

AMENDED MINUTES
State Board of Education Meeting

Date
August 11, 2020

Time
12:00 p.m.

Location
Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Michael Brenan, Chair
Dr. Kristi Woodall, Chair-Elect
Molly M. Spearman
State Superintendent of Education
Secretary and Administrative Officer to the Board

I. WELCOME

The State Board of Education (SBE) meeting convened at 12:00 p.m. Chair Brenan, Governor's Appointee, called the meeting to order.

In addition to Chair Brenan, the following SBE members were also physically attending: Dr. Shawn Johnson, Third Judicial Circuit; Cathy D. Chapman, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Dr. Tracy West, Fifth Judicial Circuit; J.R. Green, PhD, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Debby Howard, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Jean W. Pearson, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; and Valaree C. Smith, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit.

Members attending virtually were: Chair-Elect Dr. Kristi Woodall, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; Jon Butzon, First Judicial Circuit; Crystal Stapleton, Second Judicial Circuit; Carl Hinze, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Cynthia A. Downs, Ed.D., Eighth Judicial Circuit; Larry Kobrovsky, Ninth Judicial Circuit; David Whittemore, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; and Alan Walters, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

Steven English, Eleventh Judicial Circuit and David Whittemore, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, did not attend.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff were physically attending: Molly M. Spearman, State Superintendent of Education; Cathy Hazelwood, Deputy Superintendent and Parliamentarian, Division for Legal Affairs; Karla McLawhorn Hawkins, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Educator, Community and Federal Resources; Barbara A. Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; Holly Hadden, Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; Julie Anne Castro, Intern, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; Katie Nilges, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, Division of Legal Affairs; Kimberly E. Mack, Director, Office of

School Transformation, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement; Travis Huggins, Information Technology Manager I, Service and Support Center, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; Lewis Chambers, IT Specialist III, Service and Support Center, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; Jim Benson, IT Specialist III, Service and Support Center, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; and Noelle Redd, Minutes Taker, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs.

SCDE staff attending virtually were: Betsy Carpentier, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; David Mathis, EdD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness; Sarah Longshore, Director, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement.

Chair Brennan led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. (Due to the pandemic, all JROTC performances are discontinued until further notice.)

Chair Brennan asked that those who were physically presenting their item speak into the microphone, and speak clearly to ensure that the audience can hear the speaker through the speaker's mask and to allow for an accurate transcription of today's meeting.

Chair Brennan thanked both Mrs. Chapman for chairing the ELC Committee and Mrs. Howard for chairing the PL Committee during his absence at both meetings this morning.

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR JULY 14, 2020

Chair Brennan asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes as presented for the SBE meeting on July 14, 2020. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR AUGUST 11, 2020

Chair Brennan asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda as presented for the August 11, 2020, SBE meeting. Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA
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The following visitor(s) were present:

- Sarah Gams, 2021 South Carolina Teacher of the Year
- Brian Butler, Associate, The Campbell Consulting Group

No news media were present.

V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Brennan stated he had no report, but he did want to express his gratitude to Superintendent Spearman and her staff at the SCDE, along with the staffs of all our school districts for all their work coming up with plans to

safely bring our children back into the classroom. He went on to say that he could not imagine what everyone has gone through to get our state to this point. He wanted to acknowledge the people and the amount of work they have given. He thanked Superintendent Spearman for the amount of time she and her staff spent on reading through each of the district reopening plans.

This concluded the Chair's comments.

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Prior to the start of Superintendent Spearman's report, Mr. Walters asked that all the virtual attendees mute their phones so that all of the virtual attendees could hear today's meeting.

Superintendent Spearman thanked Mr. Walters for his reminder.

Superintendent Spearman welcomed everyone stating that it had been a busy few weeks since the July SBE meeting. Last Thursday, she had a teleconference with all of the local superintendents and her take away from that meeting, which went very well, was that it was the first meeting since mid-March that she felt that there was more calm, more focus, and she didn't sense as much anxiety and frustration as in the past. She thinks the difference is that we are now at a place where, while we still have a lot uncertainty, at least we do have a focus now and we are getting back in the mode trying to return to school, whether it is virtually, face-to-face, or a hybrid version, but every district has their plan ready, and we are now working on implementing those plans and that is what educators do so well. It was a great teleconference and she is proud to say that we have now approved all the reopening plans. We will be reevaluating those plans, particularly those districts that are going back all virtual, and we are asking those districts to work with us to look, every two weeks, at the trending data that comes from the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), which will be one of the most used indicators to decide change, for all of those districts as they work towards moving from a total virtual model to some type of face-to-face model as soon as possible. Superintendent Spearman is excited about where we are in reopening schools.

