

## MINUTES

### State Board of Education Meeting

#### Date

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

#### Time

1:00 p.m.

#### Location

Rutledge Conference Center  
1429 Senate Street  
Columbia, South Carolina

*David Blackmon, PhD, Chair*

*Barry Bolen, Chair-elect*

*Mick Zais, PhD*

*State Superintendent of Education*

*Secretary and Administrative Officer to the Board*

*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/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The State Board of Education meeting convened at 1:03 p.m. Chair Blackmon called the meeting to order and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following State Board of Education (SBE) members were in attendance: David Blackmon, PhD, Chair, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Barry Bolen, Chair-elect, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; David Longshore, PhD, First Judicial Circuit; Jim Griffith, Second Judicial Circuit; Lonzena Harry, Third Judicial Circuit; Rose Sheheen, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Raye O'Neal Boyd, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Neil Willis, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Dru James, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Dr. Marilyn Norton, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Michael Blue, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; Danny Varat, PhD, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; Dennis Thompson, Jr., Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; Dr. Thomas Shortt, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; and John Rampey, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit.

Absent with apologies was Larry Kobrovsky, Ninth Judicial Circuit, and Mike Brenan, Governor's appointee.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff were in attendance: Mick Zais, PhD, State Superintendent of Education; Scott English, Chief Operating Officer; Charmeka Childs, Deputy Superintendent, Division of School Effectiveness; Jay W. Ragley, Director,

Office of Legislative and Public Affairs; Shelly Bezanson Kelly, General Counsel and Parliamentarian, Office of General Counsel; Barbara Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel; Roy Stehle, Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability; Dr. Briana Timmerman, Director, Office of Teacher Effectiveness, Division of School Effectiveness; Cathy Jones-Stork, Team Leader, Office of Teacher Effectiveness, Division of School Effectiveness; Bruce Moseley, Director, Office of Leader Effectiveness, Division of School Effectiveness; Laura Bayne, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs; and Rachel Kerley, Public Information Specialist, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs

**II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 13, 2013**

Chair Blackmon asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes for the SBE meeting on February 13, 2013, as presented. He called for a vote and the motion carried.

**III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR MARCH 13, 2013**

Chair Blackmon asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda for the SBE meeting on March 13, 2013, as presented. He called for a vote and the motion carried.

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

Dr. Blackmon welcomed visitors to the SBE meeting.

- Keith Brown, Georgetown County Schools
- Courtney Howard, College of Charleston
- Paula Gregg, Commission on Higher Education

**V. STATE CHAIR REMARKS**

Dr. Blackmon represented the SBE at several association events since the last meeting. This past Monday, the winners of Palmetto's finest were announced on ETV. Dr. Blackmon shared the names of those winners:

- Fort Dorchester Elementary School (Dorchester 2)
- Hammond Hill Elementary (Aiken)
- Hanahan Middle School (Berkeley)
- Ashley Ridge High School (Dorchester 2)
- Special Recognition: Marrington Middle School of the Arts (Berkeley County)

Dr. Blackmon recognized Dr. Zais to give his report.

**VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT**

Dr. Zais started with detailing some school visits in the last month. He visited with students, parents, teachers, and school leaders at the following schools:

- In Bamberg School District 1 and Bamberg School District 2, Dr. Zais visited Denmark-Olar High School, Denmark-Olar Middle School, Richard Carroll Elementary, and Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School. Richard Carroll Elementary is a Federal Reward School for Performance, meaning it is among the top performing Title 1 schools in the state. Denmark-Olar Middle School is a Palmetto Priority School.
- In Kershaw County, Dr. Zais visited Pine Tree Elementary School, Jackson Elementary School, the Applied Technology Education Campus, a career center, and North Central Middle School. Pine Tree Elementary is a Federal Focus school, meaning among all Title 1 schools, it has one of the widest achievement gaps between two student demographic groups.

As he has throughout his administration, Dr. Zais met with school leaders on an individual basis or in small groups.

- In February, Dr. Zais attended a meeting of the Education Oversight Committee Accountability Review Panel. He addressed this group—made up of teachers, school leaders, business leaders, and others—about the need for a unified and modernized Education Accountability Act.
- Also in February Dr. Zais addressed the School Security and Safety Training day the Department held. This was a well-attended event, in excess of 200 school leaders and law enforcement personnel. They learned about the latest best practices in school security and safety, as well as exchanged ideas on how local school districts are providing safe schools for students with locally designed solutions.
- Dr. Zais spoke with and answered questions from two groups of assistant principals and a group of teacher leaders, who are teachers that are thinking about becoming principals.

Some public appearances Dr. Zais made in the past month included the following:

- In February, Dr. Zais participated on a panel on SC ETV about education public policy. Other participants included SBE member Mike Brennan, Darlington County Superintendent Dr. Rainey Knight, State Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter, and SC Future Minds Executive Director Tripp DuBard.
- Also in February, Dr. Zais spoke to the Military Order of the Purple Heart at Fort Jackson.
- In March, Dr. Zais spoke to the Aiken Chamber Breakfast meeting and attended the investiture of the new chancellor of USC-Aiken.
- Last week, Dr. Zais presented testimony to the Senate Finance K–12 Education Subcommittee on the agency’s budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2013–14.
- In addition, last week, Dr. Zais spoke to two groups that were having their “Day at the Capital”: Sumter County Day and Leadership Hilton Head Island.

