

## MINUTES

### State Board of Education Meeting

#### Date

Wednesday, June 12, 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 1:06 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; Jim Griffith, Second Judicial Circuit; Lonzena Harry, Third Judicial Circuit; Traci Young Cooper, EdD, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Raye O'Neal Boyd, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Dru James, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Larry Kobrovsky, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Jeffrey Kubu, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Bishop Michael Blue, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; Danny Varat, PhD, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; Dennis Thompson, Jr., Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; John Rampey, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; and Mike Brenan, Governor's Appointee.

Absent with apologies were Neil Willis, Seventh Judicial Circuit, and Dr. Thomas Shortt, 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; 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; Paul Butler-Nalin, Director, Office of Research and Data Analysis; Briana Timmerman, PhD, Director, Office of Instructional Practices and Evaluations; Darlene Prevatt, Education Associate, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability; Laura Bayne, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs; Fritz Mason, Public Information Coordinator, 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 MAY 8, 2013**

Chair Blackmon asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes for the SBE meeting on May 8, 2013, as presented. He called for a vote and the motion carried.

**III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR JUNE 12, 2013**

Chair Blackmon asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda for the SBE meeting on June 12, 2013, as presented. He called for a vote and the motion carried.

**IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA**

Dr. Blackmon welcomed visitors to the SBE meeting. News media present included Jamie Self of the *State*.

**V. STATE CHAIR REMARKS**

Dr. Blackmon shared that there are not many agenda items to be heard in July, so the SBE may meet by teleconference.

**VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT**

Dr. Zais visited with students, parents, teachers, and school leaders at the following schools:

- In Anderson 2, Dr. Zais visited Honea Path Middle and Belton-Honea Path High School. Later that day he visited Powdersville Middle and Wren High School, both in Anderson 1. Powdersville Middle was his 200th school visit since assuming office in January 2011.
- In Kershaw County, Dr. Zais visited Jackson Elementary and Camden Elementary to kick off the Department's summer reading program. Using lottery funds, the Department is partnering with 116 schools to provide students 8 or 9 books to read over the summer. The SCDE and the schools know the reading level of the child, and they get to pick the books that interest them and that are appropriate for their reading level. When they return to school, the

SCDE will assess them to measure their reading level after the summer. The cost is very low: \$50 per student. Similar programs, where the child gets to choose the books, have shown that we can prevent summer reading loss. Summer reading camps produce similar results, but tend to cost around \$1,200 per student rather than \$50 per student. This is 2400 percent more! It is important in this case, and in all instances, that educators ask the question, "Given the limited dollars available, how do we maximize student learning?" Sadly, he does not often encounter this mindset.

As he has throughout his administration, Dr. Zais met with school leaders on an individual basis or in small groups. In May, he met with a group of adult education directors to discuss adult education.

Dr. Zais made several public appearances in the last month.

- Dr. Zais spoke to and took questions from the members of the Columbia Rotary Club.
- Dr. Zais gave welcoming remarks at the annual meeting of CAEP, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation. This is the successor organization to NCATE, the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education. NCATE is the national organization that accredits departments and schools of education at our colleges and universities.
- Dr. Zais participated in the Fallen Soldiers Luncheon hosted by State Senator Katrina Shealy, honoring the sacrifice of the South Carolina families whose sons were killed in action over the past year.
- Dr. Zais spoke to and took questions from about 200 members of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce.
- On June 4, Dr. Zais was invited by the *Washington Post* newspaper to participate in a panel discussion with five other chief state school officers. The topic was reading and public policy proposals different states are examining to improve reading. Later that day, he visited several members of the South Carolina federal delegation to thank them for their service and to offer some opinions about reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).
- Dr. Zais participated in several board meetings that he regularly attends: the Education Oversight Committee and the Board of Visitors at the Citadel.
- Dr. Zais delivered commencement addresses at two high school graduation ceremonies. The first was the statewide ceremony hosted by the South Carolina Association of Independent Home Schools. He also addressed the 2013 graduating class at Strom Thurmond High School in Edgefield County.

Dr. Zais briefly mentioned some activity in the General Assembly as time ran out on this legislative session.

- The General Assembly did pass one of his top agenda items, which was the Expanded Virtual Learning Act. This bill removes the cap on the number of courses a student can take through the Department's virtual education program.
- The Legislature did not pass the charter school accountability bill for reasons Dr. Zais does not understand. This bill, among other things, would require low-performing charter schools to close if they had the lowest rating on the federal accountability system for 3 consecutive years. Dr. Zais has consistently said that charter schools are held to a higher standard of accountability, and those that fail to meet that standard should be closed. Dr. Zais will work with the General Assembly to pass the bill next year, but sadly, a whole year of implementation has been lost. Ultimately, it is the children in these failing schools who will suffer because of the lack of action from the General Assembly.
- There is still no budget for the coming school year. But even though neither chamber enacted many bills into law, they are very much involved in writing education policy into the budget. Dr. Zais provided two examples.
  - The House-passed budget includes an earmark for the Microsoft Corporation. The Department did not support it and requested its deletion, but those requests were denied. Unless this budget proviso is vetoed by the Governor and sustained by the Legislature, funding that should go to school districts to purchase equipment for career and technology centers will go instead to Microsoft. These dollars will fund a new program Microsoft is starting. In 2012, Microsoft had a net income of over \$17 billion. But apparently that was not enough. So there will be reduced funding for equipment in our career and technology centers because of a Microsoft earmark.
  - The Senate-passed budget includes a budget proviso that would exempt up to five school districts from state and federal accountability. The Department was never consulted on this proviso. Setting aside that these five school districts and their schools would be in violation of the federal ESEA law, the state would be unable to determine whether or not progress would have been made in these districts or whether or not students are learning anything in the classroom. When schools can fail year after year with no consequences, and when students can reach ninth grade, yet only read on first- or second-grade level, the message is clear. There is too little accountability in the education system, not too much. If the proviso had been written in such a way that these districts would still give the current state and federally required assessments, but have flexibility to give some other set of assessments, the Department would not take issue with the proviso.
  - The earmark for Microsoft and exempting districts from accountability provisos are just two examples of how the General Assembly creates education policy by using the budget bill. And they do so with little debate and little transparency. They certainly did not include the Department in these discussions. This is far different than how the Department has tried to engage the General Assembly on a variety of issues, such as the process for developing the ESEA Flexibility Request. Legislators were informed in a timely manner of all the public meetings held across the state, yet very few attended one of these public meetings. Even fewer have accepted Dr. Zais's invitations to join him on his school visits. These visits are conducted on Mondays and Fridays, so they do not conflict with General Assembly deliberations in Columbia. There have been a few legislators who cared enough to join Dr. Zais, but they are the rare exception.

- As it stands today, there will be new assessments used in school year 2014–15, assessments being developed by the Smarter Balanced consortium. However, , the State can withdraw from Smarter Balanced at any time for any reason. So if there is another assessment system that meets federal requirements as well as the needs of the State, Dr. Zais is not opposed to looking at other options. But to date, no alternative proposals have come before the State Board of Education or the Education Oversight Committee.

## **VII. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION RECOGNITIONS**

The state honor roll teachers and the state teacher of the year were presented for recognition. Honor roll teachers Trevor Ivey and Lisa Raiford sent their regrets as they were unable to attend the meeting.

The first honor roll teacher was Paul Johnson of Saluda County Schools, represented on the State Board by Barry Bolen. Paul has 12 years of teaching experience and currently teaches biology at Saluda High School. Paul's surroundings helped create a rough start in life for him. With hard work and allies along the way, though, he has been able to come much further than he "should have." Paul challenges his students because he wants them to go further in life than they think possible.

