

FOR YOUR *information*

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



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2017-18 Training Year Ends Soon!

There are still ways to earn hours before the training year deadline of June 30. Earn 3.5 hours by attending the [Early Bird Law Clinic](#) or 7 hours by attending AASB's [Summer Conference](#). And remember, many courses are available through AASB's online portal, [School Board U](#).

It's a Date!

June 15-17 (7 hours)
[AASB Summer Conference](#)
Orange Beach, Ala.

June 15 (3.5 hours)
[Early Bird Law Clinic](#)
Orange Beach, Ala.

June 16 & 17 (6 CLE hours)
[ACSBA Summer Conference](#)
Orange Beach, Ala.

June 18-20
[AAAA Summer Conference](#)
Orange Beach, Ala.

July 20 (8 hours)
[Roles & Responsibilities Orientation](#)
Montgomery, Ala.

July 21 (6 hours)
[Effective Boards & Relationships Orientation](#)
Montgomery, Ala.

July 19 (1 hour)
Webinar: The Key Work of School Boards

July 26
[Policy Pipeline](#) Subscribers
Maintenance Call

Aug. 30-Sept. 24 (1.5 hrs.)
District Meetings

State Board Approves New Superintendent's Contract; Richardson Shares Final Update, Farewell Message

State Board of Education members by a vote of 7-2 approved a contract for the next state superintendent, Dr. Eric Mackey, during the board's regular meeting Thursday. Mackey's three-year contract includes an automatic annual renewal provision through 2025, unless the board acts otherwise. Mackey will receive a \$245,000 base salary with a three percent raise each May. The compensation package, which includes a housing allowance, use of a state car and reimbursement for professional dues, totals \$308,000. Mackey will begin work Monday, May 14. Stephanie Bell (District 3) and Ella Bell (District 5) voted against the contract, citing concerns that the contract failed to require an annual evaluation and did not adequately protect the board. Ella Bell also voiced concern about the automatic three percent annual raise. "I have a problem with three percent every year and our teachers are not getting three percent every year," she said.

Interim State Superintendent Dr. Ed Richardson, in his final board meeting before handing over the reins to Mackey, shared his superintendent's report and a farewell message. He told the board he was honored to serve and has worked to set up the new superintendent for success. Upon being named as interim last September, one of Richardson's biggest challenges was tackling the department's budget deficit, which he addressed by eliminating vacant positions, restructuring the department and reducing salaries as well as the number of exempt employees. He said he believes the department structure and salaries are now on target; however, it will be up to the new superintendent to ensure the right people are in the right place, which he said is the more difficult challenge.

Richardson described his efforts to buy time when lawmakers threatened to cut AMSTI (Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative), successfully arguing that no data existed to show whether or not the program is effective. He believes the program should play a vital role in targeting STEM skills and should be made to work effectively. A study will begin this summer to yield a report by

year-end to demonstrate AMSTI's strengths and weaknesses.

Another key focus during Richardson's interim tenure was to begin efforts to study in-service centers, colleges of education and professional learning efforts. He has stressed that it is the state board's responsibility to ensure professional development for current teachers and to require a rigorous, strong pipeline of new teachers.

Also during his report, Richardson referred to recent approval of the federal ESSA plan, provided a status update on state report cards for colleges of education, and urged the next superintendent to work with lawmakers to remove the term "failing" schools from the accountability system. Richardson stressed to the board that relationships with lawmakers and the governor need to be strengthened. He also requested the board grant a 30-day delay on the selection of a new state assessment to provide the incoming superintendent time to become familiar with the process. That 30-day delay would not interfere with the goal of having the assessment in place by 2020.

Richardson updated the board about the intensive efforts in the Montgomery Public Schools intervention. He lamented that more could not be completed because of recent court challenges and lawsuit delays; however, the recent Alabama Supreme Court ruling will allow the next superintendent to move forward with the full power of the intervention law. He explained that he believes the bulk of issues plaguing MPS are not problems with teachers or principals, but rather an organizational and upper-level leadership problem that can be corrected. He announced the selection of Terry Roller, current Talladega City Schools superintendent, to serve as the chief academic officer for the Montgomery intervention.

