

FOR YOUR *information*

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



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Whole Board Training: Book Early 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 17 (1 hour)

[Webinar: The Key Work of School Boards](#)

July 20 (8 hours)

[Roles & Responsibilities Orientation](#)

Montgomery, Ala.

July 21 (6 hours)

[Effective Boards & Relationships Orientation](#)

Montgomery, Ala.

July 26

[Policy Pipeline](#) Subscribers Maintenance Call

Aug. 30-Sept. 24 (1.5 hrs)

District Meetings

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1 (6 hours)

Fall Academy Core Conference: Leadership to Create the Optimal Learning Environment

Oct. 1 (2 hours)

Post-Conference Workshop: Communicating in a Crisis

Sept. 6 (1 hour)

Webinar: What Every School Board Member Should Know About Special Education

Nov. 15 (1 hour)

Webinar (TBA)

State Board Officers Elected, New Assessment Vendor Selected

The State Board of Education elected Dr. Cynthia McCarty (District 6) as its Vice President and Jeff Newman (District 7) as Pro Tem at its annual meeting Tuesday, July 10. Governor Ivey, president of the board by virtue of her office, presides at board meetings, and in her absence, the vice president and then pro tem fulfill that role. The elections occur each year.

The board then unanimously selected Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) as the vendor for the state's student assessment system. [DRC presented its plan](#) to board members at a work session the day before after a state wide [Assessment Task Force](#) of stakeholders recommended it, with 23 of 25 members ranking it as first choice of three finalists. AASB serves on the task force that proposed [recommendations](#). The vote allows the SDE to negotiate a contract with DRC, potentially for the next 10 years. DRC will begin development of an assessment for, at a minimum, grades 3-8 in English/language arts and math to give in the spring of 2020.

The board is developing a new assessment to comply with the state's newly approved ESSA plan after federal officials questioned whether the former state assessment was aligned with state standards. The board discontinued use of that assessment program and has an interim assessment in place. Due to the controversy with the former plan, the SDE worked with the stakeholder group and national experts to identify the desired components of the new assessment.

Board members spoke positively about the DRC proposal, including its plan to engage Alabama educators extensively in developing the assessments. State Superintendent Dr. Eric Mackey said that DRC can accommodate assessments for special need testing. The board has yet to make additional decisions regarding specifics of the assessment. DRC has proposed a variety of options for the state and the task force will continue its work and make recommendations as the assessment is developed.

In other action, the board appointed former Chilton County Superintendent Tommy Glasscock as Director of Career Technical Education and Alabama Public Charter School Commission members:

- Governor appointees: Lisa Williams (incumbent); Ibrahim Lee (incumbent);
- Senate Pro Tem appointee: Chad Fincher (incumbent); and
- House Speaker appointee: Peggy Duck Branch.

Next State Board Meeting

The State Board will hold its next board meeting in Montgomery on August 9 at 10 a.m., with a work session to follow at 11 a.m.

Alabama Public Charter School Commission Update

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission met by teleconference on July 2. The Commission addressed the following matters:

- The Commission passed a resolution allowing **SLAM ACADEMY (HUNTSVILLE CITY)** to move forward subject to any court order regarding the impact on Huntsville's desegregation efforts;
- The Commission gave conditional approval to **WOODLAND PREP (WASHINGTON COUNTY)** allowing it to delay the school's timeline by one year pending approval of the school's 501(c)(3) status;
- The Commission provided an update on **LEAD ACADEMY (MONTGOMERY COUNTY)** in light of the ruling from Montgomery County Circuit Court which blocked the school's opening. An expedited appeal is pending before the Alabama Supreme Court and a ruling is expected soon, but if the ruling does not come in time for LEAD to open in August 2018 as planned, LEAD plans on filing a new application for the 2019 application cycle;
- The Commission provided an update on **UNIVERSITY CHARTER SCHOOL (SUMTER COUNTY)** and the lawsuit filed by the Sumter County Board of Education. In 2010, the Board sold the University of West Alabama a building, but the sales contract, which predated the charter law, provided that the building could not be used for K12 purposes. The Board filed a lawsuit against the university, the charter



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school and its officials claiming that its plan to open a charter school in the building violates the sales contract. UWA, which is scheduled to open in August 2018, is awaiting a ruling on an injunction which will determine whether they can open in the UWA facilities as planned. They have stated alternatives are available if the court blocks their use of the UWA facility.

