

State Board of Education

Minutes

Date

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Time

1:00 p.m. State Board Regular Meeting

Location

**Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina**

Kristin Maguire, Chair

Tim Moore, Chair-Elect

Jim Rex, PhD

State Superintendent of Education

Secretary and Administrative Officer to the Board

STUDY SESSION

Sandy Smith, Deputy Superintendent, Policy and Legislation, presented a report on legislation dealing with the recommendations from the Funding Task Force. There is now a small working group working on refining the recommendations from the Funding Task Force. Mrs. Smith stated the legislation will be called the Education Finance Act of 2010. She said that although it would not amend all portions of the Education Finance Act, work would be done to move it in 2010. Mrs. Smith explained to the SBE why there is a need to change the funding system. She then answered questions from SBE members.

.I. WELCOME/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chair Maguire called the SBE meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The following State Board of Education (SBE) members were in attendance for the meeting. Kristin Maguire, Chair, Governor's Appointee; Tim Moore, Chair-Elect, Second Judicial Circuit; Patsy Pye, First Judicial Circuit; Bonnie Disney, Third Judicial Circuit; Hampton Hubbard, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Rose Sheheen, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Libby Swad, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Charles McKinney, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Cindy Clark, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Marilyn Norton, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Amelia Herlong, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Fred "Trip" DuBard III, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; Phillip Bowers, Thirteenth Judicial

Circuit; Dennis Thompson, Jr., Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; Gerrita Postlewait, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; and Britt Blackwell, O.D., Sixteenth Judicial Circuit.

Absent with apologies was Al Simpson, Sixth Judicial Circuit.

South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff in attendance were Carol Collins, Minutes Taker; Janice Poda, PhD, Deputy Superintendent for Administration; Shelly Bezanson Kelly, General Counsel, Parliamentarian, Office of General Counsel; Sandy Smith, Deputy Superintendent, Policy and Legislation; Valerie Harrison, EdD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Standards and Learning; Mark Bounds, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership; Barbara Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel; and Wendy Cartledge, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel.

Board Chair Maguire asked Mr. Thompson to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR MARCH 11, 2009

Rose Sheheen moved to approve the State Board of Education (SBE) minutes for March 11, 2009. Charles McKinney seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR APRIL 8, 2009

Charles McKinney moved to approve the SBE agenda with an amendment to move Item CA "Approval of Consent Agenda" to before "Other Business." Amelia Herlong seconded the motion. The motion carried.

V. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA

Board Chair Maguire recognized all visitors present. There was no news media present.

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT AND RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Rex recognized the State Bus Poster Contest Winner, Davina Felder. She was presented with a plaque and framed copy of the State Bus Poster. Dr. Rex said that Davina was a thirteen-year-old student at William J. Clark Middle School in Orangeburg School District Five when she drew the winning entry. Her art teacher is Malissa Wright. Copies of Davina's poster will be distributed statewide to elementary and middle schools around the state.

Dr. Rex introduced the Online Teacher of the Year, Dr. Tasha Christmas and presented her with a plaque. He explained that the Southern Regional Education Board recognizes school leaders who exemplify high quality online instruction and who are committed to online learning. Dr. Christmas has more than 12 years experience as a classroom teacher and seven years experience in the challenging, fast-paced online environment. She serves as the instructional team leader for all online teachers with the SC virtual Schools program. She teaches college prep and Honors English, SAT critical reading, and SAT math.

Dr. Rex told the SBE members that he had just been interviewed regarding South Carolina's rating by the National Institute for Early Childhood Research. It was announced today that South Carolina ranked number ten in the nation for access to pre-K for 4-year-olds. Dr. Rex stated that it was nice to see South Carolina recognized in this way.

Dr. Rex thanked the SBE members for supporting the flexibility resolution. He stated that both the House and the Senate provided unanimous support for the resolution. He stated that regardless of what happens with the \$700 million that is being heavily debated as part of the stimulus package, there will be 1,900 positions lost in our public school districts, and about 1,000 will be classroom teachers. This is the best case scenario in terms of the funding and positions lost. If no action is taken to accept the \$700 million, that number will rise to 2,600 positions overall, and 1,500 of that number will be classroom teachers.

Dr. Rex stated that South Carolina started this school year with \$3.8 billion in the education budget (state and federal funding). The budget has been cut nearly \$400 million. This is a decrease to \$3.4 billion.

