

MINUTES

State Board of Education Meeting

Date

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

Time

1:00 p.m.

Location

**Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201**

Samuel Ivan Randolph, PhD, Chair

Sharon Wall, EdD, 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 Randolph called the meeting to order.

The following SBE members were in attendance: Ivan Randolph, PhD, Chair, Eighth Judicial Circuit; ; Samuel Alston, EdD, First Judicial Circuit; Janice Murray Gamble, EdD, Third Judicial Circuit; Traci Young Cooper, EdD, Fifth Judicial Circuit; James Stroman, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Jane P. Harmon, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Richard Kizer, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Sharon Wall, EdD, Chair-elect, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Thomas Ewart, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; David Whittemore, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; Rhonda Edwards, EdD, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; Renee R. Hembree, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; and Sharon Bynum, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit. Members absent with apologies were Del-Gratia Jones, Second Judicial Circuit; Gerald Reeves, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Jeffrey Kubu, Tenth Judicial Circuit and Mike Brennan, Governor's Appointee

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff were in attendance: Betsy Carpentier, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Superintendent; Cathy Hazelwood, Deputy Superintendent and Parliamentarian, Division for Legal Affairs; Karla McLawhorn Hawkins, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Federal, State, and Community Resources; Julie Fowler, PhD, Deputy

Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness; Nancy Williams, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Finance; Sheila Quinn, EdD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness; Robert Benn, Information Resource Consultant, Service and Support Center, Chief Information Office; Lori Smith, Information Resource Consultant, Service and Support Center, Chief Information Office; Don Cantrell, Chief Information Officer, Service and Support Center, Chief Information Office; Felix Childs, Director, Chief Information Office; Barbara Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; LaTonia Holloway, Paralegal, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs.

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 13, 2016

Chair Randolph asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes as presented for the SBE meeting on December 13, 2016. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR JANUARY 10, 2017

Chair Randolph asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda as presented for the January 10, 2017, SBE meeting. Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA

Chair Randolph welcomed all visitors and new media who were present. Chair Randolph recognized Jane Clark Lindle, Clemson University, College of Education.

V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Randolph stated that he just wanted to thank his fellow board members for their support as well as the support and leadership of Superintendent Spearman. He stated further that he was excited about serving as the Board Chair this upcoming year. This concluded Chair Randolph's report.

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Superintendent Spearman stated that she was proud of our organization, the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), who hosted all the state teachers of the year at the National Football Championship game and last year's recipient Susan Kote who was present. Superintendent Spearman spoke upon a commercial that was ran during the playoffs that highlighted students talking about what they wanted to do with their lives and encouraging students to become teachers. She stated that she was pleased to see how the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) recognizes the importance that teachers have on their program and athletics. Superintendent Spearman stated that she was proud that Clemson won the championship; however, she was most proud that most of the students were a product

of South Carolina public schools across the state as well as the nation, and for the great work that the teachers did in preparing those students both academically and athletically.

Superintendent Spearman reported that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded South Carolina a 1.1 million dollar grant for new school buses. This grant will allow the department to replace 57 of our oldest buses. Additionally, South Carolina will receive 11 school buses in rebates that will replace buses in 11 school districts. Superintendent Spearman stated that a total of 858 new buses had been purchased and that every District should receive some. Superintendent Spearman emphasized that this is a top priority for the department this year, stating that she held a press conference addressing this matter and that she would be working hard and using any source possible to get the old buses off the road.

Superintendent Spearman reported that the agency has launched a new page on the website that addresses a school and district closure reporting system. She stated that the webpage will keep the public and state agencies aware of state school closings. She stated that the closures are reported directly by the local districts to a secure site.

Superintendent Spearman honored the teachers who were the winners of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science teaching. The winners were nominated and selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators following an initial selection process at the state level. Superintendent Spearman recognized the following winners and their support team:

- ❖ Sandra Bradshaw–Anderson County School District Five
- ❖ Tammi Broomal–Spartanburg County School District Six
- ❖ Tammy Renee Joyner– Newberry County School District
- ❖ Jean McKinney– Lexington County School District One
- ❖ Marsha Neal– Jasper County School District
- ❖ Kimberly Rothberg– Horry County School District
- ❖ Yvonne Strange– Richland/Lexington School District Five.

This concluded Superintendent Spearman’s report.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Randolph recognized Ms. Bernadette Hampton, President of the South Carolina Education Association, who provided public comments in recognition for 2016 School Board Appreciation Month.

VIII. STATE BOARD ITEMS

P&L POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Randolph reported that the P&L subcommittee met to address four action items and one information item with four action items being placed on the consent agenda. Chair Randolph stated that the information committee heard items that dealt with district wavier requests for online testing. Items

PL-01, PL-02, PL-03 and PL-04 were placed on the consent agenda. Chair Randolph stated that the information item heard by the committee addressed school waivers.

FOR APPROVAL

- 01. Multiple School Districts Online Testing Waiver Requests of General Appropriations Act, 2016 S.C. Acts 284, Proviso 1.88 (Proviso 1.88)**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal, State, and Community Resources
- 02. Aiken County Public Schools' Waiver Request of State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-232 (R.43-232(I)(B)), Defined Program, Grades 6–8**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal, State, and Community Resources
- 03. Florence County School District Four's (District) Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. § 59-1-425 (§ 59-1-425) (Supp. 2015)**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal, State, and Community Resources
- 04. Proposed Amendment to the State Board of Education's (SBE) Rules of Governance, Policy: CA, School Closings (New Effective Date: 1/10/17)**—Cathy L. Hazelwood, Deputy Superintendent, Division for Legal Affairs

FOR INFORMATION

- 05. Update to the Policy and Legislative Committee on Waiver Requests Approved for October and November**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal, State, and Community Resources

EP EDUCATOR PROFESSIONS—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Randolph recognized Dr. Janice Gamble who reported that the sub-committee met and heard four action items all of which were placed on the consent agenda. After a thorough explanation of each item Dr. Gamble recognized Ms. Laura Covington to address the board and provide a more detailed explanation regarding Greenville County's Alternative Certification Program GATE. This concluded her report.

