

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
OCTOBER 10, 2024
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 10:20 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 Cory Williams, Youth Pastor, First Assembly of God, Montgomery, Alabama, and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag that was done in unison.

The following members were present:

Present.0

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2024, MEETING

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of September 12, 2024.

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

FISCAL YEAR 2026 FOUNDATION PROGRAM APPROPRIATION REQUEST

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

**ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CUT SCORE
FOR THE LOWEST LEVEL IN READING FOR THE ALABAMA COMPREHENSIVE
ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (ACAP)**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education supports increasing student achievement, including an emphasis on reading in the early grades, as witnessed by its continued commitment to high quality reading instruction, assessment, and professional development; and

WHEREAS, the *Alabama Literacy Act* specifically provides, in part,

“(h) [As amended by Act 2022-391] Commencing with the 2024-2025 school year, third grade students shall demonstrate sufficient reading skills for promotion to fourth grade. Students shall be provided all of the following options to demonstrate sufficient reading skills for promotion to fourth grade, and the State Superintendent of Education shall provide guidelines for the implementation of this subsection:

(1) Scoring above the lowest achievement level, as determined by rule of the State Board of Education, on a board-approved assessment in reading as provided in Section 16-6G-3.

(2) Earning an acceptable score on an alternative standardized reading assessment as determined and approved by the State Superintendent of Education.

(3) Demonstrating mastery of third grade minimum essential state reading standards as evidenced by a student reading portfolio. The State Superintendent of Education and the task force established under subsection (a) of Section 16-6G-3 shall establish criteria for minimum essential standards and the student reading portfolios and a definition of what constitutes mastery of all third grade state reading standards.

(i) If a student does not demonstrate sufficient reading skills on one of the three options listed in subsection (h) and does not qualify for a good cause exemption, the student may not be promoted to fourth grade.” *Section 16-6G-5, Code of Alabama (1975)*:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education establishes that for purposes of promotion to fourth grade under provisions of the *Alabama Literacy Act*, the lowest achievement level for the reading subset of the ACAP English Language Arts will include any and all raw scores as detailed herein:

- 2024-25 School Year, 444
- 2025-26 School Year, 444
- 2026-27 School Year, 454; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education intends to review this lowest achievement level on a regular basis following future administrations of the statewide English Language Arts reading assessment and reserves the right to make amendments as deemed necessary by the Board.

Done this 10th day of October 2024

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

ANNOUNCE INTENT TO ADOPT AMENDED ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE 290-3-1-.02, PERTAINING TO REGULATIONS GOVERNING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

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

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

**RESOLUTION TO NAME
ALABAMA’S 2024 SCIENCE OF READING
SPOTLIGHT SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the Alabama Reading Initiative recognizes schools that have demonstrated a strong commitment to Alabama’s K-3 learners; and

WHEREAS, the schools have demonstrated a growth in their outcome data for proficiency and sufficiency that exceeds the growth of the state average; and

WHEREAS, the schools exemplify a commitment to student-centered coaching to move students in their data and teachers in their practice; and

WHEREAS, the science of reading is considered an integral part of the educational process to prevent and address reading difficulties for the purpose of enabling all students to read and tackle grade level texts; and

WHEREAS, the leadership in each school works alongside the school’s teachers to grow in their knowledge by fully participating in Science of Reading training, such as Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS); and

WHEREAS, the schools demonstrate commitment to the components aligned with the Science of Reading as outlined in the *Alabama Literacy Act*; and the way in which to attain the knowledge about each component; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Reading Initiative recognizes these schools as 2024 Science of Reading Spotlight Schools with the goal of utilizing their growth to support other schools and districts with a likeness to their own school:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the professional accomplishment of the following schools who have been able to demonstrate through their outcome data and actions in the school building, that they are a Science of Reading Spotlight School in 2024.

Boaz City School System
Corley Elementary School

Jefferson County School System
Bryant Park Elementary

Chilton County School System
*District Spotlight

Mobile County School System
Spencer-Westlawn Elementary School

Chilton County School System
Isabella High School

Montgomery County School System
Carver Elementary School

Demopolis City School System
*District Spotlight

Oneonta City School System
Oneonta Elementary School

Enterprise City School System
Pinedale Elementary School

Piedmont City School System
Piedmont Elementary School

Fort Payne City School System
Little Ridge Intermediate School

Randolph County School System
Woodland Elementary School

Franklin County School System
Tharptown Elementary School

Tallassee City School System
Tallassee Elementary School

Jefferson County School System
Bryan Elementary School

Tuscaloosa County School System
Buhl Elementary School

Done this 10th day of October 2024

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE NOMINATIONS FOR
TWO OPEN POSITIONS ON THE
ALABAMA SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

WHEREAS, the *Code of Alabama (1975)*, Section 16-26B-4, states that as terms of board members of the Alabama School of Fine Arts Board of Trustees expire that the school shall recommend to the State Superintendent of Education and the Alabama State Board of Education qualified persons for appointment to the Board; and

WHEREAS, said statute also requires the Alabama School of Fine Arts to submit the names of qualified persons for appointment to the board in order of preference; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama School of Fine Arts has submitted for consideration and approval via attached information the names of individuals nominated for two open positions on its Board of Trustees in order of preference with biographical information on the top nominee for each open position:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby approve the recommendation of Ms. Javacia Harris Bowser for open position one and Mr. William Webb Robertson for open position two on the Alabama School of Fine Arts Board of Trustees.

Done this the 10th day of October 2024

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MR. CHARLES LONGSHORE
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, DOTHAN PREPARATORY ACADEMY
DOTHAN CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS ALABAMA'S 2024 SECONDARY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR**

WHEREAS, Mr. Charles Longshore, Assistant Principal at Dothan Preparatory Academy in the Dothan City School System, has been named the Alabama Assistant Principal of the Year by the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals; and

WHEREAS, throughout Mr. Longshore tenure at Dothan Preparatory Academy, he has been a catalyst for positive change, adeptly handling challenges and inspiring both staff and students, demonstrating exceptional leadership and dedication to improving the educational environment; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Charles Longshore first year as assistant principal was marked by a transformative approach to disciplinary issues, significantly reducing referrals through empathy, engagement, and ensuring that students' basic needs were met to foster a conducive learning environment, which resulted in a significant decrease in disciplinary cases and a positive shift in the school climate for all students; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Charles Longshore dedication to professional development is evident in his successful guidance of new teachers through classroom management strategies, contributing to an impressive teacher retention rate, thus ensuring a stable and effective teaching staff; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Charles Longshore innovative strategies, including the implementation of collaborative planning and assessments within the science department, have strengthened instructional practices and enhanced student learning experiences, further demonstrating his commitment to academic excellence; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Charles Longshore holds an education specialist degree in Curriculum and Instruction, along with master's degrees in instructional leadership and secondary education social science from the University of Alabama, reflecting his strong academic background and commitment to professional growth; and

WHEREAS, with 19 years of experience in the field of education, including three years as an assistant principal, Mr. Longshore's career is distinguished by his commitment to excellence, innovation, and the holistic development of students:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mr. Charles Longshore upon the honor of being selected as Alabama's 2024 Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year.

Done this 10th day of October 2024

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ALAN KEITH YORK
PRINCIPAL, OPELIKA MIDDLE SCHOOL
OPELIKA CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS ALABAMA'S 2024 MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR**

WHEREAS, Mr. Alan Keith York, Principal of Opelika Middle School in the Opelika City School System, has been named the 2024 Alabama Middle School Principal of the Year by the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Alan Keith York educational philosophy is centered around being a positive role model and supporting his staff and students, believing in leading not from the top down, but as a supporter and facilitator, embodying the values of respect and empowerment; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. York's leadership, Opelika Middle School has become a place where all stakeholders feel valued and inspired to achieve their best, fostering an environment often referred to as the "OMS Family"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Alan Keith York has introduced several outstanding programs at Opelika Middle School focusing on the holistic development of students, including the Career Discovery Initiative, which allows students to interact with community partners across various career fields, and the implementation of the You Science Career Development program, enabling students to explore career paths aligned with their interests and aptitudes; and

WHEREAS, the school's focus on career awareness and 21st-century skills is exemplified by opportunities for students to earn career certifications, ensuring they are prepared for the demands of the modern economy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Alan Keith York holds an education specialist degree in educational leadership and a master's degree in educational leadership from Troy University, as well as a bachelor's degree in physical education from Auburn University, demonstrating his commitment to academic excellence and his dedication to fostering high standards in education; and

WHEREAS, with over 31 years of experience in education, Mr. York's career has been marked by various leadership roles, including assistant principal and physical education teacher, reflecting his journey of continuous learning and adaptation, while always keeping the well-being and growth of his students at the forefront:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mr. Alan Keith York upon the honor of being selected as Alabama's 2024 Middle School Principal of the Year.

Done this 10th day of October 2024

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MS. MICHELE HEWLETT
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, CHICKASAW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CHICKASAW CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS ALABAMA'S 2024 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
(NAESP) NATIONAL OUTSTANDING ELEMENTARY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

WHEREAS, Ms. Michele Hewlett, Assistant Principal of Chickasaw Elementary School in the Chickasaw City School System, has been recognized as Alabama's NAESP National Outstanding Elementary Assistant Principal for her exemplary leadership, innovative programming, and unwavering dedication to student success over her five years of service as assistant principal; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Michele Hewlett has been instrumental in implementing initiatives that foster positive behavior and provide essential support to students with special needs, contributing to the overall improvement of the educational environment at Chickasaw Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, one of Ms. Hewlett's most notable achievements is the development and implementation of the Positive Office Referral System, which emphasizes recognizing and rewarding students who exemplify the school's core values of PRIDE—Preparedness, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Excellence—leading to a significant reduction in out-of-school suspensions; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Michele Hewlett has made substantial enhancements to the school's special education practices and procedures, including the restructuring of the special education department to better meet individual student needs, and the addition of essential resources such as a behavior unit, multi-needs unit, sensory room, and ADA-compliant playground; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Michele Hewlett commitment to providing a supportive and inclusive educational environment has positively impacted not only Chickasaw Elementary School but also the broader Chickasaw community:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Ms. Michele Hewlett upon the honor of being selected as Alabama's 2024 NAESP National Outstanding Elementary Assistant Principal.

Done this 10th day of October 2024

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF DR. GREGORY DEVAL MOORE, JR.
PRINCIPAL, SPRINGVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
ST. CLAIR COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS ALABAMA'S 2024 HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR**

WHEREAS, Dr. Gregory Deval Moore, Jr., Principal of Springville High School in the St. Clair County School System, has been named the 2024 Alabama High School Principal of the Year by the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gregory Deval Moore, Jr. tenure at Springville High School has been marked by his significant contributions in establishing a positive school culture and climate, serving as a tone-setter with his infectious positive energy and passion, which have become the cornerstone of his leadership; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gregory Deval Moore, Jr. focus on building a community that works collaboratively towards common goals has led to Springville High School being recognized as a school of Promising Practice by character.org, highlighting his leadership in promoting character education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gregory Deval Moore, Jr. has been instrumental in the resurgence of the "Tiger Code" at Springville High School, an initiative focused on core values and expectations for students, faculty, and staff, which emphasizes Truth, Integrity, Generosity, Encouragement, and Respect, and which engages the local community in promoting school pride and encouraging positive behavior and academic excellence, with unique recognitions such as the Tiger Code Championship belts, turnaround chains, and tiaras, which honor students and staff who exemplify the code's principles; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gregory Deval Moore, Jr. impressive educational journey, which includes an educational doctorate, an education specialist degree, and a master's degree in secondary language arts from prestigious institutions such as Samford University and the University of Alabama at Birmingham, reflects his commitment to academic excellence and leadership; and

WHEREAS, with 24 years in education, including principal at Springville Elementary School, Assistant Principal at Chalkville Elementary, and Assistant Principal at Pinson Valley High School, Dr. Moore has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication to the success and well-being of students and educators alike:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Dr. Gregory Deval Moore, Jr. upon the honor of being selected as Alabama's 2024 High School Principal of the Year.

Done this 10th day of October 2024

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. SHANNON MCCASKEY, PRINCIPAL, FRANCES
NUNGESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
DECATUR CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS ALABAMA'S 2024 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
(NAESP) NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL**

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon McCaskey, Principal of Frances Nungester Elementary School in the Decatur City School System, has been named Alabama's 2024 NAESP National Distinguished Principal by the Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon McCaskey's distinguished career in education began as an extended day site leader at Chestnut Grove Elementary School, followed by her impactful role there as a second and third grade teacher, where she was named Teacher of the Year 2002-2003; and

WHEREAS, under Mrs. Shannon McCaskey's leadership, Frances Nungester Elementary School, home to 406 students, has achieved significant milestones, including earning the prestigious Blue Ribbon School of Excellence title and consistently maintaining a solid 'B' on Alabama's state report card since 2014, reflecting her high standards for both teachers and students; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon McCaskey is renowned for fostering a school culture that prioritizes safety, collaboration, and academic excellence, with initiatives such as the Dragon Academy and Family Friday programs that not only support students academically but also nurture a strong sense of community and belonging within the school; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon McCaskey's personal journey and mission have inspired her to implement programs such as a clothes closet demonstrating her belief that each child's needs extend beyond academics and reflecting her dedication to the holistic development of every student; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon McCaskey's degrees and administrative certification from the University of North Alabama reflect her lifelong commitment to learning:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mrs. Shannon McCaskey upon the honor of being selected as Alabama's 2024 NAESP National Distinguished Principal.

Done this 10th day of October 2024

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. MINDY WALKER
HOLT HIGH SCHOOL, TUSCALOOSA COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
AS ALABAMA'S 2024 HISTORY TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mindy Walker, a teacher at Holt High School in Tuscaloosa County School System, was selected as the Alabama recipient of the 2024 History Teacher of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the nation's leading organization dedicated to K-12 American history education, sponsors the History Teacher of the Year Award to honor outstanding teachers of American history from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense, and U. S. territories; and

WHEREAS, through the state selection committee, Mrs. Mindy Walker was selected based upon her outstanding leadership and teaching abilities in the field of American history, her creativity and imagination in the classroom to excite and engage students, and her effective use of a wide range of primary sources to make ancient times come alive for today's students, allowing them to relive what our forefathers did many years ago; and

WHEREAS, as Alabama's 2024 History Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Mindy Walker receives a certificate and \$1,000 from the Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History, and Holt High School receives an archive of primary historical materials; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mindy Walker will represent Alabama as the state finalist for the National History Teacher of the Year Award in a selection process to be held in New York City and was named a top ten 2024 National History Teacher of the Year:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Mrs. Mindy Walker upon the honor of being selected as Alabama's 2024 History Teacher of the Year.

Done this 10th day of October 2024

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

**RESOLUTION OF DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION
2023 ALABAMA SCHOOL COUNSELING AND DISTRICT SCHOOL COUNSELING
PROGRAMS OF DISTINCTION**

WHEREAS, the Alabama School Counseling Program of Distinction recognizes school counseling programs that demonstrate an exemplary level of implementation of a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program; and

WHEREAS, the program components align with the Comprehensive Counseling and Guidance Model for Alabama Public Schools and the American School Counselor Association National Model; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive developmental school counseling programs are considered an integral part of the educational process that enables all students to achieve success in school; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama School Counselor Association recognizes schools and school systems as 2023 Alabama School Counseling Programs of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) recognizes schools as 2023 Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) Schools of Distinction:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the following school counselors and counseling coordinators of school systems on achieving the status of an Alabama School Counseling Program of Distinction in 2023.

Alexander City School System

Jim Pearson Elementary School - Jane Haynes and Brittney Kelly

Baldwin County School System

Daphne High School - Coryn Ebert, Maddison Dombrowski, and Margaret Sharp
Florence B. Mathis Elementary School - Fani Chifchieva and Beth Dupuis

Foley High School - Wendy O'Toole, Sherry Rainbolt, Jamel Thomas, and Barbara Wilkerson

Pine Grove School - Anna Guillory
Robertsdale Elementary School - Serena Forrest and Shannon Rubio

Chilton County School System

Thorsby High School - Christina Nunn

Etowah County School System

Highland Elementary School - Donette Griffith

Florence City School System

Harlan Elementary School - Amanda Green

Midfield City School System

Rutledge Middle School - Onetha Bethel

Oneonta City School System

Jaclyn Ashby, Counseling Coordinator
Oneonta Elementary School - Amanda Wood

Oneonta Middle School - Beth Hypes and Leigha Rogers

Oneonta High School - Lisa Butler and Jeff Jones

Pike Road City School System

Pike Road Intermediate School - Brittany Parker

Saraland City School System

Frankie Mathis - Counseling Coordinator
Saraland Early Education Center - Jacqueline Hartley

Saraland Elementary School – Courtney Cavin

Saraland Middle School - Kendall Pierce and Lyla Smith

Saraland High School - Kandace Granade, Anitra Skoglund, and Kimberly Zwierzynski

Tuscaloosa City School System

Tuscaloosa Magnet School-Middle - Latiffany Richardson Tabb

Done this 10th day of October 2024

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

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2024 AS “PRINCIPALS MONTH”

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 2024 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; 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, policy mandates and initiatives, as well as being entrusted with our young people, our 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 2024 as "Principals Month" in the state of Alabama.

Done this 10th day of October 2024

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF OCTOBER 2024 AS
DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, dyslexia is defined as a language-based learning challenge or disability 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 approximately one out of five 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 has 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 2024 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 students having dyslexia.

Done this 10th day of October 2024

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

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2024 AS
MANUFACTURING MONTH**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Department of Education has proclaimed October 2024 as Manufacturing Month; and

WHEREAS, recognizing October 2024, as Manufacturing Month in Alabama is an effective way to highlight the importance of manufacturing to the economy and draw attention to the many regarding high-skill jobs available in manufacturing; and

WHEREAS, Manufacturing Month is an opportunity to introduce state-of-the art manufacturing facilities to a new generation of students and future workers; and

WHEREAS, providing resources to support and strengthen STEM education, infrastructure, technology hubs, and economic opportunities for all people; and

WHEREAS, partnerships between manufacturing businesses and educational institutions at all levels are essential in preparing students for manufacturing careers today and in the future; and

WHEREAS, the state of Alabama is fortunate to be the home of many great manufacturing businesses, some of which are world leaders in their respective fields; and

WHEREAS, manufacturers in Alabama account for 23.1 billion dollars of wages which represents 15.2 percent of the total wages in the state; and

WHEREAS, the manufacturing sector directly employs over 13.1 million Americans and supports countless additional jobs indirectly across the United States; and

WHEREAS, manufacturing companies employ 285,866 individuals in Alabama which signifies 12.6% percent of the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the manufacturing companies in our community play a crucial role in driving the prosperity and economic health of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, during Manufacturing Month, we commit to strengthening and supporting Alabama's manufacturers and hardworking employees of today, as well as the future manufacturers and workers; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby proclaim October 2024 as Manufacturing Month and encourages local boards of education, schools, business professionals, and local educational organizations to participate in this celebration through activities that demonstrate the importance of Alabama's education programs in preparing students for great career opportunities and academic excellence.

