

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
THE STATE OF ALABAMA  
JANUARY 9, 2025  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., in the auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building, Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting was called to order by the Vice President of the Board in accordance with *Alabama Code* (1975), §16-3-7, as amended.

**PRESIDING: DR. TONYA CHESTNUT, VICE PRESIDENT**

The invocation was done by Minister Kenny Hoomes, Associate Pastor, First Baptist 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  
Mrs. Marie Manning in person  
Mrs. Belinda McRae in person  
Dr. Yvette Richardson in person  
Mrs. Tracie West in person  
Mrs. Jackie Zeigler in person

**Absent**

Governor Kay Ivey  
Dr. Wayne Reynolds

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

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE DECEMBER 12, 2024, MEETING**

On motion by Mrs. Tracie West and seconded by Mrs. Belinda McRae, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of December 12, 2024.

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. ASHLEY DARK  
GWIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HOOVER CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM  
2024 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 2024 state mathematics finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Ashley Dark of Gwin Elementary School, Hoover City School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama mathematics classroom for 20 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Ashley Dark was chosen as a 2024 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 Mrs. Ashley Dark upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of mathematics.

Done this 9th day of January 2025

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. HEATHER HURT  
VESTAVIA HILLS EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
VESTAVIA HILLS CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM  
2024 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 2024 state mathematics finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Heather Hurt of Vestavia Hills East Elementary School, Vestavia Hills City School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama mathematics classroom for 11 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Heather Hurt was chosen as a 2024 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 Mrs. Heather Hurt upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of mathematics.

Done this 9th day of January 2025

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. MELODY GREENE  
BERRY MIDDLE SCHOOL, HOOVER CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM  
2024 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 2024 state science finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Melody Green of Berry Middle School, Hoover City School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama science classroom for 21 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Melody Green was chosen as a 2024 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 Mrs. Melody Green upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of science.

Done this 9th day of January 2025

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. MARY BRENNAN  
PELHAM OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, PELHAM CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM  
2024 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 2024 state science finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Mary Brennan of Pelham Oaks Elementary School, Pelham City School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama science classroom for 12 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Mary Brennan was chosen as a 2024 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 Mrs. Mary Brennan upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of science.

Done this 9th day of January 2025

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MS. MAEGAN GAYLE  
EICHOLD-MERTZ MAGNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF  
MATH, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY  
MOBILE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM  
2024 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 2024 state science finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Maegan Gayle of Eichold-Mertz Magnet Elementary School of Math, Science and Technology, Mobile County School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama science classroom for 12 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Maegan Gayle was chosen as a 2024 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 Ms. Maegan Gayle upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of science.

Done this 9th day of January 2025

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. SHANDRA UPCHURCH  
LAKEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HUNTSVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM  
2024 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 2024 state mathematics finalists were chosen from a number of applications in Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Shandra Upchurch of Lakewood Elementary School, Huntsville City School System, has demonstrated excellence in the Alabama mathematics classroom for 18 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Shandra Upchurch was chosen as a 2024 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 Mrs. Shandra Upchurch upon the honor of being selected as one of Alabama's outstanding teachers of mathematics.

Done this 9th day of January 2025

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

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 2025  
AS ALABAMA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, February 2025 has been designated National Career and Technical Education (CTE) month by the Association for Career and Technical Education; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama's career and technical education programs have become a vital and rigorous component of the state's educational system, dedicated to providing students with the academic, career, and life skills necessary for success in today's competitive workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama's CTE programs foster strong connections between education and workforce development, driving economic growth and innovation at the local, regional, and state levels; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama's CTE programs are partnering effectively with business and industry to ensure students gain the communication, leadership, and technical skills necessary for success in both college and career pathways; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama's CTE programs provide valuable hands-on learning opportunities through apprenticeships, internships, and work-based learning experiences that prepare students for real-world challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, two out of every three high school students in Alabama currently participate in CTE programs, highlighting the broad reach and impact of these educational opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) play a crucial role in developing leadership skills and promoting workforce readiness through a combination of technical training and leadership development; and

**WHEREAS**, 118,000 Alabama students were active members of CTSOs, including DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, JAG, JROTC, SkillsUSA, and TSA last year, demonstrating the depth of student engagement and commitment to excellence; and

**WHEREAS**, in the past year, Alabama students earned 33,276 industry-recognized credentials, further demonstrating the effectiveness and value of the state's CTE programs in preparing students for successful careers; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama's CTE programs prepare students for a lifetime of success by providing opportunities to earn industry-recognized credentials, gain workplace experience, and earn college credit while still in high school; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby proclaim February 2025 as Alabama Career and Technical Education Month and encourages local boards of education, schools, business professionals, and community organizations to participate in this celebration through activities that demonstrate the importance of Alabama's career and technical education programs and their positive impact on student achievement.