- The Commission was advised that the State Board of Education will be making **APPOINTMENTS** or reappointments during its July 10, 2018 meeting. Commissioners Lisa Williams, Ibrahim Lee (appointed to fill the term of former Commissioner Dr. Ed Richardson), Chad Fincher and Terri Tomlinson are nearing the end of their terms and are seeking reappointment. Tomlinson is not seeking reappointment.
- The Commission was provided an update on its **BUDGET**. The extensive litigation over the past year has greatly depleted the Commission's budget which is expected to remain steady in the coming fiscal year set to begin on October 1. Logan Searcy assured the Commission that Dr. Eric Mackey is committed to supporting the Commission as the new fiscal year begins.

New Training Credit Policy Now in Effect



AASB's new training credit policy took effect July 1, 2018. Under the new policy, attendees who **are scanned for no sessions** at a conference will not receive training credit for that event. Attendees **scanned for only one session**

will earn training credit for that session only. The School Board Governance Improvement Act mandates training for Alabama's school board members, and the scanning of name badges allows AASB to ensure that members are awarded accurate training hours. If you have questions or concerns about the new policy, please don't hesitate to contact us at training@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org.



AASB Webinars Now Even More Convenient!

New for the 2018-19 Training Year, AASB webinars will be even more convenient to accommodate busy schedules!

- **Just one hour:** We've shortened our webinars to one, high-impact hour. Join us from noon to 1 p.m. for AASB's "Power Lunch" Webinar Series featuring great presenters and timely, relevant topics for boards.
- **More Access Codes for Groups:** It's not always possible to gather up all your key administrators and staff around one computer for a webinar. That's why we're making it even easier when you register a group! Now get up to six webinar access codes for group registrations. Simply let us know how many codes are needed for your group after registering.
- **Earn Webinar Credit in School Board U:** There's no need to worry when you miss out on registering for a webinar. Starting with the first AASB webinar of 2018-19, you can earn training credit by viewing archived webinars in School Board U.

Don't miss the first "Power Lunch" webinar of this training year, "The Key Work of School Boards," on Tuesday, July 17. AASB Director of Leadership Development Susan Salter will cover five key areas of governance responsibilities, explaining the impressive results that can be achieved when school boards make student achievement a primary focus.

[Register Now.](#)

AASB Orientation Courses: Not Just for New Board Members

Whether you're new to board service or a veteran school board member seeking a refresher, AASB's Orientation courses are packed with need-to-know information and guidance. Join us at the AASB office in Montgomery for one or both courses:

Roles & Responsibilities Orientation Friday, July 20 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

From ethics and legal issues, to finance and effective board meetings, this eight-hour Roles & Responsibilities Academy core course covers vital board basics. [Register Now.](#)

Effective Boards and Relationships Saturday, July 21 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Go further in depth on topics such as effective board leadership, engaging your community and advocating for your school system with AASB's six-hour Academy core course, Effective Boards & Relationships. [Register Now.](#)

Student Entertainment Applications for AASB Convention Due Aug. 31

Don't miss out on the chance to show off your school system's talent! We're looking for outstanding vocal, instrumental, performing arts or ROTC groups to perform at the annual AASB Convention in December. The application deadline is **August 31, 2018**. Finalists will be entered into a social media contest in which local schools and communities will vote for their favorite group. The lucky group with the most votes will snag bragging rights as this year's "fan favorite," earning the opportunity to perform before hundreds of board members and education advocates. [Learn More.](#)

Bylaws and Resolutions Changes Due Aug. 13

Proposals for changes to AASB's Bylaws and Resolutions must be submitted in writing by Aug. 13. Changes 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 to:

- **Email** to twright@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org;
- **Mail** to P.O. Box 4980, Montgomery, AL 36103-4980; or
- **Fax** to 334/270-0000.

Do you know a school board member who deserves to be recognized for exemplary leadership?



Tell Us!

We're now accepting nominations for AASB's highest honor, the All-State School Board Member Award!

Nominations must be approved by majority board vote.

Visit: bit.ly/AASBAIState2018

Deadline: September 7



2018 All-State School Board Member Award