



FOR YOUR *information*

A MONTHLY UPDATE ON
STATE BOARD PROCEEDINGS,
ASSOCIATION NEWS &
K-12 TOPICS

June 11, 2021



SBOE Wades into Critical Race Theory Debate

The hot-button issue of critical race theory (CRT) was not on the State Board of Education agenda, but State Superintendent of Education Dr. Eric Mackey began the discussion at Thursday's board work session, citing numerous questions being fielded by the ALSDE and state board members.

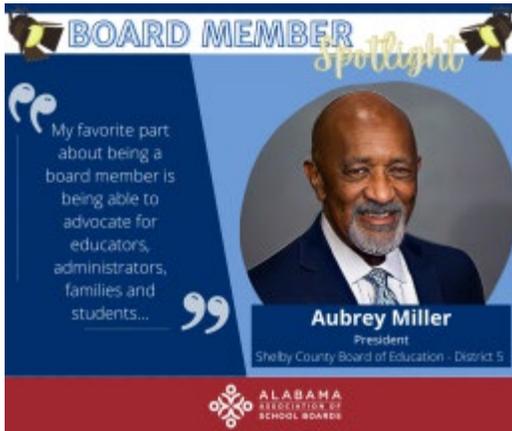
CRT is an academic concept based on the premise that race isn't biological, but rather a social construct embedded in society within systems and institutions that play a role in racial inequality (see EdWeek article, [“What is Critical Race Theory and Why is it Under Attack?”](#)). National discussions about CRT have become divisive and politically charged, with some states proposing and adopting legislation prohibiting CRT being incorporated into public school instruction.

CRT is not being taught in any of Alabama's public K-12 schools, Mackey said. The state's social studies course of study currently is being revised for implementation in the fall of 2022, and Mackey assured board members that Alabama will continue to teach history fully and accurately – the good and the bad. He shared a recently adopted Georgia SBOE resolution and presented a draft resolution he had discussed with Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey for consideration. The board also discussed codifying a position through adoption of emergency and permanent rules in the Administrative Code.

Ultimately, the board agreed more time is needed to review the proposed resolution and will discuss the issue further at its July work session. A vote could come in August.

Other SBOE meeting and work session discussion included updates on the Alabama Literacy Act implementation, a new teacher observation tool, PowerSchool, ESSER funding and more.

[Read More](#)



Board Member Spotlight: Aubrey Miller

Aubrey Miller has been a member of the Shelby County Board of Education since Nov. 2010 where he serves as board president. He has over 240 hours in the AASB School Board Member Academy and has volunteered his time to several AASB committees over the years. Read this month's Board Member Spotlight to learn more about Aubrey and what drives him to serve as a school board member!

[Read More](#)



Register Now for July New Board Member Orientation

Whether you are a new school board member eager to learn the nuts and bolts of school board service or a veteran member in need of a refresher, AASB's two-part orientation provides a wealth of information to strengthen leadership and boardmanship skills. In addition, orientation provides an excellent team-building opportunity for superintendents and new school board members to attend together.

Roles & Responsibilities - Friday, July 16

Part I of AASB's school board member orientation, Roles & Responsibilities covers the role of the board and the superintendent, the Open Meetings Act, the ethics law, and much more. The course will be offered Friday, July 16 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the AASB office in Montgomery. Attendees will earn 8 training hours. [> REGISTER NOW](#)

Effective Boards & Relationships - Saturday, July 17

Part II of AASB's school board member orientation, Effective Boards & Relationships takes an in-depth look at effective school board leadership, how your board should work with its superintendent and board attorney, and the art of advocacy. The course will be offered Saturday, July 17 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the AASB office in Montgomery. Attendees will earn 6 training hours. [> REGISTER NOW](#)



Call for All-State School Board Nominations

AASB is seeking nominations for its 2021 All-State School Board Member Award. All school board presidents and superintendents have received [eligibility and selection guidelines](#) for this prestigious recognition program that celebrates exemplary boardmanship. This year's nomination deadline is **Sept. 10, 2021**.

[View Nomination Form](#)



Just Ask Jayne

Public Funds for Board Retreat Meals, Refreshments?

Dear Jayne: Our board is having a day-long retreat next month. Is it legal to use public funds to purchase meals and refreshments for the board members and staffers required to attend?

[View Answer](#)



Policy Pipeline is Coming!

AASB's *Policy Pipeline* is an annual publication that helps local boards of education keep their policy manuals up to date with a minimal investment of time and money. The [subscription-based service](#) provides expert insight as well as relevant draft policies on legal and administrative developments.

The 2021-2022 edition of the *Policy Pipeline* will be published and mailed to subscribers July 15, and the annual subscribers-only maintenance webinar will be held Thursday, July 22 at 10 a.m. Participants can read the issue and ask any questions during this convenient webinar.

Have Questions?

Visit AASB's website to learn more about the *Policy Pipeline*.

[Subscribe Now](#)

Important AASB Reminders



AASB President-Elect Nominations Due by Sept. 1

Nominations are being accepted for AASB president-elect for 2022. Both the president and president-elect serve a one-year term. AASB bylaws call for 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 will soon be available online and must be sent to AASB on or before Sept. 1. Questions may be directed to Nominating Committee Chair and AASB Immediate Past President **Gwen Harris-Brooks** (334-644-4002) or AASB Executive Assistant **Tammy Wright** (334-277-9700).



Submit Proposed Bylaws & Resolutions by Sept. 1

School board members are asked to submit proposed resolutions or changes to AASB bylaws by Sept. 1. Proposals, which must be submitted in writing, will be considered by AASB's Delegate Assembly during the association's annual convention in December. Visit our website to review current [Bylaws](#) and [Resolutions](#).

Send submissions via:

EMAIL: twright@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org

MAIL:
P.O. Box 4980
Montgomery, AL 36103-4980



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PARCA, NSBA Surveys Highlight Key Education Data



PARCA: Public Support for Education Remains Strong

AASB has once again partnered with the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama (PARCA) to gauge Alabamians' opinions and attitudes regarding public education.

As in previous years, the 2021 survey finds strong support for public education, with a majority of respondents listing education as the most important government activity. New this year and in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic that significantly impacted K-12 education, respondents listed expanded tutoring and more mental health counseling as top education-related priorities.

[View Survey](#)



NSBA Poll: Broadband Investment Priority Among Likely Voters

A new poll conducted by the National School Boards Association's Action Center (NSBAC) reveals voter attitudes regarding a number of education-related issues amid the COVID-19 pandemic, with respondents citing broadband access as a major priority.

The poll illustrates voters' attitudes about their children's educational experiences during the pandemic across race, regions, and political parties. It also conveys the challenges — and opportunities — voters see facing public schools. Findings were presented during NSBA's Advocacy Institute.

[View Poll](#)



AASB Job Board: Superintendent of Escambia County Schools

The Escambia County Board of Education is seeking an experienced leader with strong leadership and administrative skills to serve as its next superintendent. The deadline for applications is July 1, 2021.

This search is being conducted by the Alabama Association of School Boards. Learn more about [AASB's Superintendent and CSFO Search Service](#).

[View Job Posting](#)



Alabama Association of School Boards
43 South Jackson Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
800-562-0601

