

MINUTES

State Board of Education Retreat

Dates and Times

Thursday, March 10, 2011, 11:00 a.m., and Friday, March 11, 2011, 8:30 a.m.

Location

Salon D

Clarion Hotel Downtown
1615 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC 29201

Gerrita Postlewait, Chair

Dennis Thompson, Chair-elect

Mick Zais, PhD

State Superintendent of Education

Secretary and Administrative Officer to the Board

Thursday, March 10, 2011

I. Welcome and Introductions

The State Board of Education (SBE) Retreat convened at 11:00 a.m. Chair Postlewait called the meeting to order.

The following 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 (arrived at 2:30 p.m.); Bonnie Disney, Third Judicial Circuit (left at 3:00 p.m.); David Blackmon, PhD, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Rose Sheheen, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Josie Gaston, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Dru James, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Larry Kobrovsky, Ninth Judicial Circuit (arrived at 12:00 p.m.); 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.

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; Charmeka Bosket, Deputy Superintendent for Policy, Office of Policy; Betsy Carpentier, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Innovation and Support; Valerie Harrison, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent, Division of Standards and Learning; Mark Bounds, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership; and Cindy Clark, Recording Secretary.

II. Approval of State Board of Education Retreat Agenda for March 10 and 11, 2011

Chair Postlewait asked for a motion to approve or amend the SBE retreat agenda for March 10 and 11, 2011. Mike Brenan moved to approve the agenda and the motion was seconded. The motion carried.

III. Recognition of Visitors, Including News Media

Chair Postlewait welcomed all visitors. There was no news media present.

IV. Trends in Public Education

Dr. Jillian Darwish, Vice President, Organizational Learning and Innovation, KnowledgeWorks, presented the trends that will impact public education in South Carolina.

V. Student Performance

Chris Minnich, Senior Membership Director, Council of Chief State School Officers, provided an analysis of public education results in South Carolina, the United States, and internationally.

During the discussion period, Mr. Minnich commented that policy does matter, that performance differs between and within schools, and that the ESEA bill, which should be passed by August 2011, will offer more flexibility. Chair Postlewait added that we need to look at what creates high performers and that we need to get away from the one-size-fits-all assumption. It was also noted that there is something problematic happening in South Carolina between fourth and eighth-grade reading.

To reflect on National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) data, Mr. Minnich asked that the Board members break into groups to identify observations, questions, concerns, and ideas. The first group identified building trust as an important issue; the second group identified the need to invest in looking at testing already done; the third group identified the need to determine how we arrived at where we are now based on factors such as the increase in single parents, the need for early intervention in teaching children to read, and the need for creating a forum or task force that will listen instead of mandating from the top down.

The fourth group identified reasons why there are problems retaining good teachers in rural areas and that more needs to be done to enlist and encourage young people to enter the teaching profession. The fifth group determined that there are more problems with students from small areas and dying rural towns. The last group identified the need for recruiting effective teachers and suggested ways to do so. These suggestions included

expanding the Teaching Fellows program, paying teacher's aides to stay in the area, improving discipline, passing the Teacher Protection Act, alternative boarding schools, and monetary incentives to attract and keep teachers in high-poverty areas.

Mr. Minnich stated that teachers are not "entitled" and that weak teachers should not remain employed.

The Board watched a video on Chinese schools, and it was noted that they have similar problems to schools in the United States. After the video, there was a discussion period. Comments included the need to send people interested in the teaching profession to mentor principals, that the starting point for teacher education needs to be in the classroom, and that international comparisons show that the United States has a bigger tolerance for poor performance than any other country.

VI. Promising Practices

Chris Minnich updated the Board on promising practices that are yielding dramatically different results in schools in South Carolina and across the nation.

Mr. Minnich stated that a solution for success is high challenge and high support. This includes intervention in inverse proportion to success, ambitious standards, accountability, devolved responsibility, access to best practice and quality professional development, and good data and clear targets.

"Trends Across States" was added as a presentation topic, and a discussion followed. A comment was made that the United States spends more money in overhead than any other country and when we talk about dollars spent, we should include a discussion of regulations.

VII. Policy Implications

The Board discussed the next steps that the SBE may take to influence education policy formation in South Carolina.

Friday, March 11, 2011

I. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

The State Board of Education Retreat reconvened at 8:30 a.m. Chair Postlewait 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: 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 (arrived at 11:00 a.m.); David Blackmon, PhD, Fourth

Judicial Circuit; Rose Sheheen, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Josie Gaston, 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; Phillip Bowers, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; John Rampey, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; and Mike Brenan, Governor's Appointee.

Absent with apologies were Bonnie Disney, Third Judicial Circuit; Neil Willis, Seventh Judicial Circuit; and Michael Blue, Twelfth Judicial Circuit.

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; Shelly Bezanson Kelly, General Counsel and Parliamentarian, Office of General Counsel; Mark Bounds, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership; Nancy Busbee, PhD, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Division of Accountability; Liz Jones, Director, Office of Assessment, Division of Accountability; and Cindy Clark, Recording Secretary.

II. Recognition of Visitors, Including News Media

Chair Postlewait welcomed all visitors. There was no news media present.

III. Purposes of Assessment

Charmeka Bosket, Deputy Superintendent for Policy, Office of Policy, updated the Board on the summative and formative assessments currently administered in South Carolina public schools.

IV. SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium

Joseph Willhoft, Executive Director, State of Washington, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), presented an update on the progress of SBAC on developing an assessment system that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards. After his presentation, there was a question and answer session.

V. Partnership for Assessment of Readiness of College and Careers

Kristen Ellington, Deputy Commissioner, Florida Department of Education, Partnership for Assessment of Readiness of College and Careers (PARCC), presented an update on the progress of PARCC on developing an assessment system that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards. After her presentation, there was a question and answer session.

VI. Next Generation of Assessments

Ginger Hopkins, Senior Vice President of Strategic Vision and Education Reform, Northwest Evaluation Association, described new developments in measuring student growth in real time and how these developments allow students, parents, and teachers to increase student learning. After her report, there was a question and answer session.

VII. Assessment of Learning—Next Steps

Charmeka Bosket provided an overview of state and federal assessment requirements. The Board began discussing options for improving South Carolina's assessment system; however, it was agreed there was not enough detail given to warrant a decision being made regarding which consortia to choose or if one is needed at all.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the SBE Retreat adjourned at 1:00 p.m.