

MINUTES

State Board of Education Meeting

Date

Wednesday, January 9, 2013

Time

1:00 p.m.

Location

Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina

David Blackmon, PhD, Chair

Barry Bolen, 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 Blackmon 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: David Blackmon, PhD, Chair, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Barry Bolen, Chair-elect, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; David Longshore, PhD, First Judicial Circuit; Bonnie Disney, Third Judicial Circuit; Raye O'Neal Boyd, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Neil Willis, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Dru James, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Larry Kobrovsky, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Michael Blue, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; Danny Varat, PhD, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; John Rampey, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; and Mike Brenan, Governor's Appointee.

Absent with apologies were Jim Griffith, Second Judicial Circuit and Thomas Shortt, EdD, Fifteenth 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; Nancy Busbee, PhD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Accountability; Charmeka Childs, Deputy Superintendent, Division of School Effectiveness; Jay W. Ragley, Director, Office of Legislative

and Public Affairs; Shelly Bezanson Kelly, General Counsel and Parliamentarian, Office of General Counsel; Karla Hawkins, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel; Roy Stehle, Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability; Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability; Rick Blanchard, Education Associate, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability; Bruce Moseley, Director, Office of Leader Effectiveness, Division of School Effectiveness; Laura Bayne, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs; and Rachel Kerley, Public Information Specialist, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 12, 2012

Chair Blackmon asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes for the SBE meeting on December 12, 2012, as presented. He called for a vote and the motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR JANUARY 9, 2013

Chair Blackmon asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda for the SBE meeting on January 9, 2012, as presented. He called for a vote and the motion carried.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA

Chair Blackmon welcomed Jamie Self with *The State* and Edward Manley, a parent.

VI. STATE CHAIR REMARKS

Chair Blackmon noted the several vacant seats awaiting new SBE members and welcomed back Dr. Disney, who will continue to serve on the SBE until a new member from the third judicial circuit is appointed. Chair Blackmon also conveyed regrets from Mr. Griffith and Dr. Shortt as they were unable to attend the meeting.

Chair Blackmon made the following comments:

Senator Lamar Alexander, former governor, former Secretary of Education, and former President of the University of Tennessee, is known for recalling his friendship with Alex Haley. Senator Alexander, speaking at the inauguration of a college president in East Tennessee, noted that the Pulitzer Prize winner always had a positive attitude. Haley's philosophy centered around this phrase: "Find the good and praise it!" Alexander stated that ". . . such a positive attitude is needed, because of what are stressful, lonely, and dysfunctional times for many Americans."

South Carolina's approximately 700 thousand students and 52 thousand teachers are both in need of praise—given the challenges both groups experience in their daily encounters.

Many years ago, one of South Carolina's well-known political leaders suggested that we are often "a nation of blamers." Becoming a resident critic without objective evidence is a relatively easy achievement. However, that attitude conflicts with Haley's admonition that we should seek out the good and recognize it.

As a State Board, we have the opportunity to recognize the worthy achievements of students and teachers while concurrently challenging school personnel to maintain high standards and to advance student achievement in spite of the dysfunctional circumstances, as described by Senator Alexander.

Our charge is to keep the focus on the Board's mission by letting our discussion and actions be centered on the best interests of students. Therefore, our rhetoric should be positive, civil, and expressed with discernment. Our time for public comment should be used for addressing issues in a responsible fashion, devoid of emotions and personal attacks, while focused on specific objectives and causes.

Edmund Burke once stated that "Manners are of more importance than laws." Andre Comte-Sponville, a French philosopher, argues that "politeness is a discipline that compels respectful behavior." Consequently, the Chair charges all speakers to maintain civility, to speak responsibly, and to maintain the high standards that we expect students to emulate.

We are a policy-making Board, and not a governing one. Therefore, let us resolve to maintain that appropriate role even when tempted to do otherwise.

Let us resolve to seek positive outcomes as a consequence of objectively reviewing data during our deliberations.

Let us recognize the worthwhile contributions of all parties in the education enterprise.

Let us demonstrate respect to all individuals, even when we are unable to embrace ideas which are unacceptable.

Let us move forward in the year 2013 with the attitude that we will "Find the good and praise it."

Everyone in this room is a participant in the education enterprise. We are here to make a difference in the lives of students. Therefore, let our words and deeds reflect the highest of standards.

VII. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT
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Though school visits slowed over the past two months due to the holidays, Dr. Zais was able to visit students, parents, teachers, and school leaders at the following schools:

- In Orangeburg 5, Bethune-Bowman Elementary. This is a federal Priority school, meaning it is among the 5 percent lowest performing Title 1 schools in the state.
- In Union County, Monarch Elementary, Foster Park Elementary, and Sims Middle. Monarch and Foster Park elementary schools are federal Reward schools, meaning they are among the highest performing Title 1 schools in the state.
- In Lexington School District 1, Oak Grove Elementary, Red Bank Elementary, Meadow Glen Middle, and the Lexington Technology and Career Center. Oak Grove Elementary earned the distinction as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2012.
- In Horry County, Palmetto Academy of Learning and Success Charter School, Forestbrook Elementary, Forestbrook Middle, and Socastee High. Forestbrook Elementary earned the distinction as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2012.

As Dr. Zais has done throughout his administration, he continued to meet with school leaders on an individual basis or in small groups.

- In November, Dr. Zais traveled to Charleston where Dr. Nancy McGinley and her staff provided him, Charmeka Childs, Nancy Busbee, and other SCDE staff a briefing on their plan to implement educator evaluations under a federal grant they recently received. Their model has 50 percent of teacher evaluations based upon measures of student growth and achievement, including value-added measures; the other 50 percent will be based upon subjective evaluations of professional practices. Dr. Zais thought those weights are interesting given the recent discussions on educator evaluations.
- Also in November, Dr. Zais met with 14 district superintendents to discuss instructional materials, technology, and the South Carolina Longitudinal Information Center for Education (SLICE) project. It was a fruitful discussion and additional meetings are planned for this year.
- To close out November, Dr. Zais participated in a meeting of the K–12 Technology Initiative. This is a consortium of state agencies and private sector partners that provides connectivity and technology services to school districts.

Finally, Dr. Zais made the following public appearances during the past two months.

- In November, he attended the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Policy Forum in Savannah. The focus of the policy forum was educator evaluations and how states are incorporating measures of student growth and achievement, including value-added measures, into their systems. Secretary Duncan spoke as well as several other prominent leaders in education.
- Dr. Zais also addressed the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission. This group advocates for policies that make it easier for military children to transfer between schools in different states. Having personally attended ten schools in twelve years,

including three different high schools, Dr. Zais knows this can frequently be a problem. South Carolina was the host state for this year's national conference, and it was held in Charleston.

- In December, Dr. Zais spoke to a group of presidents and chairmen of local chambers of commerce about his vision for transforming education. The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce sponsored this event.
- Yesterday, Dr. Zais spoke to the annual meeting of the SC Business and Industry Political Education Committee (BIPEC) about his vision for transforming education. BIPEC is an umbrella organization comprised of many CEOs and trade associations.
- In November and December, Dr. Zais participated in three ESEA Community Stakeholder meetings in Charleston, Florence, and Columbia.
- Finally, this morning, Dr. Zais testified before the House Ways and Means Committee regarding the Department's budget request for FY 2013–14.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

One person signed up for public comment and spoke in favor of Dr. Zais's efforts and his data-driven approach. The speaker was:

- Edward Manley, Parent (Rock Hill)

X. STATE BOARD ITEMS

PH PUBLIC HEARING

FOR APPROVAL

01. **Proposed Amendments to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-220 (R 43-220), Gifted and Talented (Second Reading)**—Rick Blanchard, Education Associate, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability

Mr. Rampey moved that the SBE approve the changes to State Board of Education Regulation 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-220. Mrs. Boyd seconded the motion. The motion carried.

EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS

Committee Report—Dr. David Longshore, Chair

All three action items were approved by unanimous consent at the committee meeting and placed on the consent agenda.

Dr. Longshore motioned for the SBE to approve the EP committee report. Motion carried.

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE

Committee Report—Dr. David Blackmon, Chair

Chair Blackmon gave an overview of the one approval item and stated that it was placed on the consent agenda.

Chair Blackmon motioned for the SBE to approve the PL committee report. Motion carried.

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Committee Report—Dru James

Mrs. James gave an overview of two information items presented to the SLA committee. One was regarding Common Core training for educators. Every district has been represented at a face-to-face training. An update was also given on Common Core assessments.

Chair Blackmon motioned for the SBE to approve the SLA committee report. Motion carried.

SBE ITEMS

FOR INFORMATION

- 01. School Safety Presentation**—Sabrina Moore, PhD, Director, Office of Student Intervention Services, Division of Accountability, and Bruce Moseley, Director, Office of Leader Effectiveness, Division of School Effectiveness.

Mr. Moseley gave information regarding the school safety workshop to be held on February 19 and invited the SBE members to attend. Dr. Moore gave a presentation on school safety initiatives and reviewed the SBE regulation governing the SCDE's involvement in school safety. Dr. Zais commented that he has been impressed with the safety measures he has seen at the schools he has visited.

XI. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Education Professions

01. **Identification of Critical Need Subject Areas for 2013–14 Relative to the South Carolina Teacher Loan Cancellation Program**
02. **Identification of Geographic Critical Need Schools for 2013–14 Relative to the South Carolina Teacher Loan Cancellation Program**
03. **Professional Review Committee (PRC) Recommendations for Accreditation Decisions of the Educator Preparation Units at the University of South Carolina Aiken, South Carolina State University, and Coker College**

Policy and Legislative

01. **McCormick County School District Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-205 (2011), Administrative and Professional Personnel Qualifications, Duties and Workloads**

Ms. James motioned that the SBE approve the consent agenda. Dr. Varat seconded. The motion carried.

XII. LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND REQUESTS REGARDING REGULATIONS

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

Mr. Ragley reported on the budget process and mentioned that Dr. Zais testified today at the K–12 Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee. Mr. Ragley noted a lot of agreement between the EOC and the SCDE this year in their budget requests.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Blackmon shared that the SBE had an informal discussion this morning about plans for a retreat in February and invited Dr. Zais to make a presentation at the retreat.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 2:14 p.m.