

MINUTES

State Board of Education Meeting

Date

Wednesday, August 12, 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.

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; 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.

SBE members James Stroman, Sixth Judicial Circuit, and Jeffrey Kubu, Tenth 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; 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; Sheila Quinn, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness; Mellanie Jinnette, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Finance; Emily Heatwole, Director, Division of Legislative Affairs; Roy Stehle, Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability; Dino Teppara, Director, Public Information Office; Liz Jones, Director, Office of Assessment; Jennifer Morrison, Director, Office of School Transformation; 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; Scott Winburn, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; and Catherine Oates-Robinson, Law Clerk, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs.

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR JUNE 10, 2015

Chair Cooper asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes as presented for the SBE meeting on June 10, 2015. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR AUGUST 12, 2015

Chair Cooper asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda for the SBE meeting on August 12, 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 that there were no visitors interested in being recognized.

V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Cooper stated that she did not have a report at this time. Chair Cooper did report sharing an end-of-the year report matrix with the committee chairmen and asked that the chairmen begin reviewing the matrix and collecting the necessary data. Chair Cooper indicated that the information collected will be used to evaluate whether the Board has met its goals this year. The matrix will be an agenda item for the September meeting of the Policy and Legislation Committee.

This ended her report.

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Chair Cooper recognized Superintendent Molly Spearman to present her report. Mrs. Spearman acknowledged the excitement as the school year is about to begin. Mrs. Spearman stated that South Carolina is anticipating over 700,000 students starting school in the next few days and that school staff are coming together for a time of professional development. Mrs. Spearman reported that she will be attending nine to eleven school openings. She further reported that schools and districts are definitely buying into the vision that every high school graduate will be prepared for the next step—successful citizenship—and prepared for their choice of career pathway. She has been sharing the message as she has spoken to several thousand teachers and principals and has challenged them to buy into the vision and limit the competition between teachers, schools, and districts. She expounded that the most foundational part of leadership is to set a climate where teachers feel involved and respected. Finally, Mrs. Spearman shared that she has challenged teachers, schools, and districts to share ideas, be honest, ask for help and guidance, and give constructive feedback.

Mrs. Spearman reported that training has been administered through the districts to about 50,000 teachers on the new teacher evaluations and the training is complete. Mrs. Spearman reported that South Carolina received a three-year approval of the ESEA Flexibility Waiver. She expressed hopes that the Board members would encourage their congressional delegations to support the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind in Congress. Mrs. Spearman reported that the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate have passed their respective versions of reauthorization and that either version would give states more flexibility. She further expressed hopes that Congress would work quickly to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions of the reauthorization and that No Child Left Behind is reauthorized.

Mrs. Spearman gave a detailed update on the activities surrounding the Abbeville Lawsuit. She reported that the South Carolina House of Representatives has a task force, which met four times all across the state. Now the members of the task force have been assigned to subcommittees, and those subcommittees have begun their work. Mrs. Spearman indicated that she is chairing one of the subcommittees and that staff are attending all of the subcommittee meetings where they are making recommendations and making Department resources available. She also stated that the task force is planning a meeting with the Plaintiffs' district superintendents to make sure that the recommendations being made are indeed helpful to them.

Mrs. Spearman announced that staff is reviewing the regulations and statutes, including those for assessment and teacher certification, as requested. She stated that she expects to have a package of recommendations to bring to the Board this fall.

Mrs. Spearman reported that the Office of Assessment completed the RFP for the spring testing of third through eighth grade and the eleventh-grade college-and-career-readiness testing. She stated that the RFP has been sent to the state office of procurement [State Fiscal Accountability Authority] and she hopes the RFP will be published soon.

Finally, Mrs. Spearman announced the winners of the Exemplary Writing Program Award, sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Education and governed by the Writing Improvement Council. She explained that the award is based on a five-month evaluation, including school visits, to assess instructional programs and the integration of writing across the curriculum. Mrs. Spearman stated that math, arts, and science teachers should be teaching writing, not just language arts teachers.

- Mrs. Spearman named the first winner as Pate Elementary School from Darlington County School District and recognized their principal, Emily Lun, to speak about their school. Ms. Lun reported that the school served a 4K through second-grade population of 462 students. She further stated that the school had 93 percent poverty and that this was the school's second time winning.

Mrs. Spearman thanked Ms. Lun for her contribution and for the job her school is doing. She recognized Mr. Reeves and Chair Cooper to present the award.

- Mrs. Spearman named the second winner as Granard Middle School from Cherokee County School District and recognized their principal, Dr. Mark Bunch, to speak about their school. Dr. Bunch stated that the school received poor test scores six years ago, which inspired them to get active. He further stated that with the improvement and integration of writing programs, the writing scores improved. As the writing scores improved, the other scores did as well.

Dr. Bunch recognized teacher Roger Patterson, who started teaching in 1977 and has been teaching for thirty-nine years.

Mrs. Spearman thanked Dr. Bunch and Mr. Patterson; she then recognized Ms. Harmon and Chair Cooper to present the award.

Mrs. Spearman reported that the Department had a new Deputy Superintendent for Innovation and Effectiveness, Shelia Quinn, and a new Director for Early Learning and Literacy, Jennifer Anderson.

This concluded the State Superintendent's report.

Chair Cooper commented that it was refreshing to see the profile of the graduate in the foyer of the Department and the efforts to keeping the profile in front of the community.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Cooper requested any party interested in addressing the Board to approach the podium. Chair Cooper acknowledged that no member of the public wished to comment at this meeting. Chair Cooper recognized Dr. Edwards for a comment. Dr. Edwards thanked the Board for their support following the loss of Senator Pinckney.

VIII. STATE BOARD ITEMS

EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Cooper recognized Dr. Varat, who reported that the Committee met and had four action items; two items were approved and placed on the consent agenda. Items EP-01 and EP-03 were approved. EP-01 was regarding the Professional Review Committee's recommendation for accreditation decisions of two educator preparation units, one at Southern Wesleyan University and one at Anderson University. EP-03 was regarding the Professional Review Committee's recommendation for a new educator preparation program at the University of South Carolina Beaufort. Dr. Varat further reported that EP-04 was held for more information and EP-02 was denied. Dr. Varat reported that the Committee received two information items—EP-05, an update on the Staff's review of regulations, and EP-06, a review of the educator preparation process.

FOR APPROVAL

01. **The Professional Review Committee's (PRC) Recommendations for Accreditation Decisions of Two Educator Preparation Units**—Rachel Harvey, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator Effectiveness
02. **The Professional Review Committee (PRC) Recommendation for Three New Committee Members**—Rachel Harvey, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator Effectiveness
03. **The Professional Review Committee (PRC) Recommendation for a New Educator Preparation Program at the University of South Carolina Beaufort**—Rachel Harvey, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator Effectiveness
04. **Recommended Adjustment in Cut Score on Praxis II Examination Mathematics: Content Knowledge (5161)**—Mary Hipp, Director, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator Effectiveness

FOR INFORMATION

05. **Update on Development of Guidelines in Support of Amended SBE Regulation 43-62, Requirements for Additional Areas of Certification**—Rachel Harvey, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator Effectiveness
06. **Educator Preparation Reform**—Rachel Harvey, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator Effectiveness

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Cooper reported that the Committee met and reviewed six action items and two information items. Of the action items, PL-01, PL-04, and PL-05 were denied; and PL-02, PL-03, and PL-06, which were waiver requests, were approved and placed on the consent agenda. Chair Cooper reported that items PL-07 and PL-08 were received as information.

FOR APPROVAL

01. **Smart Start Day School Requests State Board of Education (SBE) Approval of their Kindergarten Program under S.C. Code Ann. § 59-65-10 (Supp. 2014)**—Roy Stehle, Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Innovation & Effectiveness
02. **Allendale 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 & Effectiveness
03. **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 & Effectiveness
04. **Beaufort County School District Waiver Request of State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-64 (R.43-64), Requirements for Initial Certification at the Advanced Level**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Innovation & Effectiveness
05. **Beaufort County School District Waiver Request of State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-50 (R.43-50), Persons Required to Hold a Teaching Certificate and R.43-56, Foreign Applicants**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Innovation & Effectiveness
06. **Laurens County School District Fifty-Five 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 & Effectiveness

FOR INFORMATION

07. **Annual Report of the Accreditation of Schools and Districts in South Carolina for the 2014–15 School Year**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Innovation & Effectiveness
08. **Regulation Review**—Cathy Hazelwood, Deputy Superintendent, Division for Legal Affairs

IF INNOVATION AND FINANCE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Cooper recognized Mr. Ewart, who reported that the Committee heard one action item, which was approved and placed on the consent agenda. The Committee also received a fiscal update and budget report for 2015–16, respectfully.

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

FOR INFORMATION

02. **Financial Update for Fiscal Year 2015–16**—Mellanie Jinnette, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Finance

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Cooper recognized Dr. Ivan Randolph who reported that the Committee heard one action item and two information items. The action item was SLA-01, which was approved and placed on the consent agenda. The information items were SLA-02, an update on statewide assessment, and SLA-03, an update on First Steps.

Chair Cooper recognized Dr. Varat for a question. Dr. Varat asked if information regarding the assessment was going to be presented to the State Board.

Chair Cooper asked for a staff member to speak on assessment. Ms. Jones, Director of the Office of Assessment, was recognized to speak. Ms. Jones addressed Proviso 1A.77 for Readiness Assessment. She stated that the proviso required assessment of pre-kindergarten and early literacy competencies. The District can choose between one of three assessments—PALS™, myIGDIs™, and Gold™—and the assessment is formative rather than summative. These assessments must be performed in the first 45 days and last 45 days of the school year. The proviso also required the Developmental Reading Assessment(r) 2nd Edition PLUS to be administered, which was also formative, within the first 45 days and last 45 days of the school year.

Dr. Varat asked if there were any training issues or technology issues.

Ms. Jones explained that training began a while back, and it is progressing well. The companies conducting the tests have also been conducting more detailed workshops for training. Ms. Jones also stated that testing materials will be arriving in the districts soon. She explained that the process of getting contracts signed was the most difficult part.

Dr. Varat inquired if the Department was the evaluator of vendor performance for these tests.

Ms. Jones responded that yes the Department was the evaluator of vendor performance.

Chair Cooper inquired as to the time frame for the RFP.

Ms. Jones responded that the RFP has been sent to the State Fiscal Accountability Authority, and she estimates around December, maybe November, and indicated that changes could occur based on their reading. The State Fiscal Accountability Authority publishes the RFP, evaluates the responses, and awards the contract. This contract would be for five years.

Dr. Wall suggested to the Department that it might want to get the word out about where we are with the new assessments.

Dr. Varat asked about the 4K and 5K assessments.

Ms. Jones explained that the 4K and 5K assessments were sole source procurements.

Dr. Varat clarified that he was interested in the length of the procurement for the 4K and 5K assessments.

Ms. Jones stated that the 4K and 5K assessments were one-year procurements and that the Department is already working on next year, so there is not a problem next year.

Mrs. Spearman commented on the procurement process and the plans for procurement going forward.

Chair Cooper inquired about issues with ACT Aspire and reported that she has been told of an issue with data sets and things coming back unreadable.

Ms. Jones stated that she was unfamiliar with the issue Chair Cooper was describing but would be glad to look into the issue. She also explained that the Department is producing some of the files because the files sent to districts by ACT did not include data from students with state-approved accommodations. She also stated that there was not a data file from Workkeys. She concluded by indicating that copies of her committee presentation would be available for the members after the meeting.

Chair Cooper thanked Ms. Jones and stated that copies of the presentation would be provided to Mr. Kubu and Mr. Stroman.

FOR APPROVAL

01. **South Carolina Act 293—Development of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Units for Districts**—Cathy Jones Stork, Education Associate, Division of College and Career Readiness

FOR INFORMATION

02. **Update on Statewide Assessment Programs**—Liz Jones, Director, Office of Assessment, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness
03. **First Steps Readiness Definition**—Julie Gore Fowler, PhD, Deputy, Division of College and Career Readiness

ELC EDUCATOR LICENSURE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Cooper recognized Dr. Alston, who stated that the Educator Licensure Committee met and made a motion to ratify the ECC agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Randolph. The motion carried.

EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS—COMMITTEE REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

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IF INNOVATION AND FINANCE—COMMITTEE REPORT

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SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY—COMMITTEE REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

01. **South Carolina Act 293—Development of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Units for Districts**—Cathy Jones Stork, Education Associate, Division of College and Career Readiness

Dr. Wall made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Mr. Griffith 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. She

also reminded members who have not submitted their bios to do so as soon as possible. Chair Cooper stated that the next meeting would be September 9, and she would be identifying members to convene the ad hoc nominating committee tasked with vetting candidates for the November election of the vice-chair elect.

Cathy Hazelwood reminded the members that any Board members who still needed their new identification badges could have them made after adjournment.

Chair Cooper recognized Dr. Shortt, who thanked Mrs. Spearman for the new custom-made boat for Georgetown County's Sandy Island.

Mrs. Spearman spoke about riding the boat and the process for getting the boat. She also stated that there will be a boat-naming contest for students. She invited the SBE members to come ride the boat with her in October.

Chair Cooper asked for a brief status report on the budget for the Department.

Melanie Jinnette was recognized to provide the Board with an update on the Department's budget status. Ms. Jinnette indicated that the Department received sixteen new FTEs, several for the Read to Succeed program, five in virtual education, and a new deputy. Ms. Jinnette stated that the Department received an additional \$9 million for reading coaches, which would fully fund the program this year. The Department also received additional money for new buses, fuel and maintenance of existing buses, assessment, career and technology equipment, and \$2.4 million for career specialists. The budget will allow the addition of six districts to CDEP. There was additional funding for instructional materials, and there was a change in the proviso to allow districts to request either digital or paper books.

Chair Cooper thanked the members for reaching out to legislative delegations regarding the Department's budget requests.

Mr. Griffith requested that Ms. Jinnette collect data on the last budget's expenditure per student and the projected expenditure per student and provide it to the members.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 2:58 p.m.