Richardson's final words were sobering remarks about the personal embarrassment he has felt due to the state's low achievement scores. He said the state must minimize distractions and keep the focus on the real problems. He recommends an aggressive schedule



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to address needs, increase accountability and to measure progress at the local level. Great results, he said, will require assisting those who are working hard to improve results and holding accountable those who are not working for great results. “Alabama can achieve at higher levels; we’ve been there, we can do it again,” he said. “But I assure you that those states that are currently ahead of us, which is most of them, are not waiting for us to catch up.”

A special highlight of Thursday’s board meeting was the recognition of Alabama’s 2018-19 Teacher of the Year, Zestlan Simmons, a teacher at Montgomery County’s Booker T. Washington Magnet High School. Also recognized were Alternate Teacher of the Year, Meghan Allen, who is a teacher at Minor Community School in Jefferson County, and the 14 district finalists for Alabama Teacher of the Year.

During a brief work session, Dr. Jayne Meyer, director of the Office of Teaching and Leading at the ALSDE, discussed an update of the 2015 Educator Preparation Chapter of the *Alabama Administrative Code*.

The work session ended with Richardson’s response to a special request by Alabama State University President and former State Senator Dr. Quinton Ross, Jr., regarding the 1960 expulsion of then-Alabama State College students for participating in sit-ins to protest Jim Crow segregation. Richardson issued an apology for the department’s role in the expulsions, which he said took place during a time when laws and attitudes were very different than now.

Next State Board Meeting

The next State Board of Education meeting will be held June 14 at 10 a.m. in Montgomery, followed by a work session.

Student Video Contest Winners

More than two dozen schools from across Alabama entered AASB’s 7th annual “How We Achieve Excellence in Our School” video contest. Congratulations to our winners:

- **1st place** (\$1,500) - Lee Creative and Performing Arts Magnet High School (Huntsville City Schools), [Watch Video](#);
- **2nd place** (\$1,000) - James Clemens High School (Madison City Schools), [Watch Video](#);
- **3rd place** (\$500) - Sparkman High School (Madison County Schools), [Watch Video](#); and
- **Honorable mention** - Haleyville High School (Haleyville Public Schools), [Watch Video](#).

The winning videos will be shown at the Alabama State Board of Education’s June 14 meeting in Montgomery and during the annual AASB Convention Dec. 8 at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham - the Wynfrey Hotel., where winners will be recognized and presented with prizes on stage.

Showcase Your Students’ Talent at AASB’s December Convention

Do you know of a talented vocal, instrumental, performing arts or ROTC group in your school system? Don’t miss out on a great opportunity to showcase the outstanding talent of your students and their instructors before an audience of hundreds at AASB’s Annual Convention in December! The application deadline is **August 31, 2018**.

New this year: Entertainment finalists will be entered into a social media contest in which local schools and communities will be able to vote for their favorite group. The lucky group with the most votes will earn bragging rights as this year’s “fan favorite” and will be invited to perform at AASB’s Convention.

For more info: [Download the Entertainment Application and Criteria/Guidelines](#).

Volunteers, Nominees Sought for New Governance Ad Hoc Committee

At its March meeting, the AASB Board of Directors approved the forming of a new ad hoc committee to review the School Board Governance Improvement Act. The committee will bring together school board members, superintendents and liaisons from various education advocacy groups to review the 2012 Act and make recommendations to strengthen and improve school board governance.

To volunteer to serve on the committee or to recommend a board member or superintendent to serve, please email twright@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org by May 31.

