

MINUTES
State Board of Education Meeting

Date
Thursday, June 9, 2011

Time
1:00 p.m.

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 1:05 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; Michael Blue, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; Phillip Bowers, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; John Rampey, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; and Mike Brenan, Governor's Appointee.

Absent with apologies was Barry Bolen, Eleventh Judicial Circuit.

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; Jay W. Ragley, Deputy Superintendent for Legislative and Public Affairs, Office of Legislation; Shelly Bezanson Kelly, General Counsel and Parliamentarian, Office of General Counsel; Mark Bounds, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership; Nancy Busbee, PhD, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Division of Accountability; and Cindy Clark, Recording Secretary.

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING ON MAY 12, 2011

Chair Postlewait asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes for the SBE meeting on May 12, 2011, as presented. Hearing none, she moved that the Board approve the minutes. She called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR JUNE 9, 2011

Chair Postlewait asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda for the SBE meeting on June 9, 2011, as presented. Hearing none, she moved that the Board approve the minutes. She called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA

Chair Postlewait welcomed all visitors and news media.

V. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT / RECOGNITIONS

State Superintendent of Education Zais reported that, over the past month, he has participated in Governor Haley's cabinet meeting and spoken to various groups across the State.

Dr. Zais also reported that he has continued visiting schools.

Dr. Zais recognized the winners of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This honor is awarded annually to outstanding K-12 science and mathematics teachers from across the country.

Mirandi Squires received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science. Mrs. Squires teaches all subjects in a third-grade, self-contained classroom at Johnsonville Elementary School in Florence School District 5, where she has worked for 23 years. Mrs. Squires is represented by Board member Michael Blue.

Brook Wiant received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics. Mrs. Wiant is a fifth-grade teacher at Beech Spring Intermediate School in Spartanburg District Five and has ten years of experience. Mrs. Wiant is represented by Board member Neil Willis.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Ann Taylor spoke, as a taxpayer, concerning the Race to the Top grant. Ms. Taylor expressed her support for Dr. Zais's decision not to pursue the Race to the Top grant.

VII. STATE BOARD ITEMS

ECC EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION CASES

Committee Report—Mike Brennan, Chair

Mike Brennan 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

David Longshore reported that the EP Committee did not meet today.

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE

Committee Report—Gerrita Postlewait, Chair

Chair Postlewait stated that there were two items for approval and six items for information. Below these items are listed and described.

FOR APPROVAL

03. **Proposed Action Regarding the State Board of Education Position on Common Core State Standards for Reading, Writing, and Mathematics**—Dru James, Chair, Standards, Learning, and Accountability Committee, State Board of Education

Dru James moved on behalf of the Policy Committee that the SBE endorse the letter sent by Chair Postlewait to Senate and House leaders and that Chair Postlewait is authorized to speak on behalf of the Board regarding the Board's majority position on issues.

Dru James moved to divide the questions. Tim Moore seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dru James moved that the SBE endorse the letter sent by Chair Postlewait to Senate and House leaders.

The SBE members discussed endorsing the letter. Larry Kobrovsky disapproved of the motion.

Phillip Bowers stated that he was disappointed in the letter and felt that the full Board should have been given a chance to vote on it before it was sent to Senate and House leaders.

Chair Postlewait stated that the letter was not written on behalf of the Board but regrets that it was perceived as such.

David Blackmon stated that he supports the letter.

Dru James said the Common Core State Standards were previously adopted by the SBE, and the purpose of the letter was to encourage removing the Proviso.

After discussion by the Board, the motion that the SBE endorse the letter sent by Chair Postlewait to Senate and House leaders carried with four opposing votes by Phillip Bowers, Mike Brennan, Larry Kobrovsky, and Neil Willis.

Chair Postlewait recommended that the SBE table the motion concerning the Board Chair's authority to speak for the Board's majority position on anything related to the legislature.

Phillip Bowers moved to table the motion concerning the Board Chair's authority to speak for the Board's majority position on issues. Larry Kobrovsky seconded the motion. The motion carried.

