

## MINUTES

### State Board of Education Meeting

#### Date

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

#### Time

1:00 p.m.

#### Location

Rutledge Conference Center  
1429 Senate Street  
Columbia, South Carolina

*Michael R. Brenan, Chair*

*Samuel Ivan Randolph, PhD, Chair-elect*

*Molly M. Spearman*

*State Superintendent of Education*

*Secretary and Administrative Officer to the Board*

**Notice: Due to allergies of staff and visitors, we ask that visitors refrain from wearing scented products when attending the State Board of Education meetings in SCDE facilities.**

*SBE Mission: The State Board of Education's mission is to provide a leadership role in helping South Carolina set policy and direction to transform teaching and learning so that students are prepared with the necessary knowledge and skills, including innovation, to compete globally and live a productive life.*

## **I. WELCOME**

The State Board of Education (SBE) meeting convened at 1:00 p.m. Chair Brenan called the meeting to order.

The following SBE members were in attendance: Mike Brenan, Chair, Governor's Appointee; Samuel Alston, EdD, First Judicial Circuit; Del-Gratia Jones, Second Judicial Circuit; Janice Murray Gamble, EdD, Third Judicial Circuit; Gerald Reeves, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Traci Young Cooper, EdD, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Jane P. Harmon, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Richard Kizer, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Jeffrey Kubu, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Dr. Sharon Wall, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Thomas Ewart, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; David Whittemore, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; Rhonda Edwards, EdD, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; Renee R. Hembree, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; and Sharon Bynum, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit.

The following SBE members were absent but participated via telephone conference: Ivan Randolph, PhD, Chair-elect, Eighth Judicial Circuit, and James Stroman, Sixth Judicial Circuit.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff were in attendance: Betsy Carpentier, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Superintendent; Karla Hawkins, Deputy

Superintendent, Division of Federal, State, & Community Resources; Cathy Hazelwood, Deputy Superintendent and Parliamentarian, Division for Legal Affairs; Sheila Quinn, EdD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness; Julie Fowler, PhD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness; Mellanie Jinnette, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Finance; Dino Teppara, Director, Office of Public Information; Liz Jones, Director, Office of Assessment, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness; Robert Benn, Information Resource Consultant, Service and Support Center, Chief Information Office; Lori Smith, Information Resource Consultant, Service and Support Center, Chief Information Office; Charlie Garrett, Information Resource Consultant, Service and Support Center, Chief Information Office; Barbara Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; and LaTonia Holloway, Administrative Assistant, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs.

**II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

Chair Brenan asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes as presented for the SBE meeting on February 10, 2016. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

**III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR MARCH 8, 2016**

Chair Brenan asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda as presented for the March 8, 2016, SBE meeting. Hearing none, the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

**IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA**

Chair Brenan welcomed visitors to the SBE meeting. He recognized Suzanne Koty, 2015 State Teacher of the Year, and Daniel Johnson, Lander University.

**V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Brenan stated that he would have been recognizing Senator Nikki Setzler; however, he was unable to appear due to a conflict with the General Assembly. This concluded his report.

**VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT**

Chair Brenan recognized Superintendent Molly Spearman to present her report. Mrs. Spearman greeted everyone and recognized Dr. Janice Murray Gamble, the newest member of the Board, who represents the Third Judicial Circuit. Mrs. Spearman stated that on Monday, March 7, 2016, she traveled to Florence One and Horry County school districts to announce two of the finalists for the South Carolina Teacher of the Year award. Ms. Leah Barley is a teacher at Royal Elementary in Florence One, and Mr. Joey Trail is a teacher at Forest Brook Middle. Mrs. Spearman stated that three additional finalists will

be announced later in the week and that all of the finalists will receive a \$10,000 award. She stated that the State Teacher of the Year banquet will be held on April 20, 2016, and encouraged those who are able to attend to do so.

Mrs. Spearman stated that the Safe Schools Taskforce held a press conference at noon to present their final results. Mrs. Spearman provided specific details in the report which include ways to improve the classroom safety for students and teachers when dealing with disciplinary matters in our school districts. Mrs. Spearman stated that they are looking forward to bringing a finished product in the spring for the Board to review.

Dr. Cooper emphasized the importance of the draft MOA framework and being able to have a formal relationship with law enforcement within the districts as well as the importance of designating and clarifying responsibilities on who does what and making certain that this is a discussion that happens on an annual basis within our districts.

This concluded Superintendent Spearman's report.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Brenan recognized Suzanne Koty, 2015 Teacher of the Year, and members of the Sumter Teacher Forum. Ms. Koty addressed the Board and shared brief details about her experience as Teacher of the Year and how she has grown professionally during her tenure.

## **VIII. STATE BOARD ITEMS**

### **PH PUBLIC HEARING**

- 01. Proposed Amendments to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-90 (R.43-90), Program Approval Standards for South Carolina Teacher Education Institutions (Second Reading)—Mary Hipp, Director, Office of Educator Services, Division of Federal, State, and Community Resources**

Chair Brenan recognized Mary Hipp to address item PH-01, Proposed Amendments to R.43-90 (Second Reading). Ms. Hipp explained the recommended amendments made by the General Assembly. Mr. Brenan asked for a motion to approve item PH-01, Proposed Amendments to R.43-90 for second reading. Dr. Cooper moved to approve PH-01 with proposed changes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wall; the motion carried.

**PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair Brenan reported that none of the subcommittees met with the exception of the P&L Committee, which met and heard two action items. A Board orientation was held after the P&L Committee meeting. Mr. Brenan gave a brief explanation on each P&L item, stating that PL-01 was moved to the Consent Agenda and that PL-02 item had to be brought before the full Board.

01. **School District (District) Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann § 59-39-160(C)(1)(b) Related to a Student Participating in Interscholastic Activities**—Cathy L. Hazelwood, Esquire, Deputy Superintendent, Division for Legal Affairs

Chair Brenan stated that the Committee approved this waiver, and the item was placed on the Consent Agenda.

02. **State Board of Education (SBE) Declaration of a State of Emergency in Florence County School District Four (District), as Provided in Law under the Education Accountability Act (EAA), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-18-1520 (Supp. 2015)**—Jennifer Morrison, Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Innovation & Effectiveness

Chair Brenan recognized Chief of Staff Betsy Carpentier to provide details about the declaration of the State of Emergency for two schools (Brockington Elementary and Johnson Middle) in Florence County School District Four. Mrs. Carpentier provided in great detail all the deficiencies within the district and all of the technical assistance that has been provided to the District thus far. She explained what authority the State Board has under the Education Accountability Act with regards to the declaration of the State of Emergency and stated that the SCDE recommends that the District's leadership explain why a State of Emergency should not be declared and that the State Superintendent be given the authority to have powers listed under the Education Accountability Act while staying in continued consultation with the district board of trustees, which will retain control over district operations and the high school. The plan moving forward is to observe the teachers in these schools and determine before the contract deadline of April 15, 2016, which teachers will be required to go through a formal ADEPT evaluation for the 2016–17 school year.

Mrs. Spearman thanked Mrs. Carpentier for her report and stated that this was a decision that was very difficult—that the focus of the SCDE staff has been on what is best for the children. She stated further that when looking at the performance levels of the students and looking further at the opportunities afforded to these students within the district, she along with the SCDE staff knew action had to be taken. Mrs. Spearman recognized Mr. Hodges, the chair of the district's Board of Trustees, and three other members of the Board of Trustees, and others who may be in attendance. She stated that they are willing to cooperate and work together to clear up matters in the district, but she stated, and made it quite clear, that the most difficult decisions have not been made yet.

Mr. Kubu asked what the dropout rate was in the District and what the performance levels were for the high school. Mrs. Carpentier stated that the performance level was below average but stated under the Education Accountability Act, we do not have the authority to assume management of the school. Mrs. Jones asked Superintendent Spearman if the replacement of the principals at the schools would be automatic or optional with the declaration of the State of Emergency. Mrs. Spearman stated that this was something that is being considered very closely, and Mrs. Carpentier stated that everything being proposed is optional.