The next honor roll teacher was Jeff Venables of Rock Hill School District, represented on the State Board by John Rampey. Jeff has 17 years of teaching experience and teaches chemistry at Northwestern High School. Jeff embraces technology and integrates tools that benefit his students. He has served as a Model Technology leader in Rock Hill Schools and presented in the educational community at statewide conferences. Jeff serves as a mentor and works with the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate chemistry teachers around the world by helping them design laboratory activities for their students.

Darlene Sutton, this year's Teacher of the Year, was introduced. She is represented on the State Board by Dr. Danny Varat. She has 21 years of teaching experience and teaches first grade at Pickens elementary. Darleen enjoys helping her students learn to read and witness the excitement that is created with them through the power of the written word. Her goal is to teach the whole child and help them develop overall as a productive member of society.

Every year, the State Board recognizes volunteers in four categories: Individual, School Improvement Councils, Business, and Civic. The winners and finalists were present at the meeting for recognition:

The winner in the individual category was Peter Bergstrom, nominated by Simpsonville Elementary at Morton Place in Greenville County School District. He is represented on the State Board by Dr. Danny Varat. Every morning at 7:15 a.m., Peter tutors students individually who need extra instruction in math. After the before-school tutorial program, Mr. Peter, as the

students call him, works with fourth- and fifth-grade English Speakers of other Languages students to reinforce math concepts. His creation of a math race to increase fluency has resulted in steadily improving scores on the Palmetto Assessment of State Standards . He has volunteered to teach classes to fifth graders on DNA and cell structure, volunteered to judge the school's Science Bee, and has served as a role model to hundreds of students. He is an active volunteer on the School Improvement Council (SIC). Mr. Bergstrom volunteered with the school for an estimated 504 hours this year.

The finalist in the individual category was Robert Hall, nominated by Summit Drive Elementary in Greenville County School District. He is represented on the State Board by Dr. Danny Varat. Because of Robert's efforts, Summit Drive Elementary was the first school to begin the WATCH D-O-G-S. program, which stands for Dads of Great Students. The purpose of WATCH D.O.G.S. is to have fathers and father figures spend at least one day in their child's school. Rob is present every morning to orientate the daily WATCH D.O.G.S. Following the Sandy Hook tragedy, parents took great comfort in seeing the 12 watch dogs present as they took their children to school the next day. Rob has volunteered over 600 hours with the program.

The winner in the SIC Category was DuBose Middle School (DMS) in Dorchester School District Two, represented on the State Board by Dr. David Longshore. The DMS SIC serves a number of roles at DMS, but the role that deserves the most accolades is their creation and running of the Wildcat Food Pantry. Since the food pantry began in 2012, a core group of six volunteers have tirelessly worked to make this venture a success. Each week, these ladies come to the school, check expiration dates and organize the food items, pack bags, and distribute these bags to the students in need. Like clockwork, they come to the school each week and perform their duties, often unbeknownst to others. To date, they have volunteered for over 350 hours.

The finalist in the school improvement category was the North Augusta High SIC, represented on the State Board by Jim Griffith. Led by President Will Barnes, the SIC is diverse, with community powerbrokers, clergy, and socio-economic groups and vocal stakeholders all working towards the same goals. In the past year, the group has assisted in the implementation of an effective freshman academy. The SIC has hosted approximately twenty elected officials for tours and information sessions with the meetings.

The winner in the Business Category was International Paper's Eastover Mill, nominated by Webber Elementary in Richland District One, represented on the State Board by Dr. Traci Young Cooper. Over the last 25 years, International Paper contributed more than \$130,000, and gave more than 40,000 volunteer hours. Within the past three years, they have awarded Webber Elementary more than \$35,000 to fund projects such as the "Books on the Bus," a literacy program; construction of an outdoor class room for science and environmental studies; and the "Body and Mind" Weekend Backpack initiative to combat hunger and improve student nutrition. Because of their partnership, the school has seen increased academic performances, improved student and teacher attendance, improved positive student behavior, as well as an increase in parents and community participation.

The finalist in the Business Category was National Healthcare Corporation (NHC) Parklane, nominated by Ridge View High School in Richland District Two and represented on the State Board by Dr. Traci Young Cooper. NHC Parklane provides the Bio-Medical Magnet students the opportunity to intern in the summer with physical, occupational, and speech therapy. NHC's staff opens their doors and hearts to provide students with a comprehensive opportunity to interact and provide patient care, while exploring their desired career pathway, in a safe and supportive environment. Without this amazing partnership, Ridge View High School would not be able to provide students with the required "hands on" opportunities that have made them one of the strongest Health Science programs in the state.

The winner in the Civic Category was the Mary Black Foundation, nominated by the Early Learning Center at Park Hills in Spartanburg District Seven and represented on the State Board by Neil Willis. The Mary Black Foundation (MBF) is an independent grant-making organization focused on improving the health and wellness of the people and communities of Spartanburg County. In school year 2011–12, the MBF committed over \$1.3 million to the Spartanburg school districts through three programs: full-day 4K programs, the Early Learning Center at Park Hills, and a childhood obesity prevention project, called SPARK PE. In the past two years, MBF gave \$600,000 to support a high-quality child development center program for children under five at the District 7 Early Learning Center at Park Hills. The MBF has contributed over 2000 hours of volunteer service.

The finalist in the Civic category was the 120<sup>th</sup> Adjutant General Reception Battalion, nominated by Sandlapper Elementary in Richland District Two and represented on the State Board by Dr. Traci Young Cooper. Sandlapper has always enjoyed a special partnership with Ft. Jackson and community soldiers since over 30 percent of its student population is military. The school's guidance counselor and the Battalion paired willing volunteer soldier mentors with our students who desperately needed some additional adult support in their lives. These mentors come weekly for a couple of hours each visit to eat lunch with their mentees, join in recess activities, and show an interest in their studies and schoolwork. During the school year, the battalion served 315 hours.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following people participated in the public comment period:

- Linda Ensor, Lowcountry CIA
- Jeff Reuer, Goose Creek 9–12 project
- Debbie Jones, Mt. Pleasant 9–12 project
- Jermaine Husser and Allison Waymyers, StudentsFirst
- Bill Baies, GCPIE
- Roger O'Sullivan, GCPIE
- Deb Marks, SC Parents Involved in Education

**IX. STATE BOARD ITEMS**

**SB STATE BOARD ITEM FOR APPROVAL**

01. **Draft of the 2013 South Carolina Standard for World Language (WL) Proficiency (Second Reading)**—Ruta Couet, Education Associate, Division of School Effectiveness

Dr. Cooper motioned for the SBE to approve SB-01. Ms. Boyd seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS COMMITTEE**

**Committee Report**—Dr. David Longshore, Chair

The Committee heard five approval items and two information items. The Committee placed all but EP-03 on the consent agenda. Chair Blackmon motioned for the SBE to approve the EP Committee report. The motion carried.

Dr. Varat moved to suspend the rules of the SBE so EP-03 could be brought before the full Board without a recommendation to approve from the committee. Mr. Thompson seconded. The motion carried.

EP-03 was brought to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Cindy Van Buren provided a brief presentation regarding the recommended cut scores. The Department recommends adopting the cut scores recommended by the multi-state expert panel. Mr. Brennan voted to approve, and Mr. Rampey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**FOR APPROVAL**

01. **Professional Review Committee (PRC) Recommendations for Continuing Unit Accreditation of the Educator Preparation Units at Bob Jones University, Claflin University, College of Charleston, Columbia International University, Converse College, Francis Marion University, Lander University, and The Citadel**—Cindy Van Buren, PhD, Director, Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment, and Preparation, Division of School Effectiveness
02. **Professional Review Committee (PRC) Recommendations for Two New Educator Preparation Programs**—Cindy Van Buren, PhD, Director, Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment, and Preparation, Division of School Effectiveness

