

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
OCTOBER 8, 2020
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its Annual meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, October 8, 2020, at 10 a.m., at Alabama Association of School Boards, 43 South Jackson Street, 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 AND
MRS. JACKIE ZEIGLER, VICE PRESIDENT**

The invocation was done by Dr. Daniel Boyd, Deputy State Superintendent for Instruction, Alabama State Department of Education, 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 Mrs. Tracie West, 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TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 290-010-010.04, WHICH ARE IN CONFLICT AND SUPERSEDED BY THE GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION RELATED TO THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT ISSUED ON MARCH 18, 2020; NAMELY, THE REQUIREMENT TO VOTE BY RAISED HAND AND THOSE PROVISIONS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 Mrs. Tracie West and seconded by Dr. Wayne Reynolds, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2020, MEETING

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of September 10, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted 8-1-0 to approve the following. Mrs. Stephanie Bell opposed.

REVISED STATE SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION INSTRUMENT

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ANTHONY SANDERS, PRINCIPAL
GREENSBORO MIDDLE SCHOOL, HALE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM,
AS ALABAMA'S 2020 MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR**

WHEREAS, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) sponsors a national program to honor outstanding middle and high school principals from across the United States and more than 45 countries; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anthony Sanders, principal of Greensboro Middle School in the Hale County School System, was selected as Alabama's 2020 Middle School Principal of the Year by the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anthony Sanders has been a principal for 10 years; he has also served as a teacher, and assistant principal as well; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anthony Sanders earned his undergraduate degree at Alabama State University and earned a graduate degree in Administration and Supervision at the University of Phoenix; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anthony Sanders along with his staff established a culture of learning and cultivated growth and achievement within Greensboro Middle School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sanders has served numerous leadership roles in the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools and the Alabama Association of Middle School Principals (AAMSP) and currently serves as the president of AAMSP; 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 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 National Association of Secondary School Principals' state affiliate offices; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anthony Sanders with an unwavering commitment to excellence in the rewarding field of education reflects immense credit upon the entire State of Alabama, and he is truly deserving of special commendation and praise:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mr. Anthony Sanders upon the honor of being selected as the 2020 Alabama Middle School Principal of the Year.

Done this 8th day of October

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ADAM CLEMONS, PRINCIPAL
PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL, PIEDMONT CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM,
AS ALABAMA'S 2020 HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR**

WHEREAS, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) sponsors a national program to honor outstanding middle and high school principals from across the United States and more than 45 countries; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Adam Clemons, principal of Piedmont High School in the Piedmont City School System, was selected as Alabama's 2020 High School Principal of the Year by the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Adam Clemons has been the principal at Piedmont High School since 2013 and prior to that served as an assistant principal and social studies teacher in Alabama and Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Adam Clemons is a native of Madison County, Alabama, and graduate of Buckhorn High School. Dr. Clemons earned his undergraduate degree from Auburn University, his master's degree from Jacksonville State, and his Ed.S. and Ed.D. from Argosy/Sarasota University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Adam Clemons serves as the President of the Calhoun County Principals and Coaches Association, member of the Executive Board of Auburn Christian Fellowship, and has written numerous leadership articles for the Association of Supervision Curricular Development, Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS), Hometown Headlines, and The Auburn Plainsman; 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 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 National Association of Secondary School Principals' state affiliate offices; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Adam Clemons with an unwavering commitment to excellence in the rewarding field of education reflects immense credit upon the entire state of Alabama, and he is truly deserving of special commendation and praise:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Dr. Adam Clemons upon the honor of being selected as the 2020 Alabama High School Principal of the Year.

Done this 8th day of October 2020

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF DR. DILHANI USWATTE, PRINCIPAL,
ROCKY RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HOOVER CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, BEING
NAMED THE 2020 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL FROM ALABAMA**

WHEREAS, The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) National Distinguished Principal program was established to recognize 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

WHEREAS, Dr. Dilhani Uswatte was named the 2020 NAESP National Distinguished Principal from Alabama by the Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators (AAESA); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dilhani Uswatte has served as the principal of Rocky Ridge Elementary School in the Hoover City Schools System for six years, prior to that served as the assistant principal at Rocky Ridge Elementary for four years, and prior to that taught math at Berry Middle School for eight years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dilhani Uswatte has served as the Co-Director of the National Mentoring Program for the Milken Family Foundation. Dr. Uswatte has been involved in many leadership positions in Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS), AAESA, Adults and Children with Learning Disabilities (ACLD), Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), and The University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dilhani Uswatte obtained her bachelor's degree from Queens University in Canada, her master's, and educational specialist degrees from UAB, and her doctorate in 2013 from UAB; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dilhani Uswatte always puts her students first and works tirelessly to create an atmosphere that allows her teachers to be successful. Dr. Uswatte has a positive impact on her school and school system for its students, teachers, and parents; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dilhani Uswatte has been honored by UAB, CLAS, AAESA, and Hoover City Schools for her work and commitment to everyone under her care; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Dr. Dilhani Uswatte upon the honor of being selected as the 2020 Alabama NAESP National Distinguished Principal.

Done this 8th day of October 2020

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

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JOANNA TAYLOR, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, TROY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, TROY CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS ALABAMA'S 2020 ELEMENTARY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) sponsors a national program to honor outstanding elementary and middle school assistant principals from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense, and U.S. Territories; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Joanna Taylor, Assistant Principal at Troy Elementary School in the Troy City School System, was selected as the Alabama recipient of the 2020 Assistant Principal of the Year for Alabama by the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators (AAESA); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Joanna Taylor has been an outstanding educator in Alabama and has served as a teacher and assistant principal. Dr. Taylor has become a principal in the Troy City School System this year; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Joanna Taylor as earned a bachelor's degree in Education from Troy University, a master's degree from the University of South Alabama and Auburn University Montgomery, and a doctorate from Nova Southeastern University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Joanna Taylor encourages a team approach and is known to be very supportive of the staff; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Joanna Taylor strives to build a deliberate and passionate leadership by building a positive rapport with the students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Joanna Taylor is a member of AAESA, NAESP and Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Joanna Taylor has been recognized by her peers for exemplary service to the students, teachers, parents, and other stakeholders at Troy Elementary School:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Dr. Joanna Taylor upon the honor of being selected as the 2020 Alabama Elementary School Assistant Principal of the Year.

Done this 8th day of October 2020

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. JENNIFER WEST, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL,
RIVERTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL, MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS
ALABAMA'S 2020 SECONDARY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR**

WHEREAS, the National Association of Secondary School Principals sponsors a national program to honor outstanding assistant principals from across the United States and more than 45 countries; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer West, assistant principal at Riverton Intermediate School in the Madison County School System, was selected as Alabama's 2020 Assistant Principal of the Year by the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer West has served as the assistant principal at Riverton Intermediate School since January 2020 and at Buckhorn Middle School since 2016, and prior to that she served as a special education and collaborative teacher since 2011. Mrs. West worked with the students and teachers at Buckhorn Middle and Riverton Intermediate Schools to increase learning; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer West received her bachelor's degree from The University of Alabama, her master's degree of Education from Alabama A&M, and her education specialist degree from Samford University; and

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

WHEREAS, the Assistant Principal of the Year Program honors outstanding secondary assistant principals who ensure that America's students acquire a sound foundation for lifelong learning and achievement, and the program annually honors secondary assistant principals who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students as well as demonstrating exemplary contributions to the profession:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mrs. Jennifer West upon the honor of being selected as the 2020 Alabama Assistant Principal of the Year.

Done this 8th day of October 2020

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

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING
OCTOBER 2020
AS "PRINCIPALS MONTH" IN ALABAMA**

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 2020 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 are working with the U.S. Congress to designate "National Principals Month" and resolutions 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, as well as being entrusted with the education and development of young people, the 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 level, 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 level, and high school principals who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students as well as their exemplary contributions to the profession; and

WHEREAS, to honor and recognize the contribution 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 does hereby proclaim October 2020 as "Principals Month" in the state of Alabama.

Done this 8th day of October 2020

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF OCTOBER 12-16, 2020,
AS "SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK" IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education has recognized for nearly 50 years, the School Lunch Program has contributed to the health and educational development of Alabama's children by making nutritious meals available in Grades K-12 public schools; and

WHEREAS, every October, the School Nutrition Association and the U.S. Department of Agriculture join together to celebrate the National School Lunch Week; and

WHEREAS, the National School Lunch Week 2020 (#NSLW20) theme is "Now Playing: School Lunch," which spotlights the wide variety of flavors, dishes, delivery options, and tastes that can be customized in today's school lunch; and

WHEREAS, research has indicated that students who eat lunch have better attention and memory, and the quality of foods children eat impacts cognition, and poor nutrition is linked with absenteeism, health problems, hunger symptoms, and psychosocial problems; and

WHEREAS, scientifically based food and nutrition information contributes powerful education benefits to all elementary and secondary students; and

WHEREAS, the School Lunch Program served over 63 million lunch meals for the school year 2019-2020 to Alabama students:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby express its appreciation to school nutrition professionals who make the local School Lunch Program work in 1,475 school sites statewide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education encourages Alabama schools to participate in promoting National School Lunch Week; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does designate October 12-16, 2020, as "School Lunch Week" in the public schools of Alabama.