Finally, Dr. Zais had the opportunity to deliver remarks and participate on a panel of state chief school officers at the national TAP conference in Washington, DC. TAP stands for Teacher

Advancement Program, and it is a whole-school reform model that uses student growth as a significant component in the evaluation of teachers. That data is used to improve instructional practices in TAP schools as well as to provide bonuses to teachers for exceptional performance in the classroom.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

All three people who signed up for public comment spoke in favor of funding Schools to Watch. They include:

- David McDonald, Lancaster County School District
- Laura Loughry, Lancaster County School District Parent
- Dr. David Vawter, Winthrop University

## **VIII. STATE BOARD ITEMS**

### **EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS**

**Committee Report**—Dr. David Longshore, Chair

The committee had two information items on the agenda: one was a requested update from Teach For America (TFA) and one dealt with the formation of committee goals.

Chair Blackmon motioned for the SBE to approve the EP committee report. Motion carried.

### **IF INNOVATION AND FINANCE**

**Committee Report**—Barry Bolen, Chair

The committee reported that the SBE is in good financial standing according to the financial statement provided to them by the SCDE's Chief Finance Office. Len Richardson, the new Chief Financial Officer and committee liaison, was introduced. Committee Chair Bolen also mentioned that the committee may not need to meet every month dependent on whether or not there are agenda items to be heard.

Chair Blackmon motioned for the SBE to approve the IF committee report. Motion carried.

### **PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE**

**Committee Report**—David Blackmon, PhD, Chair

Four “For Approval” items were placed on the consent agenda. Chair Blackmon asked for Shelly Kelly, the SCDE’s General Counsel, to further explain PL-04. Ms. Kelly explained that there is a statute that gives the SBE approval authority over the food services director position at the SCDE. As the SCDE hopes to fill the position prior to the next scheduled SBE meeting, the SCDE has requested that the SBE consider delegating the approval authority to Chair Blackmon.

Dr. Longshore motioned for the SBE to approve the PL committee report. Motion carried.

## **SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Committee Report**—Thomas Shortt, PhD, Chair

The committee considered five “For Information” items. They received an update on which school districts had opted not to participate in the SCDE-led Common Core professional development. They also considered an item regarding dissection, but the general consensus was that it was a local-level decision. Lastly, York 3 made a presentation on an instructional material waiver request that will be heard at the next SBE meeting.

Chair Blackmon motioned for the SBE to approve the SLA committee report. Motion carried.

## **IX. CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items were approved in committee and placed on the Consent Agenda:

### **PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE**

- 01. Greenville County School District’s Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-261 (2011), District and School Planning**—Roy Stehle, Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability
- 02. Richland County School District One’s Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-261 (2011), District and School Planning**—Roy Stehle, Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability
- 03. Spartanburg County School District Seven’s Cleveland Academy of Leadership’s Waiver Request of the School Start Date Requirement Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-1-425(A) (Supp. 2012), School Start Date**—Roy Stehle, Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability

**04. Request for State Board to Authorize the Chair to Act in a Personnel Matter**—Shelly Kelly, General Counsel, Office of General Counsel

Mr. Rampey motioned that the SBE approve the consent agenda. Dr. Longshore seconded. The motion carried.

**X. LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND REQUESTS REGARDING REGULATIONS**

Jay W. Ragley, Director, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs  
Laura J. Bayne, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs

The General Assembly requested some wording changes to several regulations. These changes are not reflective of policy changes. Ms. Bayne presented five regulations for which the General Assembly had requested changes. These regulations included 43-220, 43-234, 43-259, 43-273, and 43-601.

Mr. Griffith motioned to withdraw the regulations and re-submit them reflective of the changes suggested by the House of Representatives. Dr. Longshore seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Ragley read aloud a letter regarding Schools to Watch. He clarified that no actions have been taken that would end the Schools to Watch program. The letter included details about a grant awarded to the SC Middle Schools Association (SCMSA). The SCDE has requested that \$45,000 be returned as those funds were spent outside the parameters of the grant. The letters also addressed previous grants to SCMSA as part of the High Schools That Work (HSTW) line item. Prior to FY 2012–13, the line item was funded through state general fund dollars. Beginning in FY 2012–13, HSTW was appropriated through the Education Improvement Act (EIA) budget. EIA funds go directly to school districts unless otherwise authorized, so the SCDE does not have the discretionary authority to hold back funds to give grants as it had done in the past.

Dr. Longshore asked if there had been any discussion about teacher pay and getting teachers back to the appropriate step on the pay schedule. Mr. Ragley shared that the House Ways and Means Committee increases EFA funding and requires that every teacher be given at least one step increase. The State Board would no longer have the authority to grant waivers to districts. A legislative committee met in the fall that was supposed to come up with a plan to get back on track with teacher salary funding, but Mr. Ragley has not seen any published report.

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair Blackmon thanked Bishop Blue for the refreshments.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 3:41 p.m.