

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
DECEMBER 9, 2021
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, December 9, 2021, 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 Pastor Agnes Lover, St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal 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

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 10, 2021, MEETING

On motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of November 10, 2021.

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF BREWTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, BREWTON CITY
SCHOOL SYSTEM
2021 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Education Secretary Miguel Cardona named Brewton Elementary School in the Brewton City School System as a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School; and

WHEREAS, since 1982, nearly 9,000 of America's schools have received this coveted award that honors those that reflect the goals of high standards and accountability; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that demonstrate overall academic excellence or show success in closing achievement gaps; and

WHEREAS, 325 public schools were selected nationwide, out of more than 133,000 public schools in the nation, for the 2021 Blue Ribbon Schools award, which is one of the most prestigious education awards in the country; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Schools were honored at a conference and awards ceremony November 4-5, 2021, in Washington, D.C.:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the faculty, staff, students, and parents of Brewton Elementary School,

Brewton City School System, on achieving the status of a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School in 2021.

Done this 9th day of December 2021

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF ORANGE BEACH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, BALDWIN COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2021 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Education Secretary Miguel Cardona named Orange Beach Elementary School in the Baldwin County School System as a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School; and

WHEREAS, since 1982, nearly 9,000 of America's schools have received this coveted award that honors those that reflect the goals of high standards and accountability; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that demonstrate overall academic excellence or show success in closing achievement gaps; and

WHEREAS, 325 public schools were selected nationwide, out of more than 133,000 public schools in the nation, for the 2021 Blue Ribbon Schools award, which is one of the most prestigious education awards in the country; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Schools were honored at a conference and awards ceremony November 4-5, 2021, in Washington, D.C.:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the faculty, staff, students, and parents of Orange Beach Elementary School, Baldwin County School System, on achieving the status of a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School in 2021.

Done this 9th day of December 2021

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MT. LAUREL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2021 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Education Secretary Miguel Cardona named Mt. Laurel Elementary School in the Shelby County School System as a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School; and

WHEREAS, since 1982, nearly 9,000 of America's schools have received this coveted award that honors those that reflect the goals of high standards and accountability; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that demonstrate overall academic excellence or show success in closing achievement gaps; and

WHEREAS, 325 public schools were selected nationwide, out of more than 133,000 public schools in the nation, for the 2021 Blue Ribbon Schools award, which is one of the most prestigious education awards in the country; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Schools were honored at a conference and awards ceremony November 4-5, 2021, in Washington, D.C.:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the faculty, staff, students, and parents of Mt. Laurel Elementary School, Shelby County School System, on achieving the status of a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School in 2021.

Done this 9th day of December 2021

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF HALL KENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HOMEWOOD CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2021 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Education Secretary Miguel Cardona named Hall Kent Elementary School in the Homewood City School System as a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School; and

WHEREAS, since 1982, nearly 9,000 of America's schools have received this coveted award that honors those that reflect the goals of high standards and accountability; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that demonstrate overall academic excellence or show success in closing achievement gaps; and

WHEREAS, 325 public schools were selected nationwide, out of more than 133,000 public schools in the nation, for the 2021 Blue Ribbon Schools award, which is one of the most prestigious education awards in the country; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Schools were honored at a conference and awards ceremony November 4-5, 2021, in Washington, D.C.:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the faculty, staff, students, and parents of Hall Kent Elementary School, Homewood City School System, on achieving the status of a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School in 2021.

Done this 9th day of December 2021

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MACMILLAN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY,
MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2021 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Education Secretary Miguel Cardona named MacMillan International Academy in the Montgomery County School System as a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School; and

WHEREAS, since 1982, nearly 9,000 of America's schools have received this coveted award that honors those that reflect the goals of high standards and accountability; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that demonstrate overall academic excellence or show success in closing achievement gaps; and

WHEREAS, 325 public schools were selected nationwide, out of more than 133,000 public schools in the nation, for the 2021 Blue Ribbon Schools award, which is one of the most prestigious education awards in the country; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Schools were honored at a conference and awards ceremony November 4-5, 2021, in Washington, D.C.:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the faculty, staff, students, and parents of MacMillan International Academy, Montgomery County School System, on achieving the status of a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School in 2021.

Done this 9th day of December 2021

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

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF SELMA CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM'S ALABAMA PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE PROGRAM AWARD

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes, appreciates, and encourages strong leadership that results in local education agencies (LEAs) having higher levels of quality and performance for Alabama students; and

WHEREAS, through their hard work and determination, the Selma City School System has garnered the attention of Alabama Performance Excellence (ALPEX), which consists of a trained team of examiners who evaluate organizations and assist them with improving their processes and results; and

WHEREAS, because of their strategic steps to achieve higher levels of excellence and accomplishment, the Selma City School System has been awarded the ALPEX Award Tier Two, the only LEA in the state to receive this award; and

WHEREAS, Selma City Schools Superintendent, Dr. Avis Williams has spearheaded initiatives that increase productivity and have positively impacted students throughout the district; and

WHEREAS, the ALPEX Award was established for the purpose of recognizing organizations that use unique practices and innovative strategies to increase productivity and effectiveness, as well as serve as a beacon for other organizations to model in their quest for organizational excellence; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education believes that all students should have the benefit of a solidly structured, well-organized team of education professionals who make decisions, implement programs, and adopt policies that are rooted in what best supports significant academic development:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby extend congratulations to the Selma City School System for being the sole recipient of this award from Alabama Performance Excellence, and recognizes the teachers, administrators, and others who made this recognition possible.

Done this 9th day of December 2021

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

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF DECEMBER 6-12, 2021, 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 through enabling innovation, technological advances, and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this year's Computer Science Education Week is *#CSEverywhere*; to highlight the impact that computer science is making everywhere and the relationship that computer science has to different subjects, industries, career paths, and our everyday lives; and

WHEREAS, the field of computer science underpins the information technology sector and many science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers, making it a foundational science for the digital age and a significant contributor to Alabama's economic output through the research and development of new innovations; and

WHEREAS, the outlook for computer science jobs is bright with more than 4,063 open computing positions across the state of Alabama with the current average salary for a computing occupation paying \$100,000, 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 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 up 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, the week of December 6-12, 2021, in honor of Grace Hopper's birthday, one of the first females in the field of computer science, engineered new programming languages and pioneered standards for computer systems which laid the foundation for many advancements in computer science 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 6-12, 2021, as "Computer Science Education Week" in the public schools of Alabama.

Done this 9th day of December 2021

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

ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION DECLARING IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL BOARD AUTONOMY RELATED TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY DECISIONS

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education (ALSBOE) believes that the safety, security, and well-being of all Alabama students is a paramount duty of all educators; and

WHEREAS, many actions and policies related to the current unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic are best determined at the local education agency (LEA) level, based on constantly changing community circumstances and the ability to implement best practices as recommended by the Alabama Department of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, as part of its duty, the ALSBOE is charged with adopting policies to assist and support LEAs. The ALSBOE believes that each LEA is in the best position to make informed decisions on what is in the best interest of each community. The ALSBOE further believes that certain matters of health and safety policy should be reserved for LEAs to determine:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the ALSBOE affirms that certain decisions regarding highly specialized actions and policies, including but not limited to, the use of facial coverings, spacing of desks, arrangements of cafeteria and sports seating, and other factors related to students' health and safety, should continue to be made at the LEA level based on the best interest of the students in each individual community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the ALSBOE retains the right to set minimum standards of compliance for actions or policies that require long-term, statewide application, or for any other policy decision within its purview.

Done this 9th day of December 2021

On motion by Dr. Cynthia McCarty and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following pending additional information.

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REVIEW
OF AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM
Jacksonville State 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 of Jacksonville State University a written request to develop a Class AA Elementary Education program; and

WHEREAS, the request lists the specific proposed program for which the Alabama State Board of Education approval is being sought, together with information concerning the factors to be taken into account in determining the need for the program; and

WHEREAS, Jacksonville State 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 program be reviewed by the Office of Teaching and Learning 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 AA Elementary Education (K-6)

Done this 9th day of December 2021

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

ANNOUNCE INTENT TO ADOPT NEW ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE 290-010-010-.15, PERTAINING TO USE OF ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES AND RECORDS POLICY

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

2021-2022 STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S EVALUATION

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

ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION K-12 MEETING AND WORK SESSION DATES SCHEDULE			
2022			
MEETING DATES		WORK SESSION DATES	
January 13	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	January 13	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
January 26	State Board Retreat Location: TBD		
February 10	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	February 10	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
March 10	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	March 10	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
April 14	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	April 14	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
May 12	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	May 12	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
June 9	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	June 9	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
*July 12	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	July 12	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
August 11	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	August 11	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103

August 24	State Board Retreat Location: TBD		
September 8	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	September 8	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
October 13	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	October 13	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
November 10	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	November 10	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103
December 8	Gordon Persons Building Auditorium	December 8	Gordon Persons Building Plaza 103

*Meeting required by State Law
January 26 and August 24 – State Board Retreat

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

APPROVE MS. STACY ROYSTER AS PROGRAM COORDINATOR FOR STATEWIDE STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

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

STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Mackey congratulated the five Blue Ribbon Schools from Alabama who made the trip to Washington, D.C., in November for their national recognition program. Dr. Mackey acknowledged Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Varner, Principal Barry Wood of Brewton Elementary School, and staff in the Brewton City School System; Principal Kiana Coleman of Hall Kent Elementary School in the Homewood City School System; Superintendent Dr. Ann Roy Moore, Assistant Superintendent Bernard Mitchell, Principal Faith Goshay of MacMillan International Academy, and two Board Members in the Montgomery County School System; Principal Celita Carmichael and Assistant Principal Tina Neighbors of Mt. Laurel Elementary School in the Shelby County School System; and Shelly Ford and Nicole Bryant of Orange Beach Elementary School in the Baldwin County School System. Dr. Mackey stated that the Department is thrilled to have five super schools to represent Alabama this year. He said the hard work of teachers, principals, and other staff in the schools make them the kind of quality that the Secretary of Education called and invited them to Washington to showcase their exemplary work.

Dr. Mackey acknowledged Dr. Avis Williams, Superintendent of Selma City School System, which was one of only two institutions to be recognized for Alabama Performance Excellence Award (ALPEX). He said the other winner was Healthcare Institute. Dr. Mackey stated that Selma City School System was the only education group that received this award. He said the award is given to organizations that use unique practices and innovative strategies to increase productivity and effectiveness, as well as serve as a beacon for other organizations to model in their quest for organizational excellence. Dr. Mackey asked Dr. Williams to remain for photos.

Dr. Mackey recognized Andrea Raines, Program Coordinator for Health Education and Physical Education Programs at Jacksonville State University.

Dr. Mackey reminded everyone that this is Inclusive Schools Week in Alabama. Dr. Mackey stated that the goal is for every child to get high quality learning regardless of their ability or disability. He introduced Dr. DaLee Chambers of Special Education Services Section, who showed a video regarding Inclusive Schools. Dr. Mackey gave a big thank you to Dr. Chambers, the special education educators, and other staff for their hard work.

Dr. Mackey recognized Ms. Jessica Bowlin, Building Construction Instructor, Auburn High School, Auburn City School System. Dr. Mackey stated that Ms. Bowlin won the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence and a \$50,000 grant. He allowed Ms. Bowlin to give the Board Members a brief description about the community partnership programs. Dr. Mackey thanked Ms. Bowlin for her hard work and dedication to the high school’s program.

Dr. Mackey recognized Mr. Brian Copes, Engineering and Career and Technical Education Instructor, Chickasaw High School, Chickasaw City School System. Some of the students from Chickasaw Middle and High Schools were accompanying the instructor. Dr. Mackey allowed Mr. Copes to give a briefing on courses offered at the school as well as amazing products that are produced at the school. He allowed the students to give a brief presentation on how they produce prosthetic legs and other items at the school. Dr. Mackey thanked Mr. Copes and the students for the awesome things they are doing in Chickasaw.

Dr. Mackey stated that last year this time, he attended the Board meeting virtually because he was home quarantining. He ended his report with brighter times are here and the future is even brighter because of young people and teachers like the ones here today.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Dr. Wayne Reynolds and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, Board Members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, January 13, 2022, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer