

MINUTES

State Board of Education Meeting

Date

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Time

1:30 p.m. State Board Regular Meeting

Location

Rutledge Conference Center

1429 Senate Street

Columbia, South Carolina

E. Tim Moore, Jr., Esq., Chair

Gerrita Postlewait, PhD, Chair-elect

Jim Rex, PhD

State Superintendent of Education

Secretary and Administrative Officer to the Board

I. WELCOME/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The State Board of Education (SBE) convened at 1:30 p.m. Chair Moore called the meeting to order and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Army JROTC Color Guard, A.C. Flora High School, Richland School District One, led by Lieutenant Colonel Dwayne Gatson, presented the colors.

The following SBE members were in attendance for the meeting: Tim Moore, Esq., Chair, Second Judicial Circuit; Gerrita Postlewait, PhD, Chair-Elect, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; David Longshore, First Judicial Circuit; Bonnie Disney, Third Judicial Circuit; Rose Sheheen, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Josie Gaston, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Libby Swad, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Dru James, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Cindy Clark, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Marilyn (Lyn) Norton, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Amelia Herlong, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Michael Blue, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; Phillip Bowers, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; Dennis Thompson, Jr., Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; Britt Blackwell, O.D., Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; and Mike Brenan, Governor's Appointee.

Absent with apologies was Hampton Hubbard, Fourth Judicial Circuit.

South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff in attendance were Jim Rex, PhD, State Superintendent of Education; Janice Poda, PhD, Deputy Superintendent, Administration; Shelly Bezanson Kelly, General Counsel and Parliamentarian, Office of General Counsel; Karla Hawkins, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel; Mark Bounds, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership; Teri Siskind, PhD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Accountability; Valerie Harrison, EdD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Standards and Learning; Betsy Carpentier, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Innovation and Support (arrived at 2:50 p.m.); Sandy Smith, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Policy and Legislation (arrived at 2:55 p.m.); Barbara Drayton, Deputy General

Counsel, Office of General Counsel (arrived at 3:15 p.m.); and Cindy Clark, Recording Secretary.

Absent with apologies was John Cooley, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Finance and Operations.

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 9, 2009

Chair Moore asked for a motion to approve the SBE minutes for December 9, 2009. Marilyn "Lyn" Norton moved to approve the minutes and Britt Blackwell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR JANUARY 13, 2010

Chair Moore asked for a motion to approve or amend the SBE agenda for January 13, 2010. Amelia Herlong moved to amend the agenda to add an executive session to discuss a contractual matter to Roman numeral X and move Other Business to number XI. Dennis Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried and the agenda was approved as amended.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA

Chair Moore welcomed all visitors including special guest, Jenny Horne, the Representative for House District 94 representing Dorchester and Charleston Counties. Mr. Moore thanked her for introducing a vital piece of legislation important to all Board members. Mr. Moore also recognized visitors from Charleston County School District, Kershaw County School District, and Clarendon School District Two. There was no news media present and no one signed up for public comment.

Chair Moore turned the meeting over to Superintendent Jim Rex to present recognitions and his report.

V. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT AND RECOGNITIONS

State Superintendent of Education Rex recognized the Milken Educator Award recipients. The Milken National Educator Awards program is the nation's largest teacher recognition program. Since its inception, more than 2,300 educators from 48 states have been recognized with more than \$60 million in cash awards. The awards were created to reward, retain, and attract top professionals to the nation's schools. South Carolina's newest Milken educators are as follows:

- Katherine Henderson, English teacher and department chair, West Ashley High School, Charleston County School District, represented by State Board of Education member Cindy Clark
- Robert Ondere, Algebra teacher, Lugoff-Elgin High School, Kershaw County School District, represented by State Board of Education member Rose Sheheen

Dr. Rex recognized the National Dropout Prevention Center Network's 2009 Crystal Star Award of Excellence recipient. The award recognizes instructional staff, administrators, support staff, and citizens active in the field of dropout prevention. Winners must show clear evidence of strong leadership and accomplishments contributing to effective dropout prevention strategies. The recipient of this award is as follows:

