

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
SEPTEMBER 12, 2024
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, September 12, 2024, 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 Dr. Agnes Lover, Pastor, St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, Montgomery, Alabama, and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag that was done in unison.

The following members were present:

Present

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

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 8, 2024, MEETING

On motion by Mrs. Marie Manning and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of August 8, 2024.

On motion by Dr. Tonya Chestnut and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, the Board voted 8-0-1 to approve the following. Mrs. Stephanie Bell abstained.

**RECOMMENDATION TO HIRE MR. ARTHUR WATTS, JR., AS DEPUTY STATE
SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE,
PAY GRADE 92, STEP 22, EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2024**

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF THE THARPTOWN HIGH SCHOOL ROCKETRY TEAM
FRANKLIN COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
FOR WINNING THE 2024 AMERICAN ROCKETRY CHALLENGE AND FOR PLACING
SECOND IN THE 2024 INTERNATIONAL ROCKETRY CHALLENGE**

WHEREAS, now in its 22nd year, the American Rocketry Challenge offers a fun and challenging way to expose students to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), not only learning about those important subjects but looking at them as a possible career; and

WHEREAS, the Tharptown Rocketry Team members include: Kylee Beard (Team Captain), Adrionna Ashley, Angie Chavez, Angel Franco, Frank Gutierrez, Isabella Hall, Shyla Martinez, Jessie Mitchell, along with coaches and sponsors Marsha Inmon, Arreanna Orozco, Darrel Baker, Julie Madden, and mentor Andrew Heath, competed against 922 teams from 42 states and won first place at the 2024 American Rocketry Challenge in May; and

WHEREAS, the Tharptown Rocketry Team traveled to the International Rocketry Challenge in London, England during the Farnborough International Airshow in July 2024 and placed second in the closest ever scoring spirited showdown for this international competition; and

WHEREAS, Tharptown High School has become a rocketry powerhouse, sending a team to the National Finals six times since the program started in 2018 and has now placed in the top ten four times:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the Tharptown High School Rocketry Team, Franklin County School System, for their months of preparation designing, building, and testing a rocket capable of meeting rigorous mission parameters and for their achievements exemplifying the spirit of innovation and collaboration.

Done this 12th day of September 2024

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION ORGANIZATION

#TEACH
(Training Educators and Creating Hope)

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education adopted Rule 290-3-3-.60, Alternative Teacher Preparation Organization (ATPO) as a section within the Educator Preparation chapter of the *Alabama Administrative Code* on November 14, 2023; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to code regulation, #TEACH (Training Educators and Creating Hope) applied to operate within the state of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, #TEACH indicated they had a successful CAEP site visit with no stipulations; and

WHEREAS, CAEP has confirmed that #TEACH will go to the Fall Council in October, so they will have official accreditation status in November, and it looks favorable; and

WHEREAS, #TEACH has been made aware that they must submit an annual progress report detailing the number of program completers during the year and continued compliance with Rule 290-3-3-.60; and

WHEREAS, #TEACH has been made aware that Alabama’s test requirements for certification must be met as prescribed; and

WHEREAS, #TEACH has been made aware that they will be required to submit data for the annual Educator Preparation Report Card; and

WHEREAS, #TEACH has been made aware that training with the Educator Certification Section of the Alabama State Department of Education is required to learn about the background review and certification process prior to preparing Alabama’s educators; and

WHEREAS, based upon the review of documents, the Alabama State Superintendent recommends approval of #TEACH to operate in Alabama for the following programs:

K-12 Teaching Fields		
Arabic	Italian	Music/Instrumental
Chinese	Japanese	Russian
English for Speakers of Other Languages	Korean	Spanish
French	Latin	Theatre
German	Music/Choral	Visual Arts

6-12 Teaching Fields			
Agriscience Education	Chemistry	General Science	History
Algebra I	Computer Science	General Social Science	Mathematics
Biology	English Language Arts	Geography	Physical Education
Business/Marketing Education	Family and Consumer Sciences	Health Education	Physics

4-8 Teaching Fields			
English Language Arts	General Social Science	General Science	Mathematics

K-6 Teaching Field	P-3 Teaching Field
Elementary Education	Early Childhood Education

Collaborative Special Education Teaching Field	
Collaborative Special Education Teacher Grades K-6	Collaborative Special Education Teacher Grades 6-12

WHEREAS, #TEACH has indicated how they will ensure individuals being prepared as a Collaborative Special Education Teacher will also participate in a program with intensive supervision and structured guidance, participate in high-quality professional development, and demonstrate progress toward full certification; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education reserves the right to require special reviews in response to the adoption of new laws, standards, significant changes to existing standards, or evidence of contributing factors:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby grants conditional approval of #TEACH to operate in Alabama as an ATPO contingent upon full CAEP approval until September 12, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon full CAEP accreditation, #TEACH will receive approval until September 30, 2027, pending all requirements are met annually in the progress report; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Department of Education will review the annual reports and all necessary documentation to determine if #TEACH should be granted continued operations within Alabama.

