

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
JANUARY 12, 2023
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, January 12, 2023, 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 Minister Kenny Hoomes, Associate Pastor, First Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was done in unison.

The following members were present:

Present

Mrs. Stephanie Bell in person
Dr. Tonya Chestnut in person
Governor Kay Ivey in person
Dr. Cynthia McCarty 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

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Governor Ivey requested that Item G.2.k be removed from the agenda. On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended, striking Item G.2.k.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE DECEMBER 8, 2022, MEETING

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of December 8, 2022.

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. AMY GARCIA DE LA TORRE
OAK MOUNTAIN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS A
2022 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 2022 state mathematics finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Amy Garcia de la Torre of Oak Mountain Intermediate School, Shelby County School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama mathematics classroom for 11 years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Amy Garcia de la Torre was chosen as a 2022 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. Amy Garcia de la Torre upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of mathematics.

Done this 12th day of January 2023

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
MRS. NICOLE DANIELLE BOLTON
BARTON ACADEMY FOR ADVANCED WORLD STUDIES
MOBILE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS A
2022 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 2022 state science finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nicole Danielle Bolton of Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies, Mobile County School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama science classroom for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nicole Danielle Bolton was chosen as a 2022 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. Nicole Danielle Bolton upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of science.

Done this 12th day of January 2023

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MR. CORY WILKES
BANKHEAD MIDDLE SCHOOL
WALKER COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS A
2022 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 2022 state mathematics finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cory Wilkes of Bankhead Middle School, Walker County School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama mathematics classroom for 9 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cory Wilkes was chosen as a 2022 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. Cory Wilkes upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of mathematics.

Done this 12th day of January 2023

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. APRIL SMITH
CAHABA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TRUSSVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS A
2022 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 2022 state science finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. April Smith of Cahaba Elementary School, Trussville City School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama science classroom for 12 years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. April Smith was chosen as a 2022 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. April Smith upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of science.

Done this 12th day of January 2023

On motion by Mrs. Belinda McRae and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF SADI BESS SHANNON,
AUSTIN MIDDLE SCHOOL, DECATUR CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS A
2022 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 2022 state science finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sadi Bess Shannon of Austin Middle School, Decatur City School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama science classroom for 17 years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sadi Bess Shannon was chosen as a 2022 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. Sadi Bess Shannon upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of science.

Done this 12th day of January 2023

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
MRS. KIMBERLY DENISE GULLEDGE
RIVERTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS A
2022 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 2022 state mathematics finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Kimberly Denise Gulledge of Riverton Elementary School, Madison County School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama mathematics classroom for 19 years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Kimberly Denise Gulledge was chosen as a 2022 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. Kimberly Denise Gulledge upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of mathematics.

Done this 12th day of January 2023

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

**RESOLUTION HONORING MRS DONNA CANNON SELECTED AS THE
"BARBARA FANNIN MEMORIALEMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER"
JANUARY-MARCH 2023**

WHEREAS, Mrs. Donna Cannon, Administrative Support Assistant III, in the Alabama State Department of Education, Support Services Section, has been well-known for exhibiting a positive and professional attitude, which encourages collaboration between all staff members; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Donna Cannon has proudly worked for the Alabama State Department of Education for approximately 39 years, where she is a highly respected administrative liaison for the Alabama State Department of Education and its school compliance and local education agency (LEA) monitoring efforts; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Donna Cannon believes in the power of K-12 education and exhibits a high level of dedication to the core principles of the Alabama State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Donna Cannon is a proud graduate of Alabama State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and English; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Donna Cannon is described by her colleagues as an excellent example of professionalism who wholeheartedly works to accomplish all department initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Donna Cannon truly possesses a wealth of institutional and professional knowledge and has been described by her colleagues as a dedicated team player who is always willing to go to extraordinary lengths to assist K-12 schools and local education agencies; and

WHEREAS, as much as her strong professional skills and expertise in her field set her aside as an effective leader, it is her interpersonal skills and caring disposition that draws people to her:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Department of Education and the Support Services Section specifically, hereby express its gratitude to Mrs. Donna Cannon for her dedication to the work:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Mrs. Donna Cannon for her commitment to the Alabama State Department of Education and does hereby express its sincere congratulations.

Done this 12th day of January 2023

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF JANUARY 2023 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 creativity; and

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

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, and administrators 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 2023 as “Gifted Education Month”, declares this year’s theme as Soaring to New Heights in Gifted, in the public schools of Alabama.

Done this 12th day of January 2023

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

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW
OF AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM
Troy University**

WHEREAS, *Alabama Administrative Code*, Rule No. 290-3-3-.59(4)(b)2., requires that approval by the Alabama State Board of Education shall be secured before a proposal for a new program is reviewed by the Office of Teaching and Leading of the Alabama State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education has received from the President at Troy University a written request to develop a Class A STEM (K-6) program; and

WHEREAS, Troy University personnel wish to train teachers to deliver engineering design-based instruction; and

WHEREAS, Troy University personnel have been advised that the proposed program may not be implemented prior to Alabama State Board of Education approval, based on documentation of compliance with all applicable standards; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends that the programs be reviewed by the Office of Teaching and Leading of the Alabama State Department of Education:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby authorizes a review of the following program:

Class A STEM (K-6)

Done this 12th day of January 2023

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE TEXTBOOK COMMITTEE
FOR ADOPTION OF TEXTBOOKS FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
CLUSTERS: ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY,
AND TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND LOGISTICS**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Textbook Law provides for the adoption of textbooks by the Alabama State Board of Education, the same to be adopted from recommendations made by the State Textbook Committee; and

WHEREAS, the State Textbook Committee has made its recommendations in keeping with said law; and

WHEREAS, the State Textbook Committee has worked long and hard hours in making such recommendations; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with said law, the Alabama State Board of Education received the recommendations at its December 8, 2022, meeting and 30 days prior notice of the date of consideration by the Alabama State Board of Education was given to news media:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education extends thanks to the State Textbook Committee and to all those who have worked to prepare the attached recommendations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the attached recommendations for the adoption of textbooks for Career and Technical Education are approved.

Done this 12th day of January 2023

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Tracie West, the Board voted 7-2-0 to approve the following. Mrs. Stephanie Bell and Mrs. Jackie Zeigler opposed.

ANNOUNCE INTENT TO ADOPT A NEW ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE 290-3-1-.04, PERTAINING TO FIRST GRADE READINESS

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

ANNOUNCE INTENT TO ADOPT A NEW ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE 290-3-3-.60, PERTAINING TO ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION ORGANIZATIONS

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Cynthia McCarty, the Board voted 8-0-1 to approve the following. Mrs. Stephanie Bell abstained.

HIRE DR. MELISSA SHIELDS AS ASSISTANT STATE SUPERINTENDENT—STUDENT LEARNING, PAY GRADE 90, STEP 17, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 16, 2023

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

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE WORK AND SERVICE OF
DR. CYNTHIA SANDERS MCCARTY
ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT SIX**

WHEREAS, Dr. McCarty received a Bachelor's degree in International Trade from Auburn University, her Master of Business Administration degree from Samford University, and Ph.D. in Economics from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McCarty began her career in banking at AmSouth Bank in Birmingham, Alabama, first in the Audit Department and later in the International Office where she was a foreign exchange trader and taught economics at Jacksonville State University where she also serves as Director of the University's Center for Economic Education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McCarty began her career in education where she is now a professor of Economics in the College of Commerce and Business Administration, and for the past 20 years, she has also served as the Director of Jacksonville State University's Center for Business and Free Enterprise Education and Entrepreneurship that provides professional development for Grades K-12 teachers and education students, especially in the areas of economics, social studies, and personal finance; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McCarty has dedicated her career to serving others in the field of public education as evidenced by her role on the higher education level and has greatly expanded her role as a leader in education policy becoming the Alabama State Board of Education Representative for State School Board District Six on January 19, 2015, and served in the official role as a State Board Member on February 11, 2015; and

WHEREAS, during Dr. McCarty's distinguished tenure on the Alabama State Board of Education, she has not only served as State Board Representative for District Six but was also elected as State Board Vice President on July 11, 2017, where she served professionally and diplomatically in addressing various statewide education issues; and

WHEREAS, while serving on the Alabama State Board of Education, Dr. McCarty supported some of the most significant education policies to date, including but not limited to, the Support of the Wireless Infrastructure Renovation for Education (WIRED), the *Every Student Succeed Act* that replaced No Child Left Behind; Adjunct instructors in Alabama's K-12 schools; staff in the Office of Teaching and Leading, the Educator Certification Background Clearance Office, and Office of General Counsel for their outstanding involvement in the betterment of the profession of education and their consistent leadership in the quest for safe and professional educational environments for Alabama's children; education preparation programs in universities and colleges, recognition of Dyslexia month; National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; computer science education and education task force; State Superintendent Student Advisory Council, innovation techniques in schools; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McCarty has been a strong supporter of Grades K-12 Career and Technical Education and Workforce Development Initiatives for students, K-12 Financial Literacy Education efforts, the continued development of Alabama’s STEM Education programs and the 2022 Inaugural Purple Star Schools; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McCarty and her husband, Pat, have three children, Ethan, William, and Daniel:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education do hereby express their deepest gratitude to the legacy of Dr. McCarty for her selfless service and commitment to education and her professionalism during her tenure on the Alabama State Board of Education:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education, the Alabama State Department of Education, and grateful colleagues all across the great state of Alabama do hereby honor the work of Dr. McCarty and her unselfish service to the students, parents, educators, and friends of public education that she has so eloquently and admirably given to support education in the state of Alabama.

Done this 12th day of January 2023

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

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

STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

There was no report.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, Board Members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer