

MINUTES

State Board of Education Meeting

Date

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Time

1:00 p.m.

Location

Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina

Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair

David Blackmon, PhD, 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 Thompson called the meeting to order and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Also, in honor of Veterans Day 2012, he thanked all veterans for their service to our country. Chair Thompson added that this is National Education Week and expressed his appreciation to all educators in South Carolina.

The following State Board of Education (SBE) members were in attendance: Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; David Blackmon, PhD, Chair-elect, Fourth Judicial Circuit; David Longshore, PhD, First Judicial Circuit; Jim Griffith, Second Judicial Circuit; Bonnie Disney, Third Judicial Circuit; Rose Sheheen, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Raye O'Neal Boyd, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Dru James, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Larry Kobrovsky, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Marilyn (Lyn) Norton, EdD, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Barry Bolen, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Michael Blue, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; Danny Varat, PhD, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; Thomas Shortt, EdD, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; John Rampey, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; and Mike Brenan, Governor's Appointee.

Absent with apologies was Neil Willis, Seventh Judicial Circuit.

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; Laura Bayne, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs; Shelly Bezanson Kelly, General Counsel and Parliamentarian, Office of General Counsel; Nancy Busbee, PhD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Accountability; Roy Stehle, Director, Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability; Kathy Meeks, PhD, Director, Office of Educator Evaluation, Division of School Effectiveness; and Cindy Clark, Recording Secretary.

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING ON OCTOBER 10, 2012

Chair Thompson asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes for the SBE meeting on October 10, 2012. He called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 14, 2012

Chair Thompson asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda for the SBE meeting on November 14, 2012, as presented. He called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA

Chair Thompson welcomed all visitors and the news media.

V. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

State Superintendent of Education Zais reported on his school and district visits and his public appearances over the past month.

On October 11, 2012, Dr. Zais attended a groundbreaking and dedication ceremony at the State Museum for a new space and science observatory and new science classrooms.

On October 12, Dr. Zais delivered the keynote address to the Midlands Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America at Fort Jackson.

On October 16, Dr. Zais participated in a community stakeholder meeting in Beaufort County for the new ESEA waiver. This is one of six community stakeholder meetings that the SCDE is hosting around the state in October, November, and December to receive feedback from the public on that plan.

On October 17, Dr. Zais visited with students, teachers, and school leaders at four Beaufort County schools. Those schools were Beaufort High, Beaufort Elementary, St. Helena Elementary, and Whale Branch Middle. Beaufort Elementary is a focus school; these schools have the largest achievement gaps between different subgroups of students. St. Helena Elementary received an “F” on the federal accountability system, but the community served by that school has held several meetings and they are determined to turn it around. Dr. Zais added that he was pleased by what he observed regarding the community’s efforts. Whale Branch Middle was recognized this year as the highest-performing Teacher Advancement Program school in the nation. The school received a cash award from the Milken Family Foundation for its achievements. Later that day, Dr. Zais spoke to the Beaufort Rotary Club.

On October 18, Dr. Zais and other SCDE staff participated in an orientation for new superintendents hosted by the SCDE.

On October 19, Dr. Zais attended the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees Meeting where he participated as a member. He stated that he attends these meetings as often as his schedule allows.

On October 24, Dr. Zais gave the keynote address at the 2012 EdTech Conference in Greenville. This is a conference attended by educators and district technology leaders. This year, the focus was on new developments concerning how technology can facilitate student learning in the classroom. After the conference, Dr. Zais visited with students, teachers, and school leaders at two schools in Greenville County. Those schools were Tanglewood Middle and Lakeview Middle. Both of these schools are federal priority schools, which means they are among the 5 percent of the lowest-performing schools in the state. After visiting those schools, Dr. Zais and SCDE staff met with the Greenville County Schools Superintendent and staff to learn about their educator evaluation system. Later that afternoon, Dr. Zais met with the editorial board of *The Greenville News*. That evening, he participated in a stakeholder meeting in Greenville County, which was attended by an estimated 500 to 700 people.

On October 25, Dr. Zais delivered remarks at the State Leaders Forum hosted by the Southern Region Educational Board (SREB) in Hilton Head. The SREB is comprised of 16 southeastern states. The focus of the conference was career and technology education. Dr. Zais stated that he was glad to see that the SREB has recognized the gap between those students who need training after high school but do not need a four-year education and what the requirements are in the workforce. This is particularly true in our high technology and manufacturing jobs. For the first time, SREB has recognized that college and career readiness are not the same thing. Also, there is more enthusiasm in the manufacturing and high technology community in South Carolina to support the career-focused curriculum in our schools.

