

MINUTES
State Board of Education Meeting

Date
Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Time
1:00 p.m.

Location
Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Del-Gratia Jones, Chair
Mara H. Jones, Chair-elect
Molly M. Spearman
State Superintendent of Education
Secretary and Administrative Officer to the Board

Notice: Due to allergies of staff and visitors, we ask that visitors refrain from wearing scented products when attending the State Board of Education meetings in SCDE facilities.

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

The State Board of Education (SBE) meeting convened at 1:00 p.m. Chair Del-Gratia Jones, Second Judicial Circuit, called the meeting to order.

The following SBE members were in attendance: Jon Butzon, First Judicial Circuit; Janice Murray Gamble, Ed.D., Third Judicial Circuit; Chair-Elect Mara Horton Jones, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Debby Howard, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Jean W. Pearson, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; David Whittemore, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; Valaree C. Smith, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; Trevor Strawderman, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; and Dr. Kristi Woodall, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; and Mike Brenan, Governor's Appointee.

Members not in attendance, Cathy D. Chapman, Fourth Judicial Circuit; J.R. Green, PhD, Sixth Judicial Circuit ;and Cynthia A. Downs, Ed.D., Eighth Judicial Circuit.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff were in attendance: State Superintendent of Education, Molly Spearman; Cathy Hazelwood, Deputy Superintendent and Parliamentarian, Division for Legal Affairs; David Mathis, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness; John Payne, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability, and School Improvement; Elizabeth Jones, Director; Office of Assessment, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability, and School Improvement; Karla McLawhorn Hawkins, Deputy

Superintendent, Division of Educator, Community and Federal Resources; Mary Hipp; Director, Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community and Federal Resources; Nancy Williams, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Financial Office; Michael Thom, Director of Finance, Chief Financial Office; Betsy Carpentier; Deputy Superintendent, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; Richard Podmore, Director of Safety and Information, Division of District Operations and Support; Bill Tindal, Assistant Director, Office of Transportation, Division of District Operations and Support; Matt Orr, Public Information Officer, Office of the Superintendent; Travis Huggins, Information Technology Manager I, Service and Support Center, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; Cody McGee, Information Resource Consultant, Service and Support Center, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; Lewis Chambers, IT Specialist III, Service and Support Center, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; Barbara A. Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; Scott Winburn, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; Henry Gunter, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; Holly Hadden, Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; Katie Nilges, Staff Attorney, Office of General Counsel/Office of Governmental Affairs, Division for Legal Affairs; Tracy Moore, Administrative Assistant, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; and Noelle Redd, Minutes Taker, Division for Legal Affairs.

Chair Jones welcomed the Dillon High School JROTC team who performed the Posting of the Colors. SFC Randy Gray represented the team. Chair Jones thanked the team.

State Superintendent Spearman stated that she had a chance to speak with the team prior to the meeting. She recognized Miss Brigman, a senior at Dillon High School who has already enlisted in the military and will be joining the military after her graduation and completion of basic training with the National Guard. She also recognized Mr. Godfrey, who is the Lieutenant Governor of Boys State. Chair Jones stated that this is her third year as a chaperone for the JROTC Summer Camp and this is also Chair Jones' third year seeing Miss Brigman at the camp and has enjoyed seeing Miss Brigman mature over the years into an outstanding cadet.

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR MARCH 12, 2019.

Chair Jones asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes as presented for the SBE meeting on March 12, 2019. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR APRIL 9, 2019

Chair Jones asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda as presented for the April 9, 2019, SBE meeting. Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA

None.

V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Jones stated that she did not have a formal report

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Chair Jones recognized Superintendent Spearman.

Superintendent Spearman stated that she had the last three Teacher of the Year finalists.

- Shelly Smith teaches 11–12th grade Social Studies at Traveler’s Rest High School in Greenville County (represented by SBE Member David F. Whittemore, Jr.). Ms. Smith is a Master Teacher for the Teacher Residency Program at Clemson University, and received a nomination for the Gilder Lehrman of Institute of American History’s National History Teacher of the Year.
- Tamara Cox is a media specialist at Wren High School in Anderson County (represented by SBE Member Debby A. Howard). Ms. Cox is a National Board Certified Educator; 2019 South Carolina Association of School Librarians’, Librarian of the Year; and the recipient of the American Librarian Association’s 2018 I Love My Librarian Award. Ms. Cox was a recent attendee at the National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C.
- Stephanie Haecherl teaches 2nd grade at Mamie Whitesides Elementary School in Charleston County. Ms. Haecherl is a National Board Certified Educator; served as an Author Contributor to the National Board for Professional Training Standards; and received national recognition when she became one of twenty-two teachers on the Scholastic Book Clubs Teacher Advisory Board.

These nominees are outstanding representatives of the fifty-six thousand teachers in SC. The overall winner will be selected at the Teacher of the Year banquet on May 8, 2019 and will receive a \$25,000 check. Each of the nominees have already received \$10,000 for being a finalist. The winner is also provided with a BMW to drive for one year while serving as a roving ambassador for mentoring; speaking engagements; working with teacher cadets; teaching fellows; and leading the State Teacher Forum. We are so proud of our Teacher of the Year program and Superintendent Spearman hopes everyone can attend.

Superintendent Spearman stated that on April 11, 2019, she was in Washington, D.C. with other colleagues, state’s superintendents, and commissioners across the United States. Superintendent Spearman was asked to facilitate the interview with the U.S. Superintendent of Education, Betsy DeVoss. It went very well, there was an audience of about 300 people and it was televised on C-SPAN.

This concluded Superintendent Spearman’s report. Chair Jones thanked Superintendent Spearman for her report.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

VIII. STATE BOARD ITEMS

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Jones reported that the sub-committee met and heard six action items this month. Two items relating to weather waiver requests; one item relating to a request to confer School of Choice designation on a district school; one item relating to a request to continue the exemption that allows an extended school year for student, staff, and teachers at a district school; one item relating to an online testing waiver request for a district; and a request to withdraw Policy EDF, Procedures for Suspension, Revocation, and Refusal to Issue or Renew a School Bus Inspection Certificate, School Bus Driver's Certificate, or School Bus Driver Instructor/Tester Certificate of the SBE's Rules of Governance and have the Office of General Counsel draft a due process policy which will conform with the South Carolina Administrative Procedures Act. Chair Jones stated it was the recommendation of the committee to place the six action items on the consent agenda. Chair Jones reported further that the information item was the regular update regarding the school district waiver requests processed at the Committee's request by the SCDE's Office of Federal and State Accountability. Mr. Stehle indicated that there were no waivers submitted to his office for April.

This concluded Chair Jones' report.

FOR APPROVAL

01. **The School District of Marlboro County's (District) Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. § 59-1-425 (§ 59-1-425) (Supp. 2018)**—Roy Stehle, Director, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement
02. **Georgetown County School District's (District) Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. § 59-1-425 (§ 59-1-425) (Supp. 2018)**—Roy Stehle, Director, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement
03. **Spartanburg School District Seven's (District) Request for Exemption Pursuant to S. C. Code Ann. §59-19-350 (Supp. 2018)**—Roy Stehle, Director, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement
04. **Spartanburg County School District Seven's (District) Waiver Request for the Cleveland Academy of Leadership (CAL) of S. C. Code Ann. § 59-1-425(A) (§ 59-1-425), School Start Date (Supp. 2018)**—Roy Stehle, Director, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement
05. **Williamsburg County School District Online Testing Waiver Request of General Appropriations Act, 2018, S.C. Act 97, Proviso 1.76 (Proviso 1.76)**—Roy Stehle, Director, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement

- 06. Proposed Withdrawal of the State Board of Education (SBE) Rules of Governance (Rules), Policy: EDF, Procedures for Suspension, Revocation, and Refusal to Issue or Renew a School Bus Inspection Certificate, School Bus Driver's Certificate, or School Bus Driver Instructor/Tester Certificate (2010)**—Cathy Hazelwood, Deputy Superintendent, Division for Legal Affairs

FOR INFORMATION

- 07. School District Waiver Requests Update**—Roy Stehle, Director, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement

EP EDUCATOR PROFESSIONS—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Jones recognized Dr. Gamble who reported that the sub-committee met and heard one action item, concerning the Teach for America's (TFA) request to expand their coverage area to include Greenville. TFA's current area covers the Pee Dee region of the state. The action item was placed on the Consent Agenda.

There being no questions, this concluded Dr. Gamble's report.

FOR APPROVAL

- 01. Teach for America (TFA) Designated Geographic Areas**—Mary Hipp, Director, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Chair Jones recognized Debby Howard who sat in for Dr. Downs during Dr. Downs' absence at the meeting. Ms. Howard reported that the sub-committee met and heard one information item, presented by Dr. David Mathis on the SCDE Focused Support for Reading Achievement.

This concluded Ms. Howard's report.

FOR INFORMATION

- 01. SCDE Focused Support for Reading**—David Mathis, Ed.D, Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness

IF INNOVATION AND FINANCE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Jones recognized Mr. Butzon who reported that the sub-committee met and heard one action item on the appointment recommendations for the 2019 Instructional Materials Review Panels. The action item was approved and placed on the Consent Agenda. There were two information items; one was an update on the Board's finances. The second information item was a presentation on the services

provided by the Office of School Transformation to low performing schools. Mr. Butzon regretted that there was not enough time during his meeting to hear entire presentation. Mr. Butzon stated that he made a request, to Ms. Hazelwood, to have his committee meeting time lengthened to provide more time for presentations.

This concluded Mr. Butzon's report.

FOR APPROVAL

- 01. Appointment Recommendations for the 2019 Instructional Materials Review Panels**—Kriss Stewart, Program Coordinator, Instructional Materials Section, Office of Finance

FOR INFORMATION

- 02. Services Provided by the Office of School Transformation to Low Performing Schools**—Latoya Dixon, Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability & School Improvement
- 03. Financial Update for Fiscal Year 2018–19**—Nancy Williams, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Finance

ELC EDUCATOR LICENSURE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Jones recognized Mr. Brennan to provide the Educator Licensure Committee (ELC) report. Mr. Brennan stated that the committee met and took action upon the following ten cases: five suspensions; two Consent Orders of Suspension; two Consent Orders of Voluntary Surrender; and one Initial Certification. Mr. Brennan stated that these matters were ratified during the Full Board ELC meeting at 11:30.

This concluded Mr. Brennan's report.

FB-ELC FULL BOARD EDUCATOR LICENSURE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Jones reported that the Full Board ELC committee heard one Permanent Revocation case and the revocation was approved by the Full Board ELC.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Jones called for the vote for approval of the consent agenda. It was moved by Mr. Brennan to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Chair-Elect Jones. The motion passed unanimously.

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

- 01. The School District of Marlboro County’s (District) Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. § 59-1-425 (§ 59-1-425) (Supp. 2018)**—Roy Stehle, Director, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement
- 02. Georgetown County School District’s (District) Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. § 59-1-425 (§ 59-1-425) (Supp. 2018)**—Roy Stehle, Director, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement
- 03. Spartanburg School District Seven’s (District) Request for Exemption Pursuant to S. C. Code Ann. §59-19-350 (Supp. 2018)**—Roy Stehle, Director, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement
- 04. Spartanburg County School District Seven’s (District) Waiver Request for the Cleveland Academy of Leadership (CAL) of S. C. Code Ann. § 59-1-425(A) (§ 59-1-425), School Start Date (Supp. 2018)**—Roy Stehle, Director, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement
- 05. Williamsburg County School District Online Testing Waiver Request of General Appropriations Act, 2018, S.C. Act 97, Proviso 1.76 (Proviso 1.76)**—Roy Stehle, Director, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement
- 06. Proposed Withdrawal of the State Board of Education (SBE) Rules of Governance (Rules), Policy: EDF, Procedures for Suspension, Revocation, and Refusal to Issue or Renew a School Bus Inspection Certificate, School Bus Driver’s Certificate, or School Bus Driver Instructor/Tester Certificate (2010)**—Cathy Hazelwood, Deputy Superintendent, Division for Legal Affairs

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FOR APPROVAL

- 01. Teach for America (TFA) Designated Geographic Areas**—Mary Hipp, Director, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

IF INNOVATION AND FINANCE—COMMITTEE REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

- 01. Appointment Recommendations for the 2019 Instructional Materials Review Panels**—Kriss Stewart, Program Coordinator, Instructional Materials Section, Office of Finance

SBE SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

Chair Jones recognized John Payne, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability, and School Improvement. Mr. Payne provided the following updates on behalf of Dr. Latoya Dixon.

Florence Four

- Parent/teacher conferences were held on Friday, March 8, 2019, at all three schools. Teachers met with parents to discuss student academic performance, successes, and opportunities for growth
- Brockington Elementary celebrated Read Across America Week March 4–7, 2019. Students participated in a Reading Rally and male community members were invited to participate by reading a book to a class on “Real Men Read Day” which was held on March 7, 2019.
- Brockington staff continued to participate in their weekly instruction focus meetings, which were held on March 6, 13, 20, and 27th where the teachers focused on scoring writing assessments.
- Wednesday, March 13th served as the first session of the Johnson Middle School Writer’s Club. Throughout the year, students in grades 6–8 practiced and improved their text dependent analysis writing pieces in order to make it into the elite club, which has breakfast catered from the surrounding businesses.
- Timmons ville High School students completed USA Test Prep Benchmark testing the week of March 25–29th.
- Johnson Middle School and Timmons ville High School staff have continued working in weekly professional learning communities on Tuesday of each week to review student formative assessment results and design instructional plans to address opportunities for growth.

Allendale

- **Community Meeting Date/Summary**
 - Allendale County Schools held its Monthly Community meeting on February 25 with about 200 parents, students, community members, and community partners present.
 - Students who placed in the science fairs in schools across the District and students who earned their Automotive Service of Excellence Entry-level Certification were recognized.
 - District Employees of the Month were recognized including:
 - Bus Driver of the Month
 - Food Service Employee of the Month
 - Technology Employee of the Month, and
 - Custodian of the Month.
 - Fairfax Elementary School teacher, Ms. Michaela Tison was named District Teacher of the Month for January.
 - Allendale Branch Manager of SRP Federal Credit Union presented the District Teacher of the Month award and gave a presentation concerning the Allendale Affinity Debit Card.
- **Staff Professional Development**
 - Allendale School District has a team participating in the state Multi-Tiered System of Supports professional development pilot. This team is learning about how to develop a strong multi-tiered system of supports to improve student outcomes.

- o The district has held data review meeting at all school levels to review student grades, attendance, benchmark results, and other academic data as a form of progress monitoring and planning for continued improvement activities.
- o School and district leadership team members have been working to discuss school curriculum and facility needs, necessary policy revisions, and review district-wide expectations.
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences**
 - o All three schools have conducted mid-year parent/teacher conferences to update parents on student progress thus far.
 - o All schools in Allendale County School District held Black History programs to celebrate Black History Month, including The New Beginnings Alternative Center.

Williamsburg

- Dr. Rose Wilder held four community meetings during the month of March. Information shared included the 2019–20 school calendar, school safety, and the potential repurposing of the Hemingway Vocational Center. Dr. Wilder is seeking the community and students feedback on the potential of offering the current collection of CATE courses along with some additional offerings based on student interests in a central location in the district. No final decision has been made in this regard, at this time.
- The district attended the CERRA Teacher Expo Recruitment Fair on March 29 and was able to secure one Early Childhood teacher for Hemingway Elementary School. Five additional offers were made, but the district is awaiting the decision of the candidates.
- During the month of March, instructional professional development focused on using data to drive instruction. Using the results of benchmark and other formative assessment data, teachers worked collaboratively to identify areas of weakness and determine a course of action to address noted deficiencies. Additionally staff participated in the Leader in Me Community Coaching Day on March 25, which is a district-wide initiative.
- The district's curriculum, instruction, and assessment team conducted learning visits to each school. During these visits, team members visited classrooms, completed observations, and met with school administration to discuss areas of instructional strength and opportunity.
- The district conducted CPI Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Professional Development on March 25.
- The district held a strategic planning meeting on Tuesday, March 26. The turnout was excellent with a variety of stakeholder groups represented including business partners, clergy, parents, teachers, community members, principals, and district staff. The planning committee spent time analyzing different sources of data, which helped to drive the discussion and goal setting.
- The district is excited to partner with Feed the Children, Inc. The partnership is offered through the Department of Education McKinney-Vento program. Feed the Children will provide backpacks and school supplies to children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- Through a partnership between Williamsburg County School District's Career and Technology Education Department and the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, a STEM experience will be made available for all middle school students July 17–20, 2019.
- Forty-three CATE students placed in the FBLA State Leadership Competition in North Charleston, SC during the month of March.
- The district robotics team advanced to the second round at the Palmetto Regional Competition.

Mr. Payne provided the SBE with copies of an April 2, 2019, *Education Week* article that mentioned the transformations taking place in Allendale County and Dr. Dixon was quoted in the article. Mr. Payne stated it is nice to get the recognition, in terms of the hard work being done, but it is more important when you see those

results effecting a change for the children of SC. Mr. Payne commended Dr. Dixon her teams continued work in what is considered innovative and transformative.

This concluded Mr. Payne's report.

Superintendent Spearman added that this was a very proud moment being recognized by *Education Week*, which is one of the premier national newspapers published for education, and this article was one of their lead stories and Dr. Dixon and her team were the lead part of that story. The article again confirmed what we are doing.

Superintendent Spearman also brought up two additional items mentioned during today's meetings. The first was Dr. Wilder's ideas for Williamsburg County. The SCDE wants to be able to offer more career opportunities for high school students. Currently, there are three high schools, one school has two programs; one school has six programs; and one school has one program. Each of the programs are different. We are in the process of, pulling those programs together and are conducting a student survey to get their input and to learn what their interests are, i.e. HVAC (which is only offered at one school) to see if that program was offered to a student and the student was provided transportation, would the student be interested in taking the half day program offered at that other school. This is an opportunity to expand these course offerings to more students. That is on the agenda for Williamsburg County.

The second item was on Ms. Howard's committee report, the presentation by Dr. Mathis, which is important because we are expanding our focus work. Dr. Dixon reports each month about the work in what have been the priority schools, and now the CSI and TSI schools that it has expanded to 176 schools and really over 200 schools when you put it all together. This is a change in focus for the SCDE, it is a cross-divisional work that is going on that Superintendent Spearman believes has been missing, and the SCDE has never been out to visit schools to this extent working on poor instructional strategies and working with so many schools. Superintendent Spearman feels that this will make a difference. She has been hearing good feedback from the schools. Superintendent Spearman stated that Mr. Butzon was correct, the SCDE has taken on a lot, but it is needed, and she feels that it has been lacking, but she feels excited about all of the hard work that the SCDE staff is giving to this issue to expand the expertise in technical support to those schools that really have not shown the progress we should be seeing with the reading coaches. With the additional funding, being sent to the schools, the progress should be an achievement but, we are not seeing it. We are getting more involved and offering more support, in a nice way, but we are also saying that you need to be at the meetings, you need to bring a team of people from your school because the push and the impact of what the state has given you and the funding that the state has given over the last four years in Read 2 Succeed, there are places where there have been no results. This is a new focus and I want you to ask us questions about this, as we move along. I know that Dr. Mathis and the whole team will be happy to give you information.

Chair Jones recognized Mr. Butzon.

Mr. Butzon wanted to extend his congratulations to Dr. Dixon and her team on their hard work and for being recognized in the *Education Week* publication.

FOR INFORMATION

- 01. Florence County School District Four Update**—Latoya Dixon, Ph.D., Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement

- 02. **Allendale County School District Update**—Latoya Dixon, Ph.D., Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement
- 03. **Williamsburg County School District Update**—Latoya Dixon, Ph.D., Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Jones reminded all members to turn in their travel forms prior to their departure. Chair Jones called for a ten-minute recess before hearing the Sumter County School District Emergency Appeal.

Mr. Butzon made a request for an update on the education legislation. Superintendent Spearman stated that the bill passed the House and is in the Senate. The Senate is continuing to hold weekly hearings. The bill appeared to be slowing down, but in the last few days, the bill has picked up speed. There is a meeting scheduled in the morning (April 10), at 9:00 A.M, and the Senate sub-committee will take up the accountability portion of the bill. We have given our amendments to both the House and the Senate. The House adopted some of the amendments, but we are trying again. We are asking that the proviso that we have worked on with Allendale and Timmons ville, we ask that the proviso language be codified, that's part of the information that we are giving, so tomorrow is a very important hearing. This is the area where we have given the most suggestions. So far, we have met with Senators and have received good feedback from them, and we hope that they are going to adopt the amendments.

She also stated that we are getting close to full committee in the Senate, but she is not sure if that will be next week. They have been working on the budget, and may still be working on the budget next week. It could possibly set the debate on our amendments back, but Superintendent Spearman is still hopeful and pushing for this bill to be passed this year. We are pleased with the changes that are being made, and fairly pleased with the changes the House has made, as well, but there is still a lot of work to be done on the accountability portion of this bill that we want to see done which will allow us to move more quickly to start working and offering support in the low-performing schools. We like that language better than the old language that made us to go through a three-to four-year process as required by the original accountability act.

Emily Heatwole spoke stating that she spoke with Senator Hembree who stated that April 10 would be the last Senate Sub-committee hearing. The sub-committee is still taking up S.419 and they will move it to the full committee. Only the House bill has made the crossover deadline and she is not sure their intention is to modify the House version, based on the Senate amendments, but it is her understanding that tomorrow (April 10) will be the last subcommittee meeting.

Superintendent Spearman asked if the House and Senate came to an agreement on teacher salary. The House was asking for four percent. Ms. Heatwole stated that as it stands now, both bodies have agreed to raise the starting salary to \$35,000 for first year bachelor's degree teachers and then provide an across the board minimum four percent increase. This is obviously more than a four percent increase if you are going from \$32,000 to \$35,000 and anyone who is not impacted by that starting salary would receive a minimum four percent and be eligible to receive their step increase. Mr. Butzon asked if they [General

Assembly] would be paying for that. Ms. Heatwole stated that the Senate added \$15,000,000 to offset the cost of the step increase. The four percent and the \$35,000 has been fully funded by both bodies. The issue was the step increase. The step and the salary schedule, the EFA, they are all predicated on funding in the EFA, they are not separate. Every year there is an increase to the EFA that assumes the state portion of the step increase. When you do not increase the EFA funding, and you don't suspend the step increase, then what you have done is mandated local districts to provide that step increase, which is what happened in the House version of the bill, but in the Senate's version of the bill, they did increase it by \$15,000,000 and approximately \$1,000,000 equals about \$1 in the base student cost, but keep in mind that both versions of the bill will be moving away from that terminology and calling it "Classroom Instruction" and they will be consolidating three lines into one line. The three lines are EFA, EFA Fringe, and Teacher Salary Supplement, which had its own line in the General Fund, which has \$159,000,000, and send that out, but send it out using the same formula that they are using now so there is no match required for the Teacher Salary Supplement.

Superintendent Spearman asked that Ms. Heatwole explain how the Senate did the consolidation piece. Ms. Heatwole stated that the House version of the Omnibus Education Bill includes consolidation provisions for districts with a student population of 1,000. In the Senate version, what they have done is move that to a separate piece of legislation, S.203. The Senate version would increase the number of students to 1,500, and still contemplates the tier-four county status, so that also ties that to a lack of economic development in that area. It would also require the districts to put together a consolidation plan. The Department of Commerce has different tiered structures for counties. A Tier-One county would be a highly developed county with vast economic development. A Tier-Four county, generally speaking, are going to be our more rural counties that lack economic development. Ms. Heatwole stated that she could not explain the differentiation for commerce purposes.

Mr. Butzon asked about the status of the Education Finance Reform Bill and the Governor's letter.

Ms. Heatwole stated that Mr. Rainwater was running some of his projections by the different stakeholders this week. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs has been tasked with looking at current school district expenditures and revenues, and then proposing some suggested plans to the General Assembly for them to contemplate what would be a piece of legislation next year because that would require a legislative change. The things that have been discussed would be trying to tie together the multiple strands of state funding and corresponding local dollars that are going toward classroom instruction, student-driven instruction, differentiating that between administrative and other operational costs. On top of that, there is some discussion around what happens when you see schools and districts that are using less per pupil, but are actually producing better achievement results, and when you look at a similarly situated district, obviously, we know that when you have districts that serving a high-need population of students that may require additional staff, additional funds, but when you are doing your best to compare apples to apples, they are trying to figure out how districts are spending the funds and how they are serving students if they are producing better outcomes than District B with the exact same amount of money, but isn't achieving the same results. What that looks like in legislation, Ms. Heatwole does not know, but it that is something that has been discussed.

Chair Jones thanked Ms. Heatwole for her report.

Chair Jones, once again, called for a 10 minute recess before hearing the Sumter County School District Emergency Appeal (1:53 p.m.).

XI. SUMTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FISCAL EMERGENCY APPEAL
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Chair reconvened the board meeting at 2:03 p.m. for the Sumter County School District (District) Fiscal Emergency Appeal

Chair Jones asked that the parties involved introduce themselves beginning with the representatives for the District

Representing the District

- Dr. Debra W. Hamm, Interim Superintendent, Sumter County School District
- Jennifer Miller, CFO, Sumter County School District
- Dr. Cheryl Ray, Sumter County Board of Trustees
- Mr. Johnny Hilton, Sumter County Board of Trustees
- Mr. Brian Austin, Sumter County Board of Trustees
- Various unnamed district employees
- Various unnamed constituents
- Andrea White, Esquire–White & Story LLC
- Imani Newborn, Esquire–White & Story LLC
 - o Robin Riebold, Court Reporter

Representing the State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman

- Cathy Hazelwood

Media present for the hearing

- Greg Adaline, Reporter, WIS-TV
- Bruce Mills, Reporter, Sumter Item Newspaper

Chair Jones thanked everyone and stated that the District would be allowed ten minutes to present their side, Ms. Hazelwood would be allowed fifteen minutes to present Superintendent Spearman's side, and then the District would be allowed ten minutes for a rebuttal.

Ms. White argued the District's position based on the brief filed.

Ms. Hazelwood, representing Superintendent Spearman, argued for the SBE to uphold Superintendent Spearman's declaration.

Imani Newborn, Esquire, presented the rebuttal and again sought the SBE's overturning of the Superintendent's declaration of emergency in the District.

Chair Jones asked if there were no further questions from the SBE, there being none, at 2:34 p.m., the SBE, along with Henry Gunter, Deputy General Counsel for the SBE, adjourned to go into Executive Session, to deliberate on the information presented during the Hearing. The Executive Session was held in Room 806.

The Executive Session ended at 3:06 p.m.

Chair Jones thanked everyone for their patience and she declared the meeting back in Open Session. Chair Jones stated that the SBE had deliberated the issue, and at this time, she would entertain a Motion. Mr. Brennan made the motion to that the SBE affirm the Superintendent's declaration of a Fiscal Emergency in the Sumter County School District. Chair Jones stated that the Motion was before the SBE members, and asked for a second. Mr. Whittemore seconded the Motion. Chair Jones asked if there was any further discussion from the SBE. A vote was taken by a show of hands, ten "yes" votes, zero "no" votes were recorded. Motion passed. The Fiscal Emergency declaration by the Superintendent is affirmed.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 3:08 p.m.