

**MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
THE STATE OF ALABAMA  
FEBRUARY 13, 2025  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 10:00 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**

Dr. Tonya Chestnut in person  
Governor Kay Ivey in person  
Dr. Allen Long in person  
Mrs. Marie Manning in person  
Mrs. Kelly Mooney in person  
Dr. Yvette Richardson in person  
Mrs. Tracie West in person  
Mrs. Jackie Zeigler in person

**Absent**

Dr. Wayne Reynolds

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

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 9, 2025, MEETING**

On motion by Dr. Yvette Richardson and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the meeting of January 9, 2025.

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

**RESOLUTION OF DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION  
2025 ALABAMA SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR  
STEPHEN WATTS, CITRONELLE HIGH SCHOOL  
MOBILE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM**

**WHEREAS**, an innovative Alabama educator, who makes it his personal mission to incorporate strategies to make learning more engaging and relevant for students, has earned the prestigious Alabama School Counselor of the Year Award; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama School Counselor of the Year Award is one of the highest honors bestowed by the Alabama School Counselor Association; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama School Counselor of the Year Award honors school counseling professionals who devote their careers advocating for students—helping them to achieve success in school and throughout life; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama's school counselors make significant contributions to the total and overall well-being of students and advocate for academic achievement, career development, and social growth; and

**WHEREAS**, Stephen Watts, Alabama School Counselor of the Year, is a counselor at Citronelle High School, located in the Mobile County School System; and

**WHEREAS**, Stephen Watts values connecting students to resources that empower and allow them to advocate for themselves in the school setting; and

**WHEREAS**, Stephen Watts enjoys supporting his colleagues through committee work and professional development presentations and hopes to use his school counseling and instructional leadership certifications in formal school counselor leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, Stephen Watts received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees from the University of South Alabama and an Education Specialist degree in School Counseling from the University of West Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, the great state of Alabama is proud of Stephen Watts, Alabama School Counselor of the Year, and his many accomplishments:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby extend appreciation and heartfelt congratulations to Alabama's 2025 School Counselor of the Year, Stephen Watts.

Done this 13th day of February 2025

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF RAYLIN ANDERSON  
ROCKWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
BALDWIN COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM  
ELEMENTARY DIVISION BEST OF SHOW  
2025 STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S VISUAL ARTS EXHIBIT**

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize that the visual arts are a vital and enriching segment of children's education; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Superintendent's Visual Arts Exhibit provides an opportunity for K-12 students in every school system to participate; and

**WHEREAS**, the criteria set for judging are sanctioned by recognized and prestigious organizations—the National Art Education Association, the Alabama Art Education Association, the Alabama Arts Alliance, the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts; and

**WHEREAS**, support should be given to visual arts programs and teachers as they attempt to strengthen and strive for artistic literacy, educational excellence, and for a well-rounded education for every student; and

**WHEREAS**, the visual arts contribute powerful educational benefits to all elementary and secondary students by enhancing metacognitive abilities and engaging students to learn; promoting curiosity, creativity, innovation, critical-thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration; provide opportunities to access, develop, express and integrate meaning across a variety of content, other curricula experiences, and the human condition:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Raylin Anderson, Rockwell Elementary School, Baldwin County School System; her teacher, Mrs. Cindy Becker; her principal, Mr. Robert Owen; and her superintendent, Mr. Eddie Tyler; and congratulates her for winning Elementary Best of Show in the 2025 State Superintendent's Visual Arts Exhibit.

Done this 13th day of February 2025

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF LILI-ANNA HAMNER  
SIPSEY VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL  
TUSCALOOSA COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM  
SECONDARY DIVISION BEST OF SHOW  
2025 STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S VISUAL ARTS EXHIBIT**

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize that the visual arts are a vital and enriching segment of children’s education; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Superintendent’s Visual Arts Exhibit provides an opportunity for K-12 students in every school system to participate; and

**WHEREAS**, the criteria set for judging are sanctioned by recognized and prestigious organizations—the National Art Education Association, the Alabama Art Education Association, the Alabama Arts Alliance, the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts; and

**WHEREAS**, support should be given to visual arts programs and teachers as they attempt to strengthen and strive for artistic literacy, educational excellence, and for a well-rounded education for every student; and

