

MINUTES
State Board of Education Meeting

Date
Wednesday, October 10, 2012

Time
1:00 p.m.

Location
Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina

Dennis Thompson, Chair
David Blackmon, PhD, 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 1:00 p.m. Chair Thompson called the meeting to order and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. He also recognized "Principals Appreciation Month" and thanked the principals attending today's meeting.

The following State Board of Education (SBE) members were in attendance: Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; David Blackmon, PhD, Chair-elect, Fourth Judicial Circuit; David Longshore, PhD, First Judicial Circuit; Bonnie Disney, Third Judicial Circuit; Rose Sheheen, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Raye O'Neal Boyd, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Neil Willis, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Dru James, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Larry Kobrovsky, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Marilyn (Lyn) Norton, EdD, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Barry Bolen, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Danny Varat, PhD, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; Thomas Shortt, EdD, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; John Rampey, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; and Mike Brenan, Governor's Appointee.

Absent with apologies were Jim Griffith, Second 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; Scott English, Chief Operating Officer; Charmeka Childs, Deputy Superintendent, Division of School Effectiveness; Jay W. Ragley, Director, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs; Laura Bayne, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs; Shelly Bezanson Kelly, General Counsel and Parliamentarian, Office of General Counsel; Nancy Busbee, PhD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Accountability (arrived at 2:15 p.m.); John Cooley, Chief Finance Officer; and Cindy Clark, Recording Secretary.

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

Dr. Blackmon stated that he would like to make two corrections to the minutes. The first correction is on page 12, second paragraph. He asked to strike the phrase "regarding the letter grade." On the third paragraph of the same page, he noted that "institutes of higher education" should be changed to "institutions of higher education."

Chair Thompson asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes for the SBE meeting on September 12, 2012, as amended. He called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 10, 2012

Chair Thompson asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda for the SBE meeting on October 10, 2012, as presented. He called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA

Chair Thompson welcomed all visitors and the news media.

V. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

State Superintendent of Education Zais reported on his public appearances over the past month.

On September 26, 2012, Dr. Zais visited students, teachers, and school leaders at four schools located in three districts in Florence County: Main Street Elementary School and Lake City College Preparatory Academy, which is a charter school in Florence District Three; Johnsonville Middle School in Florence District Five; and Hannah-Pamplico High School in Florence District Two. Later that day, he was interviewed by the Florence Morning News Editorial Board and spoke at the Live at Central event at the Florence County Library, which is a monthly event scheduled by a group of parishioners at the Central United Methodist Church in Florence.

On September 27, Dr. Zais visited district special education directors at the SCDE's Fall Special Education Administrators Conference. This conference is produced by the SCDE's Office of Exceptional Children for school district personnel every fall.

On September 29, Dr. Zais attended a reception at The Citadel hosted by General John Rosa, President. As the State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Zais is a member of The Citadel's Board of Visitors.

On October 1, Dr. Zais visited students, teachers, and school leaders in three schools in Orangeburg District Five: Brookdale Elementary School, Howard Middle School, and Mellichamp Elementary School. All of these schools are named as federal priority schools because they are in the bottom 5 percent of Title 1 schools based on student achievement. He said he was encouraged, however, because he did not hear any excuses by the principal or the superintendent. They acknowledged that they were not where they want to be, and they are convinced they can serve their students much more effectively. Dr. Zais added that if they follow through with their plans, he thinks they can turn the schools around.

On October 2, Dr. Zais spoke at the Fall Leadership Conference hosted by the South Carolina Public Charter School Alliance. Later that day, he visited with students, teachers, and school leaders in the Chester County School District. He visited three elementary schools that share a complex called the Chester Park Complex. Afterwards, he met with all three principals and the new Chester County Superintendent.

On October 3, the SCDE held a statewide virtual meeting regarding the implementation of the U.S. Department of Education's approved ESEA waiver flexibility plan, sometimes called a waiver to No Child Left Behind. The presentation was viewed by 271 people who also had the opportunity to submit questions via e-mail. This was one of the most watched virtual meetings that the SCDE has had in the past year. The SBE was invited to participate in that meeting, and a recording of it is available on our Web site.

On October 4, Dr. Zais visited with students, teachers, and school leaders at three schools in the Berkeley County School District. Those schools included St. Stephen Middle, Whitesville Elementary, and Marrington Middle School of the Arts. St. Stephen Middle is a federal-focus school and has one of the largest achievement gaps among Title 1 schools in our state. Whitesville Elementary is a federal-reward school based upon student achievement and is among the highest performing Title 1 schools in our state. Marrington is also a high-performing school and was one of five schools in South Carolina to earn the distinction of a National Blue Ribbon School this year. Dr. Zais added that plans are to recognize the National Blue Ribbon schools at the next SBE meeting.

On October 5, Dr. Zais attended the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees meeting of which he is a member. On the same day, he attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Imagine Columbia Leadership Academy, which is a new public charter school located off of North Main Street in Columbia. This school is part of a national non-profit network of charter schools—the Imagine Charter Schools Network. They currently have 70 charter schools in 12 states serving approximately 38,000 students.

On October 8, Dr. Zais attended the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee of which he is a member. In addition to Dr. Zais's meetings with principals, teachers, and school leaders in the schools and districts, he also met with district adult educators to discuss the current state of adult education and initiatives that districts are undertaking to improve these programs in their communities. Later that evening, he attended a West Point alumni dinner in Myrtle Beach.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Five persons signed up for public comment and spoke regarding the proposed teacher and principal evaluation instruments and guidelines. They are as follows:

- Denise Barth—President, Elementary Principals Division of the South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA)
- Robbie Binnicker—South Carolina Secondary Principal of the Year, representing the Secondary Division of SCASA
- Patrick Hayes—Director, EdFirstSC
- Jackie Hicks—President, South Carolina Education Association
- Melita Reeves—Anderson County School District 4

VII. STATE BOARD ITEMS

EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS

Committee Report—Dr. David Longshore, Chair

Dr. Longshore gave an overview of one action item as follows:

FOR APPROVAL

01. **Proposed Amendments to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-205.1 (R 43-205.1) (Supp. 2004), Assisting, Developing, and Evaluation Professional Teaching (ADEPT) (First Reading)**—Kathy Meeks, PhD, Office of Educator Evaluation, Division of School Effectiveness

Dr. Longshore stated that there was no action taken on this item and moved that it be deferred until the November SBE meeting.

Dr. Longshore also gave an overview of one information item as follows:

FOR INFORMATION

02. **Education Professions Committee (EPC) 2011 Goals Update**—Charmeka Childs, Deputy Superintendent, Division of School Effectiveness

IF INNOVATION AND FINANCE

Committee Report—Dr. David Blackmon, Chair

Dr. Blackmon commended the SCDE staff for helping the committee members walk through the two action items. He gave an overview of those items and stated that they were placed on the consent agenda as follows:

FOR APPROVAL

01. **Proposed Repeal of State Board of Education (SBE) Regulations 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-180, 181, 183, 187, 190, and 191 (First Reading)**—Shelly Bezanson Kelly, General Counsel and Parliamentarian, Office of General Counsel
02. **Proposed Amendments to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-601 (R 43-601), Procedures and Standards for Review of Charter School Applications (First Reading)**—Charmeka Childs, Deputy Superintendent, Division of School Effectiveness

Dr. Blackmon also gave an overview of one information item as follows:

FOR INFORMATION

03. **Financial Update for Fiscal Year 2012–13**—Dr. David Blackmon, Chair, Innovation and Finance Committee, State Board of Education

Dr. Blackmon reported that the SBE operations budget at the conclusion of last month was \$37,146.

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE

Committee Report—Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair

Chair Thompson stated there were two action items placed on the consent agenda as follows:

FOR APPROVAL

02. **Proposed Amendments to State Board of Education Regulation 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-220 (R 43-220), Gifted and Talented (First Reading)**—Rick Blanchard, Education Associate, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability
03. **Nominations to Fill Vacancies on the 2013 Volunteer Awards Nominating Committee**—Laura Bayne, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs

Chair Thompson stated there was one action item to be approved by the SBE as follows:

01. **Florence County School District Three Proviso 1A.56 Waiver Request**—Jay W. Ragley, Director, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs

Dr. Keith Callicutt, Interim Superintendent, Florence County School District Three (Florence 3) gave an overview of the presentation made in the PL Committee Meeting this morning. Dr. Callicutt stated that he has been in this position since the July 2011–12 school year began, and the budget had already been completed. Florence 3 has a very unique situation as far as the process and procedure for budget approval. Florence 3, Florence 5, and Florence 2 are the only school districts in South Carolina that still have their budgets completed or approved by a “citizens meeting.” The budget that was approved when he came in as interim superintendent had been approved by a “citizens meeting” that also elected the board members. Based on the number of meeting attendees, it is possible that a board member may be elected with three votes, 30 votes, or more. The district worked with the local legislative delegation to change that process and was successful in getting the law changed. Florence 3’s board now has the authority to approve the school district’s budget. When Dr. Callicutt started looking into the budget, it was clear that the district was going to run a significant deficit based on the previously approved budget and on what had occurred over the last four to five years. When the economy declined in 2008, everybody suffered financially. Having not been there, Dr. Callicutt had to depend on board, staff, and community members to inform him concerning how the district’s budget got to this point. The explanation included consistent reduction in the value of a mill; the legislature consistently underfunding the base student cost; use of one-time stimulus dollars to fund personnel; and use of the general fund balance to balance the budget and fund positions. While other districts around the state made significant cuts to their general fund budgets based on the great recession of 2008, Florence 3 utilized non-recurring revenues for recurring expenses with the hope that the economy would make significant improvements and the state would meet its responsibility for the base student cost. While the economy has shown some improvement, Florence 3 has had to accept a “new norm.”

Dr. Callicutt said they have worked extremely hard with the community, school board, teachers, and staff members trying to bring healing to the district. They all supported the waiver request on the teacher step increase.

After a question and answer period between Dr. Callicut and the SBE members, Chair Thompson reminded the SBE that the motion from the PL Committee was to deny the Florence County School District Three Proviso 1A.56 Waiver Request.

Mrs. James motioned that the SBE approve the Florence County School District Three Proviso 1A.56 Waiver Request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bolen.

Dr. Blackmon stated that since he and Dr. Callicutt have worked together in the past and are friends, he needed to recuse himself from voting on this item. He added that he had also recused himself from voting in the PL Committee Meeting this morning.

After discussion, Chair Thompson called for the vote. The motion failed.

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Committee Report—Dru James, Chair

Mrs. James turned the Committee Report over to Mr. Bolen as she had arrived late, due to traffic, to the committee meeting this morning. Mr. Bolen gave an overview of the two information items as follows:

FOR INFORMATION

- 01. Common Core Standards Update**—Catherine Jones-Stork, Team Leader, Office of Teacher Effectiveness, Division of School Effectiveness
- 02. Common Core Assessment Update**—Jenny Howard, Education Associate, Office of Assessment, Division of Accountability

SB STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

FOR INFORMATION

- 01. Innovation Steering Committee Final Report**—David Blackmon, PhD, Chair-elect, Fourth Judicial Circuit, and Mike Brenan, Governor's Appointee

Mr. Brenan stated that in 2011 the SBE authorized the Innovation and Finance Committee to explore, advance, and transform innovation in South Carolina's public schools. He said that he, Dr. Blackmon, Dr. Gerrita Postlewait (past SBE Chair), Dr. Karen Woodward (Superintendent, Lexington School District One), Trip Dubard (former SBE member and President, South Carolina Future Minds), and Melanie Barton (Executive Director, Education Oversight Committee) served on the Innovation Initiative Steering Committee (IISC) along with business representatives and some district superintendents. He commented that the *Innovation Initiative Steering Team Report and Recommendations* was sent to all SBE members before today's meeting. Mr. Brenan asked that the SBE also review Dr. Zais's Transforming Our Schools presentation and look for alignment between his presentation and the work of the IISC.

Mr. Brenan shared some highlights from the executive summary of the IISC's final report. He noted that the IISC recognizes that business and industry are the largest consumers of education, and innovation and transformation need to be performance-driven, learner-centered, evidence-based, personalized, applied, technology-enabled, cost-effective, and feasible at scale. He stated that leadership comes from the ground up and from the top. Also, new methods of teaching need

to be in place to pace individual student learning and an assessment system which focuses more on informative instead of summative assessments. This will require changes in education policy, regulations, and legislation. Mr. Brenan said that he appreciates the SBE's willingness to provide flexibility for the school districts and to look at policies and regulations which make it easier for innovation and transformation to occur in the districts. Innovation and transformation is about economic development and prosperity, and it is a competitiveness issue in South Carolina.

Dr. Blackmon shared the IISC's strategic direction. He noted that we need to take the time to look at our present practices to determine how we can better serve students. We need a new approach to enable our students to compete in a national and global economy. He said the IISC suggests a formation of a public-private collaborative. This partnership will coordinate and facilitate planning and the implementation process for a broad range of stakeholders to align goals necessary to drive change. The partnership will include the State Superintendent of Education, the SBE, and the SCDE staff. The idea is that innovation will come from the local school districts. There is a diverse group of entities, individuals, and leaders in South Carolina, and a change is needed. This will require funding but probably the repurposing of public funds and the generation of dollars from the private sector. The IISC is committed to creating the conditions necessary to support innovation and for transformation to occur. We have discovered that, although there is some innovation happening in schools, we must expand and give opportunities to as many students as possible. The transformation discussion should center on how we want our graduates to look in a business and industry market. This transformation of our PK-12 system will take time, and it may experience resistance from some sectors, stakeholders, parents, and community members. The rest of the world is already moving ahead; the states and nations who get there first will have the lead in attracting and creating new jobs, and their graduates will own the future. South Carolina must start now, and all our leaders must be united in making this happen. Dr. Blackmon said that our challenge is to take time to look at the opportunities that are before us.

Mr. Brenan stated that the IISC will turn this work over to New Carolina, which is a business and industry research entity that has worked a lot on economic prosperity issues in South Carolina. It is called the Council on Competitiveness. If we do not get this right, we will not be competitive for new jobs and additional jobs. Mr. Brenan added that Governor Haley is behind the innovation and transformation effort. Also, he and Pam Lackey (President, AT&T in South Carolina) recognize that it will be a long journey but one worth taking. Everyone is welcome to participate in this journey. We will engage the support of the Riley Institute at Furman University and South Carolina Future Minds. He reminded everyone that when Dr. Zais made his presentation, he took something complex and made it very simple. He said, "This is about what is taught, where it is taught, when it is taught, how it is taught, who teaches it, how it is evaluated, and how schools are governed." These are the areas on which we will focus as we move forward. Dr. Zais has already recommended one very innovative idea to the SBE, which he plans to take to the General Assembly—the creation of a Transformation District. This district would be able to transform consistently failing schools. Mr. Brenan thanked the SBE for giving him the opportunity to help change the way we do public education in South Carolina.

Dr. Blackmon reminded the SBE of the meeting on October 12, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce. Chair Thompson thanked Dr. Blackmon and Mr. Brenan for their presentation.

There was a question and answer period after the presentation.

02. **School Improvement Grants (Educator Evaluation System Beta Test)**—Charmeka Childs, Deputy Superintendent, Division of School Effectiveness

Mrs. Childs stated that she would like to emphasize why the SCDE is doing the Educator Evaluation System Beta Test (EESBT). She said that we believe that all students in South Carolina can learn. There are multiple measures for measuring how much students are learning. We can measure the impact of teachers concerning student achievement. The EESBT needs to take into account the best information available to us. This information can rely on those multiple measures based on a structure that will help us see ways in which we can help teachers become more effective at helping our students achieve the goals set for them. The purpose of the EESBT and updates are not an end unto themselves; they are a tool used to help our students learn better as our teachers become stronger.

Mrs. Childs added that the purpose of today's presentation is to look at a component of the proposed model that is currently being beta tested and SAS is helping implement. The SCDE's goal is to convey a greater understanding of the tool we are using to measure the impact that teachers have on learning as we are measuring it through student performance on assessment. She stated that the entire system uses multiple measures; today's presentation focuses on a smaller component which is the value-added piece. This component looks at student performance over time. Mrs. Childs reminded the SBE that the system is under development and is being beta-tested during the 2012–13 school year.

John White, PhD, Senior Manager, Value-Added R&D, SAS EVAAS for K–12, SAS Institute, gave an overview of the history of EVAAS and the value-added model which measures student achievement and growth. EVAAS is involved in the research of value-added modeling and analyzing student testing data, and has been doing so for over 20 years. Dr. White presented *An Introduction to Value-Added Reporting*. He noted the benefits of the EVAAS approach and stated that educators and policymakers receive fair, valid, and reliable reporting that can be used to provide more reliable data about the general achievement of students; maximize potential educational opportunity for students at all levels of academic achievement; leverage effective teaching; aid in targeted professional development for educators; and provide tools for educators to identify strengths/weaknesses. Dr. White added that EVAAS estimates are among the most reliable and least biased approaches.

Mrs. Childs commented that the SCDE will continue to help SBE members understand what the SCDE is analyzing concerning the value-added component. She added that we are fine-tuning, through the beta tests and the SIG project, what will eventually be proposed to the SBE. We do not want to bring forward a proposal until we have had an opportunity to look at the data and work through the logistics. This will ensure that what the SCDE brings to the SBE will be a strong product for our state. In terms of next steps, the SCDE will continue to work with SAS on data collection and ensuring that teacher data is reliable and matches the perspectives of both the SCDE and the local schools and districts. We will continue honoring what we committed to do concerning the SIG project to the federal government and implementing this evaluation system in the SIG schools. Concerning data, the SCDE is still deciding how to move into the next phase relating to the ESEA Flexibility Waiver Request.

There was a question and answer period after the presentation. It was also noted that the presentation would be placed on the SBE Web site at this link:
http://ed.sc.gov/agency/lpa/documents/SBE-SASPresentation_10-10-12-final.pdf.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Innovation and Finance (IF)

01. Proposed Repeal of State Board of Education (SBE) Regulations 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-180, 181, 183, 187, 190, and 191 (First Reading)
02. Proposed Amendments to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-601 (R 43-601), Procedures and Standards for Review of Charter School Applications (First Reading)

Policy and Legislative (PL)

02. Proposed Amendments to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-220 (R 43-220), Gifted and Talented (First Reading)
03. Nominations to Fill Vacancies on the 2013 Volunteer Awards Nominating Committee

A motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried.

IX. LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND REQUESTS REGARDING REGULATIONS

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

Mr. Ragley reported that the Teacher Salary Study Committee met for the first time last week and will meet again in two weeks. The next meeting date of the Dyslexia Task Force is October 11, 2012.

After Mr. Ragley's report, Dr. Zais commented that there was a fire at the Landmark Building a couple weeks ago. This building houses SCDE staff members from the offices of Teacher Effectiveness; Certification, Recruitment and Preparation; Leader Effectiveness; and Educator Evaluations. Due to the fire damage, those staff have been temporarily displaced. All of the information related to these offices are on a couple of servers. Mr. English organized an effort that liberated those servers in order to continue operations, and data-entry specialists and others were set up with laptops in the Rutledge Conference Center. Dr. Zais added that there are plans to move the contracted offices affected by the fire to the South Carolina Department of Archives & History located on Parklane Road in Columbia. This building is state-owned and will save approximately \$1 million over the first five years and up to \$1.2 million over 10 years. He expressed appreciation to the SCDE staff for operating so well under inconvenient conditions.

Mrs. Childs stated that over 40 members of her staff have been affected but is thankful that no one was hurt. She said there has been an outpouring of support by the Rutledge staff. The Landmark staff was recently moved again to the Rutledge's 12th floor so that today's SBE meeting could take place. Mrs. Childs said that she is impressed with the morale of the Landmark staff as they have worked hard to continue serving districts regardless of the challenging circumstances brought on by dislocation. She added that the CIO's office did a great job in making sure data was secured so that teachers could continue being served. She thanked the SBE members, the SCDE staff, and members of the public for their patience during this time. Mrs. Childs commented that the affected offices are not moving because of the fire but because of the timing which coincided with the end of the lease

term at the Landmark Building. The SCDE had already been looking at leases or other options for a new location before the fire.

Mr. Willis asked about the ESEA Flexibility Community Stakeholder Meetings that started last week. Mr. Ragley estimated 271 viewers participated in the virtual meeting held on October 3, 2012. He said that most of the questions revolved around educator evaluations. He shared the dates of statewide meetings through December 10, 2012. This schedule is also available on the SCDE's Web site. Mrs. James asked if future meetings will follow the same format as the webinar meeting. Mr. Ragley stated that future meetings will be in the same format to include a brief presentation, a full explanation of all sections of the ESEA waiver, and a question and answer period. Dr. Zais commented that we have also made some changes in the slides so that they will be easier to understand. The changes are geared more towards the educators' standpoint, and less technical. The target audience for the stakeholder meetings include everyone in the communities in which they are held—parents, teachers, principals, educators in the local schools and districts, and community and business leaders.

Mrs. James asked about the specific communication and dialogue with the SBE members as proposed in last month's SBE meeting. Chair Thompson stated that when all information has been received in the field and compiled, a report will be made to the EP Committee and the ad hoc committee established in last month's meeting. Mrs. James asked that all questions and answers received in the stakeholder meetings be made available to the SBE. She also asked how the SBE will receive information they need concerning educators' input and feedback. Mr. Ragley stated that the SCDE will continue doing the best they can to gather input and report those findings to the SBE. Dr. Longshore asked that at least two SBE members attend their area's meetings and report back to the committee, and the SBE members volunteered to do so. Dr. Longshore said that he will then report what took place to the SBE. Chair Thompson commented that once the SBE has received input from stakeholders, Dr. Zais and his staff will consider those recommendations, rewrite the guidelines, and present that information to the EP Committee. He added that it is a work in progress.

