

MINUTES

State Board of Education Meeting

Date

Wednesday, November 10, 2015

Time

1:00 p.m.

Location

**Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina**

Traci Young Cooper, EdD, Chair

Michael Brennan, 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 1:00 p.m. Chair Cooper called the meeting to order. In honor of Veteran's Day, Chair Cooper asked that all veterans present stand to be recognized.

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; Lonzena Harry, Third 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; Dr. Sharon Wall, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Thomas Ewart, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; Danny Varat, PhD, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; Rhonda Edwards, EdD, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; Thomas Shortt, EdD, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; Sharon Bynum, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; and Mike Brennan, Chair-elect, Governor's Appointee.

Absent with apologies was SBE member Jeffrey Kubu, Tenth Judicial Circuit.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff were in attendance: Betsy Carpentier, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Superintendent; Karla Hawkins, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Federal, State, & Community Resources; Virgie Chambers, Deputy

Superintendent, Division of Operations and Support; Cathy Hazelwood, Deputy Superintendent and Parliamentarian, Division for Legal Affairs; Sheila Quinn, EdD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness; Julie Fowler, PhD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness; Mellanie Jinnette, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Finance; Liz Jones, Director, Office of Assessment, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness; 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 LaTonia Holloway, Administrative Assistant, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs.

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 14, 2015

Chair Cooper asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes as presented for the SBE meeting on October 14, 2015. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 10, 2015

Chair Cooper asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda for the SBE meeting on November 10, 2015. Dr. Wall moved that the agenda for the November 10, 2015, be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Alston. The agenda was approved.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA

Chair Cooper welcomed visitors to the SBE meeting. Chair Cooper acknowledged and recognized the following visitors: Fran Meadow, Meg Muller, Linda Coon, Laura Vasquez, Wendy Ballough, and Tarry McGovern.

V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Cooper stated that the first item of her report was an information item surrounding the Nominating Committee with regards to Chair-elect. She explained the process in detail and named the members of the nominating committee: Richard Kizer, Chair; Jim Griffith; and Lonzena Harry. Chair Cooper also reported that she, along with fellow Board members, will recognize the following retiring board members in December: Jim Griffith from the Second Judicial Circuit, Lonzena Harry from the Third Judicial Circuit, Dr. Danny Varat from the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, and Dr. Thomas Shortt from the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit.

Chair Cooper stated prior to the regular meeting next month in celebration of the holiday season the award-winning choir of Kelly Mill Middle School in Richland School District Two will be providing choral selections between the last subcommittee meeting and the full board meeting.

Chair Cooper addressed the recent event that occurred at Spring Valley High School and stated that a task force was being developed. She made mention that the comprehensive briefing regarding this issue was disseminated via electronic mail to all of the Board members. She stated that one of the upsides of this situation is that it is causing us to take an owning and reflective look at some of our policies that are governing our schools which impact disciplinary protocol.

This ended her report.

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Chair Cooper recognized Superintendent Molly Spearman to present her report. Mrs. Spearman stated that we were in store for a great treat, stating that she has always said that to have a great school you need a great principal. Mrs. Spearman announced the 2015 South Carolina Principals and Assistant Principals of the Year; those recipients were as follows:

- ❖ SC Middle School Principal of the Year—Brenda Campbell, Saluda Trail Middle School, York County School District Three
- ❖ SC Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year—Malinda Taylor, E.L. Wright Middle School, Richland County School District Two
- ❖ SC Secondary Principal of the Year—Timothy “Cliff” Roberts, Seneca High School, Oconee County School District
- ❖ SC Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year—Sara Longshore, Dutch Fork High School, Lexington County School District Five
- ❖ SC Elementary Principal of the Year—Claire Thompson, Lake Murray Elementary School, Lexington County School District Five
- ❖ SC Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year—Jennifer Thielmann, Sangaree Intermediate School, Berkeley County School District

Mrs. Spearman allowed each recipient to express in a brief dialogue what challenges and concerns they as well as their teachers face in each of their respective districts and how they manage to be successful. Mrs. Spearman asked that a round of applause be given to all the recipients and thanked them for all the work they do every day in our public schools. Mrs. Spearman extended a special thanks to Mr. Ewart for attending a meeting with her at Florence County School District Four to talk to them about the urgency to show improvement within their District.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No attending parties signed up for public comments.

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. 43-90 (R.43-90), Program Approval Standards for South Carolina Teacher Education Institutions (Second Reading)**—Rachel Harvey, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Federal, State, and Community Resources

Chair Cooper opened the floor to take action on item PH-01 regarding the second reading of R.43-90 and asked what was the pleasure of the board. Dr. Randolph moved to approve. Mr. Griffith seconded the motion. The motion carried.

02. **Proposed Amendments to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-243 (R.43-243), Special Education, Education of Students with Disabilities (Second Reading)**—John R. Payne, Director, Office of Special Education Services, Division of College and Career Readiness

Chair Cooper opened the floor to take action on item PH-02 regarding the second reading of R.43-243 and asked what was the pleasure of the board. Dr. Varat moved to approve. Dr. Alston seconded the motion. The motion carried.

EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS

Chair Cooper noted that the Educator Professions subcommittee did not met; therefore, no formal report would be given.

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Cooper reported that the Committee met and reviewed six action items. Action items PL-01 through PL-05 were approved by the Committee and were placed on the consent agenda. Chair Cooper reported that item PL-06 was a first reading of Regulation 43-307. She stated that this item was approved in committee and did not require a second. Chair Cooper explained the proposed amendments to PL-06 and called for the motion. Mr. Brennan moved that the proposed amendments to PL-06 (R.43-307) be approved as presented. The motion carried.

Chair Cooper asked Dr. Fowler to come forward and give a brief update on the progress with regards to the Uniform Grading Policy (UGP). Dr. Fowler gave a very in-depth overview of what has taken place thus far, stating that a meeting will be held December 4, 2015, where

information collected to date will be shared. She extended an invitation to all those who are interested in serving in this task to please contact her.

Dr. Varat asked Dr. Fowler about the use of grade floors. He stated his constituents in Greenville have expressed their concerns about the use of grading floors being used in some schools but not all, and asked if that in any way was a state policy or state law. Dr. Fowler stated the implementation of grading floors is strictly a district decision and ultimately up to the local board and superintendent. Dr. Varat posed a follow-up question stating that some of the UGP is state law, SCDE policy, and some is left up to the districts. He asked if these combinations that currently exist will be an item of discussion for the task force along with other issues of variation among local districts. Dr. Fowler stated that they have already identified four state regulations and one state statute attached to this work and they will be looking at all aspects of this matter during this process. Dr. Varat expressed some additional concerns from his constituents with regards to grades and student scholarships and district AYP. Dr. Fowler stated that a person from the Greenville area has requested to be on the Board and assured him that his judicial circuit will be represented during this process.

FOR APPROVAL

01. **Florence County School District Four's 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 Federal, State, and Community Resources
02. **Marion County School District's 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 Federal, State, and Community Resources
03. **Greenwood Fifty-One (Ware Shoals) School District's 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 Federal, State, and Community Resources
04. **Spartanburg Eighty's Daniel Morgan Technology Center's 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 Federal, State, and Community Resources

05. **2015–16 State Priority Schools’ Challenge to Achieve Plan Approvals**—Tina Jamison, Education Associate, Office of School Transformation, Division of Innovation & Effectiveness
06. **Proposed Amendments to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-307 (R.43-307), Alignment of Assessment and Accountability Elements with the No Child Left Behind Act (First Reading)**—Cathy L. Hazelwood, Esquire, Deputy Superintendent, Division for Legal Affairs

FOR INFORMATION

07. **Uniform Grading Policy Update**—Julie Gore Fowler, PhD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Cooper recognized Dr. Ivan Randolph who reported that the Committee heard one action item and one information item. Dr. Randolph stated that item SLA-01, proposed amendments for Regulation 43-262 (first reading), was approved in committee. Chair Cooper stated that this item was coming out of committee and did not require a motion or a second. Dr. Cooper called for the vote; the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Cooper referred to Dr. Sheila Quinn to provide the Board with an update on the statewide assessments. Dr. Quinn provided a detailed and comprehensive explanation to questions posed to her at the SLA subcommittee meeting regarding the early childhood readiness and 3–8 assessment tests. Dr. Randolph thanked Dr. Quinn for all of her hard work and the excellent work of the SCDE staff.

Chair Cooper asked Dr. Quinn if it is possible in our (intimate or distant) future for the state to develop our own early childhood readiness assessment.

After much discussion, Dr. Randolph concluded his report.

FOR APPROVAL

01. **Proposed Amendments to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann Regs. 43-262 (R.43-262), Assessment Program (First Reading)**—Susan Creighton, Education Associate, Office of Assessment, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness

FOR INFORMATION

02. **Update on Statewide Assessment Programs**—Susan Creighton, Education Associate, Office of Assessment, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness

ELC EDUCATOR LICENSURE COMMITTEE

Chair Cooper stated that there would not be a formal report from the Educator Licensure Committee (ELC) being that the Full Board ELC ratified the actions of the subcommittee at the 11:30 a.m. meeting.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

01. **Florence County School District Four's 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 Federal, State, and Community Resources
02. **Marion County School District's 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 Federal, State, and Community Resources
03. **Greenwood Fifty-One (Ware Shoals) School District's 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 Federal, State, and Community Resources
04. **Spartanburg Eighty's Daniel Morgan Technology Center's 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 Federal, State, and Community Resources

05. **2015–16 State Priority Schools’ Challenge to Achieve Plan Approvals**—Tina Jamison, Education Associate, Office of School Transformation, Division of Innovation & Effectiveness

Mr. Griffith made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Dr. Alston seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Cooper reminded everyone to turn in their travel forms prior to leaving the meeting. Chair Cooper also reminded members that the final Board meeting of the year will be held Wednesday, December 9, 2015. Dr. Cooper highlighted some upcoming events and encouraged Board members to attend. Chair Cooper brought the 2016 SBE meeting dates to the member’s attention and stated that at next month’s meeting they will be taking action on this item. She reminded everyone of American Education Week, November 16-20.

Dr. Cooper recognized Beth Phibbs, Executive Director of SCASA, and Hannah Hopkins and April Griffin from her staff and thanked them for hosting today’s luncheon for the Principals for the Year and the Board. She also recognized Kathy Maness and her staff from the PTSA (Palmetto Staff Teacher’s Association).

Mr. Brennan stated that since he would not be present at the December meeting he wanted to acknowledge the following retiring members: Jim Griffith, Lonzena Harry, Dr. Thomas Shortt, and Dr. Danny Varat. He expressed his thanks for their service to the students of South Carolina and stated it had been an honor serving with them all.

Dr. Edwards asked if perhaps in the future in an effort to include persons, mainly educators, who cannot attend meetings but would like to participate, if we could consider something along the lines of a skype system given the technology that we have available to us or maybe an alternative meeting time in the evening. Mrs. Spearman commented on this idea stating that they utilized a similar type system with a successful virtual statewide faculty meeting that allowed them to address teacher anxiety regarding teacher evaluation. She stated that at one point she believes they had 350 sites wherein teachers could ask questions and express their concerns. Mrs. Spearman stated that all the numbers haven’t been tallied; however, she believes that they will have a total of approximately 2,000 participants

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 3:00 p.m.