**WHEREAS**, the visual arts contribute powerful educational benefits to all elementary and secondary students by enhancing metacognitive abilities and engaging students to learn; promoting curiosity, creativity, innovation, critical-thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration; provide opportunities to access, develop, express and integrate meaning across a variety of content, other curricula experiences, and the human condition:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Lili-Anna Hamner, Sipsey Valley Middle School, Tuscaloosa County School System; her teacher, Ms. Tanesha Childs; her principal, Mr. Billy F. Kelly; and her superintendent, Dr. Keri C. Johnson, and congratulates her for winning Secondary Best of Show in the 2025 State Superintendent’s Visual Arts Exhibit.

Done this 13th day of February 2025

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF THE  
2025 ANNUAL STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S VISUAL ARTS EXHIBIT**

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize that the visual arts are a vital, enriching, and core segment of children’s education; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Superintendent’s Visual Arts Exhibit provides an opportunity for K-12 students in every school system to participate; and

**WHEREAS**, the criteria set for judging are sanctioned by recognized and prestigious organizations—the National Art Education Association, the Alabama Art Education Association, the Alabama Arts Alliance, the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts; and

**WHEREAS**, support should be given to visual arts programs and teachers as they attempt to strengthen and strive for educational excellence and artistic literacy for students; and

**WHEREAS**, the visual arts contribute powerful educational benefits to all elementary and secondary students by enhancing metacognitive abilities and engaging students to learn; promoting curiosity, creativity, innovation, critical-thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration; provide opportunities to access, develop, express and integrate meaning across a variety of content, other curricula experiences, and the human condition:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the 2025 State Superintendent's Visual Arts Exhibit award-winning students and their teachers upon the honor of being selected as Alabama's outstanding young artists and visual arts educators.

Done this 13th day of February 2025

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF TRICIA OLIVER  
EAST SAMFORD SCHOOL, AUBURN CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM  
2024 ALABAMA ARTS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
ART EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**

**WHEREAS**, Tricia Oliver, an art educator dedicated to fostering creativity and artistic expression in her students, has been awarded the prestigious Alabama Art Educator of the Year Award; and

**WHEREAS**, Tricia Oliver holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Auburn University and an MEd from Columbus State and has taught art for over 15 years, inspiring students in Auburn City Schools in Auburn, Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama Art Education Association presents the Art Educator of the Year Award to honor exceptional educators who demonstrate outstanding contributions to the field of art education; and

**WHEREAS**, Tricia Oliver was selected for this award based on her innovative teaching methods, commitment to developing a comprehensive art curriculum, and her ability to engage students in meaningful artistic experiences that promote critical thinking and creativity; and

**WHEREAS**, Tricia Oliver exemplifies the role of a passionate educator by nurturing her students' artistic talents, fostering a love for the arts, and encouraging personal expression through various media; and

**WHEREAS**, Tricia Oliver has actively contributed to the art education community through workshops, mentorship, and her involvement in professional organizations including leadership, advocating for the importance of art in education; and

**WHEREAS**, Tricia Oliver dedication has been recognized through various accolades, including the AAEA 2023 showcasing her commitment to excellence in arts education:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Tricia Oliver upon the honor of being selected as the Alabama Arts Education Association's Art Educator of the Year.

Done this 13th day of February 2025

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF JAMIE STEPHENSON  
VESTAVIA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL  
VESTAVIA HILLS CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM  
INDUCTION INTO THE EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION'S  
NATIONAL HALL OF FAME**

**WHEREAS**, Jamie Stephenson, a theatre education teacher in the Vestavia Hills City School System, received the Educational Theatre Association's induction into the National Hall of Fame; and

**WHEREAS**, Jamie Stephenson attended the Alabama School of Fine Arts and received her Bachelor of Science in Theatre Education at East Carolina University and her Master of Arts at the Chicago Conservatory of Performing Arts and began her teaching career at Pelham High School and currently teaches at Vestavia Hills High School with a total of twenty-one years as an educator; and

**WHEREAS**, the Educational Theatre Association presents the National Hall of Fame induction to honor outstanding teachers of theatre education at the elementary, middle, and high school levels; and