On October 26, Dr. Zais spoke during a meeting of the Clover-Lake Wylie Republican Women in Clover. Afterwards, a 30-minute discussion on education in South Carolina was taped on educational television in North Carolina for the *Carolina Business Review* segment.

On October 30, Dr. Zais visited with students, teachers, and school leaders at three schools in Oconee County. Those schools were Tamassee-Salem Elementary, Walhalla Middle, and Fred Hamilton Career Center. Dr. Zais thanked Dr. Norton for joining him in those visits. He added that it is appreciated when legislators and members of the SBE accompany him on school visits. Later that day, Dr. Zais was interviewed by the editorial board at the *Seneca Daily Journal* and participated in a public policy forum hosted by Easlan Capital in Greenville.

On November 5, Dr. Zais visited with students, teachers, and school leaders at three schools in Cherokee County. Those schools were Luther L. Vaughan Elementary, Mary Bramlett Elementary, and Limestone-Central Elementary. Vaughan Elementary and Bramlett Elementary are federal priority schools, and Limestone is a focus school. Later that day, Dr. Zais was interviewed by the editorial board at the *Gaffney Ledger*.

On November 12, Dr. Zais attended the 2012 Milken Educator Award Ceremony in Greenville. Ms. Shasta Looper, a fourth-grade teacher at A.J. Whittenberg Elementary School, was this year's recipient and received a check for \$25,000.

On November 6, Dr. Zais met with representatives from the South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA) to listen to their thoughts on educator evaluation. He said that they made some interesting points, which will be taken into consideration. Dr. Zais added that it was the start of what will be a healthy conversation about the future educator evaluation system in South Carolina.

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| VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION RECOGNITIONS |
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State Superintendent of Education Zais recognized the winners of the 2012 “Title I Schools for Performance and Progress.” Every year, the SCDE recognizes the top Title I schools in terms of student performance and closing the achievement gaps naming the top three “Title I Reward Schools for Performance” and the top three “Title I Reward Schools for Progress.” Each of these six schools receives a \$5,000 grant, and the winner from each category is awarded an additional \$10,000 grant by the SCDE to attend the National Title I Association Fall Conference in January 2013 for national recognition of their achievements. The honorees and winning school in the performance category are as follows:

- Holly Springs-Motlow Elementary in Spartanburg District One, represented on the SBE by Neil Willis—Serving 422 students in K4 through sixth grade, Holly Springs-Motlow has a 70 percent poverty level. It earned a perfect score of “100” on its federal accountability report card this year and had an absolute and growth rating of “excellent” on its state report card for the past two years.
- Clifdale Elementary in Spartanburg School District Three, also represented on the SBE by Neil Willis—Serving 305 students in 4K through fifth grade, Clifdale has a poverty rate of 81 percent. With a perfect score of “100” on its federal accountability report card, Clifdale also earned an “excellent” rating on its state report card, improving from a rating of “average” just two years ago.
- The winner of the Performance Category is John C. Calhoun Elementary in Abbeville County School District, represented on the SBE by Dru James. Located in Calhoun Falls, 91.6 percent of John C. Calhoun’s students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. It too received a perfect “100” on its federal accountability report card and has had an “excellent” absolute rating on its state report card for the past two years.

The honorees and winning school in the progress category are as follows:

- Spaulding Middle School in Darlington County School District—Spaulding serves 283 students in grades 6–8 and has a poverty rate of 84 percent. The school received a 97.8 on its federal accountability report card and improved its growth rating to “good” this year. It is represented on the SBE by Dr. David Blackmon.

- Saxe Gotha Elementary School in Lexington District One—Saxe Gotha serves 675 students in grades K3–5 and has a poverty index of 76 percent. The school earned a “99” on its federal accountability report card and improved its growth rating to “good” this year. It is represented on the SBE by Barry Bolen.
- The winner of the progress category is Matilda F. Dunston Primary School in Charleston County School District—Serving 375 students in grades PK–3, 95 percent of its students qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Matilda F. Dunston received a 99.5 on its federal accountability report card. On its state report card, the school improved from an absolute rating of “average” last year to “excellent” this year, and the school also improved its growth rating from “at risk” to “excellent.” It is represented on the SBE by Larry Kobrovsky.

Dr. Zais also recognized the nominees for the 2012–13 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) for South Carolina. The PAEMST is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through twelfth-grade mathematics or science teacher may receive for outstanding service in the United States. These teachers are recognized for their contributions to teaching and learning and their ability to help students make progress in mathematics and science. The science nominees are as follows:

- John Dearybury III is a grade-three science teacher at Woodland Heights Elementary School in Spartanburg District Six. He has been teaching for eight years and is represented on the SBE by Neal Willis.
- Rebecca Strong is a sixth-grade science teacher at Thomas Cario Middle School in Charleston County. She has been teaching for 22 years and is represented on the SBE by Larry Kobrovsky.
- Melissa Yarbrough is a third-grade science teacher at St. Andrews School of Science and Math in Charleston County. She has been teaching for 12 years and is represented on the SBE by Larry Kobrovsky.