FOR INFORMATION

- 04. Results for the 2010–11 Palmetto Priority Schools (PPS) in Meeting Satisfactory Implementation of the Individual Goals and Strategies in Each School's PPS Plan of Action Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Addendum**—David Rawlinson, Director of Special Projects

Chair Postlewait commented on the successes of the 2010–11 Palmetto Priority Schools (PPS). The Chair described the Plan of Action Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Addendum.

- 05. Release of Identified Schools Meeting Expected Progress from the Palmetto Priority Schools Initiative**—David Rawlinson, Director of Special Projects

- 06. SBE Volunteer Awards Program**—Charmeka Bosket, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Policy

Chair Postlewait said nominations have been made, and that the list of volunteers will be approved in the August Board meeting.

07. SBE General Powers—Charmeka Bosket, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Policy

Ms. Bosket spoke to the General Powers of the State Superintendent of Education, the Chair of the State Board of Education, and the State Board of Education. She clarified that per the State Constitution and statute, the powers of the State Board of Education are limited to promulgating regulations and adopting standards. The State Board of Education does not serve in the executive capacity that is limited to the Superintendent of Education, a Constitutional Officer.

FOR APPROVAL

08. Discussion of US Department of Education Announcement Regarding Race to the Top Round Three—Gerrita Postlewait, Chair, State Board of Education

Chair Postlewait, on behalf of the PL Committee, motioned that the Board pass a resolution requesting the State Superintendent of Education reconsider his position regarding Race to the Top Round Three (RTTT3).

Larry Kobrovsky motioned to amend the motion coming from the PL Committee to support the position that Dr. Zais is taking concerning RTTT3. Phillip Bowers seconded the motion.

Chair Postlewait called for the question concerning the amendment to the original motion. The motion carried.

Chair Postlewait called for the vote on the amendment to the motion. The motion failed.

Dr. Zais said he has been clear on his position concerning RTTT3 and that it has been summarized in the media, the South Carolina School Boards Association, the South Carolina Association of School Administrators, the South Carolina Education Association, the Palmetto State Teachers Association, the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement, and many other groups across the State. He added that his position remains the same.

Mike Brenan said he, along with the Governor, supports Dr. Zais on his position.

Tim Moore added that he would like Dr. Zais to reconsider. Rose Sheheen also asked that Dr. Zais reconsider. Dru James encouraged Dr.

Zais to reconsider, and Bonnie Disney commented that we need to keep the needs of the children of South Carolina in mind as decisions are made.

Chair Postlewait called for the vote on the motion that the SBE pass a resolution requesting the State Superintendent of Education to reconsider his position regarding RTTT3. The motion carried with four opposing votes by Phillip Bowers, Mike Brenan, Larry Kobrovsky, and Neil Willis.

FOR INFORMATION

09. **Policy and Legislative Committee Goal to Recognize Student Outcomes**—Gerrita Postlewait, Chair, State Board of Education

Chair Postlewait presented information on the Policy and Legislative Committee goal to recognize student outcomes.

10. **Closing the Achievement Gap**—Charmeka Bosket, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Policy

Charmeka Bosket presented an update on *Closing the Achievement Gap*. Ms. Bosket stated that the process of working on how the awards are structured is being reviewed by the Education Oversight Committee and the SCDE. Also, any policy recommendations that may need to come before the Board in August will be considered

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Committee Report—Dru James, Chair

Dru James reported that the SLA Committee did not meet this month.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

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

01. **Annual Report of the Accreditation of Schools and Districts in South Carolina for the 2010–11 School Year**—Steve Abbott, Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability
02. **Designation of Newly Identified Palmetto Priority Schools that Failed to Meet Expected Progress**—David Rawlinson, Director, Office of Special Projects

Chair Postlewait moved that the SBE approve the consent agenda. She called for a vote and the motion carried.

IX. LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND REQUESTS REGARDING REGULATIONS

Jay W. Ragley, Deputy Superintendent, Legislative and Public Affairs

Jay W. Ragley, Deputy Superintendent, Legislative and Public Affairs, updated the Board on the the status of pending legislation affecting schools, including the charter school bill. Mr. Ragley reported that all three regulations pending from 2010 passed. Also, the early childhood regulation was signed by Governor Haley.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

The State Board of Education will not meet in July. The August Meeting of the State Board of Education will take place on August 18.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 3:00 p.m.