**WHEREAS**, Jamie Stephenson was selected based upon her outstanding teaching abilities in theatre education and work in the performance of theatre education, as well as her work for the students and teachers of Alabama as the Chapter Director of the Alabama Educational Theatre Association; and

**WHEREAS**, she serves as a positive role model epitomizing excellence in theatre education, theatre performance, and sensitivity to the needs of all students; and provides service to the profession through advocacy, leadership, in-service training presentations and active membership in related professional organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, Jamie Stephenson has received numerous awards including the Alabama Conference of Theatre Secondary Teacher of the Year, Alabama Educational Theatre Association's Hall of Fame, and Arts Alliance's Outstanding Secondary Arts Educator Award:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate Jamie Stephenson upon the honor of being selected as an inductee to the Educational Theatre Association's National Hall of Fame.

Done this 13th day of February 2025

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF  
LEGISLATIVE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROGRAM AWARD**

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes, appreciates, and encourages schools to implement instructional programs that result in having higher levels of performance for Alabama students; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislative School Performance Recognition Program was created within the Alabama State Department of Education to reward public schools that either:

1. Demonstrate high performance by being ranked in the top 25 percent of public schools, as ranked in the school grading system.

**or**

2. Demonstrate exemplary progress by improving the overall annual ranking of the school by at least one letter grade, as ranked in the school grading system; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislative School Performance Recognition Program provides an opportunity for all public schools across the state an opportunity to be recognized for their positive educational advances and the outstanding academic achievement of their students:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend and congratulate the Legislative School Performance Program Recognition Schools comprised of the 25 Top 25 Percent Schools and 25 Most Improved Schools listed below for their hard work and determination to improving student outcomes.

<p><b><u>Alexander City School System</u></b> Alexander City Middle School – Most Improved</p> <p><b><u>Birmingham City School System</u></b> Oliver K5 School – Most Improved Inglenook School – Most Improved Richard Arrington Elementary – Most Improved</p> <p><b><u>Etowah County School System</u></b> Hokes Bluff Elementary School – Most Improved</p> <p><b><u>Fayette County School System</u></b> Fayette Elementary School – Most Improved</p> <p><b><u>Gadsden City School System</u></b> Donehoo Elementary School – Most Improved Eura Brown Elementary School – Top 25</p> <p><b><u>Hartselle City School System</u></b> Barkley Bridge Elementary School – Top 25</p> <p><b><u>Homewood City School System</u></b> Edgewood Elementary School – Top 25 Shades Cahaba Elementary School – Top 25</p> <p><b><u>Hoover City School System</u></b> Brock's Gap Intermediate School – Top 25 Deer Valley Elementary School – Top 25 Greystone Elementary School – Top 25 South Shades Crest Elementary School – Top 25</p>	<p><b><u>Mobile County School System</u></b> Eichold-Mertz School of Math and Science – Top 25 Mobile County Training Middle School – Most Improved Old Shell Road Magnet School – Top 25 W H Council Traditional School – Top 25</p> <p><b><u>Monroe County School System</u></b> Monroe County High School – Most Improved</p> <p><b><u>Montgomery County School System</u></b> Bear Exploration Center – Top 25 Dannelly Elementary School – Most Improved Forest Avenue Elementary School – Top 25 King Elementary – Most Improved Loveless Academic Magnet Program High School – Top 25</p> <p><b><u>Morgan County School System</u></b> Danville-Neel Elementary School – Most Improved</p> <p><b><u>Mountain Brook City School System</u></b> Brookwood Forest Elementary School – Top 25 Cherokee Bend Elementary School – Top 25 Crestline Elementary School – Top 25 Mountain Brook Elementary School – Top 25</p> <p><b><u>Russell County School System</u></b> Dixie Elementary School – Most Improved</p>
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<u><b>Huntsville City School System</b></u> Monte Sano Elementary School – Top 25 <u><b>i3 Academy School System</b></u> i3 Academy Phase 1 – Most Improved <u><b>Jefferson County School System</b></u> Chalkville Elementary School – Most Improved <u><b>Legacy Prep School System</b></u> Legacy Prep – Most Improved <u><b>Macon County School System</b></u> Notasulga High School – Most Improved <u><b>Madison County School System</b></u> Lynn Fanning Elementary School – Most Improved <u><b>MAEF Public Charter School System</b></u> Acceleration Day and Evening Academy – Most Improved <u><b>Marengo County School System</b></u> Marengo High School – Most Improved	<u><b>Selma City School System</b></u> Clark Elementary School – Most Improved <u><b>Shelby County School System</b></u> Oak Mountain Elementary School – Top 25 <u><b>Tuscaloosa City School System</b></u> Rock Quarry Elementary School – Top 25 Southview Elementary School – Most Improved Woodland Forrest Elementary School – Most Improved <u><b>Tuscaloosa County School System</b></u> Holt High School – Most Improved <u><b>Vestavia Hills City School System</b></u> Pizitz Middle School – Top 25 Vestavia Hills Elementary Dolly Ridge – Top 25 Vestavia Hills Elementary East – Top 25 Vestavia Hills Elementary West – Top 25 <u><b>Winston County School System</b></u> Winston County High School – Most Improved
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Done this 13th day of February 2025

