

MINUTES

State Board of Education Meeting

Date

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Time

1:00 p.m. State Board Regular Meeting

Location

Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina

Gerrita Postlewait, Chair

Dennis Thompson, 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 1:20 p.m. Chair Postlewait 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: Gerrita Postlewait, Chair, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair-elect, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; David Longshore, PhD, First Judicial Circuit; Tim Moore, Esq., Second Judicial Circuit; Bonnie Disney, Third Judicial Circuit; David Blackmon, PhD, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Rose Sheheen, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Josie Gaston, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Neil Willis, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Dru James, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Larry Kobrovsky, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Marilyn (Lyn) Norton, EdD, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Barry Bolen, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Phillip Bowers, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; John Rampey, Sixteenth 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, Deputy Superintendent for Administration; Charmeka Bosket, Deputy Superintendent for Policy, Office of Policy; Shelly Bezanson Kelly, General Counsel and Parliamentarian, Office of General Counsel; Wendy Cartledge, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel; Barbara Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel; Valerie Harrison, EdD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Standards and Learning; Betsy Carpentier, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Innovation and Support; Mark Bounds, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership; Allison Jacques, PhD, Director, Office of Educator Preparation, Support, and Assessment, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership; Nancy Busbee, PhD,

Interim Deputy Superintendent, Division of Accountability; Steve Abbott, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability; Education Associate, Office of Public School Choice and Innovation, Division of Innovation and Support; Bruce Shealy, Manager, Instructional Materials Section, Office of Finance, Division of Finance and Operations; Lewis Huffman, Education Associate, Office of Standards and Support, Division of Standards and Learning; Sabrina Moore, PhD, Director, Office of Regional Services, Division of Accountability; Todd Bedenbaugh, Director, Office of Health and Nutrition, Division of Innovation and Support; Paul Bozard, Investigator, Office of General Counsel; and Cindy Clark, Recording Secretary.

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR PRE-RETREAT SESSION ON MARCH 10, 2011; RETREAT ON MARCH 10–11, 2011; AND FULL BOARD MEETING ON MARCH 11, 2011

Chair Postlewait asked for a motion to approve or amend the minutes for the SBE Pre-Retreat Session on March 10, 2011; the SBE Retreat on March 10 and 11, 2011; and the SBE meeting on March 11, 2011. Barry Bolen moved to approve the minutes, and Marilyn (Lyn) Norton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR APRIL 14, 2011

Chair Postlewait asked for a motion to approve or amend the SBE agenda for April 14, 2011. Mike Brenan moved to approve the agenda. Phillip Bowers seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA

Chair Postlewait welcomed all visitors. There was no news media present.

V. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT AND RECOGNITIONS

State Superintendent of Education Zais reported that he enjoyed his visits to Glenforest School in Lexington County; McBee High School in Chesterfield County, and Mayo High School for Math, Science, and Technology in Darlington County. Dr. Zais commented that he spoke at a fundraiser for Glenforest, a school for children with learning differences. He attended a ceremony for the national agricultural teacher of the year award at McBee High. Dr. Zais reported that Mayo High had a 100-percent graduation rate last year; so this is a reminder that poor students can learn given the right teachers, the right focus, the right inspiration, and the right principal. All of Mayo High's students will attend an institution of higher education except one student who plans to join the Marine Corps. Dr. Zais mentioned that he invites local representatives, senators, and SBE members to join him on these visits and thanked the SBE members who have done so. He said he plans to visit schools in Edgefield and Aiken counties this week.

Dr. Zais also stated that he has been calling district superintendents throughout the state just to “check in.” He is forming an informal advisory group of superintendents who are forward-thinking and reform-minded.

Dr. Zais shared quotes from *The Element*, a book which states there is no need for education reform, but there is a need for transformation of education. Dr. Zais said there are a lot of interesting articles concerning reform in *Education Week* and the *Wall Street Journal*, and he urged the SBE members to continue reading this kind of information.

There were no recognitions this month.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary McLellan, State Director, South Carolina Healthy Family Formation (SC HFF) Coalition, Heritage Community Services said she attended a recent Textbook Caravan, and she expressed concern about the lack of information on the human papillomavirus (HPV) in the textbooks.

Elizabeth Moffly, Charleston County School Board Trustee, asked for support of South Carolina House Bill 3014, which concerns modified high school diplomas for students with individualized education plans. Ms. Moffly also commented on uniform grading scales and PASS test replacement.