Superintendent Spearman stated she had great news about a person who was chosen as the 2021 SC Teacher of the Year (SCTOY), Mrs. Sarah Gams. Sarah stated that a love of teaching and learning began with her parents who are both retired educators from Chesterfield County, SC. Growing up with school as her second home, teaching was always her dream career, and she has become a teacher. Sarah has served as a tenth through twelfth grade English teacher at Spring Hill High School (SHHS) in Lexington/Richland School District Five (LCSD-5), where she also serves as the English Department Chair. Sarah earned her Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of South Carolina's Honor College and a Masters of Arts in teaching from the University of South Carolina. Mrs. Gams earned her Master's +30 from Coastal Carolina University. She earned her National Board Certification in 2007, and has recently been recertified, and has been teaching for sixteen years. Sarah has taught internationally; travelled the world; led international tours for students to many countries; and she has been the keynote speaker for Education First in Paris, France. She shares her love of reading with students and promotes parental involvement; and has created a Community Book Club, which has met monthly after school to discuss student-selected books from the SC Junior and Young Adult Book Award List. Sarah also serves Dr. West, at Columbia College, as an Adjunct Professor. She has taught Young Adult Literature; English Methods; and the APEC Module 3 Graduate Program for teacher certification. She has presented all over the country and is well respected in her field. Sarah has a beautiful family, which includes a number of members who are principals and teachers. Sarah loves reading, golf, and traveling with her husband, Matt, and their precious son, Jake. Superintendent Spearman stated that she had an extraordinary visit to present Sarah with her award. As everyone knows, due to the pandemic, the 2021 Teacher of the Year Gala was postponed, but we

surprised Sarah at her home, and before Sarah speaks today, Superintendent Spearman wanted to share a video of herself; LCSD-5 superintendent, Dr. Christina Melton; and others as they surprised Sarah at her home with the news that she was selected as the 2021 South Carolina Teacher of the Year.

After the video, Superintendent Spearman stated that the role of SCTOY during the upcoming school year will require tremendous leadership, and Sarah has shown throughout her career her ability to rise to the occasion and meet the needs of students wherever they are. Superintendent Spearman went on to say that Sarah is most deserving of this honor and the attributes she possesses will be invaluable assets as she helps to lead our state and the teaching profession forward.

Superintendent Spearman went on to say that Sarah, along with the award, received \$25,000 and was provided with a brand new BMW to use while serving for one year as a roving ambassador providing mentoring, attending speaking engagements, working with teacher cadets and teaching fellows, leading the State Teacher Forum, and serving as the state spokesperson for over 50,000 educators.

Superintendent Spearman introduced Sarah and the audience gave her a standing ovation.

Sarah thanked Superintendent Spearman and the SBE and stated that she was excited to be here today, stating that today was her second public speaking engagement as the 2021 SCTOY. She stated that normally, she would talk without prompting, without a speech, but she knows that we have a limited amount of time together, and she has prepared a few remarks. Sarah stated to Superintendent Spearman and distinguished members of the SBE; that it is an honor to speak with them today. She would like to take this time to recognize 2021 Honor Teachers for their incredible talent, expertise, and passion they demonstrate as leaders in the education profession

- Shawn Norris is a kindergarten through fifth grade Physical Education teacher at Satchel Ford Elementary School in Richland County School District One;
- Tanya Peckham is a first grade teacher at Wilder Elementary in Sumter School District;
- Ashley Bennett teaches seventh grade Mathematics at Woodruff Middle School in Spartanburg County School District Four; and
- Richard Whitmore teaches ninth through twelfth grade Spanish at York Comprehensive High School.

Sarah's father always told her that we should always take what we admire in others and make it a part of who we are, so Sarah also thanked

- Dr. Michael Lofton, her principal, for his progressive vision;
- Dr. Christina Melton, her district superintendent, for her thoughtful intentionality;
- all of her wonderful LCSD-5 colleagues;
- all of the wonderful teachers she has collaborated with throughout the years;
- a shout out to the SHHS English Department and Columbia College; and
- most importantly, her district's investment in her as a professional by sending her to national conferences, allowing her the freedom to try innovative ideas; by funding hers and the school's diverse classroom libraries has helped her to serve, as a teacher, her students.

She is absolutely living proof that investing in teachers is investing in our students and in the quality of their education.