Don’t Miss AASB’s Early Bird Law Clinic at Summer Conference



Back by popular demand, the [AASB Early Bird Clinic at Summer Conference](#) (3.5 hours) will feature a team of attorneys specializing in education law. Whether you’re a veteran school board member or new to school board service, this event is your opportunity to delve deeper into the legal topics that directly impact you and the students you serve. Featured speakers and topics include:



Carl Johnson
Major Incidents: Handling the Press & the Legal Impact



Mark Boardman
Ethics for Board Members



Erika Tatum
Special Education



Dave Ryan
School Shootings: Making Students Safer



Dorman Walker
Employment Discrimination

Register Now

All-State Nominations Deadline Sept. 7

Honor the commitment and achievement of one of your board members with a nomination for AASB's All-State School Board Member recognition program. One of AASB's highest honors, the All-State Award celebrates the work of up to five current or former Alabama school board members who have exhibited exemplary board-manship.

Nominations may be submitted following a majority vote of the school board. An individual board member may nominate another member provided the nomination is endorsed by a majority vote of the nominee's board. This year's deadline for nominations is **Sept. 7**. Instructions and nomination materials will be mailed to board presidents and superintendents in early June.

Bylaws and Resolutions Due Aug. 13

School board members are asked to submit their proposed resolutions or changes to AASB Bylaws by Aug. 14. 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; or
- **Fax** to 334/270-0000.

Join us in Montgomery for New Board Member Orientation Courses

Friday, July 20, AASB will present [Roles & Responsibilities](#), an eight-hour Academy core course that covers board basics such as ethics, legal issues, finance and more.

Saturday, July 21, the [Effective Boards and Relationships](#) Orientation 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.

Both courses, which are required by the Governance Act of 2012, will be held at AASB's office in Montgomery.

Convention Clinic Proposals Due June 29

Do you have a governance best practice or innovative program you'd like to share with school board peers? Present a clinic session during the December 7 AASB Convention at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham -The Wynfrey Hotel. Topics may include effective board leadership and governance practices, navigating legal issues, technology that engages students, programs proven to improve student achievement and more! Proposals must be submitted by June 29. [Download the Clinic Session Proposal Form and Criteria](#).

U.S. Dept of Ed Releases Civil Rights Data



The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) recently released the [2015-16 Civil Rights Data Collection](#). The data, self-reported by 17,300 public school districts and 96,400 public schools and educational programs, is collected and published annually by OCR. District leaders can access selected facts about a district or school, as well as tables and graphics of reported data [by clicking here](#).

New Grant Program Announced for Simbli Board Management Software



AASB is committed to helping Alabama's school boards practice effective governance. We're pleased to announce a special program to award a limited number of boards a one-year grant to use the comprehensive board management software, Simbli by eBOARDsolutions, at a deeply discounted rate! To learn more about this great opportunity, contact [AASB Director of Public Relations Dana Vandiver](#).

Subscribe to Policy Pipeline; Don't Miss July 26 Policy Conference Call



Policy experts who have kept a close watch on the new laws, state rules, court cases and other issues impacting board policies will provide an update for Policy Pipeline subscribers during the annual maintenance conference call on **July 26, 2018**. The subscribers-only call is a great opportunity to ask questions about policy maintenance and new developments that affect policies. [Subscribe now to the 2018-19 Policy Pipeline](#).

Remember, if your school board contracts with AASB for its [Policy Review & Analysis service](#), you will get a free, one-year subscription to the Policy Pipeline to ensure those policies remain up to date. Alabama school board members also receive a 10 percent discount on the Simbli by eBOARDsolutions Policy Module, and AASB will upload your policies to that module at no charge. For more information, call 800/562-0601 or email poli-cy@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org.

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Mark Your Calendar: Aug. 30 - Sept. 24 District Meetings on Religion in Public Schools

Take advantage of a great opportunity to interact with your district directors and network with other school board members from your area during AASB's Fall District Meetings, Aug. 30 - Sept. 24.

This year's 1.5-hour training event focuses on First Amendment issues related to *Religion in Public Schools*. AASB facilitators will present an interactive session focusing on what is and is not permissible at board meetings, athletic events, in classrooms and other school-related functions. Be on the look out for registration details soon.

Follow AASB on Social Media

Be sure to "like" AASB on [Facebook](#) and/or follow us on [Twitter](#) to keep up with the latest AASB events and news!