- Kathy Edwards Bell, Director, Viking Academy AIM program, Spartanburg High School, Spartanburg School District Seven, represented by State Board of Education member Libby Swad

Dr. Rex recognized the 2010 MetLife/National Association of Secondary School Principals National High School Principal of the Year. The winner of this award receives a \$3,500 grant. The grants are used to promote the advancement of learning opportunities for students or investments such as capital improvements, the purchase of technology equipment, or funding specific educational programs. The recipient of the award is as follows:

- Lucy Beckham, Principal, Wando High School, Charleston County School District, represented by State Board of Education member Cindy Clark

Dr. Rex also recognized John Thames for 50 years in education. Mr. Thames' career serves as an excellent example of meeting the need for continuity of leadership and continuity of effective teachers. Mr. Thames has taught for over fifty years at Manning High School in Clarendon District Two and is one of South Carolina's most dedicated, loyal, and long-serving teachers. He has received many awards for his teaching and coaching accomplishments, and the gymnasium at Manning High was named in his honor in 1993. Dr. Rex thanked Mr. Thames for serving on public education's frontlines and for making a positive difference in the lives of South Carolina's young people.

Chair Moore added that, as a former high school coach, he had learned a lot from Mr. Thames, and he personally thanked him for his many years of representing the teaching and coaching professions.

Dr. Rex concluded his comments by expressing his appreciation to all SCDE employees for their hard work.

VI. RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Moore recognized Al Simpson, former Board Chair, who rotated off the Board on December 31, 2009. He stated that the Board will miss Mr. Simpson, and thanked him for his service. A plaque and gift were also presented to Mr. Simpson.

Mr. Simpson thanked the Board and former Board Chair, John Tindal, for supporting him as a Board member and as Chair.

Dr. Rex also conveyed his appreciation to both Mr. Simpson and Mr. Tindal for their past service and leadership in moving the Board forward.

VII. RECOGNITION OF NEW STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Moore and Dr. Rex acknowledged and welcomed the new Board members. Chair Moore then administered the Oath of Office to new Board members Dr. David Longshore, First Judicial Circuit; Ms. Josie Gaston, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Mrs. Dru James, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Bishop Michael A. Blue, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; and Mike Brenan, Governor's Appointee.

Chair Moore stated that the SBE recently lost some talented Board members but have gained a new wealth of talent and experience with the new Board members.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present for public comment.

IX. PUBLIC HEARING

PH-01

Repeal of 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-233 (Supp. 2009), South Carolina Four-Year State Plan for Career and Technology Education, Fiscal Years 2001-2004 (Second Reading)—Pat Flora, Education Associate, Office of Career and Technology Education, Division of Standards and Learning

Pat Flora reported no public comments were received on the proposal to repeal 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-233. Ms. Flora said this regulation

represented a state plan for career and technology education in South Carolina pursuant to the Perkins federal law. She said this particular piece of regulation is now defunct. We are now under new legislation and a new state plan but there is no requirement for a regulation.

A motion was made by Rose Sheheen that the Board approve for second reading the repeal of 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-233 (Supp. 2009), South Carolina Four-Year State Plan for Career and Technology Education, Fiscal Years 2001–2004. Britt Blackwell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

PH-02

Amendments to 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-62 (Supp. 2009), Requirements for Additional Areas of Certification (Second Reading)—Jim Turner, Director, Office of Educator Certification, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership

Jim Turner reported on the amendments to 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-62. Mr. Turner said this section of State Board regulations deals with additional certification areas. Revisions included minor course changes for add-on certification in mathematics, revisions in reading to reflect the current emphasis on literacy, and the addition of new certification areas for adjunct instructor, Montessori, and on-line teaching.

