

MINUTES

State Board of Education Working Session on Legislative Priorities

Date
Thursday, February 10, 2011

Time
10:15 a.m.

Location
Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201

I. Welcome and Determination of a Quorum

The State Board of Education (SBE) Working Session on Legislative Priorities convened at 10:15 a.m. Chair Postlewait called the meeting to order.

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; Michael Blue, Twelfth 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; Charmeka Bosket, Deputy Superintendent for Policy, Office of Policy and Legislation; Jay W. Ragley, Deputy Superintendent for Legislative and Public Affairs, Office of Policy and Legislation; Shelly Bezanson Kelly, General Counsel and Parliamentarian, Office of General Counsel; John Cooley, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Finance and Operations; Mark Bounds, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership; and Cindy Clark, Recording Secretary.

II. SCDE Legislative Priorities—State Superintendent of Education Mick Zais

State Superintendent of Education Zais presented his report, "A Vision for Education in South Carolina." Dr. Zais spoke concerning his vision and the goals of education, the need for educational options, the need for effective educators, and implications for policy. He reminded the Board and SCDE staff that there are causes for optimism regarding education reform. Some of the causes are as follows:

- Nationwide there is a groundswell of support for reform of an agrarian-based model of education that has existed in this country for nearly 150 years.
- Technology is opening up opportunities to tailor learning strategies to individual learning styles, and to tailor curricula to meet individual needs and timelines.
- Education reform is a nonpartisan agenda. Both Newt Gingrich and Al Sharpton are walking arm and arm on this issue.
- Other states and districts have embraced these reforms with significant improvements in student achievement.

After Dr. Zais' presentation, there was a question and answer period.

III. Legislative Update—Jay W. Ragley, Deputy Superintendent, Legislative and Public Affairs

Jay W. Ragley reported that, in the last month, Dr. Zais has testified regarding the overall education budget, cost-savings recommendations budget, charter school bill, and his vision for education. Mr. Ragley added that he and John Cooley testified concerning appointment for state superintendent legislation. Mr. Ragley stated that Bill H3002, education funding reform is being advanced by the General Assembly. Other legislation included Bill H3241, charter schools, snow days, and school bus privatization.

After Mr. Ragley's presentation, there was a question and answer session.

IV. Financial Update—John Cooley, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Finance and Operations

John Cooley updated the Board on the Preliminary FY 2011–12 Budget Outlook.

V. Board Discussion of Legislative Priorities

Chair Postlewait stated that there was not enough time to have a full discussion of legislative priorities, and suggested that this discussion be put on the Board Retreat's agenda on March 10, 2011, for planning of policy implications. The Board will finalize legislative priorities during the full-Board meeting on March 11, 2011.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Working Session on Legislative Priorities adjourned at 12:00 p.m.