Done this 10th day of October 2024

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

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2024 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 visiting their children's school, learning about the curriculum, consulting with their children's teachers, and participating in school activities; 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 2024 as Statewide Parent Engagement Month in Alabama; declares this year's theme as **Home and School Partnerships: Removing Barriers to 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 10th day of October 2024

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

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING ALABAMA SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK
(October 21-25, 2024)**

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 proclaim October 21-25, 2024, 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 10th day of October 2024

EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

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

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Mackey stated that he will try to move swiftly because the report is lengthy due to so many recognitions. He said that October is recognize everything month. Dr. Mackey stated that it is good to see many teachers, counselors, and principals in attendance today and because it is so close to the middle of the first semester, it is a good time to recognize honorees. Dr. Mackey informed the Board Members that Mr. Charles Longshore, Assistant Principal of Dothan Preparatory School in the Dothan City School System was on a much-deserved leave because it is fall break for the school system. Mrs. Shannon McCaskey, Principal of Frances Nungester Elementary School in the Decatur City School System was in Washington receiving her award as the National Distinguished Elementary School Principal. Dr. Mackey acknowledged Mr. Alan Keith York, Principal of Opelika Middle School in the Opelika City School System; Ms. Michele Hewlett, Assistant Principal of Chickasaw Elementary School in the Chickasaw City School System; and Dr. Gregory Deval Moore, Jr., Principal of Springville High School in the St. Clair County School System, who attended the meeting. Dr. Mackey thanked Dr. Vic Wilson, Executive Director of Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS) and Whitney Miller-Nichols, Director of Governmental Relations, who worked so well with the Department to appropriately recognize assistant principals and principals of the year.

Dr. Mackey stated that there were thirty-four (34) counseling programs of distinction recognized this year, which included two (2) in Alexander City School System; twelve (12) in Baldwin County School System; one (1) in Chilton County School System; one (1) in Etowah County School System; one (1) in Florence City School System; one (1) in Midfield City School System; six (6) in Oneonta City School System; one (1) in Pike Road City School System; eight (8) in Saraland City School System; and one (1) in Tuscaloosa City School System. Dr. Mackey gave a big thank you to the superintendents, boards, and everyone who commits the effort behind school counseling to make sure we have qualified school counselors in distinguished programs in all Alabama schools.

Dr. Mackey acknowledged Mrs. Mindy Walker of Holt High School in the Tuscaloosa County School System, as Alabama 2024 History Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Mackey asked a particular group who were dressed in red to stand. Dr. Mackey stated that Mrs. Bonnie Short, Director of Alabama Reading Initiative, arranged for the Cohort 11 who are now in their second year of training to become certified academic language therapist (CALT), to attend the Board meeting today to join the fight against dyslexia to make sure every child learns to read at a very high level. Dr. Mackey informed everyone that when he became State Superintendent of Education seven years ago, they could not locate one CALT in Alabama public schools. He said CALTs were in the state, but most were in private practice. Since then, because of this Board's investment and the legislature following through on the request for funding, Alabama has been able to send candidates through training. Dr. Mackey stated that it is anticipated that twenty-two (22) will complete the Shelton School this year, and he looks forward to the day that we have at least one CALT in every school in Alabama.

Dr. Mackey asked all recipients of resolutions to remain after the meeting for portraits with their representatives and Board members. He informed everyone that Dr. Michael Sibley, Director of Communications, has organized the portrait taking procedures/instructions that will appear on the big screen and will show who is up as well as who is on deck. Dr. Mackey thanked everyone for all that they do for Alabama children.

Dr. Mackey stated that in conclusion, it is also school lunch week. After the photos, the Board Members will be traveling to Floyd Middle School for Mathematics, Science, and Technology for lunch which will alter the normal schedule. The Board Members will reconvene at 1 p.m. for the Work Session.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Mrs. Marie Manning and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson, Board Members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

Vice President

Secretary and Executive Officer