Mr. Turner said there were several public comments received and shared with the Board two of these comments related to adjunct instructor. The first public comment was from Dr. Ed Dickey, USC Math Education Professor. He sent an e-mail letting the Board know he was very pleased that it implemented the changes he recommended. The second comment was from Kristin Maguire, former Board member and Chair. She sent an e-mail commenting on the requirement of a degree from a regionally accredited college for individuals applying for the adjunct instructor certificate. She recommended instead that the certification requirement allow for the college or university to be either regionally or nationally accredited to take in consideration graduates of Bob Jones University.

Mr. Turner pointed out that there are numerous national accrediting bodies, in addition to the one Mrs. Maguire referred to in her e-mail. One of these is the Trans-National Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRAC). By generally stating that national accreditation would be acceptable would open too many doors. The PACE guidelines also require applicants have degrees from regionally accredited colleges only. And, the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) legislation also requires regional accreditation.

Our current State Board regulations specify regional accreditation only, but also states that we will accept credits and degrees not only from colleges that are regionally accredited but from colleges that have teacher education programs approved by our State Board of Education, which takes into consideration Bob Jones University. Because of this, Mr. Turner stated he

feels the point is mute because it is covered in regulations that are already in place.

Mr. Turner reported he has received numerous positive comments from the Personnel Administrators Association and from school superintendents regarding the various revisions to R 43-62. One superintendent did have a concern he shared with Mark Bounds regarding the part-time teaching role of adjunct instructors and the fact that they could not teach more than two credit-bearing courses in an academic year. This issue was related primarily to the various scheduling configurations in schools, such as block scheduling and how this requirement would impact staffing. There was also a suggestion to clarify the certification areas for which the adjunct certificate could apply along the lines of the ABCTE legislation. To address these two issues, Mr. Turner referred to the suggested rewording and clarification on pages 20(2) and 21(4-C) and stated these changes should clarify these points.

A motion was made by Marilyn (Lyn) Norton that the Board approve for second reading the amendments to 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-62 (Supp. 2009), Requirements for Additional Areas of Certification. Josie Gaston seconded. The motion carried.

PH-03

Promulgation of Virtual Schools Regulation (Second Reading)—Dee Appleby, Director, Office of e-Learning, Division of Standards and Learning

Dee Appleby and Shelly Kelly reported on the Promulgation of Virtual Schools Regulation (Second Reading). Mrs. Kelly said some changes were made based on recommendations by Phillip Bowers. She referred to the document projected on the screen since this information was not included in Board members' packets. One change has to do with clarifying a test administration fee that could be charged by the school districts for non-public sponsored schools (home-school or private-school students). This will allow the Board to set the fee annually so that all districts would charge the same fee. Mrs. Kelly said another change modifies residency records be kept for three years instead of ten years. Also, there was a change made in the clause regarding not charging free and reduced lunch students for courses. It was clarified to say students eligible for free and reduced lunch will not be charged. Mrs. Kelly stated there were no additional comments.

Mr. Bowers asked Ms. Appleby about Section Seven. Mrs. Kelly stated the intent is that if a school district has a need for an entire course to be taught by the virtual program, they can contract with the virtual school program. The SCDE would reserve the option to charge for this since it would be limited to one school.

Dennis Thompson asked if there is a course charge of \$372 per student for a virtual school program. Ms. Appleby said there is currently no charge for on-line courses. If there was a charge, it would be \$372. There is a fee for the end-of-course exam.

A motion was made by Cindy Clark that the Board approve for second reading, as presented today, the Promulgation of Virtual Schools Regulation. Josie Gaston seconded. The motion carried.

X. STATE BOARD ITEMS

FOR APPROVAL

SB-01

Identification of Geographic Critical Need Schools for 2010–11 Relative to the South Carolina Teacher Loan Cancellation Program—

Falicia Harvey, PhD, Education Associate, Office of Educator Certification, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership

Dr. Harvey reported on the Identification of Geographic Critical Need Schools for 2010–11 Relative to the South Carolina Teacher Loan Cancellation Program. She said there is a total of 714 schools recommended for loan cancellation. This year, due to the delay in the release of report card data, the SCDE is not currently able to designate the schools based on absolute rating criteria. Last year, 43 schools qualified solely on absolute rating. The SCDE recommends the Board approve Identification of Geographic Critical Need Schools for 2010–11 Relative to the South Carolina Teacher Loan Cancellation Program and allow the Office of Educator Certification to add the schools who qualify based on absolute rating once that data is available.