Done this 8th day of October 2020

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

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING ALABAMA SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK
(October 19-23, 2020)**

WHEREAS, nearly 354,094 of Alabama's elementary and secondary students are transported to and from school each day of the school year; and

WHEREAS, the safety of these students is of utmost importance to all citizens of the state; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's school bus drivers and other transportation employees work diligently to ensure safe transportation for all of Alabama students:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby endorse October 19-23, 2020, as Alabama School Bus Safety Week and urges all Alabamians, particularly motorists, to be especially cautious where school buses and schoolchildren are involved:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education calls on every citizen of Alabama to make every week a safe one for the students and school buses of our state.

Done this 8th day of October 2020

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

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 26-30, 2020
AS "RED RIBBON WEEK" IN ALABAMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, alcohol and other drug abuse in Alabama takes a terrible toll on families; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that visible, unified prevention education efforts by schools, civic groups, and community members be continued to reduce the demand for alcohol and drugs; and

WHEREAS, Red Ribbon Week began in 1985 as a grassroots tribute to slain Special Agent Enrique Camarena of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration; and

WHEREAS, Red Ribbon Week is a national campaign offering citizens the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to drug-free lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, Red Ribbon Week is a time for gratitude for all the lives that remain drug-free, a time to pledge to live a safe and drug-free life, and a time to remember those we have lost in the fight against drugs; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's citizens can demonstrate their commitment to drug-free, healthy lifestyles by wearing and displaying red ribbons and encouraging a drug-free lifestyle during this week-long campaign; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education works shoulder-to-shoulder with social, civic, fraternal, and faith-based organizations to bring the truth about drugs to people young and old year round; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with the Foundation for a Drug-Free World, a public benefit organization empowering youth with factual information about drugs so they can make informed decisions to be drug-free, we are committed to creating a **drug-free Alabama** by "reaching kids before drugs do":

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby proclaim October 26-30, 2020, as "Red Ribbon Week" in Alabama public schools and encourages schools and the citizens of our state to participate in drug prevention education activities, making a visible statement that we are strongly committed to a drug-free society.

Done this 8th day of October 2020

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

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2020 AS
STATEWIDE PARENT ENGAGEMENT MONTH IN ALABAMA**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Education strongly support parent and family engagement in the education of Alabama students, and parent engagement is critical to student and school success; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education is committed to parent and family engagement in our schools as it strives to provide all public school children with an opportunity for a quality education with high academic standards that offer every student an opportunity to graduate and to obtain the necessary skills to be prepared for the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, more than 30 years of research identify parental engagement as a key component in ensuring a child's academic achievement, and a successful partnership between educators and parents is one of the most crucial factors influencing the success of students in school; and

WHEREAS, Statewide Parent Engagement Month provides parents the opportunity to learn how they can become more actively engaged in their children's education by learning about the curriculum, consulting with their children's teachers, and participating in school activities as applicable; and

WHEREAS, Statewide Parent Engagement Month is an excellent opportunity for Alabama's public schools to emphasize and increase parent engagement, to partner with communities to raise awareness, and increase support for public education:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education proclaims October 2020 as Statewide Parent Engagement Month in Alabama, declares this year's theme as **Home and School Partnerships: Staying Connected for Student Learning** that encourages educators, communities, parents, and families to participate in this observance, and challenges educators to solicit sustained year-round parent and family engagement.

Done this 8th day of October 2020

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF OCTOBER
AS DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, dyslexia is defined as a language-based learning challenge that is neurological in origin and characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities; and

WHEREAS, dyslexia impacts between 10 percent and 20 percent of the children in Alabama schools; and

WHEREAS, through effective dyslexia screening, students with dyslexia can be identified as early as kindergarten, long before their learning challenges have resulted in learning disabilities; and

WHEREAS, early identification and intervention will equip many students with dyslexia for success in school and in life; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education has specifically addressed dyslexia within the *Alabama Administrative Code*; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education has committed itself to supporting Alabama schools and teachers with resources, materials, and professional development; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education is fully committed to the goal that every child will read on grade level:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes October as Dyslexia Awareness Month and encourages school systems to engage their schools, families, and communities in activities that create a culture of understanding, support, encouragement, and learning for dyslexic students.

Done this 8th day of October 2020

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

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF CASH FOR COLLEGE AWARDS FOR ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOLS

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

WHEREAS, over the past decade, there has been a growing movement among educators, national employers, and top business professionals to further focus American's high school curriculum on college preparation and career development; to remain competitive in today's growing global economy, Alabama's students must continue to be provided the highest quality educational experience possible; and

WHEREAS, for the ninth consecutive year, our state has celebrated Alabama College Application Campaign and third year Cash for College campaign annual events developed by the Alabama State Department of Education and Alabama Possible to celebrate the importance of students continuing their educational goals after graduating high school and Campaigns; and

WHEREAS, each year, millions of students nationwide apply for financial aid services and complete the FAFSA; and

WHEREAS, an estimated sixty percent of high school seniors qualify for a Pell Grant in Alabama. Fifty two percent completed the FAFSA as of June 19, 2020, leveraging an estimated \$66,503,903 in Pell Grant aid across the state of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, nationwide more than 7,300 host sites were held this year to celebrate College Application Campaign, 763,400 students participated nationwide, and 1.2 million applications were submitted; and

WHEREAS, Alabama had 346 host sites, over 130 high schools were recognized for 100% of their seniors completing a college application. Fifty-six colleges and universities participated in the Alabama College Application Campaign Fee Waiver Program and over 74,661 applications were submitted; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education recognize the 2019-2020 Cash for College Campaign MVP and Most Improved Award Schools, Alabama Award of Excellence Recipient, and 100% Participation High Schools and encourages local boards of education, schools, business professionals, and local educational organizations to participate in this recognition that demonstrates the importance of Alabama's students achieving their aspirations of academic excellence and personal achievement:

Cash for College MVP Award

Large-size schools - Helena High School (Kristen Blanton, Counselor, and Keyla Handley, Career Coach)

Medium-size schools - Ramsay High School (Steven M. Tarver, Counselor, and Alfreda Brown, Career Coach)

Small-size schools - Amelia L. Johnson High School (Amy Ward, Career Coach)

Cash for College Most-Improved Award

Large-size schools - Huffman High School (Beverly Hackett, Counselor)

Medium-size schools - Parker High School (Laterrius Christian, Counselor, and Cheryl Jones, Career Coach)

Small-size schools - Meek High School (Bethany Jordan, Counselor, and Lynne Commens, Career Coach)

Alabama Award of Excellence Recipient

Mrs. Kathy Dean, Sulligent High School in Lamar County

Done this 8th day of October 2020

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

**RESOLUTION TO EXTEND APPROVAL OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS
University of Alabama at Birmingham**

WHEREAS, Alabama State Board of Education (ALSBE) approved University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) educator preparation programs on July 8, 2014, with approval to expire May 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation granted an extension of time for UAB to document compliance with CAEP standards; and

WHEREAS, Alabama State Department of Education staff work cooperatively with CAEP staff to schedule joint reviews of educator preparation programs to reduce the expenditure of time and other resources; and

WHEREAS, there has been no evidence of UAB's failure to comply with Alabama State Board of Education requirements; and

WHEREAS, the UAB Dean of Education has requested an extension of ALSBE program approval; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby extends approval of the University of Alabama at Birmingham educator preparation programs, with approval to expire on June 30, 2022.

Done this 8th day of October 2020

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM
University of Alabama in Huntsville**

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

WHEREAS, the University of Alabama in Huntsville's Alternative Class A Elementary Education was originally to be approved with conditions until June 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education approved The University of Alabama in Huntsville's Alternative Class A Elementary Education 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 The University of Alabama in Huntsville's Alternative Class A Elementary Education 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 Elementary Education (K-6)

Done this 8th day of October 2020

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

FISCAL YEAR 2022 FOUNDATION PROGRAM APPROPRIATION REQUEST

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 290-3-3-.05, PERTAINING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (GRADES P-3) AS A PERMANENT RULE

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

ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, RULE 290-3-3-.06, PERTAINING TO ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AS A PERMANENT RULE

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

ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, RULE 290-3-3-.34, PERTAINING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION AS A PERMANENT RULE

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

ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, RULE 290-3-3-.44, PERTAINING TO ALTERNATIVE CLASS A PROGRAMS FOR TEACHING FIELDS AS A PERMANENT RULE

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

ANNOUNCE INTENT TO ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, RULE 290-2-1-.01, PERTAINING TO ANNUAL APPORTIONMENT OF THE FOUNDATION PROGRAM FUNDS

SELECTION OF THE 2020 ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DELEGATE FOR THE ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS ANNUAL CONVENTION

On motion by Dr. Cynthia McCarty and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously for Dr. Yvette Richardson to serve as the Alabama State Board of Education Delegate during the Alabama Association of School Boards Annual Convention that will be held at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham – The Wynfrey Hotel on December 4-5, 2020.

