



**Feb. 9, 2024**



### **SBOE February 2024 Recap**

The State Board of Education voted unanimously Thursday to approve a resolution strongly encouraging local school boards to implement policies limiting the use of cell phones in schools. Citing national studies that show cell phone usage in the classroom negatively impacts test scores and learning retention, the resolution also encourages boards to provide training to ensure staff understand and enforce the policies.

Other action and discussion items from the Feb. 8, 2024, SBOE meeting and work session included:

- Educator Preparation Programs
- Administrative Code rule changes pertaining to Professional Learning
- Career & Technical Education Updates

[Read Full Story](#)

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## WEBINAR: What's Happening at the State House?

Join AASB's Governmental Relations team for a Legislative Webinar **Friday, Feb. 16 from noon to 1 p.m.** and get the scoop on action at the State House, including what bills we're watching closest. We'll share the status of voucher legislation, the latest education budget news and what issues school board members should be contacting their lawmakers to discuss.

[Register Now](#)

## The Session is In: Reserve Your Spot for AASB Advocacy Days!

Lawmakers are back in Montgomery for the 2024 legislative session and AASB's Advocacy Days provide a great opportunity to meet with your lawmakers and discuss key education priorities for your schools and communities.

- **TUESDAY, FEB. 27** | AASB Districts 6, 7, 8, 9 & CSFOs | [REGISTER](#)
- **TUESDAY, APRIL 2**: AASB Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & CSFOs | [REGISTER](#)
- **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17**: Legislative Committee Day (all districts) | [REGISTER](#)



## VIDEO: Why Your Advocacy Matters

Craig Kelley, Hoover City school board member and a 2023 recipient of AASB's A-Team Advocacy Award, shares why his school board regularly attends AASB Advocacy Days and why it's vital for other boards to do the same. "We know that our presence gets good attention from our delegation," Craig said.

[Play Video](#)

## Check Out Our March Conference Speaker Lineup

**Leadership for Policy & Planning**  
March 1-2, 2024 | The Westin Huntsville

**SPEAKER LINEUP**

Dr. KECIA RAY  
KAY WARFIELD  
DR. MELISSA WILLIAMS  
RANDY SPARKMAN  
DR. CHAD HOLDEN  
DR. FRANK COSTANZO  
DR. GREG PRICE

**AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/MarchConference**

It's not too late to register for AASB's 2024 Spring Academy Core Conference, Leadership for Policy & Planning, which takes place March 1 & 2 at The Westin Huntsville. [View Schedule-at-a-Glance.](#)

Earn up to six training hours and hear from education thought leaders on artificial intelligence, the latest education policy trends, chronic absenteeism and innovating for the future of education.

General sessions and speakers include:

### FRIDAY, MARCH 1

- **Engaging Technology for Future-Focused Schools:** Dr. Kecia Ray
- **Hot Policies Panel:** Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Melissa Williams, Hartselle BOE Member Randy Sparkman, Muscle Shoals City Schools Superintendent Dr. Chad Holden
- **Back to Class: Curbing Chronic Absenteeism:** ALSDE Education

Administrator Dr. Kay Warfield

## SATURDAY, MARCH 2

- ***Navigating the Strategic Planning Journey***: Dr. Frank Costanzo
- ***Education in an A.I. World***: Dr. Greg Price

Saturday's rotating breakout session topics include:

- ***Building After Covid***
- ***Policy in Executive Evaluations***
- ***Policy Pipeline***

**Plan Your Days:** March Conference features the following events, each requiring separate registration:

- **Feb. 29:** [Alabama School of Cyber Technology & Engineering Tour](#) (1.5 hours)
- **March 1:** [Poverty Simulation](#) (\$59, 2.5 hrs)
- **March 1:** [Pre-Conference Workshop: Multiplying Success in Math](#) (\$79, 2 hrs)
- **March 1 & 2:** [Main Conference - Leadership for Policy & Planning](#) (\$209, 6 hrs)

[Learn More](#)

## Summer Conference Registration Underway



Limited spots remain for the annual AASB Summer Conference, which will be held at the Lodge at Gulf State Park June 28-30. This event will be full of learning and networking as well as motivating sessions that will inspire you to reflect upon this year's Summer Conference theme: "Remember Your Why!"

Also, back by popular demand, Summer Conference will feature single sessions, which means attendees no longer need to choose between a morning or afternoon track (must attend general sessions Friday, Saturday and Sunday to earn full 7 hours of training credit). **[REGISTER NOW.](#)**

# School Safety Summit

Get a head-start on your Summer Conference experience by attending this year's School Safety Summit Friday, June 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. You'll hear from expert speakers who will share key advice, real-world scenarios and guidance to help keep your schools safe. [REGISTER NOW.](#)

[AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/SummerConference](https://AlabamaSchoolBoards.org/SummerConference)

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## Important Reminders & Deadlines



### Last Call for Committee Volunteers

Interested in growing your involvement with AASB? **Friday, Feb. 16** is the last day to volunteer to serve on an AASB committee. Incoming committee members will be appointed for one-year terms. Most committees meet once or twice a year.

We're currently seeking volunteers for the Board Training Advisory, Bylaws, Equity, Resolutions and Nominating Committees.

[Learn More](#)



### Whole Board Training Deadline is June 30

The June 30 deadline for the 2023-24 training year will be here before you know it. Has your board completed or scheduled its state-mandated Whole Board Training? Slots are filling quickly!

[Browse our Whole Board Training catalog](#) to choose from dozens of topics, or contact us to discuss a custom option. Remote and in-person sessions are available to meet your needs.

[Request Training](#)

**BOARD MEMBER** *Spotlight*

**Meet Amy Carter**  
Callman Board of Education

**Q:** What inspired you to run for the school board?

**A:** ... I have a passion for public education and understand the importance of educating children. I knew that our community was growing and that our school system would need to accommodate new needs.

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Board Member Spotlight: Amy Carter

**Amy Carter** ran for and won a seat on the Cullman City Board of Education in 2020, inspired by a passion for public education and a desire to help meet the needs of a growing community.

Serving on the school board is just one way Amy works to better the lives of those in her community. She helped found a non-profit organization that provides mentoring to women and necessary hygiene products to

adolescent girls.

An oncology sales executive for Myriad Genetics, Amy was an education major and worked in many schools as a certified athletic trainer for 10 years before moving into sales.

[Read More](#)



# Just Ask Jayne

## Are Board Members Required to Have Bonds?

Dear Jayne:

I'm a new board member and someone said I have to have a bond. Is that true? If so, how much does it have to be and who pays for it?

[View Answer](#)

## AASB Job Board



### Coordinator of Finance & Operations: AASB

AASB is seeking a Coordinator of Finance & Operations to assist the Director of Finance & Operations with maintaining financial



### Superintendent: Jacksonville City Schools

The Jacksonville Board of Education is seeking a leader with demonstrated ability to raise student achievement to serve as the board's next



### CSFO: Escambia County Schools

The Escambia County Board of Education is seeking an experienced leader to serve as its next CSFO and work efficiently with the superintendent and board in building and

records, as well as general upkeep and maintenance of the building and grounds.

[LEARN MORE / APPLY](#)

superintendent.

[LEARN MORE / APPLY](#)

maintaining a high-performing school system.

[LEARN MORE / APPLY](#)

- Superintendent of Saraland City Schools: [LEARN MORE / APPLY](#)
- Superintendent of Marengo County Schools: [LEARN MORE/APPLY](#)

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## #HereForTheKids: Celebrate Public Schools Week February 26 - March 2



The countdown is on to Public Schools Week 2024, happening February 26 - March 2. This year, Public Schools Week and the #HerefortheKids Campaign are joining forces to bring together families, educators, and community members to shine a light on local public schools and tell the stories of the amazingly positive things happening in classrooms and school buildings nationwide.

Check out the [Public Schools Week toolkit](#) for social media graphics, sample posts and other materials to help celebrate your local public schools!

[Learn More](#)





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