Dr. Rex addressed the Palmetto Priority Schools. He stated that it was really important to keep in mind that there has to be some reciprocal accountability and also in our expectations between the state and the schools. Expectations for our schools are very high, which is great and as it should be, but we have to also have equally high expectations for South Carolina in terms of supporting the schools to reach those expectations. The same thing is true toward accountability. Schools need to be held accountable, along with school boards, school administrators, and classroom teachers. State leaders also need to be held accountable in terms of providing support that is needed by the schools to meet these high expectations. Dr. Rex stated that he sees movement in that direction as far as the state recognizing that there has to be reciprocity between our public school system and our state leadership.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Seven people signed up for public comment in support of the Standards for American Sign Language (ASL)

1. Anita S. McDaniel, Executive Director, SC Association for the Deaf (SCAD)
2. Mary Washko, SC School for the Deaf and Blind and Adjunct Professor at Converse College
3. Jubby Rebiu, Associate Director of Residential Life, SC School for Deaf and Blind presented on DVD,
4. Dr. Denise Huff, Program Coordinator, Interpreter Training Program, Spartanburg Community College, and Dr. Alton Brant, Associate Professor, Clemson University (unable to present DVD)
5. Sherry Williams, certified teacher of the deaf
6. Michelle Bock Hinson
7. Cheryl Irish, Certified Teacher for the hard of hearing, part time itinerant teacher for the School for the Deaf and Blind, and a certified interpreter for the deaf
8. Kathy Stoehr, SC School for the Death and Blind

VIII. STATE BOARD COMMITTEE ITEMS

Chair Maguire reminded the SBE members that the Consent Agenda Items were moved to the end of the agenda.

Chair Maguire turned the meeting over to the Chair of the Education Professions Committee, Patsy Pye.

EP. EDUCATION PROFESSIONS

Committee Report—Patsy Pye, Chair

Chair Pye reported the Education Professions Committee met Wednesday morning upon adjournment of the Teacher Educator Cases Committee, in the Rutledge Conference Center. There was a quorum present. There were three items on the agenda. Item 01 was presented for approval by Jim Turner, Director, Office of Educator Certification, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership Committee. Mrs. Pye stated that on behalf of the Education Professions Committee, it was recommended that item 01, Temporary Waiver of Program of Alternative Certification of Educators (PACE) Guidelines for Program Participants who are Impacted by School District RIF Policies, be approved by the SBE. The motion came from Committee; therefore, no second is required. The Chair called for the question. The motion carried.

Dr. Allison Jacques, Director, Office of Preparation, Support & Assessment, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership, presented Item, 02, The 2008 Title II Higher Education Report Card, and Item 03, South Carolina Educator Preparation Unit Fact Sheets.

Chair Maguire asked that the SBE members approve the Ratification Agenda, since the Educator Professions Committee heard the Educator Certification cases presented Wednesday morning.

Chair Maguire moved to ratify the agenda for the Educator Certification Cases that were reviewed at the 9:00 a.m. meeting in the Rutledge Conference Center. Chair Maguire called for the vote. The motion carried.

SL&A. STANDARDS, LEARNING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Committee Report—Cindy Clark, Chair

Chair Clark reported that the Standards, Learning, and Accountability Committee met Wednesday morning at 9:00 a.m. All committee members were present. Ms. Clark stated that the Standards, Learning,

and Accountability Committee recommended that the SBE approve the following items:

- 01.** *South Carolina Academic Standards for American Sign Language (ASL)* for first reading. This item was presented by Lisa Borden, Staewide Deaf/hard of Hearing consultant, SC Department of Education, SCSDB/Midlands Regional Outreach Center.
- 02.** Recommendation for 2009–10 Instructional Television Resources. This item was presented by Bette Jamison, Coordinator for ITV, Education Associate, Office of eLearning, Division of Standards and Learning.

These items passed unanimously and were placed on the consent agenda.

Three reports were received as information. They were

1. Development of the Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) presented by Elizabeth Jones, Education Associate, Office of Assessment, Division of Accountability;
2. Darkness to Light presented by Mark Bounds, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership; and
3. SC Comprehensive Developmental Guidance and Counseling Program Model presented by Ann White, Education Associate, Guidance and Counseling Program, Office of Youth Services, Division of Innovation and Support.

Chair Clark asked Anne Lee, Founder of Darkness to Light, to give an update on the program. Mrs. Lee spoke to the Board and brought a DVD.

F&O. FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Committee Report—Phillip Bowers, Chair

Chair Bowers reported that the Finance and Operations Committee meet Wednesday morning at 9:00 a.m. He stated that there was a quorum present. There was one item presented to the committee for approval: Item 01, Waiver of Nonconforming Facility for Chapin High School, presented by Alex James, Director, Office of School Facilities, Division of Innovation and Support. After discussion by the committee, Chair Bowers stated that the item was approved in Committee and placed on the consent agenda.

I&ES INNOVATION AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Committee Report—Tim Moore, Chair

Chair Moore reported that the Innovation and Educational Services Committee did not meet today.

P&L. POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE

Committee Report—Kristin Maguire, Chair

Chair Maguire reported that the Policy and Legislative Committee met upon adjournment of the Education Professions Committee at 10:50. There was a quorum present. Mr. Moore had a question regarding the consent agenda. There was one item submitted for approval, Failure to Meet Expected Progress Schools, presented by David Rawlinson, Director, Office of Special Projects. The item was approved in Committee. Chair Maguire recognized all of the schools that were present by Illuminate, in person, and conferencing by telephone. (List of schools is attached to minutes.)