Dr. Zais reminded the SBE that this is a three-year process which includes a one-year beta test, a one-year pilot test, and a one-year implementation. We will not get it perfect until actual data has been received.

Mrs. James said that she appreciates the SCDE's outreach in holding these meetings, but that she is concerned that it still does not address the educators constituency and their dialogue which would enable the SBE to have reliable feedback, valid information, and make the most productive use of everyone's time.

Dr. Zais commented that the SCDE does not yet have specific answers, and that is why we plan to gather input from all stakeholders.

Mrs. Sheheen asked what is the criteria for evaluating the beta test and the methodology being used.

Mrs. Childs explained that in planning this year, the SCDE's vision was to focus on the educators at the affected schools and get the beta component while we continue developing the other components of the remainder of the evaluation system so that we will have a more complete product at the end of the school year. We are continuing to walk through this process. One of the challenges that the SBE is facing is the sudden increase of attention in July that generated a lot of the questions the SBE is fielding currently that would have been more productive later on in the year. However, during the next few months, our plan is to continue meeting with educators. She said that based on the questions coming in they could be broken down into about four or five questions.

Mrs. Childs stated that we are developing the other components at the same time we are building the beta, and there are parts of the beta that have to be rolled out sooner than other components. We will continue with our existing process concerning updates. Regarding Mrs. Sheheen's question concerning methodology, Mrs. Childs stated that at some point, the SCDE will bring in an evaluator which is part of beta testing. Dr. Shortt commented that educating and informing stakeholders while, at the same time, asking for their feedback is a challenging concept and is really two different processes. Dr. Varat stated that there may not be time for all educators to have their questions answered during the stakeholder meetings and asked whether they are given SCDE contact information so they can get their questions answered at another time. Mr. Ragley said that

stakeholders are already doing this by following up with SCDE staff members in person, by e-mail, and by phone. Dr. Varat asked if anyone has submitted any alternatives to the process, and Mr. Ragley stated that he is not aware of any suggested alternatives. Dr. Zais said that an example of a question being asked is “How much student growth do I need to show to get a passing grade?” We do not have an exact answer because there are many factors involved. He added that 45 of 50 states applied for and received, or are in the process of receiving, waivers for No Child Left Behind. All of those states are required by federal policy to develop a teacher evaluation system that takes into account, as a component, student growth. We are coordinating with other states to utilize their good ideas and best practices. Mrs. Childs added that we have been communicating by conference call on a statewide and national basis to discuss various stages of the ESEA flexibility waiver. We are not using the exact TAP model, but we have learned from it. We are using SAS’s model because they have had 20 years experience. We could have developed the beta test by ourselves but there is no reason to reinvent the wheel, so we chose to benefit from the experience of others.

Dr. Longshore stated that teachers want to know when it will be decided whether or not the A–F process will be a part of the evaluation system. He also asked if any other states have used the A–F rating system as part of the value-added component. Mr. Ragley said that the SCDE is still waiting on the four major education groups in this state to say whether or not they support the use of student growth data in the evaluation of teachers and principals. He also said that he does not know of other states that have A–F their education guidelines. If South Carolina’s four major education associations would send a letter to Dr. Zais confirming that they support the use of student growth data as a component in the evaluation of teachers and principals the conversation can begin. Molly Spearman, Executive Director, South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA), commented that if a letter is needed, SCASA will deliver it to Dr. Zais by tomorrow morning. She said that 100 percent of our districts signed off on Race to the Top, and SCASA understood that part of that meant accepting a new teacher evaluation system with a value-added component. She said that even though SCASA does not agree with the SCDE on the percentages, they are supportive and want to work with Dr. Zais and his team on the evaluation system. Ms. Spearman stated that SCASA agrees with the system but believes there needs to be dialogue on some of its components and parameters instead of only question and answer sessions. She added that SCASA’s goal is to be able to offer an alternative system at the next SBE meeting. Mrs. James commented that she agrees with Ms. Spearman that there is much more agreement than disagreement, but there is a need for dialogue.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Blackmon commented that within the last hour the Hartsville High School community held a memorial service for a lost athlete. He asked the SBE members to remember, as they leave today, that students are our first priority.

Chair Thompson stated that he appointed a chair-elect nominating committee last month and realized this should not have been done until the November meeting. He said the nominating committee will still be comprised of Mrs. Sheheen serving as chair, Bishop Blue, and Dr. Varat; alternates will be Mr. Brennan and Mrs. Disney. He said this committee will become active in November and will have their nomination ready for the December meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 5:00 p.m.