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

Dr. Eric G. Mackey stated that there was no report necessary for the month of October.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mackey thanked Mrs. Sally Smith, Executive Director of Alabama Association of School Boards, for the use of their building to host the Alabama State Board of Education Meeting/Work Session. Dr. Mackey stated that technology renovations of the Gordon Persons Building (GPB) Auditorium and Room P103 were incomplete at this time and hopes to be back in the GPB in November. Dr. Mackey thanked the principals who were honored today for their hard work and being very engaged.

Dr. Mackey informed the Board that one topic to be discussed today during the Work Session and next month, is the English Language Arts Courses of Study that ties into the Literacy work that is being completed. Dr. Mackey stated that members of the Board, Dyslexia Advisory Council (DAC), Literacy Task Force, and Alabama Committee on Grade-Level Reading (ALCOMGLR) were invited to review the standards. Dr. Mackey stated that having all three groups review the standards has never been done in the past. Dr. Mackey stated that the collaboration shows how committed the Board, everyone who works for the Board, and all the volunteers are to getting things right. Dr. Mackey stated that the DAC has reminded the department about encouraging more people to become Certified Academic Language Therapists (CALT). Dr. Mackey stated that the Board has requested more funding to get more people CALT trained. He also stated that the department is asking to provide a stipend for those who attend the CALT training.

Dr. Mackey stated that Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training is another interest. Dr. Mackey informed the Board that in 2018, there were few to none LETRS-trained teachers in Alabama. Dr. Mackey stated that in just two and a half years, Alabama has 224 elementary teachers who graduated in the two-year program and 657 graduated in the one-year program that is targeted toward early childhood (pre-k and kindergarten) teachers in general. Dr. Mackey stated that Alabama has gone from close to none to over 800 teachers trained in LETRS. Dr. Mackey stated that there are 8,522 teachers enrolled in the elementary school program and 696 more teachers enrolled in the early childhood program. Dr. Mackey stated that combined, Alabama is approaching the 10,000 number of teachers in the LETRS training program. Dr. Mackey emphasized that the teachers are voluntarily going through a rigorous training without a stipend because they want to be better teachers of reading. Dr. Mackey stated that there are other programs, but this is high-quality professional development for Alabama teachers. Dr. Mackey stated that Alabama has 700 teachers on the waiting list.

Dr. Mackey stated that the Board did a recognition today of Cash for College awards. Dr. Mackey recognized on the following schools, teachers, and administrators who were honored.

Cash for College MVP Award

Large-size schools - Helena High School (Kristen Blanton, Counselor, and Keyla Handley, Career Coach)

Medium-size schools - Ramsay High School (Steven M. Tarver, Counselor, and Alfreda Brown, Career Coach)

Small-size schools - Amelia L. Johnson High School (Amy Ward, Career Coach)

Cash for College Most-Improved Award

Large-size schools - Huffman High School (Beverly Hackett, Counselor)

Medium-size schools - Parker High School (Laterrius Christian, Counselor, and Cheryl Jones, Career Coach)

Small-size schools - Meek High School (Bethany Jordan, Counselor, and Lynne Commens, Career Coach)

Alabama Award of Excellence Recipient

Mrs. Kathy Dean, Sulligent High School in Lamar County

Dr. Mackey stated that the department was asked in what ways help is being provided to schools during these challenging times. He stated that one of the many ways the department has been working with school superintendents and principals is to provide waivers for qualifying high school seniors during this difficult time. Dr. Mackey stated that seniors who have met their graduation requirements and college- and career-ready credentials can get waivers. Dr. Mackey stated that some seniors are going to school half days and some are finishing early. Dr. Mackey stated that the department received 883 requests for waivers from particular schools for particular students. Dr. Mackey stated that 479 waivers were approved, 323 are in the approval process, and only seven were denied. Dr. Mackey stated that granting waivers for qualified high school seniors is one of the ways the department has gone above and beyond what the Board has asked. Dr. Mackey stated that granting waivers is one example of the work that the Alabama Board of Education is promoting.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Dr. Cynthia McCarty and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer