



# FOR YOUR *information*

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

**December 11, 2020**



## **SBOE Urges Improvements to Textbook Selection Process**

State Board of Education members insisted during Thursday's work session the state continue working to ensure its mathematics textbook selection process better serves local school systems. Board members stressed that providing school personnel with clear, accurate information to help select the best quality mathematics instructional materials is paramount.

Board members have raised objections during recent meetings to a state list that currently includes textbooks scored with "weak alignment" to state standards. Board Vice President Jackie Ziegler (District 1) said local school systems should be assured that any textbook on an approved state list is of the highest quality. Months of discussions resulted in a request for a revised and expanded scoring rubric and timeline, requiring the Math Textbook Committee to regroup last month to apply the more robust rubric.

Other board meeting and work session news included a discussion about the merits of requiring students to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as a criteria for graduation and an update on the Alabama Literacy Act and concerns about pandemic-related learning loss that could impact assessment scores.

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## January is School Board Member Recognition Month



In preparation for Alabama's annual observance of School Board Member Recognition Month in January, AASB is providing a toolkit with promotional materials for superintendents, school principals, chambers of commerce and other education supporters to use, complete with downloadable and customizable templates.

The 2021 theme is "Launching Students to Success." A link to the online toolkit will be sent via email to all superintendents and board secretaries next week.

For more information, [email AASB's PR Department](#) or call 800-562-0601.



### AASB Seeking Self-Nominations for District 8 Director

AASB is accepting self-nominations of active members interested in serving as District 8 Director. The person chosen will fulfill the remainder of the term vacated by former District 8 Director Ronnie Owens who recently was installed as AASB President-Elect.

According to AASB's bylaws, the Board of Directors appoints a successor to complete the term and will consider self-nominations. The term ends at the close of Convention, Dec. 4, 2021, and the individual selected would have the option of seeking a full two-year term in the fall of 2021.

To apply for the position, [email a letter of interest](#) to AASB Executive Director Sally Smith by **Monday, Dec. 28**.



### New Officers, New and Returning District Directors Installed

Several new and returning members of the Alabama Association of School Boards Board of Directors were installed at the close of the 2020 AASB Annual Convention on



### 2020 All-State School Board Award Recipients Honored

Recipients of AASB's 2020 All-State School Board Award were recognized during a special awards breakfast held as part of the annual AASB Convention Dec. 4-6 at the

Dec. 6 in Birmingham. Baldwin County school board member Shannon Cauley was installed as the association's new president, and Ronnie Owens of Lauderdale County was installed as president-elect.

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Hyatt Regency Birmingham - The Wynfrey Hotel. The award, recognizing up to five past or present school board members who have exhibited exemplary boardmanship, is the association's highest honor.

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### Joint Advisory Issued on K-12 Cyber Threats

Cyber criminals view schools as targets of opportunity, and attacks on k-12 distance learning education have been a major concern for school systems nationwide during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) yesterday released a joint advisory on malicious cyber actors targeting kindergarten through K-12 educational institutions to cause disruptions and steal data.

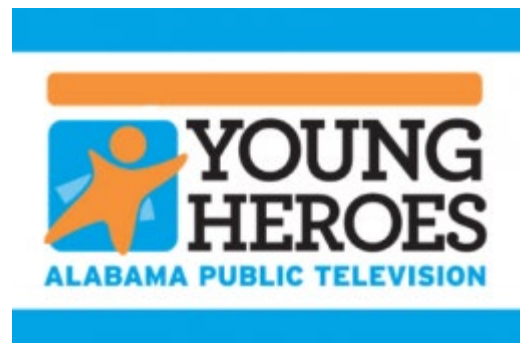
[VIEW ADVISORY](#)



### Grow Your Involvement in AASB as a Committee Volunteer

Are you interested in becoming more involved in AASB? Consider volunteering on an AASB committee. Incoming committee members will be appointed for one-year terms. Committees include Advocacy, Board Training Advisory, Bylaws, Equity, Nominating and Resolutions Committees.

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### Nominate a Student for APT Young Heroes Award

Do you know a student in grades 9-12 who excels in academics, public service and integrity? Alabama Public Television has an opportunity for them to be recognized and earn up to \$5,000 in scholarships through the Young Heroes Awards Program. The nominations deadline is **Jan. 10, 2021**.

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## Reminder: FCPA Report Deadline Jan. 31

Elected school board members and elected superintendents have until Jan. 31 to file their annual Fair Campaign Practices Act reports. The report, which details contributions to and expenditures by elected officials and candidates in 2020, is available through the Alabama Secretary of State's Office and local probate judges' offices and can be downloaded from the Secretary of State's website. In addition, anyone who ran for public office in 2020 and has not yet dissolved his or her election committee must file a report. Local officials should file with their probate judge; state officials file with the Secretary of State.

[DOWNLOAD FORM](#)



# Just Ask Jayne

## Limits on Public Comments at School Board Meetings

**Dear Jayne:** We have a citizen who signs up for Public Comments at every regular meeting. The topic is always the same: "The Education of our Children." We know we have to provide a chance for public comments but this has been going on for over a year. Is there anything we can do to stop this.

[View Answer](#)



## Regular Evaluations Key Component to Achieve System Goals

When was the last time your school board evaluated the superintendent? While this task can be easy to overlook amid the many responsibilities of a busy school board, the most effective boards make regular superintendent evaluation a strategic priority. Regular evaluations help your board clearly communicate expectations and goals to your chief

executive and help ensure board members and the superintendent all are working toward the same goals.

AASB's [Superintendent Evaluation service](#) lends school boards a helping hand and removes the major headaches of conducting an evaluation. In addition, AASB offers a two-hour workshop covering the basics of evaluating superintendents as part of our evaluation service or as a standalone whole board training session. And adding value to your AASB membership, school boards have free access to research-based online superintendent evaluation instruments.

Contact us today at [SuperintendentEvaluation@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org](mailto:SuperintendentEvaluation@AlabamaSchoolBoards.org) or call 800-562-0601 to learn more.



## New on AASB Job Board: Superintendent of Hoover City Schools

The Hoover City Board of Education is seeking an experienced educator and administrator to lead this already strong school system to the next level. The deadline for applications is Jan. 22, 2021.

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

[VIEW JOB POSTING](#)



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