VII. STATE BOARD ITEMS

ECC EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION CASES

Committee Report—Mike Brenan, Chair

Mr. Brenan moved that the State Board ratify the educator certification cases presented during the ECC Committee meeting. The motion carried.

EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS

Committee Report—David Longshore, Chair

Dr. Longshore provided the Board with an overview of the Committee meeting and stated there were two items for approval and two items for information as follows:

FOR APPROVAL

- 01. State Board of Education Teach For America (TFA) Designated Geographic Areas**—Mark Bounds, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership

Dr. Longshore moved, on behalf of the Education Professions (EP) Committee, that the Board approve the Teach For America (TFA) designated geographic areas. Chair Postlewait called for a vote and it was approved unanimously.

02. **Adopt Passing Scores for New Praxis Examinations in Art and the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT)**—Mark Bounds, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership

Dr. Longshore moved, on behalf of the EP Committee, that the Board approve the adoption of passing scores for new Praxis examinations in Art and the PLT. Chair Postlewait called for a vote and it was approved unanimously.

FOR INFORMATION

03. **The 2010 Title II Higher Education Report Card**—Allison Jacques, PhD, Director, Office of Educator Preparation, Support, and Assessment, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership

Dr. Longshore provided the Board with information on the 2010 Title II Higher Education Report Card.

04. **South Carolina Educator Preparation Unit Fact Sheets**—Allison Jacques, PhD, Director, Office of Educator Preparation, Support, and Assessment, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership

Allison Jacques provided the Board with information regarding South Carolina Educator Preparation Unit Fact Sheets.

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE

Committee Report—Gerrita Postlewait, Chair

Dr. Postlewait provided the Board with an overview of the Committee meeting and stated there were seven items for approval and two items for information as follows:

FOR APPROVAL

01. **Dillon District One and Dillon District Two Waiver Request of State Board of Education Regulation 43-261, District and School Planning**—Steve Abbott, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability

Chair Postlewait moved, on behalf of the Policy and Legislative (PL) Committee, that the Board approve the Dillon District One and Dillon District Two waiver request of State Board of Education Regulation 43-

261, District and School Planning. She called for a vote and it was approved unanimously.

02. **Anderson School District Five Request for Renewal of Gateway to College Program Waiver of State Board of Education Regulations 43-234 and 43-259 Relating to Dual Credit**—Steve Abbott, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability

Chair Postlewait moved, on behalf of the PL Committee, that the Board approve Anderson School District Five's request for renewal of the Gateway to College Program waiver of State Board of Education Regulations 43-234 and 43-259 relating to dual credit. She called for a vote and it was approved unanimously.

03. **Request from the South Carolina Association of Public Charter Schools (SCAPCS) to the State Board of Education (SBE) to appoint a Replacement Member to the Charter School Advisory Committee (CSAC)**—Julie A. Hartwell, PhD, Education Associate, Office of Public School Choice and Innovation, Division of Innovation and Support

Chair Postlewait moved, on behalf of the PL Committee, that the Board approve the request from the South Carolina Association of Public Charter Schools (SCAPCS) to the State Board of Education (SBE) to appoint a replacement member to the Charter School Advisory Committee (CSAC). She called for a vote and it was approved unanimously.

04. **Transitional Partial Suspension of the Requirements in Section 303.3 of the South Carolina School Facilities Planning and Construction Guide (Guide) for South Carolina Public Schools 4K Facilities**—John Kent, Interim Director, Office of School Facilities, Division of Innovation and Support

Chair Postlewait moved, on behalf of the PL Committee, that the Board approve the transitional partial suspension of the requirements in Section 303.3 of the *South Carolina School Facilities Planning and Construction Guide* (Guide) for South Carolina public schools 4K facilities. She called for a vote and it was approved unanimously.

05. **Request for Approval of Property Disposal—Chester County School District**—John Kent, Interim Director, Office of School Facilities, Division of Innovation and Support

Chair Postlewait moved, on behalf of the PL Committee, that the Board approve Chester County School District's request for approval of property disposal. She called for a vote and it was approved unanimously.

06. **Selection of State Textbook Depository**—Bruce Shealy, Manager, Instructional Materials Section, Office of Finance, Division of Finance and Operations

Chair Postlewait moved, on behalf of the PL Committee, that the Board approve the request for selection of the State Textbook Depository. She called for a vote and it was approved unanimously.

