

MINUTES

State Board of Education Meeting

Date

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Time

1:30 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; Lonzena Harry, Third Judicial Circuit; Gerald Reeves, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Jane P. Harmon, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Ivan Randolph, PhD, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Richard Kizer, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Jeffrey Kubu, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Dr. Sharon Wall, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Thomas Ewart, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; Danny Varat, PhD, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; Rhonda Edwards, EdD, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; Sharon Bynum, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; and Mike Brenan, Chair-elect, Governor's Appointee.

SBE members Jim Griffith, Second Judicial Circuit; James Stroman, Sixth Judicial Circuit; and Thomas Shortt, EdD, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, were absent with apologies.

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; Virgie Chambers, Deputy Superintendent; Division of Operations and Support; Cathy Hazelwood, Deputy Superintendent and Parliamentarian, Division for Legal Affairs; Mellanie Jinnette, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Finance; 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 APRIL 8, 2015

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

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR MAY 13, 2015

Chair Cooper asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda for the SBE meeting on May 13, 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. Chair Cooper acknowledged Bill Curts, President of the South Carolina Association of Pupil Transportation (SCAPT), who introduced himself and the SCAPT Board.

V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Cooper reported that she only have one information item which was related to the 2015 Volunteer Award. She stated that she had asked Dr. Rhonda Edwards to chair this ad hoc committee which includes Board members Mrs. Harmon and Mr. Kubu. Dr. Edwards stated that she has been in contact with the members who were nominated to serve on the review committee, and they are all eager to get started.

This ended her report.

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Dr. Cooper recognized Superintendent Molly Spearman to present her report. Mrs. Spearman thanked parents, students, teachers, and district and SCDE staff for the implementation of the new testing procedures for The ACT and Aspire. Mrs. Spearman stated that during the month, she and senior staff

went to Lexington County School District Four's Early Childhood Center to observe. She complemented the Center generally and their adult and English language programs.

Mrs. Spearman stated that during the month she also went to Florence to the Rush and Beck Academies. She complemented the early childhood programs at the academies. Mrs. Spearman highlighted the Start to Read program, where the district partnered with the local school foundation to hire retired first-grade teachers to go into businesses and companies and ask to talk to any employees that have children three or under. The employers allow their employees to come once a month for about ten to fifteen minutes where they receive free books for their children and tips on how to read to them and how to encourage their children. Mrs. Spearman expressed hopes to make the program a state-wide model.

Mrs. Spearman reminded everyone that May is teacher appreciation month. As such, she recognized Suzanne Koty, an English teacher at Sumter High School, as Teacher of the Year. She further thanked all teachers for what they do every day.

Mrs. Spearman stated that during the month she went to Greenville to join Steven Colbert, who worked with Donors Choose, Scan Source of Greenville, and Share Fair Nation Foundation, in announcing that he would be funding the respective projects of every teacher in South Carolina, which totals over \$800,000. Mrs. Spearman thanked Steven Colbert and stated that South Carolina was lucky to have him.

Mrs. Spearman also reminded everyone that May is Bus Driver Appreciation month. As such, she announced that there was a shiny new bus parked outside of the Department of Education, which will be heading to Allendale, and there are other new buses coming to South Carolina. Mrs. Spearman thanked transportation staff and recognized several individuals for their contributions to transportation. She recognized Thomas Shane Harwell from Berkeley County Schools, South Carolina Association of Pupil Transportation's (SCAPT) Support Person of the Year; Youlanda Jones from Aiken County Schools, SCAPT's Hero of the Year; Gaye Lamson from Chesterfield County Schools, recipient of SCAPT's President's Award; and Alton Hawkins of the Converse School Bus Shop, SCAPT's Technician of the Year.

This concluded the State Superintendent's report.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

- Dr. Lynn McFarland
- Dr. Jennifer Coleman

VIII. STATE BOARD ITEMS

SBE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

FOR APPROVAL

01. **First Reading of SC State Reading Plan**—Jennifer Morrison, Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness

Chair Cooper recognized Ms. Morrison who presented information to the SBE regarding the South Carolina State Reading Plan. Ms. Morrison explained the State Reading Plan in great detail and made the recommendation that the first reading of the plan be accepted and approved as stated. Dr. Randolph moved that the first reading of the State Reading Plan be approved as recommended by the SCDE. The motion was seconded by Dr. Alston. The motion carried.

02. **Aiken County Public Schools' 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

Chair Cooper recognized Darlene Prevatt who presented information to the Board regarding the Aiken School District's waiver request, which addressed teachers that are required to teach more than four different preparation classes in a school day. Dr. Cooper recognized King Lawrence, Associate Superintendent for Aiken County Schools. The SCDE recommended approval of the waiver. Mr. Brenan moved that the waiver be approved as recommended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wall. The motion carried.

03. **Anderson School District Five 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

Chair Cooper recognized Darlene Prevatt who presented information to the Board regarding Anderson School District Five's waiver request, which addressed high school teachers that are required to teach more than four different preparation classes in a school day. The SCDE recommended approval of the waiver as presented. Mr. Brenan moved that the waiver be approved as recommended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kizer. The motion carried.

04. **Hampton County School District Two 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

Chair Cooper recognized Darlene Prevatt who presented information to the Board regarding the Hampton County School District Two's waiver request, which addressed a principal being allowed to serve as principal for a high school and middle school. The SCDE recommended approval of the waiver. Mr. Brenan moved that the waiver be approved as recommended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bynum. The motion carried.

05. **Richland 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

Chair Cooper recognized Darlene Prevatt who presented information to the Board regarding the Richland County School District One's waiver request, which addressed a principal serving over a school that has more than just high school students. Dr. Cooper recused herself from the vote for the record. The SCDE recommended approval of the waiver. Dr. Randolph moved that the waiver be approved as recommended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wall. The motion carried.

06. **Saluda County Schools 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

Chair Cooper recognized Darlene Prevatt presented information to the Board regarding the Saluda County School District's waiver request. Ms. Prevatt recognized Dr. Harvey Livingston, Principal of Saluda County High School, and Superintendent Dr. David M. Mathis. The waiver request addressed teachers teaching more than four different preparation classes in a school day as well as teachers being allowed to teach more than 1,500 hours in one week. The SCDE recommends approval of the waiver. Ms. Bynum moved that the waiver be approved as recommended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Alston. The motion carried.

07. **Fort Mill School District (York Four) Waiver Request of State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 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

Chair Cooper recognized Darlene Prevatt who presented information to the Board regarding the Fort Mill (York Four) School District's waiver request. This waiver addressed a year delay in their District and Strategic Plan. The District have AdvancED coming in, and they will update their plan this year. The SCDE recommended approval of the waiver. Mr. Brenan moved that the waiver be approved as recommended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Alston. The motion carried.

FOR INFORMATION

08. Briefing on Implementation of Act 284 (Read to Succeed)—Jennifer Morrison, Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness

Dr. Cooper recognized Ms. Morrison who provided a PowerPoint presentation with an update on the implementation of Read to Succeed and the Read to Succeed Advisory Group.

Mr. Kubu asked a question regarding reading coaches and if classes were being taught in the college classroom or if it could be done. Dr. Alston asked how the students would be transported to the Summer Reading Camps. Mellanie Jinnette stated that 20 percent of funding was held to take care of transportation expenditures.

Mr. Brennan asked Jennifer if she had made this presentation to the Governor's Staff and suggested that a meeting be arranged to meet with Josh Baker and James Burns. Mrs. Spearman stated that they had spoken to the staff informally but not to the extent that Ms. Morrison has presented to the SBE.

Dr. Cooper had a policy question regarding the potential impact on students when it comes to the matter of third-grade retention. Mrs. Spearman stated that she was encouraged when speaking to the Department of Education in Florida, who has implemented this program. The goal is to have every child prepared so they are not retained. She further stated that there are multiple examples that can be used to show proficiency other than testing. Dr. Edwards gave her perspective from a middle and high school teacher's view where she has seen students at that level who could do great things but were unable to read. She stated we need to be reminded that we have to look at the other side of the coin, but that we need to focus on making certain that this never happens—that a student does not pass a grade without being able to read at grade level.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Cooper reminded everyone to turn in their travel form prior to leaving the meeting. She stated that the Board was originally scheduled to take a group photo at the conclusion of the meeting; however, it was decided to reschedule that for the June Board meeting since there were several members absent. Dr. Cooper reminded members who have not submitted their bios to do so as soon as possible. Dr. Cooper saluted all teachers in with a salute of Teacher Appreciation month and concluded the meeting with a video honoring teachers.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 3:05 p.m.