03. **Adopt New Tests and Passing Scores for Praxis II Examinations in English Language Arts: Content and Analysis; Mathematics: Content Knowledge; Middle School English Language Arts; Middle School Mathematics; Special Education: Teaching Students with Behavioral Disorders/Emotional Disturbances; and Psychology. Adopt New Tests and Passing Scores for Praxis I Examinations in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics**—Cindy Van Buren, PhD, Director, Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment, and Preparation, Division of School Effectiveness
04. **Teach For America (TFA) Expansion in Designated Geographic Areas**—Mary Hipp, Education Associate, Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment, and Preparation, Division of School Effectiveness; and Josh Bell, Executive Director, Teach For America
05. **Student Teaching Waiver Request**—Cindy Van Buren, PhD, Director, Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment, and Preparation, Division of School Effectiveness

## PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE

**Committee Report**—David Blackmon, PhD, Chair

The Committee heard six approval items and four information items. All approval items were placed on the consent agenda. Chair Blackmon motioned for the SBE to approve the Policy and Legislative committee report. The motion carried.

### FOR APPROVAL

01. **Horry County School District Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-63 (2011), Requirements for Career and Technology Education (CTE) Work-Based Certification in the Engineer/Industrial Technology Cluster**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability
02. **Spartanburg County School District Two Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-261 (2011), District and School Planning**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability
03. **John de la Howe School Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-261 (2011), District and School Planning**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability

04. **Cherokee County School District Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-261 (2011), District and School Planning**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability
05. **Annual Report of the Accreditation of Schools and Districts in South Carolina for the 2012–13 School Year**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability
06. **Revised Model Safe School Checklist**—Sabrina Moore, PhD, Director, Office of Student Intervention Services, Division of Accountability

**SB STATE BOARD ITEM FOR INFORMATION**

01. **SLICE Demonstration**—Paul Butler-Nalin, PhD, Director, Office of Research and Data Analysis

<b>X. CONSENT AGENDA</b>
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The following items were approved in committee and placed on the Consent Agenda:

**EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS**

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02. **Professional Review Committee (PRC) Recommendations for Two New Educator Preparation Programs**—Cindy Van Buren, PhD, Director, Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment, and Preparation, Division of School Effectiveness
04. **Teach For America (TFA) Expansion in Designated Geographic Areas**—Mary Hipp, Education Associate, Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment, and Preparation, Division of School Effectiveness; and Josh Bell, Executive Director, Teach For America
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Mrs. Boyd motioned that the SBE approve the consent agenda. Dr. Longshore seconded the motion. The motion carried.

<b>XI. LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND REQUESTS REGARDING REGULATIONS</b>
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Jay W. Ragley, Director, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs

Mr. Ragley shared that the Expanded Virtual Learning Act will become law upon the signature of the governor. Information regarding the concussion bill and the Epi-pen bill was given—those will become law upon the signature of the governor.

In regards to the budget, the conference committee met last Friday to discuss provisos, etc. They are scheduled to meet this Friday at 10 a.m. for further discussion. The three big issues are how they are going to fund transportation projects going forward, the 4K expansion, and tax credits associated with giving scholarships to students with disabilities.

Once they have a budget, it will go to the governor, and she will have five days to veto items. If there is no agreement, the House can pass a continuing resolution to fund state government until the budget is passed.

**XII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Brenan gave an update on the New Carolina initiative. They received 29 applications for consideration in the pilot project. The next conference is September 25.

Dr. Blackmon reminded all SBE members to turn in their travel forms.

Members of the SBE discussed the common reading, titled *Making of Americans*.

Dr. Blackmon thanked Dr. Traci Young Cooper for providing the refreshments.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 4:09 p.m.