The mathematics nominees are as follows:

- Susan Nunamaker is a third-grade math teacher at Clemson Elementary School in Pickens County. She has been teaching for seven and a half years and is represented on the SBE by Dr. Danny Varat.
- Donald Sarazen is a grade-four math teacher at H. B. Rhame Elementary School in Richland District One. He has been teaching mathematics for 19 years and is represented on the SBE by Rose Sheheen.
- Jennifer Wilson is a seventh-grade math teacher at McCants Middle School in Anderson District Five. She has been teaching for 19 years and is represented on the SBE by Dr. Lyn Norton.

Chair Thompson thanked all of those recognized for their hard work and achievements.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Seven persons signed up for public comment and spoke regarding the proposed teacher and principal evaluation guidelines and rating systems. They are as follows:

- Kathy Maness, Palmetto State Teachers Association
- Dr. Lee D'Andrea, Superintendent, Anderson County School District 4
- Ed Yount, Kershaw County School District
- Patrick Hayes, EdFirst SC
- Jackie Hicks, President, South Carolina Education Association
- Dr. Jennie Rakestraw, South Carolina Education Deans Alliance
- Dr. Betty Bagley, South Carolina Association of School Administrators (Superintendent, Anderson County School District 5)

VIII. STATE BOARD ITEMS

PH PUBLIC HEARING

FOR APPROVAL

01. **Proposed Amendments to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-234 (R 43-234)**—Roy Stehle, Director, Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability

Mr. Stehle presented this item and stated that the SCDE met with SCASA concerning its recommendations. There was one change made for second reading and Mr. Stehle referred to the handout given to the SBE members. The change (Roman Numeral II C) was made to help clarify the proficiency credit, and he read the verbiage regarding the revision.

Mrs. James asked why the SBE did not receive the definition of a proficiency-based system before it was asked to approve on second reading. Chair Thompson asked whether there would be a major delay in the process if the SBE does not approve this today. Ms. Kelly stated that if it is not approved for second reading today, we would have to publish another notice of second reading. It could not be published until December; therefore, second reading could not take place in December, which would impact the timeframe. This regulation has a major change dealing with the biology-physical science test that should have gone through last year. She added that since it did not go through last year, a lot of districts still have questions about what end-of-course test is required. Because of that issue, it would help if it were approved today.

Dr. Busbee added further explanation to the proficiency and assessment issue.

Dr. Shortt asked if the SCDE could provide a guidance document that could be used by the districts. Mr. Stehle said this has been provided.

Mike Brenan moved to approve the proposed amendments to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-234 (R 43-234) for second reading. The motion was seconded by Dr. Longshore. The motion carried.

ECC EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Committee Report—Mike Brenan, Chair

FOR APPROVAL

01. Ratification of Actions of the ECC Committee

Mr. Brenan moved to ratify the educator certification cases actions. The motion carried.

EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS

Committee Report—Dr. David Longshore, Chair

Dr. Longshore gave an overview of two action items as follows:

FOR APPROVAL

01. Proposed Amendments to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-205.1 (R 43-205.1) (Supp. 2004), Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Professional Teaching (ADEPT) (First Reading)—Kathy Meeks, PhD, Director, Office of Educator Evaluation, Division of School Effectiveness

Dr. Longshore stated that the committee initially voted not to approve this item, but after discussion it was reconsidered and the committee decided to approve so that it could be brought before the SBE. He motioned that the SBE approve the proposed amendments to SBE Regulation 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-205.1 (R 43-205.1) (Supp. 2004), Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Professional Teaching (ADEPT) for first reading. The motion was seconded.

Dr. Meeks addressed questions from the SBE and explained that the amendments to this regulation concerned the General Assembly's (GA) amendments to the ADEPT statute approved in June 2012. The change in statute is already in effect, and the purpose of the amendments is to make it clear how districts are to carry out the new law. The amendments expanded the previous one-year induction period to a maximum of three years of induction. The law is an optional three-year induction contract period. The regulation needs to compliment the law; if there continues to be a conflict, there will be a great deal of confusion in the districts and possible negative consequences as a result. We are trying to prevent those potential conflicts by bringing ourselves into compliance with what is already law. Dr. Meeks added that the contracts are issued in the spring so

no actions will be taken until that time. It is important to know that in making regulatory changes we have to abide by the timeline because we are bringing before the SBE today, for first reading, the amendments to this regulation. The earliest it could come back for second reading would be January 2013. It would then have to go to the GA if the SBE approves second reading. So, the window of opportunity for getting this passed before contracts are issued is rapidly closing, and this is a decision point for the SBE.