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

**RESOLUTION HONORING MRS. SHENITRA S. DEES  
“BARBARA FANNIN MEMORIAL EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER”  
JANUARY-MARCH 2025**

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Shenitra S. Dees, Education Specialist II in the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), Division of Instructional Services, Instructional Services Section, demonstrates unwavering dedication, exceptional professionalism, and an outstanding work ethic in her service to the educators and students of Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Shenitra S. Dees has consistently contributed to the success of the Office of Student Learning and Instructional Services through her commitment to customer-focused interactions, technical assistance, and collaborative support for local educational agencies (LEAs) aimed at improving educational outcomes and enhancing the capacity of educators across the state; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Shenitra S. Dees provides invaluable leadership by assisting with critical initiatives offering guidance on Problem-Solving Teams, mentoring and coaching school leaders and educators, and ensuring the accuracy of state and federal accountability reporting through her oversight of Graduation Cohort and College and Career Readiness Portal certifications; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Shenitra S. Dees exemplifies servant leadership, consistently exceeding the expectations of her role by voluntarily assisting colleagues, addressing complex assignments, and ensuring that all projects and initiatives she supports are executed with clarity, precision, and dedication to excellence; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Shenitra S. Dees is widely recognized for her exceptional human relations skills and professionalism in her interactions with LEA leaders and educators, parents, community members, ALSDE administrators, and other stakeholders, ensuring that the Department is represented in the highest regard:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Department of Education expresses their deepest gratitude to Mrs. Shenitra S. Dees for her commitment to public education, her tireless work ethic, and her impactful contributions to the students and educators of Alabama; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Mrs. Shenitra S. Dees for her exceptional service, unwavering dedication, and exemplary professionalism and congratulates her as the “Barbara Fannin Memorial Employee of the Quarter” for the first quarter of 2025.

Done this 13th day of February 2025

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

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 3-7, 2025, AS  
ALABAMA SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK**

**WHEREAS**, Alabama school counselors are employed in public and private schools to help students reach their full potential; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama school counselors are actively committed to helping students explore their abilities, strengths, interests, and talents as these traits relate to career awareness and development; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama school counselors help parents focus on ways to further the educational, personal, and social growth of their children; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama school counselors work with teachers and other educators to help students explore their potential and set realistic goals for themselves; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama school counselors seek to identify and utilize community resources that can enhance and compliment comprehensive school counseling programs and help students become productive members of society; and

**WHEREAS**, Alabama comprehensive school counseling programs are considered an integral part of the educational process that enables all students to achieve success in school:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby proclaim February 3-7, 2025, as Alabama School Counseling Week.