07. **Waiver Request to Allow Students Who Are Graduating in 2011 to Count the Course “Dance” as the Required Course in Physical Education**—Valerie Harrison, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Standards and Support

Chair Postlewait moved, on behalf of the PL Committee, that the Board approve the waiver request to allow students who are graduating in 2011 to count the course “Dance” as the required course in physical education. She called for a vote and it was approved unanimously.

FOR INFORMATION

08. **Proficiency-Based Credit Team Report**—Betsy Carpentier, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Innovation and Support

Dr. Postlewait provided the Board with information regarding the proficiency-based credit team report.

09. **Report on the High School Working Group's recommendation regarding a modified high school diploma for a small group of students with disabilities**—Dr. JoAnne Anderson, Education Oversight Committee

Dr. Postlewait provided the Board with information regarding the report on the High School Working Group’s recommendation regarding a modified high school diploma for a small group of students with disabilities.

The PL Committee also had an information item from Larry Kobrovsky, State Board of Education member, which was to review the use of awards for closing the achievement gap. Dr. Postlewait provided the Board with an overview of this item and stated that the item was tabled by the PL Committee until SCDE staff brings more information to the SBE. The SBE will then consider further action on this matter.

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Committee Report—Dru James, Chair

Dru James provided the Board with an overview of the Committee meeting and stated there was one item for approval and three items for information as follows:

FOR APPROVAL

01. **Promulgation of Amendments to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 43-243.1, Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) (First Reading)**—Marlene Metts, Director, Office of Exceptional Children, Division of Standards and Learning

Mrs. James moved, on behalf of the Standards, Learning, and Accountability (SLA) Committee, that the Board approve the promulgation of amendments to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 43-243.1, Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) for first reading. Chair Postlewait called for a vote and it was approved unanimously.

FOR INFORMATION

02. **Instructional Materials Report from the Instructional Materials Review Panels**—Valerie Harrison, EdD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Standards and Learning

Dr. Harrison provided the Board with an overview of the instructional materials review panels.

03. **Fifth Annual Report on the Implementation of the Education and Economic Development Act (EEDA) of 2005**—Sabrina Moore, PhD, Director, Office of Regional Services, Division of Accountability

The Board was provided an overview of the EEDA report.

04. **Update on the Cyclical Review and Revision Process for the South Carolina Academic Standards for Social Studies**—Lewis Huffman, Education Associate, Office of Standards and Support, Division of Standards and Learning

Mr. Huffman provided the Board with an update on the cyclical review and revision process for the South Carolina Academic Standards for Social Studies.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Postlewait suggested the possibility of handling committee business on a consent agenda unless the item needs to be heard by the full Board.

Chair Postlewait reviewed the list of Key Questions (proposed next steps) and stated that she would like the PL Committee to meet via conference call to recommend prioritization of the Board's *Key Areas of Focus for 2011*.

Chair Postlewait asked the Board to read at least two books a year. The first is *Disrupting Class* by Clayton M. Christensen. She also asked Ms. Bosket and the SCDE staff to create a discussion session and/or notes on the main ideas of the book. Chair Postlewait welcomed any suggestions from Board members as to other books that may be appropriate.

Chair Postlewait asked Ms. Bosket to report on the handouts given to SBE members today. Ms. Bosket said the handouts are for informational purposes and stated that the SCDE receives material throughout each month. When possible and to save time and postage, these materials will be given to the SBE members during the monthly meetings.

Neil Willis asked if the SCDE is aware of the Salman Khan Academy. Dr. Zais stated there are many free resources available on the Internet for teaching tools. He added that we need to find a way to manage the enormous amount of content available.

Tim Moore commented that we should determine how children have learned concepts that were not taught in traditional ways.

IX. LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND REQUESTS REGARDING REGULATIONS, IF NECESSARY

Charmeka Bosket, Deputy Superintendent for Policy, Office of Policy and Legislation, reported that the Appropriation Act is currently in the Senate Finance Committee. There were two bills signed by Governor Haley; one is Senate Bill 345, which allows school districts to waive up to five days missed due to inclement weather, and the other is Senate Bill 629, which extends teacher contracts to May 15. Matters still pending include charter school bills, school funding bills, and Senate Bill 686. Also, driver's licenses suspension bill for truant students is on the House calendar. Currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee is the decision on appointing instead of electing the State Superintendent of Education. Also, a regulation regarding elementary special education certification is currently on the House calendar. Ms. Bosket also updated the Board on House Bill 3028 regarding changing times for induction contracts. Discussion is pending on a Bill to allow school districts to have an alternative calendar for set number of hours.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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