After discussion, Mr. Ragley commented that the global perspective is that we have the SCDE and the GA. The GA creates and has authority over us. One of the SBE's responsibilities is to make sure it is in compliance with state law. Boards of Education that are not in compliance with state law experience a lot of problems. Some of the SBE members may not agree with the policy, but the GA made a decision and that law is in effect. If the SBE does not act to rectify its own regulation, then problems are created in the school districts and other areas. He said there may or may not be a problem with the language that the SCDE has submitted to the SBE in order to bring the SBE's regulation into compliance with state law. He said that is where he hopes the SBE will look into the discussion going forward. This was done to you by the GA; they have the ability to dissolve the SBE and the SCDE. We are having to work within that framework of governance in this state.

Bishop Blue asked if it is possible during today's first reading that the SBE can possibly modify any areas; is there any latitude to do that between first and second reading or are we saying that this has to be accepted completely "as is." Some of the time we are investing in this issue is wasted since it is law anyway. So, it would be good if there is an area that we can address and focus in on. Ms. Kelly explained the process for making amendments.

After further discussion, Chair Thompson called for the vote. The motion carried. Mrs. Sheheen requested that the minutes reflect that she voted against this motion.

02. Waiver Request, The Citadel—Charmeka Childs, Deputy Superintendent, Division of School Effectiveness

Dr. Longshore moved that the SBE approve The Citadel's waiver request. The motion was seconded.

Tony Johnson, Dean, School of Education, The Citadel, gave a brief presentation on the waiver regarding the ruling that requires a student internship be completed in a school in South Carolina. He stated that The Citadel is in support of this waiver request.

Chair Thompson called for the vote. The motion carried.

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE

Committee Report—Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair

Chair Thompson stated that there were three items for approval placed on the consent agenda as follows:

FOR APPROVAL

01. **Newberry County School District’s Waiver Request of 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-205 (2011), Administrative and Professional Personnel Qualifications, Duties and Workloads**—Roy Stehle, Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability
02. **Beaufort County School District’s Request to Waive State Board of Education Regulation 43-261, District and School Planning**—Roy Stehle, Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability
03. **York County School District Three’s Waiver Request of State Board of Education Regulation 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-234(II)(B) (R 43-234(II)(B)), Defined Program, Grades 9–12, 120-Hour Seat Time Requirement**—Roy Stehle, Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Committee Report—Dru James, Chair

Mrs. James gave an overview of the two information items as follows:

FOR INFORMATION

01. **Common Core Standards Update**—Dr. Briana Timmerman, Director, Office of Teacher Effectiveness, Division of School Effectiveness
02. **Common Core Assessment Update**—Elizabeth Jones, Director, Office of Assessment, Division of Accountability

Mrs. James also reported that Dr. Briana Timmerman is the new director in the Office of Teacher Effectiveness.

Chair Thompson motioned that the SBE approve the SLA Committee Report. The motion was seconded and carried.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Policy and Legislative (PL)

- 01. Newberry County School District's Waiver Request of 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-205 (2011), Administrative and Professional Personnel Qualifications, Duties and Workloads**
- 02. Beaufort County School District's Request to Waive State Board of Education Regulation 43-261, District and School Planning**
- 03. York County School District Three's Waiver Request of State Board of Education Regulation 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-234(II)(B) (R 43-234(II)(B)), Defined Program, Grades 9-12, 120-Hour Seat Time Requirement**

John Rampey motioned that the SBE approve the consent agenda. Jim Griffith seconded the motion. The motion carried.

X. LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND REQUESTS REGARDING REGULATIONS

Jay W. Ragley, Director, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs

Mr. Ragley stated that there is no report for today's meeting.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Thompson stated that the Chair-Elect Nominating Committee is active and will present its nomination for chair-elect at the December SBE meeting. Mrs. Sheheen gave an overview of the nominating committee members and stated that the committee will meet on December 12, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. in Rutledge Room 400 to finalize its recommendation. She referred the SBE to the handout provided that includes the SBE members eligible for election as chair-elect, and she stated that the committee welcomes input from all SBE members.

Chair Thompson appointed a committee to plan the 2013 SBE Retreat. The SBE members who will serve on the Retreat Committee include Dr. Blackmon as chair, Mrs. Boyd, and Dr. Shortt. The committee will give a report to the SBE at the December meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 3:05 p.m.