Done this 9th day of January 2025

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

**ANNOUNCE INTENT TO REPEAL AND REPLACE ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE  
CHAPTER 290-3-3, PERTAINING TO EDUCATOR PREPARATION**

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPOINT  
THE DIGITAL LITERACY AND COMPUTER SCIENCE STATE  
COURSE OF STUDY COMMITTEE**

**WHEREAS**, *Code of Alabama* (1975) §16-35-1 through 5 provides that the Alabama State Board of Education shall constitute Courses of Study Committees for the purposes and functions as provided within the statute; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education appoints those persons listed on the attached as members of the Digital Literacy and Computer Science State Course of Study Committee for a period of one year or until their successors are appointed.

Done this 9th day of January 2025

**2025 Digital Literacy and Computer Science Course of Study Committee**

**Committee Members**

| <b>Name</b>             | <b>Congressional District</b> | <b>Board District</b> | <b>School System</b>               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Dr. Michele Collier     | 1                             | 1                     | Escambia County Schools            |
| Abbey Thomas            | 4                             | 8                     | DeKalb County Schools              |
| Anna Anderson           | 4                             | 6                     | Cullman City Schools               |
| Anna Foreman            | 3                             | 2                     | Alexander City Schools             |
| Brooke Elliott-Elrod    | 6                             | 3                     | Chilton County Schools             |
| Cassandra W. Allen      | 7                             | 5                     | Perry County Schools               |
| Cedric McCarrol         | 6                             | 3                     | Pelham City Schools                |
| Chandler Shields        | 7                             | 3                     | Hoover City Schools                |
| Eric Vest               | 4                             | 6                     | Cullman County Schools             |
| Jaclyn Rivers           | 3                             | 3                     | Sylacauga City Schools             |
| Jamie McClung           | 1                             | 1                     | Gulf Shores City Schools           |
| Jennifer Northrup       | 6                             | 3                     | Hoover City Schools                |
| Jessica McCants         | 2                             | 1                     | Covenant Academy of Mobile Charter |
| Jordan Fancher          | 7                             | 4                     | Jefferson County Schools           |
| Latora Bullard          | 2                             | 1                     | Bulter County Schools              |
| Misty Waldrop           | 4                             | 6                     | Cullman City Schools               |
| Rachel Gibbs            | 5                             | 8                     | Madison City Schools               |
| Tara Ikner              | 1                             | 1                     | Escambia County Schools            |
| Taylor Morton           | 5                             | 8                     | Huntsville City Schools            |
| Tiffany Stonecipher     | 4                             | 7                     | Muscle Shoals City Schools         |
| <b>Higher Education</b> |                               |                       |                                    |
| Amanda Cramer           | 7                             | 4                     | The University of Alabama          |
| Cassie Raulston         | 6                             | 3                     | University of Montevallo           |
| David Thornton          | 3                             | 6                     | Jacksonville State University      |
| Jung Wong Hur           | 3                             | 2                     | Auburn University                  |

**Congressional District Representation**

|          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>7</b> |
| 3        | 2        | 4        | 5        | 2        | 4        | 4        |

**Board District Representation**

|          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>8</b> |
| 5        | 2        | 6        | 2        | 1        | 4        | 1        | 3        |

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

**RESOLUTION HONORING MRS. BELINDA MCRAE, MEMBER  
ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
STATE SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT SEVEN  
FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO EDUCATION IN ALABAMA**

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Belinda McRae has devoted her life to the service of education, holding Bachelor of Science, Master of Arts, and Education Specialist degrees from the University of North Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Belinda McRae taught English and art in Marion County for 25 years, shaping the minds and creativity of countless students while serving as a dedicated advocate for quality education; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Belinda McRae made history as the first woman elected to the Marion County Board of Education, where she served with distinction for 16 years, demonstrating leadership, vision, and a commitment to improving schools for the benefit of students and families; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Belinda McRae extended her leadership beyond her county serving a term as District 7 Director on the Alabama Association of School Boards, fostering collaboration among educational leaders throughout the state; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Belinda McRae contributed her talents to Beville State Community College for ten years in various roles, furthering the mission of higher education and workforce development; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Belinda McRae has served her term on the Alabama State Board of Education with great honor, tirelessly working to improve education for the children of Alabama and advancing the Board's mission of ensuring excellence in education; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Belinda McRae has expressed her heartfelt gratitude for the kindness and support of her colleagues and the opportunity to make a lasting impact on education in Alabama, while remaining optimistic about the future of education in our great state:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and honor Mrs. Belinda McRae for her decades of exceptional service to education, her unwavering dedication to the children of Alabama, and her invaluable contributions to this Board and the broader educational community; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education wishes Mrs. Belinda McRae the very best in all future endeavors and expresses its deepest appreciation for her exemplary service, leadership, and commitment to improving education for generations to come.