Done this 12th day of September 2024

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF OCTOBER 14-18, 2024,
AS “NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK” IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education has annually recognized that the National School Lunch Program has contributed to the health and educational development of Alabama’s children by making nutritious meals available to all grade levels at public and private schools, and Residential Child Care Institutions who participate in the National School Lunch Program; and

WHEREAS, every October, the School Nutrition Association and the U.S. Department of Agriculture join together to celebrate the National School Lunch Week which was established in 1962 to promote the importance of a healthy school lunch in a child’s life and how balanced nutrition throughout the day contributes to student success in and outside of the classroom; and

WHEREAS, the National School Lunch Week 2024 (#NSLW24) theme is “School Lunch Pirates! Find Your Treasure,” which spotlights the wide variety of flavors, dishes, delivery options, and tastes that can be customized in today’s school lunch; and

WHEREAS, research indicated that partaking in school lunch supports obesity prevention and overall student health by improving children’s diets and combatting food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, the School Lunch Program served over 79,988,746 million lunch meals for the school year 2023-2024 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 succeed in 2,268 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 designates October 14-18, 2024, as “National School Lunch Week” in Alabama schools.

Done this 12th day of September 2024

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

ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FISCAL YEAR 2025 OPERATING BUDGET

On motion by Dr. Tonya Chestnut and seconded by Mrs. Marie Manning, the Board voted 6-2-1 to approve the following. Mrs. Stephanie Bell and Mrs. Jackie Zeigler opposed. Mrs. Tracie West abstained.

ANNOUNCE INTENT TO ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE, 290-3-3-.60, PERTAINING TO ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION ORGANIZATIONS (ATPO)

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

Dr. Mackey stated that in July, he made a report on Sumter County School System and told the Board Members that Sumter County was working on groundbreaking on an elementary school. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. They are starting construction on the new Sumter Central Elementary School. Dr. Mackey stated that the Sumter County School System intervention was going well.

Dr. Mackey stated that the Bessemer City School System Board is meeting on today. Dr. Mackey informed the Board Members that he had a conversation earlier this morning with the Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Daniel Boyd. He said they were working with Bessemer City School System to be make sure they secure an appropriate budget. Dr. Mackey stated that the Board may already know that the Chief School Financial Officer for the Bessemer City School System has decided to resign. Dr. Mackey and Dr. Boyd are working together to help Bessemer City School System get a good person in place. In the meantime, the Department is lending support to make sure that Bessemer City School System does not neglect anything with their finances while under intervention. Dr. Mackey stated that those are the updates on the two school systems that are under intervention with the Alabama State Department of Education.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mackey stated that many expected to see students in attendance today. Tharptown High School Rocketry Team did not attend due to the weather conditions. He said traveling that far on a school bus with high winds was too risky. Dr. Mackey stated that the rocketry group will attend a future meeting to be recognized. Dr. Mackey and Mr. Greg Hamilton, Superintendent of Franklin County School System, spoke last night and Mr. Hamilton told Dr. Mackey how excited the group was about attending the meeting. Dr. Mackey stated that he is looking forward to welcoming the Tharptown team as soon as they are available to attend. The Department's staff is going to reschedule the Tharptown High School Rocketry Team to attend a future meeting.

Dr. Mackey stated that Dr. Brandon Payne, who was an Assistant State Superintendent of Education before he became the Deputy Superintendent of Education for Administration and Finance, is retiring at the end of September. He thanked Dr. Payne for the job he has done in the role. Dr. Mackey stated that he is thrilled to have Mr. Arthur Watts, Jr., who is replacing Dr. Brandon Payne. Dr. Mackey said today was supposed to be the Alabama Association of School Business Officials (AASBO) leadership day. Mr. Andy Craig, Executive Director of AASBO, was going to be here today along with some chief school financial officers but cancelled due to the weather conditions. Dr. Mackey stated that the last Deputy Superintendent of Administration and Finance, the current one, and the future one would have all been in the same room. He said we may have AASBO to come for their leadership day at a future meeting. Dr. Mackey stated that he is looking forward to working with Mr. Watts.

Dr. Mackey stated that the last thing is lunch. He referenced the resolution the Board Members adopted recognizing School Lunch Week in Alabama Schools, October 14-18, 2024. Dr. Mackey spoke that he wanted to get the resolution adopted early to promote school lunch week from now until then. He said that Vice President, Dr. Tonya Chestnut has taken the lead on organizing lunch on October 10, 2024, at Floyd Middle School for Mathematics, Science, and Technology in Montgomery.

Dr. Mackey stated that October 10, 2024, meeting will be lengthy due to recognition of principals, school counselors, spotlight schools, and other programs. He reminded everyone to wear red in October in support of Dyslexia.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Dr. Tonya Chestnut and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, Board Members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:19 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer