

MINUTES

State Board of Education Meeting

Date

Wednesday, April 8, 2015

Time

1:00 p.m.

Location

Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina

Traci Young Cooper, EdD, Chair

Michael Brenan, Chair-elect

Molly M. Spearman

State Superintendent of Education

Secretary and Administrative Officer to the Board

Notice: Due to allergies of staff and visitors, we ask that visitors refrain from wearing scented products when attending the State Board of Education meetings in SCDE facilities.

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

The State Board of Education (SBE) meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. Chair Cooper called the meeting to order.

The following SBE members were in attendance: Traci Young Cooper, EdD, Chair, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Samuel Alston, EdD, First Judicial Circuit; Jim Griffith, Second Judicial Circuit; Gerald Reeves, Fourth Judicial Circuit; James Stroman, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Jane P. Harmon, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Ivan Randolph, PhD, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Richard Kizer, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Thomas Ewart, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; Rhonda Edwards, Ed.D., Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; Thomas Shortt, EdD, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; Sharon Bynum, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; and Mike Brenan, Governor's Appointee.

SBE members Lonzena Harry, Third Judicial Circuit, and Jeffrey Kubu, Tenth Judicial Circuit, were absent with apologies. Also absent with apologies were Dr. Sharon Wall, Eleventh Judicial Circuit, and Dr. Danny Varat, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, who participated in the meeting via teleconference.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff were in attendance: Betsy Carpentier, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Superintendent, and Interim Deputy, Division of

Innovation and Effectiveness; Angela H. Bain, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Educator Effectiveness; Dino Teppara, Director, Office of Public Affairs; Cathy Hazelwood, Deputy Superintendent and Parliamentarian, Division for Legal Affairs; Mellanie Jinnette, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Finance; Julie Fowler, Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness; Robert Benn, Information Resource Consultant, Service and Support Center, Chief Information Office; Duane Martin, Information Resource Consultant, Service and Support Center, Chief Information Office; Barbara Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; and LáTonia Holloway, Administrative Assistant, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs.

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR MARCH 11, 2015

Chair Cooper asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes as presented for the SBE meeting on March 11, 2015. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR APRIL 8, 2015

Chair Cooper asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda for the SBE meeting on April 8, 2015. Hearing none, the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA

Chair Cooper welcomed visitors to the SBE meeting.

V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Cooper reminded Board members that the State Read-In would be held at the State House on Tuesday, April 14, 2015, at 10:30 a.m. Chair Cooper stated that attendance was not mandatory; however, she strongly encouraged members to attend if schedules permit to support the teachers and students of our state.

Dr. Cooper asked that members submit the names of the nominees that they would like to serve on the SBE Volunteer Award Nominee Committee to Dr. Edwards who is chairing this committee. The goal is to recognize these persons at the June State Board meeting.

Chair Cooper reminded members that the SC Teacher of the Year Award Banquet would be held on April 22, 2015, from 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Former Governor and U.S. Secretary of Education Dick Riley will be the keynote speaker.

Lastly, Chair Cooper reminded members that the State Board Retreat would be held next month on May 13 and 14. She asked that they continue their reading of *Mindset*, the book chosen for the Retreat. She stated that the book discussion would be held on the second day of the Retreat.

This ended her report.

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Dr. Cooper recognized Superintendent Molly Spearman to present her report. Mrs. Spearman stated that over the course of the month she held meetings at the Department with three different advisory groups, first being a student advisory group. She expressed that these students were insightful on the issues and articulated the needs of students well. The next group that she met with was a principal advisory group. Again, she stated that they were very articulate, shared their remarks, and gave the SCDE some wonderful insight from the leadership perspective. Last was the teacher's advisory group, which provided the SCDE with the perspective from the classroom and how policies impact them.

Mrs. Spearman also reported that she, along with Chair Cooper, was able to assist in the announcement of the Palmetto Finest Awards. This award recognizes the top schools in our state. The schools honored were Oak Grove Elementary, Lexington School District One; Red Cedar Elementary, Beaufort School District; Greg Middle School, Dorchester School District Two; and Chapin High School, Lexington/Richland School District Five.

During the last month, Mrs. Spearman also visited Spartanburg School District Six and Dorman High School. She stated that they are doing a remarkable job there and the majority of the students that attend are very engaged and are obtaining a two-year associate degree as well as a high school diploma. She also stated that she toured several of the elementary and middle schools, and they are doing wonderful things in these schools.