Sarah stated that Superintendent Spearman told the audience about her, but she wanted to add a few more things about herself. She stated that she has taught English for seventeen years, ten years at Chapin Middle School and is in her seventh year at SHHS. She has taught everything from seventh grade Co-taught English to twelfth grade AP Literature and Composition, and three years ago, she began teaching at Columbia College with Methods in English Education; Young Adult Literature; and APEC Module 3, which provides an alternative

pathway for teacher certification for professionals who are already in field and are already serving in schools. Sarah has loved and grown from every one of her teaching experiences. As Superintendent Spearman stated, she comes from a long history of teachers. Her mother taught her English and she was a Teacher Cadet teacher at Chesterfield High School; and the 2003 Honor Roll Teacher; her dad taught Math and Social Studies at Chesterfield Middle School; her husband, Matt Gams, is the principal of River Springs Elementary School, which is also located in LCSD-5 and is where their son Jake currently attends school; and her sister and brother-in-law also teach in LCSD-5, so she comes by it honestly. Sarah stated that she absolutely believes that education is the most beautiful profession. She finds great joy in going to work every day. She believes that education is truly intellectually stimulating. It's a creative work that challenges all educators on a daily basis; to provide the best instruction possible for our students; and day after day, year after year, teachers have continued to find innovative and effective ways to help our students overcome obstacles to learning and we are doing this, especially now, this year, as we continue to put the safety of our students, their families, our educators, and most importantly, our communities at the forefront of all our instructional decisions. In this room alone, our SBE has countless years of rich and varied educational experiences and expertise in safety, administration, classroom teaching, curriculum coaching, educational foundations, and reading interventions combined with the expertise of business leaders, executives, and parents all of us here represent the very best of what a true collaboration of stake holders can be, and together with the input of classroom teachers, school administrators across the state, we can and we are reimagining education. Our lives have been disrupted by COVID-19, and that means our thinking about education has been disrupted, and that can be a great thing. We have learned so much. COVID-19 has brought into sharp focus the very real struggle that so many of our students face with access to technology, internet, homelessness, poverty, and most of the time, the school building can protect our children from their circumstances for at least eight hours a day. When schools closed in March, none of us could predict how long we would be unable to return to a physical classroom. I worried about my students that I could no longer see on a daily basis. She gave a few examples of what some of her students faced, and changed the student's names to protect their privacy.

- "Julie" was living in adverse conditions with no internet, no gas for the family car, and a sister who is immune-compromised. Though we mailed her work packet to her, she could not drive to the school to turn her work in.
- Sarah was on the phone weekly with "Dom's" mother, who was worried that Dom would fall behind.
- Sarah reached out to "Elizabeth," "MaKala," and "Jacob," all of whom had not turned in assignments to find out that they were at home taking care of younger siblings while their parents worked, or working at grocery stores to help supplement their families' income.
- "Sam" did not come out of her house for one month in fear of contracting the virus from others and exposing her grandmother with whom she lived.

Sarah stated that her heart was breaking because, in that moment, academics was not the most important thing. Academic work was secondary to physical safety and the social-emotional trauma that our students faced. I took all of these stories from my own students and more, to our district committees as we started to make decisions in this uncharted educational situation we found ourselves in. We all agreed to follow the very sound leadership of Superintendent Spearman and our SBE. We adopted a philosophy inspired by the Hippocratic Oath, to first, do no harm. As educators, we would not allow a global pandemic that threw all of us into this unprecedented situation to damage our students' opportunities to learn, or affect their GPA or their academic standing. As educators, we decided to get together to focus on supporting our students education by being present. By presenting new content with E-learning, Google Meet, and Zoom, and, as educator, we watched our brave students overcome so many adversities.

- Julie and her mother took advantage of the free internet service offered to those families in need, and Julie started to participate in online Google Meet in late April.
- Dom, her struggling reader, completed all of his assignments because he knew that his mother and I were in constant communication with each other and that we were proud members of Team Dom.

- Elizabeth, MaKala, and Jacob, all passed their online AP exams.

Our students were extraordinary, and because our district policy sought out and followed the advice and input of their teachers and they listened when we discussed our professional success, and maybe more importantly, our failures, and then they found ways to support us. Moreover, we, as teachers learned to teach in new ways. Last spring was not easy for any of us as educators, but the crisis did disrupt our thinking, and it is allowing us, now, to take all that we have learned last spring into this new school year. Now we have to do something that is even harder, we have to ask ourselves not “how do we return to normal”, but rather “how can we use what we learned; what we understand about the world right now to move forward”. We must ask ourselves, what we can change about education to help our students become successful in this new online, hybrid environment. We can continue to build on what we know, and what we have learned about trauma-informed instruction; virtual schooling; and even “zoom fatigue” and zoom fatigue is a thing, to move forward. Once again, academics do have to come secondary to our students’ social-emotional needs and their physical health. In addition, we must continue to keep our priorities in order to keep our students physical and emotional health at the forefront of all policy decisions, which she does believe they have been doing from mid-March through May. This year, she looks forward to working with Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA); collaborating with educators across our state; advocating for students in our profession as we reimagine education, together. We will find ways to inspire and instruct our students; and we will find ways to navigate these uncharted waters, safely. She knows, for certain, that as long as we work together, we are the right people and this is the right time to do it. Thank you.

Chair Brennan thanked Sarah for her comments and asked if there were any questions.

Dr. Green stated that when he first met her, he did not realize that she was from Chesterfield. Dr. Green stated that he had worked in Chesterfield for eight years as the superintendent. He asked Sarah if Scott Racket was the principal when she graduated and Sarah stated that he was the assistant principal. Dr. Green also stated that Dr. Melton was also from Chesterfield and that she is recruiting all of the Chesterfield teachers to work for LCSD-5. Dr. Green ended by congratulating Sarah.

Chair Brennan thanked Dr. Green and recognized Mrs. Chapman (Chesterfield), who congratulated Sarah for being such an inspiration and that she knows Sarah’s parents. Sarah stated that has been overwhelmed, humbled, and happy everyday by this award.

Chair Brennan thanked Mrs. Chapman and recognized Dr. West who added that we are fortunate that not only are you teaching the students of SC, but also helping to prepare future educators, which will only increase the impact that you as a teacher will have. We are very proud of you; proud of your relationship with Columbia College; and the state could not have chosen a better representative for us for this year, congratulations. Sarah thanked Dr. West.

Chair Brennan thanked Dr. West and stated that as he was listening to Sarah’s remarks, he stated that as a banker, a lot of what she was saying is also applicable to business because, he is reminded by what Winston Churchill said about “not wasting a good crisis,” and Chair Brennan feels that both business and education people and community people and church people are all learning the lessons from this and he thinks what will be interesting is that there will new ways to how we do business, education, communities and church. He stated that he appreciated her forward thinking. Sarah thanked Chair Brennan for his comment.

This concluded the Superintendent’s report.

Chair Brennan thanked Superintendent Spearman for her report. Superintendent Spearman stated that she would be available throughout the meeting to answer questions, if needed.

Chair Brennan recognized Dr. Green who stated that he had previously read where Governor McMaster (Governor) wants data reported relative to COVID-19 infection per school district. What exactly does he want with that information? Superintendent responded that she, too, was seeking insight on the Governor's request. She has a call in to DHEC for information. She was unaware that the Governor planned to request that information. She feels that in an effort to keep the public informed, obviously, it is a good idea for us to report when there are positive cases in schools. She does not understand the need to do it on a daily basis. She thinks that it will be difficult to do a daily report and it may be difficult to cover the privacy of people, if that is the case. She is certain that DHEC is reviewing all of the information. Superintendent Spearman feels that if all K-12 public schools are required to do this, she thinks that it would be wise to ask all other non-public schools to submit their numbers and to ask the same from colleges and technical schools, as well. She stated that she is not certain that all of that is in the Governor's request but she is checking into it. She thanked Dr. Green for bringing up the issue because she also has concerns.

Chair Brennan thanked Dr. Green, and recognized Valaree Smith who stated that because of the situation in Allendale County, where there is no school board, a question was posed to her about how the Allendale superintendent makes her decisions, was there a committee and who was on that committee.

Superintendent Spearman stated that since there is no acting school board in Allendale, Florence Four, or Williamsburg, she works very closely, as does her staff, with those superintendents to make the best decisions on the day-to-day operations of each of those districts. So, any of those decisions to be made include talking them over with Superintendent Spearman and her staff. The Allendale superintendent had input from the community, as the reopening plan was created, but Superintendent Spearman along with her staff approved the plan and made recommendations to the Allendale superintendent.

Chair Brennan thanked Ms. Smith and recognized Dr. Green who stated that he wanted to make a comment about needing to get away from treating COVID-19 as something to be ashamed of or associated as being some type of stigma. He thinks that causes people not to be forthright about being infected. He does not want people to be ashamed of being infected. He would like his community to be forthcoming about it, because it can happen to anyone. He does not want people to feel that they have done something wrong, if they are infected, there is no need to be ashamed. If there is anything, you or the Governor's office can do about that, it would be a great help. That is why I brought up the topic of the Governor wanting daily reports from schools. Superintendent Spearman agreed with Dr. Green stating that she had a question about this yesterday, about how are we going to work with families and communities if there are positive cases in schools, and there will be as we start reopening schools. We cannot guarantee 100 percent safety, nor do we guarantee that if someone becomes infected, that they got it at school; a person could have been infected at a family reunion and then came to school. We have been working with DHEC for template letters to assist districts with how they should notify their communities about an infection and the various "what if" protocols. All of those are outlined in our AccelerateED document as to how districts should handle people who need to be quarantined, and what processes should be in place for all of those scenarios. If anyone has any questions, please look at our AccelerateED document.

Chair Brennan thanked Dr. Green and recognized Mrs. Howard who a question about the consolidation of Clarendon County School Districts (District) One and Three. Superintendent Spearman stated that both those districts are in the process of consolidating. Local legislation has been introduced and passed to combine Districts One and Three to create the new Clarendon County School District Four, and a new board has been appointed. There is some discussion going on about how they need to be sharing even more services as we

move into this new school year. There are upcoming meetings concerning the consolidation. The full consolidation will be completed for the start of the 2021–22 school year.

Chair Brennan thanked Mrs. Howard and recognized Mrs. Smith who had another question, stating that she knows we can't have a formal meeting but, because a lot of times she can't hear presentations, and can't see where there is a question and answer session after the presentation for parents or anyone having concerns. Mrs. Smith wanted to know if there was a way to schedule something or a way so that parents can get some answers to their questions. Mrs. Smith stated that just hearing a presentation, she still has concerns; about who she should contact to get answers for her questions. Superintendent Spearman asked if Mrs. Smith was talking about presentations taking place in the Allendale communities. Mrs. Smith indicated that she was talking about all over, because sometimes she attends the Allendale meetings and hears the presentations, then people come ask her questions, and she does not know what to tell them. Who is supposed to answer the questions that the parents are concerned about? Superintendent Spearman stated that she has been doing as many public activities with question and answer sessions on TV and radio for people to call in with their questions. Superintendent Spearman stated that she was doing a program on Thursday with Palmetto State Teachers Association (PSTA) and South Carolina Education Association (SCEA) for teachers to call in with questions. She stated that if anyone of the SBE get a question that you cannot answer, please send it to us and she and her staff will get you the answer. Our phones have been ringing nonstop. Feel free to tell your constituents to contact our Ombudsman, Wanda Davis, or send us an email. There are mechanisms in place to answer these questions. Mrs. Smith had another question stating that she knows we were doing virtual, but she also knows that there are other online schools available. How are our parents supposed to know how it would affect them if they do not participate with the school district? Superintendent Spearman restated Mrs. Smith's question saying, "How are our students going to be engaged if they chose an online school? Superintendent Spearman stated that first, the online program that is offered is more robust, with much higher expectations and engagement required, than what happened in March. She stated that back in March every student was counted present until the end of the school year; however, that is not going to happen in the upcoming school year. In order to be counted present, the student has to log on daily; engage with their instructor; turn in their assignments; and there will be a daily attendance taken online the same as in the face-to-face classrooms. This is one thing that we looked at in the reopening plans along with what the district plans were for students and how the districts planned to engage their students. She is certain that the superintendents on the SBE would agree that the student expectations are very high. Superintendent Spearman stated that her staff is working with another state agency, the SC Office of Regulatory Staff, to give out Hot Spots, which were purchased by the state using the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to distribute Hot Spots to families who need extra support to boost their internet. The state is also using CARES Act funding to pay for families who cannot afford internet service so there are a number of programs and activities happening to support students and their families with virtual learning.

Chair Brennan thanked Mrs. Smith and recognized Dr. West who stated that her question was a little different because it concerned money. She stated that after the Governor's decision for reallocation of the \$32 million, she had a conversation with the Representatives and Senators from Kershaw and Richland counties and the statement was made that there was a concern that they believe that the districts already had enough money, so it was only fair to spread that around. Dr. West asked how the conversation is being had with the legislative body about available funds, how much has been used, and how much is still available to districts. Dr. West is sure that her colleagues and superintendents, on the SBE, might be able to comment, but she asked if we are at a place where our schools have what they need and if there are additional funds, yet to be utilized, what is the status? Superintendent Spearman stated that there has been a large amount of funding made available to K–12 schools for reimbursement for the COVID-19 impact. The United States Department of Education (USED) sent \$212 million, and \$195 million of that money goes directly to the school districts and they have two years to spend that money on a broad array of things. They can use their money on any item that they can relate back

COVID-19. As of yesterday (August 10, 2020), \$17 million of those funds have been used. There is still a large amount of funds still available. She is asking the districts to turn in their plans. Superintendent Spearman stated that she cannot tell the districts how to spend that money; but it has to be spent within two years. The CARES Act funding was around \$2 billion, of which about \$210–212 million that was allocated by the SC legislature for schools to use. Her staff has been assisting the districts by paying for the summer reading camps, math camps, LEAP days, and Katie Nilges is making a report tomorrow (August 12, 2020) to the Senate Reopening Committee on where we are. Quite honestly, the number of students that we anticipated and identified, which was 25,000 student to attend these programs, not all of them attended. We had hoped 10,000 would attend, but the numbers were a lot smaller due to the face-to-face format of those summer reading camps. Therefore, there is still money that can be allocated from that program. We will be working with districts to make sure that the money is spent appropriately; Superintendent Spearman is recommending using tutors to work directly with students who are behind in K–3 reading, math, and other activities that would be appropriate for that grade group. She believes that the LEAP days may also be some of that funding available, as well. She will be working with the legislature and the districts so that they will have some additional funding there to use. Just in the last two weeks, the Governor said that if the districts need anything to get ready to reopen, let him know, and we did. Elsie Montgomery, Director of Procurement, did extensive surveys with the school districts making sure that the districts had all they needed to provide personal protection equipment (PPE) for their staff; teachers; and students. Last week Ms. Montgomery placed an order last week for approximately \$10 million and it is being paid for with the CARES Act funding; the districts will not be charged for this order. As we start this school year, all of the PPE; equipment to clean schools and buses; and all of the things needed to make a safer environment have been already arrived or are on the way and has been paid for by the CARES Act funding. She has not heard a single superintendent say that they cannot open because they do not have the safety materials that they need. She knows that the items are expensive and as we move through the school year, those supplies will need to be replenished, but there is funding out there that is available for either expenditures or reimbursement.

Dr. Green's response to that was to say that his district is not even sure about what they will need. One conversation that he has had is that the state is funding Hot Spots through December, which makes the assumption that we will no longer have Hot Spots available for the remainder of the school year, so what happens after December if we are still in place where virtual learning is still taking place? Dr. Green asked how is that going to be funded and will the state going to provide additional funding Are they going to have to use CARES Act funding? There are still a lot of unknowns even though we have enough to start, are we going to have enough to finish, which still remains to be seen. Dr. Green apologized for jumping in without being recognized. Superintendent Spearman stated that his comment was accurate and that she has been asked by the General Assembly to give them a prediction on the additional items that the districts will need to replenish using state funds. Different committees are meeting and we are currently making reports to them. There is a lot of guessing on what the districts might need. Dr. West stated that she appreciates what has been done, but that her conversations with Representatives and Senators, voicing her concerns for opening that door for the use of the federal dollars for private school settings. From the responses that Dr. West has received, she personally, feels that there might be folks within the legislature that believe we already have what we need. Dr. West asked Superintendent Spearman, going forward, when making those presentations to the School Opening Committee tomorrow, to make sure that the committee is aware that the district do not have all that they need. Dr. West stated that she was not aware of the two year timeframe, and at least that does help in providing a response to "well only X dollars have been used" when you have \$212 million. Dr. West thanked Superintendent Spearman for the information.

Chair Brennan thanked Dr. West and recognized Mr. Butzon who asked if the recording of today's meeting would be posted somewhere on the SCDE's website in a format that is more easily understood, as far as sound quality? Chair Brennan stated yes. Mr. Butzon's second question was if the "missing students" had been located.

Superintendent Spearman stated that we are in a much better place, than last month, now that we have all of the names of the missing students. Superintendent Spearman, along with Katie Nilges, have worked individually with local superintendents asking them to go beyond the call of duty in working with their local law enforcement to find the missing students. The number of missing students is now down to a little over 3,100 names. Those names were sent to the SC Department of Social Services (DSS). DSS has identified some of the 3,100 students as current cases files that already have caseworkers. Superintendent Spearman asked Katie Nilges to come to the podium to provide a more detailed report. Superintendent Spearman went on to say that, the SCDE was asked to locate these missing students. Superintendent Spearman stated Ms. Nilges has been working diligently on this project, but is a very different requirement asking districts to turn names over to DSS. This has been a difficult situation for districts, but all the districts have complied.

Chair Brennan welcomed Ms. Nilges who stated that the last report she received was dated August 4, 2020. In the last report from DSS, they had 152 open cases from the list of 3,100 names submitted. DSS is working with their local DSS offices and local law enforcement to locate the remaining 2,948 to determine if the family has moved or if the family was “disengaged.” Superintendent Spearman thanked Ms. Nilges for her update.