Adopted this 9th day of January 2025

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

**RESOLUTION HONORING MRS. STEPHANIE BELL, MEMBER  
ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
STATE SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT THREE  
FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP  
IN STATEWIDE EDUCATION**

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Stephanie Bell has served the state of Alabama with unparalleled dedication and distinction as a member of the Alabama State Board of Education since 1994, being re-elected to eight consecutive terms and becoming the longest-serving member in the Board's history, including two terms as Vice President; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Stephanie Bell has tirelessly championed transformative education reforms, including the award-winning Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) and the internationally-recognized Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI), positively impacting countless students across the state; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Stephanie Bell played a pivotal role in exposing and addressing corruption in Alabama’s two-year college system when it was under the Board’s authority, ensuring greater transparency and accountability in the state’s education systems; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Stephanie Bell has been an active and influential voice in education policy nationwide, serving on the Executive Committee of the Education Commission of the States (ECS) for over a decade, and serves as Vice Chair of its Nominating Committee, and on its Steering Committee; on the Board of Directors as a Southern Area Director for the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE); and as a member of national panels producing impactful reports on adolescent literacy and middle school reforms; and

**WHEREAS**, her unwavering commitment to education has led to her involvement in regional and national conferences, panels, and initiatives, including representing Alabama at the National Council of State Legislators’ Conference on Teen Health and Pregnancy Prevention, serving on the Alabama Teacher Preparation Advisory Council, and contributing to the national accreditation of teacher education programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Stephanie Bell has been recognized with numerous prestigious awards, including the Friend of Education Award, the Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Award, the Emma Sansom Heroine Award, and the Eagle Award for her contributions to “God, Family, and Country,” reflecting her dedication to service and excellence; and

**WHEREAS**, her career as a journalist with *The Montgomery Advertiser/Alabama Journal* demonstrated her commitment to truth and accountability, earning her accolades such as the CASE II Media Award and recognition by the Alabama Press Association; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Stephanie Bell devotion to improving education extends to her service as the volunteer Executive Director of the Statewide Committee on Reforming Education, her role as a charter member of The Education Leaders Council, and her participation in the RENEW National Council of Women Advisors to Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Stephanie Bell commitment to faith, family, and community is evident in her as a member of First Baptist Church of Montgomery, her dedication to her family, and her enduring optimism for the future of education:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby honor and commend Mrs. Stephanie Bell for her extraordinary contributions to education in Alabama and across the nation, her unwavering dedication to the children of Alabama, and her legacy of leadership, advocacy, and reform; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education extends its heartfelt appreciation to Mrs. Stephanie Bell for her decades of exemplary service and leadership and offers its best wishes for her continued success and fulfillment in all future endeavors.

Adopted this 9th day of January 2025

**EXECUTIVE (INCLUDES LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)**

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

**STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Dr. Mackey thanked the mathematics and science award winners. Dr. Mackey stated that they attended a nice dinner last evening and were able to meet and greet with the math and science honorees. Principals and superintendents attended the dinner to support the outstanding educators. Dr. Mackey stated that he and the Board Members appreciate the support that the principals and superintendents offer their educators. The presidential awards for math and science teachers have been going on since 1983. Since 2021, during the pandemic, they have not elevated in the names of the national finalists. Dr. Mackey stated that Alabama is hoping that 2025 will be the year to catch up as four years of finalists are waiting. It does not change the fact that Alabama wants to start honoring its own national presidential award winners. Alabama had lots of national finalists over the years, and hope to advance some more to the group. Dr. Mackey asked the honorees and their representatives to remain for portraits after the meeting.

Dr. Mackey stated that a motion was approved to open a public comment period to announce intent to repeal and replace *Alabama Administrative Code* chapter pertaining to Educator



Preparation. He said that tons of hard work and hours were spent rewriting the chapter. Dr. Mackey thanked the group for their impressive work on the project. The final adoption will come before the Board Members in March.

Dr. Mackey reminded everyone that February is Career and Technical Education Month, and the Department has plenty scheduled. He said today was a short meeting, but next month Board Members may want to bring a bed roll. Planned activities will be discussed in the Work Session today. Dr. Mackey stated that he anticipates dozens of educators and students to be at the meeting in February for recognition.

Dr. Mackey acknowledged and thanked Mrs. Stephanie Bell and Mrs. Belinda McRae for their hard work and service. Dr. Mackey stated that they have been most fun to work with. He said Mrs. Bell has been his Board Member all the years he was an administrator. He would call her, the principal, and superintendent. Dr. Mackey stated that Mrs. Bell keynoted an event for him when he was superintendent in the Jacksonville City School System. He said that he has worked with Mrs. Bell for a long time before he became State Superintendent of Education, certainly the last seven years. After the last redistricting, Dr. Tonya Chestnut currently serves as his personal Board Member. Dr. Mackey stated to Mrs. Belinda McRae and Dr. Tonya Chestnut came started with the Board during the pandemic. The Department was not able to conduct an official in-person orientation. Dr. Mackey said the first time he met Mrs. McRae and Dr. Chestnut was on a Zoom. Dr. Mackey presented Mrs. Bell with a special resolution from Senator Arthur Orr, who wanted to do something special. Mrs. Bell was the longest serving Board Member in Alabama's history as well as any of the 50 states in the country. Dr. Mackey presented Mrs. Bell and Mrs. McRae with roses provided by fellow Board Members and the Department's Leadership staff.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Marie Manning, Board Members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:42 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building followed by the Work Session.

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Vice President

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Secretary and Executive Officer