Done this 13th day of February 2025

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

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MARCH 2025 AS  
ARTS EDUCATION MONTH IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education recognize the arts as a vital and enriching segment of children's well-rounded education; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Art Education Association has designated March as "Youth Art Month"; the National Association for Music Education has designated March as "Music in Our Schools Month"; the American Alliance for Theatre Education has designated March as "Theatre in Our Schools Month"; and the National Dance Education Organization has designated March as "Dance in Our Schools Month"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama Arts Alliance, the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, the Alabama Dance Educators Association K-12, the Alabama Music Educators Association, the Alabama Chapter of the Educational Theatre Association, the Alabama Conference of Theatre, the Alabama Art Education Association, the Alabama State Council on the Arts, and Amp Up Arts have voiced their support for designating March 2025 as "Arts Education Month" in Alabama schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the arts education teachers in the public schools of Alabama continue to strive for educational excellence and artistic literacy for their students; and

**WHEREAS**, support should be given to arts teachers as they attempt to strengthen arts education programs in their schools and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, every chance given, arts education provides to every child every day powerful benefits including the following: arts education develops students' creativity through problem-solving and critical-thinking abilities; arts education teaches sensitivity to beauty, order, and all other expressive qualities; arts education gives students a deeper understanding of multicultural values and beliefs; arts education connects arts learning with and enlivens what students learn in other subjects; and arts education interrelates students' learning in arts processes of creation, production, performance, presentation, and responding:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That support should be given to arts education teachers as they attempt to strengthen arts education in their schools and communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That education in the arts, including dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts, is an essential component of a well-rounded K-12 public education in Alabama to every child; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby express its appreciation to arts educators, classroom teachers, and administrators for their efforts to improve arts education in Alabama public schools; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby designate March 2025 as “Arts Education Month” in the public schools of Alabama.

Done this 13th day of February 2025

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

Dr. Mackey gave his semiannual report on Sumter County and Bessemer City School Systems. Both school systems are currently in state intervention. The report was very positive. Dr. Mackey stated that Sumter County School System is currently in its second year of state intervention and has submitted a budget in a timely manner this year. He said that his team assisted Sumter County School System with obtaining a Chief School Financial Officer. Dr. Mackey reminded the Board Members that prior to the state intervention, Sumter County School System’s finances were in a disarray, and it did not have a Chief School Financial Officer. Sumter County School System’s Chief School Financial Officer is working closely with Dr. Marcy Burroughs, Superintendent and Mr. John Heard, Chief Administrative Officer. Sumter County School System submitted its budget on time this year and rectified some of its personnel issues. Dr. Mackey stated that attracting personnel has been a challenge due to Sumter County being a rural area. He said most of the staff lives in Mississippi and Tuscaloosa. Sumter County School System had two schools to close. Dr. Mackey stated that the process of consolidating Sumter County into one campus is underway as construction is ongoing on the new elementary school that will be in the rear of the current high school. Dr. Tonya Chestnut joined Dr. Mackey in the fall of 2024 for the official groundbreaking ceremony of the new school. Dr. Mackey stated that working with Sumter County School System on Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs continues to be an issue. One reason is the CTE center is on the same campus as the old junior high school that has closed due to condemnation. Sumter County School System cannot afford to relocate the CTE center because all the finance was exhausted to build the new school. Dr. Mackey stated that a plan must be developed to accommodate the students who wants to enroll in the CTE courses. He said that his team is working with Sumter County School System on a solution. Dr. Mackey said they saw great academic growth last year in Sumter County School System. Dr. Mackey gave a big thank you to Mr. Heard for his help with the Sumter County School System.

Dr. Mackey stated that Bessemer City School System’s intervention is only six months old. He said the Department will continue to work on the financial situation in the Bessemer City School System that is much better. Bessemer City School System submitted its budget in a timely manner this year and updated its salary schedule. Dr. Mackey stated that when the state intervened in August 2024, Bessemer City School System had many delayed repairs that caused severe deferred maintenance issues. The construction in the Bessemer City School System is underway. The Cognia review of Bessemer City School System was not great. Cognia outside review group from out of state stated that Bessemer City Board of Education continues to not be able to function on its own. Dr. Mackey said that was no surprise to him. He was asked if he thought that Bessemer City Board of Education was so bad that it deserved a two. Dr. Mackey stated that he would have rated them a one. He thought the outside reviewers gave Bessemer City Board of Education a lot of grace. Dr. Mackey stated that the Department will continue to work with Bessemer City Board of Education and ask them to go through further training this year.

**STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

There was no report.

There being no other business before the Board, on motion by Mrs. Marie Manning and seconded by Dr. Tonya Chestnut, Board Members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:16 a.m. The next Alabama State Board of Education Meeting for Elementary and Secondary Education will be held on Thursday, March 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