This concluded the Superintendent’s report.

Chair Brennan thanked Superintendent Spearman.

VII. PARLIAMENTARIAN COMMENTS

No report.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following signed up for public comment:

- Kathy Maness, PSTA
Ms. Maness thanked Superintendent Spearman, the SBE, and the SCDE for the work that they have done during these extraordinary times. She thanked them for what they have done for the children, the teachers, and the families in SC. She went on to say that Superintendent Spearman has had a hard job since mid-March, and Ms. Maness is proud of how Superintendent Spearman has represented SC. Ms. Maness stated that she sent a letter along with the SCEA about some concerns about our teachers returning to face-to-face teaching. They are hearing from the teachers that the teachers want nothing more than to be in the classroom, but they need to make sure that it is safe. Many of our teachers have health issues or family members with health issues and they are concerned about being in the classroom, face-to-face. Our organization, the PSTA along with the SCEA, do not encourage our educators to break their contracts. That is something that both of our organizations do not want to happen, but we understand that in these situations, it has happen. We get calls daily from teachers who say they just cannot go back, their health will not allow them to return, and they need to break their contracts. Therefore, what the PSTA and the SCEA are asking of the SBE is that these teachers not be penalized for having to make the impossible choice that requires them to choose between their health and their livelihood. Moreover, we are asking that the SBE refrain from issuing suspensions to educators who breach their contracts for COVID-19 related issues. The phones calls that she and Sherry East have received have been heartbreaking. Ms. Maness stated that she received a call from a brand new teacher who had just graduated from college, so excited about being not only a teacher but also a Fellows Teacher, making her one of the best of the best. She signed her contract in December 2019, and was

hired before she even started teaching. She was ready go, but this young woman has three underlying health conditions that makes it very hard for her to go into a face-to-face classroom. She was very upset and asked what she should do, she had not heard from her district; did she need to resign, but luckily, her district did release her from her contract because of her health conditions. We know that when teachers do not go to work, that they have breached that contract, and those teachers come before you as the SBE, and we are asking that for these teachers in these situations, that their certificates not be suspended, because of a COVID-19 health issues. Ms. Maness thanked Chair Brennan.

- Sherry East, SCEA

Ms. East thanked Chair Brennan; the rest of the SBE; Superintendent Spearman; and AccelerateED Task Force Committee for allowing both her and Ms. Maness to have representative on the task force, which some of the colleagues have described it as “emergency deployment teaching”. One of the members at the last meeting stated that what we did we did in the spring will not be what happens when we reopen in the fall. The PSTA; the SCEA, and the SCDE collaborated with all four SC and University of South Carolina Research Departments to do an intensive survey that went out in June to all 53,000 of our certified teachers. We received 12,000 responses, and we have an in depth report available, however Ms. East would pass out a three page highlights and summaries, and talk about what we found out, which we think knew pre-COVID-19 and what, unfortunately will still exist after post-COVID-19. Of the report, there were five themes, and seven important facts, but the major take away was that teachers who taught in the high-poverty and rural schools; worked in elementary with disabilities; and English learners were more challenged than their counter parts. This was true before, during, and after COVID-19. The last thing at the end, were the recommendations to eliminate the technology divide; accelerate learning management systems; invest in professional learning networks for and by teachers; re-think the role of teachers as leaders; and find and support cross-sector collaboration to serve the whole child. This research team is available to do an in depth presentation with beautiful graphs and slides, if you are a data junkie. Please contact Barnett Berry at USC if you would like an in depth report and we will send you the links to these reports so you can read all of the data. Ms. East thanked Chair Brennan.

- Mr. Christopher Fox appeared, again, before the SBE to make a direct request for a public hearing for his perceived failure of ADEPT. The SBE took his comments under advisement.

Chair Brennan thanked Mr. Fox.

IX. STATE BOARD ITEMS

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

Chair Brennan asked Mrs. Howard, who sat in for him as acting chair this morning on the P&L Committee, to give the Committee Report. Mrs. Howard stated that the committee met and heard two action items and two information item. Both action items were placed on the Consent Agenda.

This concluded Mrs. Howard’s report.

