

MINUTES

State Board of Education Meeting

Date

Wednesday, September 8, 2010

Time

1:00 p.m. State Board Regular Meeting

Location

Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina

E. Tim Moore, Jr., Esq., Chair

Gerrita Postlewait, PhD, Chair-elect

Jim Rex, PhD

State Superintendent of Education

Secretary and Administrative Officer to the Board

I. WELCOME/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The State Board of Education (SBE) convened at 1:00 p.m. Chair Moore called the meeting to order and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Color Guard from the Mullins High School Marine Corps JROTC presented the colors.

The following State Board of Education (SBE) members were in attendance for the meeting: Tim Moore, Esq., Chair, Second Judicial Circuit; Gerrita Postlewait, PhD, Chair-Elect, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; David Longshore, PhD, First Judicial Circuit; Bonnie Disney, Third Judicial Circuit; Hampton Hubbard, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Rose Sheheen, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Dru James, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Cindy Clark, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Marilyn (Lyn) Norton, EdD, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Amelia Herlong, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Michael Blue, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; Phillip Bowers, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; Dennis Thompson, Jr., Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; Britt Blackwell, OD, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; and Mike Brenan, Governor's Appointee.

Absent with apologies were Josie Gaston, Sixth Judicial Circuit, and Libby Swad, Seventh Judicial Circuit.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff were in attendance: Jim Rex, PhD, State Superintendent of Education; Janice Poda, PhD, Deputy Superintendent, Administration; Shelly Bezanson Kelly, General Counsel and Parliamentarian, Office of General Counsel; Barbara Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel; Karla Hawkins, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel; Wendy Cartledge, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel; Valerie Harrison, Deputy

Superintendent, Division of Standards and Learning; Mark Bounds, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership; Betsy Carpentier, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Innovation and Support; John Cooley, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Finance and Operations; Don Tudor, Director, Office of Transportation, Division of Innovation and Support; and Cindy Clark, Recording Secretary.

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR JULY 14, 2010

Chair Moore asked for a motion to approve or amend the SBE minutes for July 14, 2010. Marilyn (Lyn) Norton moved to approve the minutes and Amelia Herlong seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

Chair Moore asked for a motion to approve or amend the SBE agenda for September 8, 2010. Cindy Clark moved to approve the agenda and Dennis Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA

Chair Moore welcomed all visitors including those from Greenville County School District; Kershaw County School District; Richland County School District 1; Rock Hill School District (York Three); Spartanburg School District 7; Sumter School District 17; the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA); Palmetto Priority Schools Liaisons (PPSL), and South Carolina School Improvement Council (SC-SIC). There was no news media present.

Chair Moore turned the meeting over to Superintendent Rex to present recognitions and his report.

V. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT AND RECOGNITIONS

State Superintendent of Education Rex stated that this year marks the 45th year of the South Carolina Teacher of the Year Program (TOY). He presented the background of the program and recognized the 2010–11 honor roll TOYs and the State Teacher of the Year as follows:

- Melody Johnson—2010 Honor Roll Teacher

Melody teaches fourth -grade at Lugoff Elementary School in Kershaw County School District and is represented by State Board of Education member Rose Sheheen.

Creating an environment where students feel safe and have ownership is one of Melody's priorities. Her family hosts a kickball game before school begins so students can get to know her and feel comfortable around her and their classmates. On the first day of school, she leads team-building activities, helping them to mesh as a family. Her students apply and interview for class jobs, receive Green Bucks incentives as rewards, and visit a class store to spend their money.

Melody is very involved in her community, working to coordinate the Optimist Club's Internet Safety program which teaches elementary students how to use technology safely. She is National Board-certified and has 15 years of experience.

- Dr. Samantha "Sam" Maddox—2010 Honor Roll Teacher

Sam taught English/language arts at Spartanburg High School in Spartanburg School District 7. She has changed schools and districts and is now at Spartanburg School District 5 where she works at both Byrnes High School and Byrnes Freshman Academy. Sam is represented by State Board of Education member Libby Swad.

A successful grant writer, Sam has developed a Read for Success program which involves her Dutch Shepherd Remo and struggling readers. She has created a library of high-interest books and has revamped her American literature course to include minority and contemporary writers. She strives to listen to her students' fears, help them reveal their strengths, face their challenges, and be the support they need to rise above circumstances that are not always ideal.

Sam, a "black belt," teaches yoga to Girl Scouts and is a fitness instructor. She is National Board-certified and has 17 years teaching experience.

- Olivia "Libby" Ortmann—2010 Honor Roll Teacher

Libby teaches six through eighth grades at Alice Drive Middle School in Sumter School District 17 and is represented by State Board of Education member Bonnie Disney.

Libby's classroom is a place of energy, conversation, hands-on activities, and technology integration. Her philosophy of teaching is

based on three beliefs. The first belief is that nothing is too good for the students, and every child should be treated as if he or she is your favorite. The second is to make efforts not excuses, and the third is that you have to move out of your comfort zone to grow. She also believes that outstanding teachers should constantly seek to improve their craftsmanship, look for ways to encourage interdependence with colleagues, raise their own level of consciousness, and remain flexible. Libby is a 25-year National Board–certified teaching veteran.

