer support to schools.

Dr. Mackey recognized Dr. Jayne Meyer, Director of Teaching and Learning, who was noted by the State Personnel Office as honorable mention in employees of the year for the state of Alabama.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2021, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer