

MINUTES
State Board of Education Meeting

Date
Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Time
1:00 p.m.

Location
Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Sharon Wall, EdD, Chair
Del-Gratia Jones, 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 Wall called the meeting to order.

The following SBE members were in attendance: Del-Gratia Jones, Second Judicial Circuit; Janice Murray Gamble, EdD, Third Judicial Circuit; Gerald Reeves, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Mara Horton Jones, Fifth Judicial Circuit; James Stroman, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Jane P. Harmon, Seventh Judicial Circuit; David Whittemore, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; Rhonda Edwards, DSL, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; Renee R. Hembree, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; and Mike Brenan, Governor's Appointee. Samuel Alston, EdD, First Judicial Circuit; Richard Kizer, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Thomas Ewart, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; and Sharon Bynum, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit were absent with apologies.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff were in attendance: Cathy Hazelwood, Deputy Superintendent and Parliamentarian, Division for Legal Affairs; David Mathis, PhD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness; Karla McLawhorn Hawkins, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Federal, State, and Community Resources; 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; Travis Huggins, Information Resource Consultant, Service and Support Center,

Chief Information Office; Barbara Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; and LaTonia Holloway, Paralegal, Division for Legal Affairs.

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 12, 2017.

Chair Wall asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes as presented for the SBE meeting on December 12, 2017. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR JANUARY 9, 2017

Chair Wall asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda as presented for the January 9, 2018, SBE meeting. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA

Chair Wall welcomed all the visitors who were present.

V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Wall stated that she would like to recognize and welcome newly appointed Board member, Cynthia A. Downs, EdD, to the Board. Chair Wall stated that she would replace Dr. Ivan Randolph in representing the Eighth Judicial Circuit.

This concluded her report.

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Superintendent Spearman reported that the SCDE has been working over the last few months with the Educator and Retention and Recruitment Task Force that was created through a Proviso by the General Assembly. She stated that a report was completed and forwarded to the General Assembly by the December 31, 2017, deadline. Superintendent Spearman indicated that everyone should have a copy of the report, encouraging everyone to look at the recommendations made by the taskforce and advised that the report could be found on the SCDE website as well. She reported that the group talked with teachers and stakeholders about the teacher recruitment issue. Superintendent Spearman stated that they know that South Carolina has a 22 percent decline in the number of young professionals going into a traditional education program, stating that South Carolina is growing and that we need dynamic teachers in all of our classrooms. Superintendent Spearman stated that in their discussions with teachers across the state, they expressed the lack of support as being one of the main reasons for leaving the field. Based upon this information, some of the recommendations from the taskforce included ideas on how we can show or provide stronger support to our teachers, good leadership particularly at the principal level, and ensure that teachers have competitive salaries. Superintendent Spearman stated that the competitive salary idea is probably the most difficult due to our large teaching force. She stated that she has requested a 2 percent increase across the board in the SCDE budget and a 6 percent increase at the first

year level for teachers since the first year salary is low. Superintendent Spearman stated that whether or not the salary increase will be funded or not remains to be seen; however, she feels it is her role and responsibility to put this information out in front of the people. Superintendent Spearman stated that this is an issue that we need to talk about and address. She reiterated to all present and to those watching to review the report, advising that there are 29 recommendations that included supports from a variety of programs like “Call Me Mister,” stating that she was happy to see that Governor McMaster had placed a line item request in his budget in the amount of \$500,000 to support the “Call Me Mister” program stating that she believes the taskforce report is already having an impact.

Superintendent Spearman stated that today we would like to take the opportunity recognize some wonderfully talented teachers who have been named our state finalist for the nation’s highest honor for math and science. Superintendent Spearman first recognized the six state science award finalists then the two math award finalists they were as follows:

- Stephanie Bailey–Airport High School, Lexington County School District Two;
- Doug Bergman–Porter Gaud School, Charleston County School District;
- Teresa Gibbons– Carolina Springs Middle School, Lexington County School District One;
- Robert Spencer–T.L. Hannah High School, Anderson County School District Five;
- Allison Espinosa– AC Flora High School, Richland County School District One; and
- Cathy Stinson– Dent Middle School, Richland County School District Two.

Superintendent Spearman congratulated and thanked all the award recipients stating that she was so proud of these teachers for what they do every day to help and shape our students to become great citizens and learners, wishing them all the best of luck in the upcoming competition.

Superintendent Spearman stated that she would be leaving the meeting a little early to go watch the General Assembly vote and see what the outcome will be regarding new buses for our schools. She explained that the Senate vote today would override the Governor’s veto to not provide funding for new school buses.

This concluded her report.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Wall recognized Bernadette Hampton, President of South Carolina Educator Association (SCEA), and Kathy Maness, Executive Director of Palmetto State Teachers Association for public comments. Both Mrs. Hampton and Mrs. Maness addressed the Board and provided tokens of appreciation to each member for their service to the students and teachers of our state.

Mr. Brennan expressed his gratitude to Mrs. Hampton and Mrs. Maness explaining that he has had the privilege of working with both women on various projects during his ten year tenure on the Board. Mr. Brennan stated that these ladies represent the most important and valuable resource of success of the children and public education of this state which are our teachers. Mr. Brennan thanked them for their service.

VIII. STATE BOARD ITEMS

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Wall reported that the sub-committee met and heard two information items and recognized Cathy Hazelwood, General Counsel to provide information relative to these matters. Mrs. Hazelwood reported that the logistics of how P&L functions and provided background information relative to what matters the P&L sub-committee handles. Mrs. Hazelwood stated that for all board members have a filing obligation to file their annual Statement of Economic Interest. She advised that the deadline is March 30, 2018, encouraging members not to wait until the deadline to file. Mrs. Hazelwood stated that she would be sending out an email to members that would include login information and directions and advised that she is available for additional assistance. This concluded his report.

FOR INFORMATION

01. **Policy and Legislative Committee 101**—Cathy Hazelwood, Deputy Superintendent, Division for Legal Affairs (No Synopsis)
02. **Introduction to Policy and Legislative School District Waiver Requests**—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 Wall recognized Gerald Reeves who stated that the committee addressed two action items and one information item. He stated that members should have a copy of item EP-01 that provides detailed information relative to the identified critical need subject areas for 2018–19. Mr. Reeves provided brief and thorough background information regarding each item and encouraged each member to review the information addressing these matters. Mr. Reeves stated that the committee did approve to place both items EP-01 and EP-02 on the consent agenda, and reported that he asked Laurie Covington to be present and make brief comments. Ms. Covington stated that every year the SCDE is required to obtain this information explaining that she collaborates with Dr. Garrett at the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA) who supply the report that identifies our critical need areas. Ms. Covington explained that our critical need areas are growing due to our teacher shortage and explained the different deferred loan options that teachers could apply for if they chose to teach in one of the critical need subject areas. Dr. Edwards asked that Ms. Covington briefly explain the criteria changes that qualify as a critical needs subject area. Ms. Covington explained that state statute stipulates if a school has a 70 percent or higher poverty threshold, a 20 percent teacher turnover rate, or a poor school report card, it would be considered a school in a critical need geographical area. She stated that this year the determination was made only based upon the poverty index and the teacher turnover rate. Ms. Covington stated that based upon some of these changes in the criteria, some of the schools may no longer appear as a school on the critical needs geographical area report.

This concluded Mr. Reeves' report.

FOR APPROVAL

- 01. Identification of Critical Need Subject Areas for 2018-19 Relative to the South Carolina Teacher Loan Program)**—Laura Covington, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Federal, State, and Community Resources
- 02. Identification of Critical Need Geographic Areas (Schools) for 2018-19 for the South Carolina Teacher Loan Program**—Laura Covington, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Federal, State, and Community Resources

FOR INFORMATION

- 03. Voluntary Educator Preparation Program Terminations at North Greenville University**—Jaclyn Walsh, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Federal, State, and Community Resources

IF INNOVATION AND FINANCE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Wall reported that the sub-committee met and heard one action item. She provided a detailed explanation regarding item IF-01 which dealt with the recommendations for District instructional materials. Chair Wall reported that item IF-01 was approved to be placed on the consent agenda. Chair Wall also stated that Chief Finance Officer, Nancy Williams provided the committee with a financial update for the 2017–18 year, advising that the Board has expenditures in the amount of approximately \$34, 000 through the month of December 2017, and is in good standing. Chair Wall also reported that due to the increased number of teacher cases presented to the Board, additional funds will be allocated to cover these matters. She stated further that it is expected that the SBE will have a projected carryover of approximately \$7,000 for next fiscal year.

Chair Wall stated this concluded his report.

FOR APPROVAL

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

FOR INFORMATION

- 02. Financial Update for Fiscal Year 2017–18**—Nancy Williams, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Finance

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Chair Wall recognized Mrs. Harmon who reported that the sub-committee met stating no action items were presented; however, the committee did hear two items for information. Mrs. Harmon stated that Dr. Mathis and Dr. Pressley would be making presentations to the Board relative to these matters. Mrs. Harmon recognized Dr. Mathis who provided a brief presentation regarding third grade retention. Dr. Mathis provided detailed presentation regarding the mandatory third grade retention requirement as it is written in the law and how it relates to Read to Succeed (R2S). He provided a thorough explanation of each category the students would fall under if the determination was made to retain them as well as the six “Good cause” exemptions that may be considered prior to retaining students. Dr. Mathis stated that there were three key things that are emphasized in this process, 1) early identification, 2) targeted specific

interventions, and 3) parent notification. Dr. Mathis also highlighted the six good cause exemptions stating that detailed explanations of these exemptions are included in the PowerPoint that was distributed and identified the following exemptions for students:

- 1) English language learners who have received less than two years of English Language learner services in their district
- 2) Students with disabilities whose individualized educational program (IEP) indicates the use of an alternative assessment or that the student is to receive intensive reading interventions.
- 3) If a student's score falls under the "not met 1" category, they may take an alternative assessment like Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) or STAR and if they receive a qualifying score on these assessments they qualify for the exemption, advising that the key for this particular exemption is that MAP or STAR can only be utilized after SC READY has been administered.
- 4) A student who has received two years of reading interventions and has been retained previously.
- 5) A literacy portfolio that includes student classwork and assessments can be reviewed to determine the reading level of the student— Dr. Mathis advised that the final decision lies with the district superintendent when utilizing this exemption.
- 6) Summer Reading Camps—Dr. Mathis stated that the student must successfully complete the camp and take the alternative assessment MAP or STAR at the end of the summer camp.

Dr. Mathis stressed that the R2S law was a K–12 law, pointing out that just because a student is promoted to the next grade level is not an indication that the student is a strong reader. He stated that the law is clear to ensure that the student is reading at grade level no matter what grade the student may be in.

Dr. Edwards asked how the additional 30 minutes of supports stipulated by the law would affect teachers in the classroom. Dr. Mathis explained that this time could be implemented in the class with the teacher or outside of the classroom with a reading interventionist. Dr. Edwards expressed concern that by leaving the responsibility up to the district administrative staff of how this extra support time will be provided to the student may fall upon the teacher who already has regular class instruction obligations, and asked if there could be any suggestions provided by the SCDE to districts to consider the current responsibilities of teachers when considering where the student will receive this extra help. Dr. Mathis stated that plans and help could be provided to districts.

Mr. Brennan asked Dr. Mathis if he anticipated retaining any third grade students giving the number of good cause exemptions provided. Dr. Mathis stated that when you look at the total number of students who fall in the "not met" category and the number of exemptions to consider, he does not anticipate a larger number of students being retained. He stated that the thing that needs to be considered the most is whether that student(s), no matter the level of learning ability, is receiving those intensive strategic intervention supports to help the student become a better reader. Mr. Brennan asked Dr. Mathis if the SCDE was ready for the potential negative backlash from parents if there are some students who are retained. Dr. Mathis stated that the law is very clear in that it states if a student is retained that the instruction would be different advising that parents would have already received notification if their student is being considered for retention.

Dr. Edwards asked Dr. Mathis about what steps if any steps were being taken to identify students at an earlier age so that a student can receive help prior to the third grade. Dr. Mathis stated that the SCDE implemented a kindergarten readiness assessment in addition to district's administering its own formative

assessment given, i.e. MAP, STAR, etc., that are taking place throughout the year to determine the student's progress and to see if they are on grade level or not. This concluded Dr. Mathis presentation.

Mrs. Harmon recognized Dr. Pressley who provided a brief overview regarding the new Social Studies standards. Dr. Pressley stated that the revisions process to the standards began in the fall of 2016, and applications were open for the SCDE writing and review panels at that time. She stated that the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) review panel began their work at the same time. Dr. Pressley stated further that in the winter of 2017, the SCDE review panel conducted its review of the standards. She stated that 26 members participated in this process and that the SCDE had a total of 170 individuals providing feedback, between the SCDE and EOC review panels. Dr. Pressley stated that the SCDE has a total of 44 writers from across the state that began work on the standards during the spring and summer of 2017. Dr. Pressley stated further that on December 8, 2017, a draft of the standards was posted for public review and feedback which she pointed out was an important part of this entire process. She advised that 1,100 individuals have provided feedback and that public comments will be open until January 26, 2018.

Dr. Pressley stated that the plan is to begin revisions in March 2018, after all the data is compiled and the panel reviews the trends based upon the public's feedback. She stated if all goes smoothly, the plan is to present the first reading of the standards to the Board in September 2018. Dr. Pressley explained that the tentative bridge year for implementation of the standards was 2019–20, with the 2021 being the year the standards are assessed. She stated that the SCDE is currently on track with the timelines set, advising that there are approximately eight or nine focus groups that are working around the state getting additional feedback from Social Studies leaders. Mr. Brennan asked if Dr. Pressley could highlight some of the trends they have seen thus far and some of the feedback they have received. Dr. Pressley explained in great detail of the review panel's findings that include but are not limited to focusing on civics and how civic responsibility is reflected in the standards, developmental appropriateness for students, and a sixth grade survey. She also stated that the SCDE has received feedback from our Holocaust Council who posed a question about the absences of the word holocaust. Dr. Pressley stated that upon review they went back and amended the draft so that there was more specificity in the actual reflection of the term in the standards.

Dr. Edwards expressed concerns on how the facts in the standards are validated through respected and worthy resources. Dr. Pressley stated that there have been steps taken to put emphasis on making sure that students are able to differentiate between true fact and not fictitious information.

This concluded Mrs. Harmon's report.

FOR INFORMATION

01. **Third Grade Retention**—Dr. David Mathis, Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness
02. **SC College and Career Ready Social Studies Standards**—Dr. Anne Pressley, Director, Office of Standards and Learning, Division of College and Career Readiness

ELC EDUCATOR LICENSURE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Wall recognized Mr. Brennan who reported on behalf of Mrs. Bynum that the Educator Licensure Committee (ELC) met and had already approved and ratified the actions during the Full Board ELC sub-committee meeting. Dr. Wall stated that the committee heard three cases which addressed one unprofessional conduct and two breaches of contract matters.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Wall called for the vote for approval of the consent agenda. It was moved by Mrs. M. Jones to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Harmon. The motion passed unanimously.

EP EDUCATOR PROFESSIONS—COMMITTEE REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

- 01. Identification of Critical Need Subject Areas for 2018-19 Relative to the South Carolina Teacher Loan Program)**
- 02. Identification of Critical Need Geographic Areas (Schools) for 2018-19 for the South Carolina Teacher Loan Program**

IF INNOVATION AND FINANCE—COMMITTEE REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

- 01. Review Panel Recommendations for District-Requested Instructional Materials**

SBE SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

Dr. Quinn on behalf of Dr. Dixon reported that the SCDE continues to work with the new Florence Four Superintendent, Dr. Rachelle Anderson, in transitioning into the District. She stated that on January 10, 2018, the District would have a K–5 Elementary Literacy Best Practice professional learning opportunity which will be facilitated by Dr. Anne Pressley. Additionally, she stated that the District will begin implementation of the Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS), which is an effective discipline management system. Dr. Quinn also reported that the District is still working on the District Audit, indicating that it is about 75 percent completed and should be submitted to the SCDE by mid-January. Dr. Quinn stated that Dr. Anderson is scheduled to make her State of the District address on January 29, 2018, advising that she and Superintendent Spearman met and reported that they are working well together. She reported also that the District is undergoing some infrastructure upgrades using e-rate funds and technology technical assistance funds, and have been able to upgrade the wired and wireless technology. This concluded her updates for Florence Four.

Dr. Quinn stated that Dr. Tobin continues to serve as Interim Superintendent in Allendale, with continued support by the District's Transformational Coach Dr. Margaret Gilmore. She reported that Allendale is also beginning the K-5 Elementary Literacy Best Practice professional learning opportunity which will be facilitated by Dr. Anne Pressley as well as implementing the PBIS within the District. Dr.

Quinn reported that the District has completed its audit and submitted it to the SCDE. She also reported that the next community meeting will be held on January 23, 2018, which will be led by Dr. Tobin.

FOR INFORMATION

- 01. Florence County School District Four Update**—Latoya Dixon, PhD, Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness
- 02. Allendale County School District Update**—Latoya Dixon, PhD, Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Innovation and Effectiveness

X. OTHER BUSINESS

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 2:05 p.m.