- Julia “Julie” Goodman Marshall—2010 Honor Roll Teacher

Julie teaches fifth grade at Oakdale Elementary School in Rock Hill School District (York Three) and is represented by State Board of Education member Britt Blackwell.

Julie has taught for 27 years because she cares and wants to make a difference. She views the contributions that she makes as opening the minds and hearts of dreamers to leave a legacy of hope and inspiration. Also, she says that it is important to understand that each child is unique. Differences in race, gender, nationality, life experience, and home environment create challenges for the classroom teacher—opportunities to grow professionally and to help all students reach their full potential.

- Kelly H. Nalley—2010 South Carolina Teacher of the Year

Kelly was chosen South Carolina’s Teacher of the Year. She teaches second through fifth grade (Spanish) at Fork Shoals Elementary School in Greenville County School District and is represented by State Board member Phillip Bowers.

As a 14-year teaching veteran, Kelly has developed and written curriculum for her school district and led elementary and secondary Spanish workshops. In addition to having served as a Teacher Cadet cooperating teacher, she is an elementary foreign language teacher trainer and a new teacher mentor.

Kelly believes community service is a way to grow and develop, and she tries to model service and involvement. Active in her church’s children’s ministry, she also provides meals for families in crisis, has taught English to Spanish-speaking adults, and assisted students by translating at the DMV and dentist’s office. With her husband, she has helped to repair houses and buildings in an impoverished area of Greenville. She has taken her students to visit nursing home residents, supervised school clean-ups, organized fundraisers for local

charities, and sponsored an American Cancer Society Relay for Life team.

As Teacher of the Year, Kelly received a \$25,000 cash award, a Dell laptop computer, a set of Michelin tires, a ring from Jostens, a cruise (Bojangles), and a BMW X5 Sports Activity Vehicle to use for a year. In addition, she will participate in Leadership South Carolina, attend Notre Dame's prestigious three-day Excellence in Teaching Symposium, and receive a SMART board.

Cindy Clark presented Kelly with a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol in her honor and congratulated and thanked her on behalf of the Board for her service to the children of South Carolina.

Kelly expressed her appreciation to the State Board of Education and the State of South Carolina for all they do to serve our children. She said her number one priority is to take the opportunities given to her and apply them to her colleagues across the state, and she will take the knowledge gained back to the students. Kelly said she is humbled and grateful for being recognized, but that it is about more than just one person; she shares the credit with the honor roll teachers and all the teachers who serve. She is looking forward to working with everyone this year, and she thanked the Board and the SCDE for giving her the chance to serve as our Teacher of the Year.

Also recognized by Dr. Rex was David Rawlinson for his leadership as director of the Office of Special Projects, Palmetto Priority Schools. Dr. Rex thanked David for his contributions and efforts in taking on the challenge of building high-quality schools in high-poverty areas. He added that David will begin working part-time at the SCDE, and Dr. Beth Howard has been named Interim Director, Palmetto Priority Schools.

David conveyed his gratitude for the special recognition and thanked Dr. Rex for his leadership, friendship, and for the opportunity to work on a statewide basis in providing assistance to the 38 priority schools for the past four years.

Dr. Rex announced that Amanda Burnette, Turnaround Schools Project leader, has accepted another position and will no longer be with the SCDE. Amanda has done an incredible job assisting David and his staff. Dr. Angela Hinton has been named Interim Director, Turnaround Schools.

Dr. Rex expressed appreciation to Gerrita Postlewait for her work on the Race to the Top federal grant competition and stated that the SCDE missed winning by only nine points.

Additionally, Dr. Rex stated that concerning the assessment of the new Common Core Standards, the SCDE belongs to two different consortia of

states and both have been funded. We will continue to participate in both until it is decided which consortia would be the best approach for South Carolina. The good news is that South Carolina will be part of that process.

Dr. Rex reported on the EduJobs legislation that Congress passed recently. The legislation should have provided \$143 million to South Carolina, which would have safeguarded between 2,200 to 2,400 teaching jobs. The U.S. Congress decided to change the way the states are required to calculate their maintenance of effort for public education including higher education. In the past, states were allowed to aggregate that calculation. This time, Congress required states to do the K-12 and Higher Education calculations separately. Because South Carolina did not meet the Higher Education requirements, the state is not presently qualified for the \$143 million. When Congress comes back on September 14, 2010, our congressional delegation, along with other states' delegations, will try to change the legislation so states like South Carolina will qualify.

In closing, Dr. Rex repeated that recognition is necessary, but it is not sufficient. He is concerned that morale and productivity will be affected and urged everyone to keep this in mind when talking to legislators and others. We have to figure out a way to get sufficient funding for education, starting with classroom teachers.

Cindy Clark presented the Connect the Dots award to Dr. Rex and stated that the "Darkness to Light" ant's name is "REX." She read the text of the award as follows: "REX—presented to Dr. Jim Rex, the State Board of Education, and the State Department of Education by Darkness to Light for their combined efforts to protect our children and teachers throughout the stewards of children program. Together we can, 2010."

Chair Moore stated that the TOY program is outstanding and that he wanted to personally thank all the exceptional teachers in South Carolina.

After the recognitions and report presentation, Chair Moore called for a five-minute recess.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Janet Frazier, parent advocate for children with special needs, spoke during the public comment period.

VII. STATE BOARD ITEMS

EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS

Committee Goal: *Conduct a pilot for a value-added process to link (a) student achievement to individual teachers, (b) school effectiveness to principal performance, and (c) performance of graduates to their South Carolina educator preparation unit (including alternative programs) for the purposes of improving the effectiveness of these programs and increasing student achievement.*

Committee Report—Amelia Herlong, Chair

Mrs. Herlong reported that the Education Professions (EP) Committee did not meet on Wednesday, September 8, 2010.

IF INNOVATION AND FINANCE

Committee Goal: *SCDE staff to confer with leaders of eligible districts/schools to identify innovations that could improve student achievement and performance and recommend such waivers in accordance with pertinent statutes and regulations.*

Committee Report—Britt Blackwell, OD, Chair

Dr. Blackwell reported that the Innovation and Finance (IF) Committee met Wednesday, September 8, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. in Rutledge Room 1105. He provided the Board with an overview of the Committee meeting and stated there was one item for approval and one item for information as follows:

For Approval

01. Procedures for Suspension, Revocation, and Refusal to Issue or Renew a School Bus Inspection Certificate, School Bus Driver's Certificate, or School Bus Driver Instructor/Tester Certificate—Donald Tudor, Director, Office of Transportation, Division of Innovation and Support

Don Tudor gave a presentation on the policy concerning taking action on school bus certificates.

Dr. Blackwell explained that the policy was amended in Committee and that the revised language was at the members' desks. He also explained that staff wanted one additional change. That language was also provided to the Board members. Mr. Blackwell moved, on behalf of the Innovation and

Finance Committee, that the Board approve the school bus certificate procedures and also moved that the additional amendment be accepted. Mr. Brennan seconded the motion to amend the policy. Chair Moore called for a vote to approve the policy as amended, and it was approved unanimously.

For Information

02. **Schedule of Liquidated Damages**—Bruce Shealy, Manager, Instructional Materials Section, Office of Finance, Division of Finance and Operations

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Committee Goals:

The SBE will ensure that the Common Core Standards maintain South Carolina's rigorous expectations for student learning and, if so, adopt a development and implementation plan for Common Core Standards, aligned curriculum resources, formative/summative assessments, and professional development.

The SBE will implement the Connect the Dots recognition for SC Department of Education staff members receiving national and state distinctions for their efforts to provide quality educational experiences for South Carolina students.

Committee Report—Cindy Clark, Chair

Cindy Clark reported that the Standards and Learning (SLA) Committee met Wednesday, September 8, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. in Rutledge Room 806. She provided the Board with an overview of the Committee meeting and stated there was one item for approval and two items for information as follows:

For Approval

01. **2010 South Carolina Academic Standards for the Visual and Performing Arts (First Reading)**—Scot Hockman, Education Associate, Office of Standards and Support, Division of Standards and Learning

Ms. Clark stated that, to be clear, the Committee made a revision in the preface to the document indicating that it is the districts' responsibility to ensure the content in which the visual and performing arts standards are taught. The authority lies in

the local school areas, and the committee's responsibility is to provide the framework.

Ms. Clark moved, on behalf of the Standards, Learning, and Accountability Committee, that the Board approve the 2010 South Carolina Academic Standards for the Visual and Performing Arts (First Reading) and waive the second reading. Chair Moore called for a vote and it was approved unanimously.

For Information

- 02. Update on LiteracySC**—Valerie E. Harrison, EdD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Standards and Learning, and Pam Wills, Unit Leader, Early Childhood and Literacy, Division of Standards and Learning

Ms. Clark reported that Dr. Harrison gave an update on LiteracySC and the implementation of LiteracySC in the Common Core Standards.

- 03. Overview of 2011 South Carolina Academic Standards for the Social Studies**—Lewis Huffman, Education Associate, Office of Standards and Support, Division of Standards and Learning

Ms. Clark stated that the SLA Committee continues to revise and improve the Social Studies standards.

The Connect the Dots award was presented to Liz Jones, Mimi Brailsford, and other members of the Office of Assessment.

Ms. Clark also personally thanked the Board for their support during the last couple of months.

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE

Committee Goal: *The SBE will devise effective means to broadly share information about the progress being made to transform the education system in the state.*

Committee Report—Tim Moore, Chair

Chair Moore reported that the Policy and Legislative (PL) Committee did not meet Wednesday, September 8, 2010.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 2:25 p.m.