Dr. Cooper asked that in an effort to keep this matter on the radar if it would be possible for the Board to receive quarterly updates. She also asked if there was any oversight of board governance that would require the local board of trustees for Florence Four to receive additional training for their members. Mrs. Carpentier responded that recommendation was in the external review team report.

Mr. Brenan opened the floor for any members from the District to come forward to address the Board. A member from the District stated that they are willing to work to better their schools and their community and thanked the Board for the help they are trying to provide. Mr. Hodges thanked Superintendent Spearman for her wanting to work with the District to get them back on track.

Mr. Brenan stated that the Policy committee heard and approved the SCDE recommendation to declare the State of Emergency for Brockington Elementary and Johnson Middle schools. It does not require a second since it is coming out of committee. The motion to declare a state of emergency passed unanimously.

## **SBE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **01. Request for Contribution to South Carolina Future Minds for Teacher of the Year—Cathy Hazelwood, General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs**

Chair Brenan recognized Cathy Hazelwood, who stated that SC Future Minds has requested a \$5,000 contribution from the SBE to support the SC Teacher of the Year event and stated that this was the same amount contributed last year. Mr. Brenan called for the motion. Dr. Cooper moved that the SBE approve the request and contribute the \$5,000 to SC Future Minds. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kubu. The motion passed unanimously.

## SLA STANDARDS AND LEARNING

The following items were provided to the Board as information.

01. **Update on Statewide Assessment Programs**—Elizabeth Jones, Director, Office of Assessment, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness

Mr. Brenan recognized Elizabeth “Liz” Jones to provide an update on statewide assessments. Ms. Jones stated that she had a quick update. She stated that spring testing has begun and provided a detailed PowerPoint that highlighted the specifics of the ACT assessment. Ms. Jones stated that keeping in line with the passing of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the USED has stated that testing writing is no longer optional as it has been in the past. Ms. Jones stated that a writing component is part of the 3–8 tests but not included in the English 1 tests; plans are being made to add this component to our assessments. She stated that these items will be field-tested in 2017; hopefully by the fall of 2017, this component will be included in the end-of-course test.

02. **Annual Report on Individuals Who Have Applied for Certification in South Carolina Based on Qualifying for the Passport to Teaching Certificate through the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE)**—Laura Covington, Educator Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Federal, State, and Community Resources

Chair Brenan recognized Laura Covington who provided a detailed report regarding individuals who are applying for ABCTE certification. She stated that there are currently 52 applicants for this year. This concluded her report.

<b>IX. CONSENT AGENDA</b>
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## PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

01. **School District (District) Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann § 59-39-160(C)(1)(b) Related to a Student Participating in Interscholastic Activities**—Cathy L. Hazelwood, Esquire, Deputy Superintendent, Division for Legal Affairs

Mr. Brenan called for the vote for approval of the consent agenda. Dr. Wall moved that the consent agenda be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Mrs. Harmon. The motion passed unanimously.

**X. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair Brenan recognized Mrs. Barton to provide an update from the Education Oversight Committee.

Dr. Cooper asked if there was any information to report regarding the John de la Howe School's accreditation issues. Mr. Brenan stated that information regarding this matter is currently in discussion in the General Assembly. Betsy Carpentier provided some further information on this issue. Emily Heatwole added that it is her understanding that the subcommittee is very committed from the Ways and Means committee to find a workable solution for the students and the school. It has been proposed that Clemson would do some work within the school to see what viable solution could be provided to the school. Emily stated that she would be more than happy to provide a more detailed report to the Board at the April Board meeting.

Mr. Brenan asked Dr. Julie Fowler to provide a brief update regarding the Uniform Grading Policy. Dr. Fowler provided an update on the work that the subcommittees have done thus far, and she stated that after all of the respective subcommittees meet, they may be able to provide information to the Board to possibly consider at the next Board meeting.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 2:20 p.m.