Mr. Rawlinson stated the purpose of this item was to present the State Superintendent's recommendation for a course of action for schools not meeting expected progress as defined by S.C. Code Ann. § 59-18-1520 (Supp. 2008), Declaration of Emergency; courses of action, of the Education Accountability Act.

Mr. Rawlinson stated that the SCDE recommends that the SBE accept the State Superintendent's recommendation to designate the twenty-five newly identified schools that have not met expected progress as Palmetto Priority Schools where they will participate in a collaborative partnership with the SCDE and other partners and receive tiered levels of support to assist them in turning their schools around and making satisfactory progress in student achievement.

Chair Maguire asked if any Board members had questions for the schools being recommended for intervention. There being none, Chair Maguire recognized Dr. Rex.

Dr. Rex thanked the district superintendents, school board members, and administrators, who were either at the meeting in person or online, for being at the meeting and also for their communication with him and the State Board and their willingness to collaborate and create this new partnership in trying to turn schools around. He is looking forward to the Palmetto Priority Schools doing a lot of exciting things this year. It is going to take district superintendents working together with their local school board members to make these initiatives work.

Chair Maguire moved that the SBE approve the recommendations from Dr. Rex. Chair Maguire called for the question regarding the State Superintendent's recommendation to designate the twenty-five newly identified schools that have not met expected progress as Palmetto Priority Schools where they will participate in a collaborative partnership with the SCDE and other partners and receive tiered levels of support to assist them in turning their schools around and making satisfactory progress in student achievement. The motion carried.

Mr. Rawlinson thanked the SBE and also Don Cantrell in the Office of Internal Technology and his staff for their support in getting the schools online.

CA. CONSENT AGENDA—Kristin Maguire, Chair, State Board of Education

Chair Maguire stated that the following items were approved in committee and placed on the Consent Agenda.

STANDARDS, LEARNING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

01. South Carolina Academic Standards for American Sign Language (ASL) First Reading
02. Recommendation for 2009-10 Instructional Television Resources

Finance and Operations

01. Waiver of Nonconforming Facility for Chapin High School

Charles McKinney moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Hampton Hubbard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

FOR APPROVAL

02. **Request from General Assembly Related to Regulations, If Necessary**—Shelly Bezanson Kelly, General Counsel, Office of General Counsel

Shelly Bezanson Kelly, General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, presented. She stated that the Senate Education Committee is requesting that the State Board withdraw, modify, and resubmit Regulation 43-601, Procedures and Standards for Review of Charter School Applications.

She explained that the Senate Education Committee is requesting clarification regarding section III (B)(3) of this regulation. This section delineates the priority enrollment criteria that are set forth in law. The law allows priority for three categories of students: siblings of pupils already enrolled, children of charter school employees, and children of the charter school committee. The Senate Education Committee is requesting that the State Board amend this regulation and resubmit to clarify that the 20 percent priority applies to all three categories instead of only applying to the children of the charter committee members (pg. 4 of attachments).

The SCDE recommends that the SBE approve amending this regulation.

Charles McKinney moved to approve the request from Senate Finance Committee to withdraw, modify, and resubmit R 43-601, Procedures and Standards for Review of Charter School Applications. Libby Swad seconded the motion.

Chair Maguire asked if there were any questions. There being no further discussion. She called for the question. The motion carried.

FOR INFORMATION

01. Understanding South Carolina's New Secondary-to-Postsecondary Electronic Transcript Solution: The e-transcript System

Tom Olson, Information Technology Manager, Office of Data Management and Analysis, Division of Accountability, presented a report on this item. Mr. Olson stated that the Transcript project has two goals. The first goal is to allow the electronic delivery of high school transcripts to colleges and universities throughout South Carolina and to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. The second goal of this project will be to allow all preK-12 schools in the state to send and receive electronically a student's complete educational record. The educational record will contain student contact information, course history, and school information. Today's presentation introduced the electronic high school transcript.

Chair Maguire reminded the SBE members about the upcoming Teacher of the Year Banquet. She informed the SBE members that they would not be reimbursed for overnight lodging to attend the Banquet.

Mr. DuBard explained to the Board about the Palmetto Horizon Foundation and why tickets were being sold for the Teacher of the Year Banquet.

Chair Maguire read a copy of a letter sent to Governor Sanford from an eleventh grade student, Brianna Marie Beck, enrolled in Goose Creek. She stated that she and her classmates were unhappy with the standardized test in U.S. History is being given.

Chair Maguire stated that she had recently attended a forum on attracting more math and science students. The forum consisted of a lot of universities and colleges. Chair Maguire stated that there has been a challenge handed down for land-grant universities and for each institution to have goals for increasing the number of math and science teachers that are produced every year.

Dr. Rex added that the land grants had become involved because there is a national push to increase math and science teachers. He felt that there should be an incentive added to help them reach their goal.

Before adjourning the meeting, Chair Maguire recognized Dr. Paula Gregg from the Commission on Higher Education.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 2:40 p.m.