



FOR YOUR *information*

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

April 14, 2023



Senate Leadership Urges SBOE to Share Plans, Vision for Improving Education

Alabama Senate Pro Tem Greg Reed and Senate Minority Leader Bobby Singleton urged the State Board of Education during Thursday's work session to better communicate the department's plans to improve education and assist underperforming schools.

"In the last 10 years or so, we have not gotten any real strong policy out of the State Board; it's always been the Legislature who has been pushing the education agenda," Singleton said. "I want to see education get in front of education again."

Reed, who emphasized the importance of education as a recruitment factor in bringing business to the state, said it's lawmakers who are being asked questions about the plans and actions underway for improving education. He said more statistical data and details are needed from the department to demonstrate progress being made.

Other work session discussion included proposed ESSA amendments and a presentation about free cyber security assistance the Alabama Supercomputer Authority provides to K-12 school systems.

The board meeting featured recognition of 122 schools named Purple Star Schools for their support of military families.

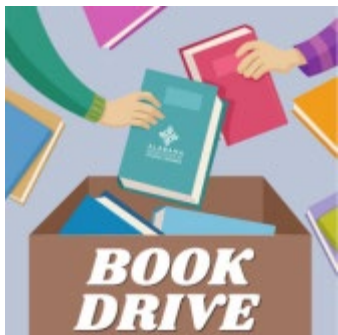
[Read Full Story](#)



'Ignite' Your Leadership at AASB Summer Conference

There's still time to register for this year's AASB Summer Conference June 16-18 at the Lodge at Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores. You don't want to miss this opportunity to ignite your leadership with a mix of motivational, inspirational sessions and practical information you can use at the board table.

- **Afternoon Schedule Track | June 16 & 17:** While the Friday and Saturday morning schedule track (breakfast is included) is full, there are still some available slots in the afternoon schedule track (lunch is included). Both tracks feature the same great speakers and session topics. [REGISTER](#)
- **Bonus Sunday Session | June 18:** Get fired up and ready to innovate and imagine during Sunday's bonus session. You'll hear a powerful message from former All-American University of Alabama football player, retired NFL player and current Tampa Bay Buccaneers Defensive Assistant Rashad Johnson. This session is open to all attendees (registration required). Breakfast is included. [REGISTER](#)



Summer Conference Book Drive

We're excited to announce our Second Annual Summer Conference Book Drive! We're asking Summer Conference attendees to donate new or like-new books to help promote literacy and combat the "summer slide" for students at all grade levels.

See below to find out what grade level books your district is asked to provide, and drop off your donation at the AASB Summer Conference.

- **AASB Districts 1, 2 & 3:** Please donate books for grades K-5.
- **AASB Districts 4, 5 & 6:** Please donate books

for grades 6-8.

- **AASB Districts 7, 8 & 9:** Please donate books for grades 9-12.

[View Conference Agenda, Speakers & More](#)



CONGRATS to Winners of Board Secretary Gift Card Drawing

Congratulations to the winners of AASB's gift card drawing for board secretaries of systems that completed their whole board training in January, February or March!

Winners are:

- **Coffee County:** Kendra Thomas
- **Escambia County:** Michelle Lucas
- **Tarrant:** Kristen Franklin

How to Schedule Your Whole Board Training

The **2022-2023 training year which ends June 30**. If your board has not yet completed or scheduled its state-mandated two-hour Whole Board Training session, now is the time to get on the calendar!

- **STEP 1:** [Browse AASB's Whole Board Training Catalog](#) to choose from more than 40 available training topics, or contact us to discuss a custom option.
- **STEP 2:** Pick a first choice topic and a second choice topic.
- **STEP 3:** Send AASB 2 or 3 dates and times that ALL your board members can be available to attend the training and the training location (email Executive Assistant for Leadership Development Stephanie Bell at sbell@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org).

Questions? Please contact Stephanie Bell at sbell@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org or 334-277-9700.



Join Us April 18 for AASB Advocacy Day

School board members, superintendents and CSFOs from Districts 6, 7, 8 and 9 are invited to join us in Montgomery for AASB's next Advocacy Day Tuesday, April 18.

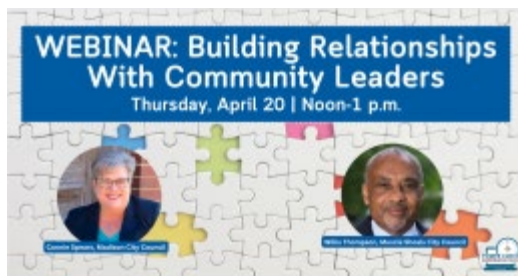
Don't miss this opportunity to meet with local your legislators to discuss key public education issues and to share with and learn from school board colleagues from across the state.

Only a few spots remain, so sign up today!

NOTE: Although we've designated special dates for each district and for new school board members or first-time attendees, members may sign up to participate on any of the above dates.

[Register Now](#)

Reserve Your Spot for these Upcoming AASB Webinars



April 20: Building Relationships with Local Leaders

Join us **Thursday, April 20 from noon to 1 p.m.** for AASB's webinar, Building Relationships with Local Leaders, where we will host an in-depth panel discussion with former school board members turned municipal leaders, **Connie Spears**, Madison City Council; and **Willis Thompson**, Muscle Shoals City Council.

Participants will earn 1 training hour and learn more about building effective relationships with community leaders and working collaboratively to address issues and challenges their school systems face.

[Register Now](#)



May 1: Free Legislative Webinar

Misconceptions abound regarding state budgets, especially when it comes to comparing Alabama's state taxes and revenues with other states.

Join us **Monday, May 1 from noon to 1 p.m.** for a free and informative legislative webinar featuring House Ways and Means Education Committee Chair **Rep. Danny Garrett**, who will discuss Alabama's tax structure, dispel common misconceptions and offer a deeper understanding of how Alabama compares to other states.

[Register Now](#)



May 4: Common Audit Mistakes

Join us **Thursday, May 4 from noon to 1 p.m.** for AASB's webinar, Common Audit Mistakes School Boards Make, where **Christina Smith**, Assistant County Audit Director at the Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts, will share an overview of the most frequent mistakes examiners find in school system audits.

Participants will earn 1 training hour and gain valuable insight on how to better prepare for a successful audit and avoid the most common mistakes.

[Register Now](#)

Board Member Spotlight:



Portia Jones

Portia Jones is a senior software analyst who enjoys learning how things work from the inside out. This desire for understanding led her to seek a spot on the Tuscaloosa County Board of Education, where she has served since 2018.

Portia is proud of the system's efforts to ease overcrowding with the construction of a new intermediate school, equip school buses with WiFi and put an iPad in the hands of every student in the system.

When she's not at the board table or behind the computer screen analyzing software, you'll find Portia making jewelry, engaging in community service, being a team mom and sometimes wearing a tiara!

[Read More](#)



Just Ask Jayne

Codes of Conduct & Special Education Students

Dear Jayne:

I'm a new board member and I'm confused. We have a Code of Student Conduct that sets our clear consequences for misconduct, including expulsions for serious offenses that come before the board. I'm told that the same rules don't apply to special education students. Is this true?

[View Answer](#)



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