Chair Moore asked the Board members to review the list of critical needs schools and pay special attention to the poverty index of the schools to realize the difficulty teachers and administrators have in doing their jobs and to support them, as they are doing a good job under the circumstances.

A motion was made by Phillip Bowers that the Board approve Identification of Geographic Critical Need Schools for 2010–11 Relative to the South Carolina Teacher Loan Cancellation Program. Bonnie Disney seconded. The motion carried.

SB-02

Identification of Critical Need Subject Areas for 2010–11 Relative to the South Carolina Teacher Loan Cancellation Program—

Falicia Harvey, PhD, Education Associate, Office of Educator Certification, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership

These subjects are recognized as a statewide critical need area based on data from the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA) annual supply and demand survey. Based on the data, dance and

health programs have been removed from the list and no areas have been added this year.

Phillip Bowers asked about compensation bonuses for critical needs teachers. Dr. Rex said there has been discussion about sign-up bonuses or paying critical needs teachers in these areas more than critical needs teachers in other areas. Currently, we do not have the resources to do so. There are career opportunities for young people who are considering the teaching profession. Mark Bounds said there are less vacancies this year than last year, but we need to wait and look for trends.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Phillip Bowers that the Board approve the Identification of Critical Need Subject Areas for 2010–11 Relative to the South Carolina Teacher Loan Cancellation Program administered by the South Carolina Student Loan Corporation. Amelia Herlong seconded. The motion carried.

SB-03

Selection of State Textbook Depository—Jim White, Education Associate, Instructional Materials Section, Office of Finance, Division of Finance and Operations

On behalf of Jim White, Janice Poda reported that the textbook selection is an annual request based on the recommendation from all publishers and the SCDE requests that the Board continue to designate R.L. Bryan as the textbook depository.

A motion was made by Amelia Herlong that the Board approve the Selection of State Textbook Depository. Marilyn (Lyn) Norton seconded. The motion carried.

SB-04

Recommendations from the Instructional Materials Advisory Committee for the 2010 Adoption Cycle—Kriss Stewart, Division of Standards and Learning

Kriss Stewart reported the recommendations for the 2010 Adoption Cycle. The first recommendation is for the subject areas for 2010, which include English/Language Arts K–5, Integrated Business Applications, Computer Applications, Gerontology, Emergency Medical Services, and Medical Terminology. The next recommendation is for the renegotiation of expiring contracts with publishers in the areas reported. These areas have been on contract for over six years. It is also recommended to allow the SCDE to extend contracts for unfunded 2009 areas, if necessary, and that the SCDE may continue down the priority list to the next fundable area, if necessary.

Ms. Stewart reported there were three informational items, which include the prioritization list of subject areas approved by the SBE in December, the

2010 calendar of events, and the revised six-year schedule of adoption areas.

Gerrita Postlewait asked if there is any reason to move forward with English/Language Arts K-5 on the cycle recommended in the event that the SBE agrees to adopt Common Core Standards and if there may be any conflict in what the SBE may propose. Ms. Stewart responded that we have three years to implement the core standards, that the ELA people believe the SCDE is in line with the core standards, and that this should not affect the K-5 ELA adoption.

Valerie Harrison added that, relating to the Common Core Standards, the SCDE has an outline for doing an alignment and looking at our current standards making sure all gaps are filled in. We are moving toward having textbooks as resources but not the sole piece for teaching the standards. Dr. Harrison said we are trying to make sure we fill the priority listing that we have, but we are not trying to obligate the SCDE beyond 2011 but to make modifications based on the Common Core Standards in all decisions made.

Phillip Bowers asked if this takes into account electronic books. Ms. Stewart answered that it does, and the publishers provide materials in all formats.