Mrs. Spearman wished all the teachers and students' good luck on the state and federal accountability tests—ACT Aspire in grades 3–8 and ACT and ACT Workkeys in the eleventh grade. She expressed that this is a nervous time for everyone, but encouraged everyone to stay calm and try to do their best.

At this time, Mrs. Spearman acknowledged the SCDE staff and all the many stakeholders that worked on the ESEA waiver that was submitted on March 31, 2015.

Mrs. Spearman recognized the 2016 State Teacher of the Year Finalists and presented them with a certificate for their accomplishment: Suzanne Koty, Sumter High School, Sumter School District; Jeannie Durham, Rawlinson Road Middle School, Rock Hill School District; Albert Robertson, Meadow Glenn Elementary School, Lexington School District One; Daniel Oddo, Dreher High School, Richland School District One; and Hunter Jolley, Boiling Springs High School, Spartanburg School District Two.

This concluded the State Superintendent's report.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals participated in the public comment portion of the meeting:

- Ray Wilson

VIII. STATE BOARD ITEMS

PH PUBLIC HEARING

FOR APPROVAL

01. **Proposed Amendments to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs 43-100 (R.43-100), Test Security (Second Reading)**—Liz Jones, Director, Office of Assessment, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness

Chair Cooper recognized Ms. Jones to present information to the SBE regarding the suggested changes to Regulation 43-100 that address test security. Ms. Jones explained in detail what language would be removed from the regulation and made the recommendation that the changes be accepted and approved as stated. Dr. Randolph moved that the changes be approved as recommended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Alston. After a brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously. Dr. Cooper recognized Ms. Sally Cauthen, who represents the Senate Education Committee.

02. **Proposed Amendments to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs 43-262 (R.43-262), Assessment Program (Second Reading)**—Liz Jones, Director, Office of Assessment, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness

Ms. Jones presented information to the SBE regarding the suggested changes to Regulation 43-262 that address the assessment program. Ms. Jones again explained in detail what language would be removed from the regulation and made the recommendation that the changes be accepted and approved as stated. It was moved by Dr. Randolph that the changes be approved as recommended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Griffith. The motion carried unanimously.

EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Cooper recognized Mr. Grriffith, who reported on behalf of Dr. Varat, that the Committee met and discussed a number of things and that he would begin with item EP-02 which was placed on the consent agenda. This item is regarding additional Public Child Development Centers (CDCs) to the Critical Geographic Areas for 2015–16 Relative to the South Carolina Teacher Loan

Cancellation Program. He stated that there will also be an analysis and an audit to make certain that schools and teachers are being handled the same way. Mr. Griffith reported that the Committee reviewed the information provided by Furman University and decided that they need more information regarding item EP-01 before taking action. He stated further that this matter would be tabled until the June Board meeting. Mr. Griffith stated that the information item regarding the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) Candidates and Middle Level was discussed during the committee meeting, and it was determined that additional discussions were needed to make certain that this particular program was not given any “different treatment” than other programs. Lastly, Mr. Griffith stated that the Committee was briefed on the recruitment and retention matter and further stated that there would be a broader briefing at the next Board meeting during the May SBE Retreat.

Dr. Cooper opened the floor for questions or discussion and accepted the information as presented.

FOR APPROVAL

01. **Professional Review Committee (PRC) Recommendation for Program Modification Request**—Rachel Harvey, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator Effectiveness
02. **Addition of Public Child Development Centers (CDCs) to the Critical Geographic Areas for 2015–16 Relative to the South Carolina Teacher Loan Cancellation Program**—Laura Covington, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator Effectiveness

FOR INFORMATION

03. **Update on the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) Candidates and Middle Level**—Mary Hipp, Director, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator Effectiveness
04. **Briefing on Recruitment and Retention**—Sherry Schneider, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator Effectiveness

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Cooper reported that the Committee met and heard five waiver requests, providing detailed information regarding each school district waiver request. Dr. Cooper stated that these requests were unanimously approved by the Committee and placed on the Consent Agenda. Additionally, Chair Cooper reported that they received a status briefing by Emily Heatwole regarding the snow-day make-up legislation which is currently pending in the House. Chair Cooper recognized Ms. Heatwole who provided more detailed information regarding the proposed amendments made to this regulation coming out of the House and Senate.

FOR APPROVAL

01. **Clarendon County School District Three Waiver Request of State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-205 (R.43-205), Administrative and Professional Personnel Qualifications, Duties and Workloads**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness
02. **Florence Public School District One Waiver Request of State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-205 (R.43-205), Administrative and Professional Personnel Qualifications, Duties and Workloads**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness
03. **Lexington School District Four Waiver Request of State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-205 (R.43-205), Administrative and Professional Personnel Qualifications, Duties and Workloads**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness
04. **Orangeburg County Consolidated School District Three Waiver Request of State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regulation 43-261 (R.43-261), District and School Planning**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness
05. **Spartanburg County School District Seven Cleveland Academy of Leadership's Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. § 59-1-425(A), School Start Date**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness

After much discussion, Chair Cooper reassured the Board members that both she and Ms. Heatwole would keep everyone abreast of all information pertaining to this matter.

IF INNOVATION AND FINANCE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Cooper recognized Committee Chair Tom Ewart who reported that the Committee heard one action item for approval and one information item. The action item dealt with the Review Panel Recommendation for the District-Requested Instructional Materials. This action item was voted on and placed on the consent agenda. Mr. Ewart also stated that Mellanie Jinnette provided a budget update reporting that the SBE had a balance of \$23,054.49. These monies will be used to pay for expenses related to the SBE Retreat.

FOR APPROVAL

- 01. Review Panel Recommendation for the District-Requested Instructional Materials—**
Kriss Stewart, Program Coordinator, Instructional Materials Section, Office of Finance

FOR INFORMATION

- 02. Financial Update for Fiscal Year 2014–15—**Mellanie Jinnette, Chief Financial Officer,
Office of Finance

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Cooper recognized Dr. Ivan Randolph who stated that the Committee met and had no action items this month but had two information items. Dr. Randolph recognized Ms. Jones to provide her report regarding SCDE assessments. Ms. Jones provided a detailed update on the ACT contract matter. Ms. Jones acknowledged Joe Saunders, Education Associate with the Office of Assessment, who provided a detailed presentation regarding the 2014–15 Circle Assessment data. Mrs. Spearman asked Mr. Saunders a question regarding the data linked to the assessment of 4 year olds (First Steps or 4 Pre-K programs), noting that the information provided in fact shows where a child is when he or she starts in their Pre-K program. She further verified through Mr. Saunders that this data is reflecting what a student knows when they first begin school, and/or how long the student has been in school prior to the assessment as opposed to how the teacher is impacting the students in the classroom. Mr. Saunders confirmed this fact and stated that if there were other factors, that this data couldn't show it. After much discussion, Dr. Randolph acknowledged Mike DiNicola, who would provide additional updates regarding the ACT assessment tests. Mr. DiNicola stated that he wanted to provide the Board with more information regarding what they (SCDE) purchased and stated that they are excited about delivering the assessment in April. Chair Cooper asked if there were any exact dates for when the results would be returned. Mr. DiNicola stated that it depends on the assessment; however, results/reports would start coming back during the months of June, July, and August. Dr. Edwards stated that she had been asked by persons in her circuit why were students being timed for this assessment when they hadn't done so in the past. Mr. DiNicola stated that all of the important tests going forward would be timed for our students, and he being a former SC educator and a parent felt that we were doing our students a disservice by not timing them, in essence preparing them for what would eventually happen in the future. Dr. Edwards stated that she would like to have more discussion regarding this matter since there are so many concerns regarding this assessment being timed.

Chair Cooper stated that there will not be a committee report from Dr. Alston on behalf of Educator Certification Committee since all of the teacher cases were ratified during the 11:30 a.m. meeting.

FOR INFORMATION

01. **Assessment Update**—Liz Jones, Director, Office of Assessment, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness
02. **ACT and WorkKeys Assessment**—Mike DiNicola, ACT

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS—COMMITTEE REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

02. **Addition of Public Child Development Centers (CDCs) to the Critical Geographic Areas for 2015–16 Relative to the South Carolina Teacher Loan Cancellation Program**—Laura Covington, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator Effectiveness

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PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE

01. **Clarendon County School District Three Waiver Request of State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-205 (R.43-205), Administrative and Professional Personnel Qualifications, Duties and Workloads**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness
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03. **Lexington School District Four Waiver Request of State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-205 (R.43-205), Administrative and Professional Personnel Qualifications, Duties and Workloads**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Innovation & Effectiveness
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Mr. Griffith made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Dr. Alston seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Cooper reminded everyone to turn in their travel form prior to leaving the meeting and again encouraged Board members, if their schedules permit, that they attend the SC Teacher of the Year Banquet and help celebrate our teachers. Chair Cooper further asked that each member write a teacher within their judicial circuit celebrating his or her contributions.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 3:15 p.m.