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ETF Budget Update Among Topics Covered in Lengthy Board Work Session

The State Board of Education held a brief meeting Thursday, June 13, followed by a marathon work session. State Superintendent of Education Dr. Eric Mackey's work session update included nine presentations covering a wide range of topics, including recent charter school developments and a discussion about the newly passed Alabama Literacy Act. Mackey announced that Alabama is ranked 6th in the nation for the number of Nationally Board Certified Teachers. Other topics of discussion included specialized treatment centers and updates on processes for the educator preparation comprehensive review and the new education strategic plan. Key highlights are included below:

Education Budget & Finance Update

Mackey and Deputy State Superintendent Andy Craig delivered a presentation about the Education Trust Fund budget, comparing final numbers with the ALSDE's initial requests. Classroom instructional funding requests were met as well as reduction in middle school divisors. Mackey said the department plans to make a request to lower divisors for elementary grades next year. Mackey explained the budget no longer includes restrictive language about the Alabama Reading Initiative and emphasized 85 to 90 percent of the funds go to local school systems for reading coaches. He said the Alabama Literacy Act's focus on K-3 will require funds to expand the number of regional coaches and provide rigorous professional development and summer school options. One inconsistency Mackey noted is that the ETF budget requires the ALSDE do an RFP for a formative K-3 assessment/evaluation tool to provide real-time data; however, the Literacy Act requires local boards to select these assessment tools from a vetted list compiled by a state task force. Mackey said the department will work to reconcile the law and ensure local boards have the ability to use their preferred assessment from the vetted list. [View complete budget presentation and spreadsheet.](#)

Higher Education Transitional Certificate

The inability of post-secondary professionals to get certified to teach in k-12 schools has

been a longtime source of frustration for school leaders, but a new certification pathway now aims to resolve that issue. Instructor requirements will include a bachelor's degree, passing a background check, a passing score on the subject matter Praxis test and at least 72 semester hours of post-secondary teaching experience. Those credentials will provide the candidate with a letter of eligibility to present to a school system. Upon employment, the school system would request the Higher Education Transitional Certificate, which is valid for two years. The instructor then may pursue a professional certificate after meeting specified requirements. [View PowerPoint.](#)

Computer Science for K-12

Recently enacted legislation establishes a three-year phase in for computer science courses for all grade-levels, which presents a challenge for local boards that will need to recruit additional computer science instructors. The new law is comprehensive and with its passage Alabama will become the 5th state to meet the [Code.org](#) quality markers. The ALSDE proposes adding a computer science endorsement that will enable prospective teachers to earn an initial certificate in computer science and allow those already working in CTE disciplines to obtain a course-specific teaching permit. Proposed changes will be on the July State Board meeting agenda. [View PowerPoint.](#)

NAEP Performance Update

ALSDE Communications Director Dr. Michael Sibley gave context to Alabama's performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which is mandated by Congress every two years and provides state and national data. While Alabama still ranks among the bottom performers, students have made significant gains, particularly among minority populations. Other states also are making gains, Sibley said, which makes jumping ahead more challenging. Sibley explained that states' rank scores are assigned despite statistically insignificant score differences. His presentation highlighted a grouping of states within the same score range, which paints a much different picture of Alabama's true performance. Dr. Cynthia McCarty (District 6) re-

Whole Board Training: Plan Ahead and Save!

Get 10% off the regular whole board training fee when you schedule and complete your AASB-provided training for July, August or September.

It's a Date!

July 11 (1 hour)

[Webinar: Breaking Barriers to Student Learning](#)

July 19 (8 hours)

[Roles & Responsibilities Orientation](#)

Montgomery, Ala.

July 20 (6 hours)

[Effective Boards & Relationships Orientation](#)

Montgomery, Ala.

August 22

[Policy Pipeline](#) Subscribers -only Maintenance Webinar

Aug. 29-Sept. 19 (1.5 hrs)

District Meetings

Oct. 6 and 7 (6 hours)

Fall Academy Core Conference
Montgomery, Ala.

Oct. 7 (2 hours)

Post-Conference Workshop
Montgomery, Ala.

Sept. 5 (1 hour)

Webinar: TBA

Nov. 7 (1 hour)

Webinar

Dec. 5-7 (8 hours)

Annual AASB Convention
Birmingham, Ala.



quested similar data grouping states with similar growth. [View presentation.](#)

Innovation Waiver Reinvented

Mackey said the ALSDE is making significant changes to state innovation waivers, acknowledging inconsistency and difficulties experienced upon the law's enactment. Currently, school boards are allowed to implement innovative strategies and programs through waivers from state law. The particular programs and justifications must be specific and approved; however, past efforts were not well documented, resulting in those waivers now being revoked. The new method requires a simple, two-page application to be reviewed in a more streamlined process. Tracie West (District 2) commended the effort as a much better way to serve local school boards. [View PowerPoint.](#)

Charter School Update

Assistant State Superintendent Dr. Tony Thacker and Education Administrator for Charter Schools, Logan Searcy updated the board on developments from the recent Charter School Commission meeting. Mackey recently submitted a letter to the commission outlining concerns about the controversial charter school application process and progress in Washington County; however, the commission voted to grant a one-year extension allowing the charter school's formation to proceed. Board members asked what role the board and ALSDE play in this effort, and Mackey explained the department must provide support and administration to the commission. Mackey's role allows him to investigate and report any illegality to the appointing authority, which he said is much different from disagreeing with a decision by the commission.