A motion was made by Cindy Clark that the Board approve new committee members (three vacancies) and the Instructional Materials Advisory Committee recommendations for the 2010 adoption cycle, the 2010 Instructional Materials Adoption Calendar, and the six-year plan for adoption. Bonnie Disney seconded. The motion carried.

Ms. Stewart added that the SBE and district superintendents can recommend people to serve on the adoption cycle committees and that she gave this information to the new Board members.

SB-05

South Carolina's Race to the Top Grant Application—Betsy Carpentier, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Innovation and Support

Betsy Carpentier reminded the SBE that the Race to the Top (RTTT) Grant Application is available on-line for their review. Chair Moore stated the SBE has scheduled an executive session to discuss contractual matters and to reemphasize confidentiality. Before going into executive session, he said that the Board will review procedural matters of getting signatures and getting the application filed in Washington, DC, on Tuesday, January 19, 2010.

Chair Moore stated that the Board needs to approve the signature by the Chair of the S.C. State Board of Education. He said he will not sign it without the Board first having the opportunity to review it. Chair Moore asked about the status of the application. Mrs. Carpentier said we have a draft narrative, budgets, timelines, logic model, and different exhibits that go with these parts, and that she hopes to have the final version done on Friday, January

15, 2010. Dr. Poda will deliver the application to Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, January 19, to meet the filing deadline.

Dr. Rex expressed gratitude to Mrs. Carpentier for her hard work and extra hours put in during the RTTT application process. Mrs. Carpentier stated that Gail Widner, Grants Program Manager; Audrey Shifflett, Grants Coordinator/EIA Teacher Awards Administrator; and 30 team members within the SCDE had also worked late hours on this project. Dr. Rex also recognized Dr. Poda and Recording Secretary Clark for their extra effort in preparing for the Board Retreat.

Chair Moore asked for a motion to allow for the Chair of the State Board of Education to sign the State's Race to the Top application, after all Board members have had an opportunity to review the application. Marilyn (Lyn) Norton made the motion. Phillip Bowers seconded. The motion carried.

Rose Sheheen asked about the Gates money and inquired as to who is scoring the SCDE application and the criteria used. Mrs. Carpentier said the group has not been announced yet. They are working on a list of people to do this. She also said the Gates money was given to states only if they met certain criteria, and the SCDE did not receive the grant because of the tenure issue. The RTTT application does not have the same restrictions as to tenure. Mrs. Sheheen stated that it looks like Race to the Top was written especially for the State of South Carolina because we have been doing the things required for several years.

Chair Moore thanked Mrs. Carpentier for her and the staff's work on this project.

Information

SB-06

Status Report from the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) about Act 282—Dr. Jo Anne Anderson, Executive Director, Education Oversight Committee

Dr. Jo Anne Anderson reviewed the Status Report from the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) about Act 282 and shared the models under consideration for the state ratings system and the simulations conducted under these models. On January 22, 2010, the EOC is scheduled to adopt the criteria for the ratings system, which will incorporate the PASS test.

Dr. Anderson thanked Dr. Teri Siskind and her team for the collaborative work between the two staffs as they have met for the last two years.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Amelia Herlong that the Board go into executive session to discuss contractual matters. Cindy Clark seconded. The motion carried.

Open Session

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

No vote was taken after Executive Session.

Cindy Clark stated that January is School Board Appreciation Month and said that a way to boost morale would be to have a resolution which would be sent to all local school boards. A motion was made by Ms. Clark for a resolution to thank local school boards. Libby Swad seconded. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Clark for the Board to prepare an op-ed expressing appreciation to local school boards, with the understanding the draft will be sent by e-mail to all Board members for review and comment before anything is published. Libby Swad seconded. Motion carried.

Dr. Postlewait asked how many southern states had applied for RTTT. Dr. Rex and Dr. Poda stated that the estimate is 36 states, and that all the southern states indicated that they will apply, including North Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Concerning complimenting local school boards, Dr. Rex said he agrees this will be a good move, and it should encourage more citizens to consider service on these boards. He stated that he hopes the readership will go beyond the school board members who are already on boards so that other people will run for these positions.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 3:30 p.m.