

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting

Date
Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Time
1:00 p.m.

Location
Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina

David Blackmon, PhD, Chair
Barry Bolen, Chair-elect
Mick Zais, PhD
State Superintendent of Education
Secretary and Administrative Officer to the Board

SBE Mission: The State Board of Education's mission is to provide a leadership role in helping South Carolina set policy and direction to transform teaching and learning so that students are prepared with the necessary knowledge and skills, including innovation, to compete globally and live a productive life.

I. WELCOME/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The State Board of Education meeting convened at 1:30 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; Neil Willis, Seventh 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; Rhonda Edwards, EdD, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; Thomas Shortt, EdD, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; John Rampey, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; and Mike Brenan, Governor's Appointee.

Absent with apologies was Raye O'Neal Boyd, Sixth Judicial Circuit.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff were in attendance: Scott English, Chief Operating Officer; Charmeka Childs, Deputy Superintendent, Division of School Effectiveness; Nancy Busbee, PhD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Accountability; Dino Teppara, Director, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs; Shelly Bezanson Kelly, General Counsel and Parliamentarian, Office of General Counsel; Don Cantrell, Chief Information Officer; Briana Timmerman, PhD, Director, Office of Instructional Practices and Evaluations, Division of School Effectiveness; Roy Stehle, Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability; Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability; Cindy Van Buren, Director, Office of Educator Services, Division of School Effectiveness; Bruce Moseley, Director, Office of School Leadership, Division of School Effectiveness; Cathy Jones Stork, Education Associate, Office of Instructional Practices and Evaluations, Division of School Effectiveness; George Brown, Public

Information Specialist, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs; and Rachel Kerley, Recording Secretary, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs.

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 11, 2013

Chair Blackmon asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes for the SBE meeting on September 11, 2013, as presented. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

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

Chair Blackmon asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda for the SBE meeting on October 9, 2013.

Dru James made a motion to remove items SLA-02, SLA-05, SLA-06, and SLA-07 from the agenda following recommendations from the Standards Learning and Accountability Committee. Barry Bolen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Hearing no further changes, Chair Blackmon stated that the amended agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA

Dr. Blackmon welcomed visitors and news media to the SBE meeting.

V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Dr. Blackmon thanked SCDE staff for preparing all SBE items well in advance of the meeting.

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Dr. Zais introduced the new Director of Legislative and Public Affairs, Dino Teppara. Dino has an extensive background in media relations and legislative affairs. He was previously chief of staff for congressman Joe Wilson.

Since September's meeting Dr. Zais visited the following schools:

- Lambs Elementary in Charleston County
- Coastal Leadership Academy and Loris High School in Horry County
- Manning Elementary and Phoenix Charter High School in Clarendon District Two
- Walker-Gamble Elementary and East Clarendon Middle High in Clarendon District Three
- T.E. Mabry Middle and Landrum High School in Spartanburg District One
- Rainbow Lake Middle and Boiling Springs High School in Spartanburg District Two

Dr. Zais thanked Board Member Lonzena Harry for accompanying him on his school visits in Clarendon County.

Dr. Zais also met with Governor Haley to discuss K–12 public education. They continue to work together to improve education for all of South Carolina’s students.

He also participated in several board meetings that he regularly attends:

- Board of Trustees at the University of South Carolina
- Board of Visitors at the Citadel
- SC Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Dr. Zais also attended a joint meeting of the Education Oversight Committee and the Cyclical Accountability Review Panel.

Dr. Zais mentioned a few public appearances from the last month:

- He addressed and took questions from the East Cooper Republicans Club as well as the Horry County Conservatives for Responsible Government.
- He gave opening remarks at the Youth Against Bullying Summit.
- On October 1st, Dr. Zais attended the Silent Witness Ceremony.
- He also attended the New Carolina Fall Education Summit with many other State Board members.

In closing Dr. Zais spoke about flexibility. He said that he has been a vocal advocate for flexibility for superintendents and districts during his tenure as State Superintendent, and he has taken steps to enact and encourage it. In his school visits, school leaders often say, “If we had the same flexibility as public charter schools, then we would have better results.” Dr. Zais then listed many of the areas of flexibility that charter schools have:

- First, employees of public charter schools can be at-will employees. While the number is small, Dr. Zais has heard from superintendents and principals that it can be difficult, time-consuming, and expensive to remove ineffective staff. One option might be to give all districts the same flexibility in this regard as public charter schools.
- Second, Dr. Zais has often heard from superintendents and principals that they want more flexibility with their school day and how they structure their educational programs. This means how many minutes are devoted to a specific subject such as reading, how classes are organized, and how many educators are needed for a particular subject or grade. He emphasized again that public charter schools have this flexibility.
- Third, there are other opportunities for flexibility for districts. One Dr. Zais supports is the creation of a “school of choice” provision that allows districts to create or designate one school as a “school of choice.” Such schools operate like public charter schools, but remain under the control of the local school board. While these schools don’t have the autonomy of a public charter school, they function very similar to one.

Dr. Zais stated that the General Assembly has also recognized the need for flexibility. Since July 1, 2009, most of the requirements of State Board of Education Regulation 43-205 have been suspended by proviso. This is the regulation that establishes required staffing levels. That’s five budgets that the

General Assembly has passed, each of which suspended state-wide, mandatory, staffing ratios. During this time, there have been no complaints about misuse of this local authority.

Dr. Zais said that one-size-fits-all solutions stifle innovation and creativity. For example, Charleston's Superintendent McGinley pointed out that technology and on-line personalized learning demand flexibility. She used the example of putting 80 students in a high school history lecture three days a week, then breaking the students into smaller groups the other days for hands-on, project-based learning.

He encouraged Board members to remain open minded and reminded them that many of them have earlier expressed a desire to support flexibility for superintendents and districts. He said that those who vote for the amended regulation will vote for more local control. Those who vote against the amended regulation will vote for the status quo. Each Board member has to make up his own mind on this issue, but the record will clearly show who wanted to empower superintendents and districts, and who did not.

Dr. Zais closed his remarks by saying, "I will continue to trust the judgment of our superintendents and school boards on this issue as our General Assembly has for the past four years. I will continue to advocate for local control, not control from Columbia."

This concluded the State Superintendent's report.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals participated in the public comment period:

- Mr. Craig King, Palmetto State Teacher's Association
- Mrs. Pamela Stepp, Parent
- Ms. Deb Marks, SC Parents Involved in Education
- Dr. Scott Turner, SCASA
- Dr. Robert Dillion, South Carolinians for Science Education
- Mr. Roger Smith, SCEA

VIII. STATE BOARD ITEMS

ELC EDUCATOR LICENSURE COMMITTEE

Committee Report—Mike Brenan, Chair

FOR APPROVAL

Approval of the Ratification Agenda

Mr. Brenan called for a motion to approve the ratification agenda. The motion carried.

Dr. Traci Cooper asked that the record show that she recused herself from item ELC-04.

EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS

Committee Report—Dr. David Longshore, Chair

The committee heard two information items and two action items. The information items that the committee heard dealt with Horry County School District's waiver request of their ADEPT plan and new flexibility from the federal government that allows the state to wait an additional year before outcomes of proposed ESEA evaluation systems will be used to inform personnel actions.

FOR APPROVAL

- 01. Proposed Amendments to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-62 (R 43-62), Requirements for Additional Areas of Certification (First Reading)**—Cindy Van Buren, PhD, Director, Office of Educator Services, Division of School Effectiveness

EP-01 was brought to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Cindy Van Buren provided a brief presentation regarding changes to Regulation 43-62 governing add-on certification in South Carolina. Most of the changes are wording changes, with the exception of changing certification requirements for teachers in the virtual education program.

Dr. Blackmon called for a vote to approve EP-01. The motion carried.

- 02. Proposed New Praxis Content Exams and Passing Scores in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and General Science**—Cindy Van Buren, PhD, Director, Office of Educator Services, Division of School Effectiveness

The Committee placed EP-02 on the consent agenda.

Dr. Blackmon called for a motion to approve the committee report. The motion carried.

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Committee Report—Dr. Thomas Shortt, Chair

The committee removed SLA-02, SLA-05, SLA-06, and SLA-07 from the agenda. They then heard three action items and two informational items. The information items were updates on Common Core implementation and assessments. No action items were placed on the consent agenda.

FOR APPROVAL

01. **South Carolina Academic Standards and Performance Indicators for Science 2013 (First Reading)**—Briana Timmerman, PhD, Director, Office of Instructional Practices and Evaluation, Division of School Effectiveness

Dr. Blackmon called for a vote to approve SLA-01. The motion carried.

Mr. Willis moved to reconsider the previous motion. Dr. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion failed.

- ~~02. **Proposed Amendments to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-234 (R 43-243), Defined Program, Grades 9-12 and Graduation Requirements (First Reading)**—Roy Stehle, Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Accountability~~

03. **Proposed Amendments to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-237.1, Adult Education Program (First Reading)**—David Stout, Office of Adult Education, Division of Accountability

Dr. Blackmon called for a vote to approve SLA-03. The motion carried.

04. **Proposed Amendments to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-259, Adult Education (First Reading)**—David Stout, Office of Adult Education, Division of Accountability

Dr. Blackmon called for a vote to approve SLA-04. The motion carried.

- ~~05. **Repeal of State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-260 (R 43-260), Use and Dissemination of Test Results (First Reading)**—Liz Jones, Director, Office of Assessment, Division of Accountability~~

- ~~06. **Proposed Amendments to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-262 (R 43-262), Assessment Program (First Reading)**—Liz Jones, Director, Office of Assessment, Division of Accountability~~

- ~~07. **Repeal of State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-262.4 (R 43-262.4), End-of-Course Tests (First Reading)**—Liz Jones, Director, Office of Assessment, Division of Accountability~~

Dr. Blackmon called for a motion to approve the report from the SLA Committee. The motion carried.

IF INNOVATION AND FINANCE

Committee Report—Barry Bolen, Chair

The Committee heard two action items and one informational item. Both action items were placed on the consent agenda

FOR APPROVAL

01. **Request for Approval of Property Disposal—Pickens County School District**—Delisa Clark, Director, Office of School Facilities, Division of Operations and Support
02. **Request from the Riley Institute for Financial Support**—David Blackmon, PhD, Chair, State Board of Education

Dr. Blackmon called for a motion to approve the IF Committee report. The motion carried.

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE

Committee Report—Dr. David Blackmon, Chair

The PL Committee heard one action item and one informational item.

FOR APPROVAL

01. **Proposed New State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-229 (R 43-229), Defined Program for the Palmetto Unified School District (PUSD) (First Reading)**—Cathy Jones-Stork, Team Leader, Office of Instructional Practices and Evaluations, Division of School Effectiveness

Dr. Blackmon called for a vote to approve PL-01. The motion carried.

Dr. Blackmon called for a motion to approve the PL Committee report. The motion carried.

SB STATE BOARD ITEMS

FOR INFORMATION

01. **TransformSC Presentation**—Laura McKinney, Deputy Executive Director, New Carolina
02. **Update on South Carolina's Educator Evaluation Pilot Project**—Briana Timmerman, PhD, Director, Office of Instructional Practices and Evaluations, Division of School Effectiveness

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

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

EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS

- 02. Proposed New Praxis Content Exams and Passing Scores in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and General Science**—Cindy Van Buren, PhD, Director, Office of Educator Services, Division of School Effectiveness

IF INNOVATION AND FINANCE

- 01. Request for Approval of Property Disposal—Pickens County School District**—Delisa Clark, Director, Office of School Facilities, Division of Operations and Support
- 02. Request from the Riley Institute for Financial Support**—David Blackmon, PhD, Chair, State Board of Education

Mr. Brenan moved to approve the consent agenda. Dr. Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Cooper asked about when meetings are held and if the Board might better serve constituents if meetings were held in the evenings. Dr. Blackmon recommended that next year's Board take her suggestion into consideration.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 3:39 p.m.