FOR APPROVAL

- 01. Approval of Computer Science as a Certification Field**—Mary Hipp, Director, Office of Educator Services, Division of Federal, State, and Community Resources
- 02. Identification of Critical Need Subject Areas for 2017–18 Relative to the South Carolina Teacher Loan Cancellation Program**—Laura Covington, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Federal, State, and Community Resources

03. Identification of Geographic Critical Need Schools for 2017–18 for the South Carolina Teacher Loan Program—Laura Covington, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Federal, State, and Community Resources

04. Greenville County Alternative Certification Program: GATE—Laura Covington, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Federal, State, and Community Resources

ELC EDUCATOR LICENSURE COMMITTEE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Randolph recognized Dr. Alston who reported that the educator licensure committee met at 10:30 a.m. and moved that the actions taken during that meeting be ratified in accordance with the ratification agenda. Chair Randolph stated that since this item was approved by the committee it did not require a second. Chair Randolph called for the vote; the motion carried unanimously.

SBE SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR INFORMATION

Chair Randolph recognized Superintendent Spearman who provided a brief update regarding Florence Four. Superintendent Spearman reported that Dr. Zona Jefferson continues to serve as Superintendent for Florence Four and is doing an extraordinary job, and that the department has seen progress in many areas particularly in instruction and the climate at the schools within Florence Four. Superintendent Spearman recognized Dr. Latoya Dixon to provide additional comments regarding the district. Dr. Dixon stated that instructionally the two new leaders at Johnson Middle School and Brockington Elementary have been working very diligently, particularly Tonya Addison who has been working very hard with staff to improve graduation rates. Dr. Dixon stated that following their meeting, Ms. Addison felt very positive about having an improved graduation rate for this year. Dr. Dixon stated that the transformation coaches that are assisting at Brockington Elementary School have been working with teachers specifically around lesson design and ensuring that the lessons are aligned with state standards. Superintendent Spearman commended Dr. Dixon for all of her hard work since she has been with the department. She expressed concerns regarding Florence Four and their financial standing. She expressed that state law requires all schools to submit their audits from the previous school year no later than December 1, 2016, stating that the department knew that this may pose a problem for Florence Four upon the discovery that the district was using a different software system than other schools in the state. Based upon this fact, the department gave mercy to Florence Four on the deadline allowing them a few extra weeks to work on their audit. Superintendent Spearman stated that the department has been in contact with the company that is in charge of the audit; and to date, they have not been able to begin the audit due to lack of documentation that they can find for previous years. Superintendent Spearman stated that this is a very serious concern, and stressed that this was an issue that was present prior to Dr. Jefferson and the SCDE's arrival, stating that our responsibility on this matter is very high. Superintendent Spearman stated further that if the audit has not been completed by the February Board meeting, the SCDE will need to take a very serious look at the status of the district. Superintendent Spearman explained further that this is one of the areas that could potentially call for a State of Emergency which would require additional involvement from the State Board. Superintendent Spearman stated that this is a Federal and state compliance issue not an instructional issue. She assured that the SCDE is monitoring this matter closely.

Chair Randolph recognized Ms. Prevatt who provided an update on the progress of John de la Howe. She stated that since the December meeting there hasn't been activity on her part with the exception of her writing the Defined Minimum Program information that needs to be circulated to the appropriate staff within the SCDE. Ms. Prevatt stated that she was aware that John de la Howe staff had information to provide to the board regarding the RFP to report thereby deferring to Dr. Webb. Ms. Barbara Devinney reported in Dr. Webb's absence that on December 30, 2016, the State Procurement Office released the Request for Proposal for a child service provider to serve the students on the John de la Howe campus with an independent living program for older youth that are aging out of the foster care system, Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) or have any other residential placement issues that is impeding the progress of their education. Ms. Devinney stated that the deadline for this proposal submission is February 3, 2017.

FOR INFORMATION

01. **Florence County School District Four Update**—Molly M. Spearman, State Superintendent, South Carolina Department of Education
02. **John de la Howe's (JDLH) Updates**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal, State, and Community Resources

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

01. **Multiple School Districts Online Testing Waiver Requests of General Appropriations Act, 2016 S.C. Acts 284, Proviso 1.88 (Proviso 1.88)**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal, State, and Community Resources
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- 04. Greenville County Alternative Certification Program: GATE**—Laura Covington, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Federal, State, and Community Resources

Chair Randolph called for the vote for approval of the consent agenda. Mr. Brennan moved that the consent agenda be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Dr. Alston. The motion passed unanimously.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Randolph recognized Cathy Hazelwood, General Counsel who addressed the board and reminded them about filing their Statement of Economic Interest forms and advised the board members of the March 30, 2017, deadline. She stated that by the next meeting she ask that they have secured their username and password and will be more than willing to sit with any member while they file their information. Ms. Hazelwood advised the members of the new updates and changes with regard to what information need to be disclosed during filing.

Chair Randolph reminded all members to turn in their travel forms prior to their departure.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 1:37 p.m.