Finally, Gov. Kay Ivey's Education Policy Advisor, Nick Moore, provided an update about Ivey's consolidated vision for education. Moore outlined the focus from pre-K through K-12 and post-secondary to adults entering the workforce. The consolidated efforts draw upon multiple federal funding opportunities and streamlines education and workforce development efforts into one cohesive plan. [View PowerPoint](#)

In other news, the board previewed the winning videos from AASB's "Road To Success" student video contest. Mackey and board members commended the students and thanked AASB for its efforts to highlight student creativity and skill.

The next State BOE meeting will be held July 9 at 10 a.m. in Montgomery, followed by a work session.

Register Now for July Orientations

There is still time to register for AASB's new board member orientation courses. While the courses are designed for new school board members, they also serve as a great refresher for veteran members.

Friday, July 19, AASB will present **Roles & Responsibilities**, an eight-hour Academy core course covering board basics such as ethics, legal issues, finance and more. [REGISTER NOW.](#)

Saturday, July 20, the **Effective Boards and Relationships** course will be held. This six-hour Academy core course goes further in depth on learning effective board leadership, engaging your community and advocating for your school system. [REGISTER NOW.](#)

Student Video Contest Winners Announced

AASB received 24 entries from public middle and high schools across Alabama for the 8th annual student video contest. The association introduced an all-new theme for this year's contest, "Road to Success," which was designed to inspire students to showcase the diverse pathways to their schools are providing to achieve success after graduation. Congratulations to our winners:

1st place (\$1,500) - Haleyville High School, (Haleyville City Schools), [Watch Video](#); **2nd place** (\$1,000) – Phenix

Intermediate School (Phenix -City Schools), [Watch Video](#); **3rd place** (\$500) - South Baldwin Center for Technology (Baldwin County Schools), [Watch Video](#); and **Honorable mention** (\$250) - Jemison Middle School (Chilton County Schools), [Watch Video](#).

The videos also will be shown during the annual AASB Convention Dec. 7 at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham - the Wynfrey Hotel., where winners will be recognized and presented with prizes on stage.

Download Our New App

Get access to up-to-the minute information at your fingertips with AASB's newly launched app. Simply search "AASB" in the Google Play or Apple App stores to get access to advocacy alerts, event materials and push notifications. [View our quick app tutorial video.](#)

- [Download for Apple](#)
- [Download for Android](#)

Could You be AASB's Next Leader?

Nominations are being accepted for AASB president and president-elect for 2019-20. Both the president and president-elect will serve a one-year term. A new bylaw calls for president and president-elect candidates to have served on the AASB Board of Directors; however, such service need not be consecutive to the individual's candidacy for or term of elective office.

[Self-nomination forms are available](#) online and must be sent to AASB **on or before August 1**. Questions may be directed to Nominating Committee Chair and AASB Immediate Past President Pam Doyle (256/762-8868) or Tammy Wright, (334/277-9700).

Submit Proposed Bylaws & Resolutions

School board members are asked to submit proposed resolutions or changes to AASB Bylaws by August 30. Proposals, which must be submitted in writing, will be considered by AASB's Delegate Assembly during the annual AASB Convention in December. Visit our website to review current [Bylaws](#) and [Resolutions](#). Send submissions via:

- **Email** to twright@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org;
- **Mail** to P.O. Box 4980, Montgomery, AL 36103-4980.

Webinar: Breaking Barriers to Student Learning

What are the learning barriers keeping the schools in your system from achieving success? Log on July 11 from noon to 1 p.m. for AASB's next Power Lunch Webinar, Breaking Barriers to Student Learning. Attorney, mediator and NSBA Chief Equity Officer, Verjeana McCotter-Jacobs, Esq., will share valuable information to help your school system break down the barriers impeding student success. [Register now.](#)

AASB Affiliate Groups

Learn more about AASB memberships and business affiliation opportunities:

- AASB's [Professional Sustaining Membership Program](#) helps businesses build relationships with local school board members through exhibits and sponsorships.
- [Alabama Association of Administrative Assistants](#) (AAAA) helps school board assistants achieve excellence and provide professional services to school boards, superintendents and stakeholders. [Learn more.](#)

[The Alabama Council of School Board Attorneys](#) (ACSBA) is exclusively for attorneys representing school boards in the state of Alabama. The group provides members with specialized information needed to keep up with the developments in education law.