01. Proposed Amendments to the State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-273 (R.43-273), Transfers and Withdrawals (First Reading)—Sherrie Beaver, Education Associate, Office of Student Intervention Services, Division of Educator, Federal, and Community Resources

02. Proposed Amendments to the State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-279 (R.43-279), Minimum Standards of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Enforcement Procedures to be Implemented by Local School Districts (First Reading)—Dr. Sabrina Moore, Director, Office of Student Intervention Services, Division of Educator, Federal, and Community Resources

FOR INFORMATION

03. School District Waiver Requests Update (Virtual presentation)—Sarah Longshore, Director, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement (No Synopsis)

04. Synopsis Proviso 1.88 Update (Virtual presentation)—Betsy Carpentier, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations

Mr. Butzon asked Chair Brenan for a brief review of when and how to request an item be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Chair Brenan deferred to Ms. Hazelwood who explained that, if Mr. Butzon wanted to remove something from the Consent Agenda, it would be done now, and ask that it would be removed from the Consent Agenda. You would then take the rest of the items on the Consent Agenda and then you will discuss the item that was removed. Mr. Butzon asked if there could be a short discussion, in an effort to save some time. Ms. Hazelwood asked what the discussion would be about. Mr. Butzon had a question about the first two PL Items. He is okay with them being on the consent agenda, but they are on the Consent Agenda as a “First Reading” item and that will get a second reading. Ms. Hazelwood explained that this is because these are SBE Regulations, and by law, the second reading has to be a public hearing. So, first reading of these two regulations are by the PL Committee, and second reading is before the full SBE at the Public Hearing and the full SBE votes on these two regulations, therefore, these two regulations will not appear on another Consent Agenda. However, after the First Reading, but before the Public Hearing (Second Reading), Dr. Moore and Ms. Beaver will be accepting public comments on their regulation which, if they receive any will be provided for the full Board to review prior to the Public Hearing. Mr. Butzon wanted know why when there was a first reading a few months ago the SBE, after first reading, passed the item with a two-thirds vote. Ms. Hazelwood explained to him that state law dictates that agency regulations must have a first reading and a public hearing to become law and what Mr. Butzon was referring to were the SBE Rules of Governance which are the SBE’s operating guidelines/policies and therefore, do not require review by the public.

Chair Brenan thanked Ms. Hazelwood.

EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Brenan recognized Mrs. Pearson who reported that the committee met and heard two action items and one information item. Both action items were placed on the Consent Agenda.

This concluded Mrs. Pearson’s report.

FOR APPROVAL

01. Spring 2020 Accreditation Decisions: Coastal Carolina University, Morris College Newberry College, and Winthrop University—Jaclyn Walsh, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

02. Request by Educator Preparation Provider for Out-of-State Student Teacher Placement: Anderson University—Jaclyn Walsh, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

FOR INFORMATION

03. Notification of Changes to Educator Preparation Programs—Jaclyn Walsh, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Chair Brennan recognized Ms. Howard who reported that the committee met and heard one action item and there were no items for information.

This concluded Ms. Howard's report.

FOR APPROVAL

01. Adoption List of Formative Assessments—Ms. Elizabeth Jones, Director, Office of Assessment, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement

ELC EDUCATOR LICENSURE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. Chapman, sitting in for Chair Brennan, presented the Educator Licensure Committee (ELC) report. Mrs. Chapman stated that the committee met and took action on six cases, which consisted of one Initial Certification denial; two Public Reprimands; and three Suspensions.

Mrs. Chapman stated that the FB-ELC met at 11:00 a.m. and approved the ELC report.

FB-ELC FULL BOARD EDUCATOR LICENSURE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. Chapman, sitting in for Chair Brennan, stated that the FB-ELC met and took action on four applications for certification. Two applications were approved and two applications were denied.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Brennan called for the vote for approval of all items on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Howard made the motion to approve all items on the consent agenda. Dr. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Brennan opened the floor for discussions, there being none, Chair Brennan called for a vote. The members unanimously voted to approve the consent agenda.

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

FOR APPROVAL

01. Proposed Amendments to the State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-273 (R.43-273), Transfers and Withdrawals (First Reading)—Sherrie Beaver, Education Associate, Office of Student Intervention Services, Division of Educator, Federal, and Community Resources

02. Proposed Amendments to the State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-279 (R.43-279), Minimum Standards of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Enforcement Procedures to be Implemented by Local School Districts (First Reading)—Dr. Sabrina Moore, Director, Office of Student Intervention Services, Division of Educator, Federal, and Community Resources

EP EDUCATOR PROFESSIONS—COMMITTEE REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

01. Spring 2020 Accreditation Decisions: Coastal Carolina University, Morris College Newberry College, and Winthrop University—Jaclyn Walsh, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

02. Request by Educator Preparation Provider for Out-of-State Student Teacher Placement: Anderson University—Jaclyn Walsh, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY—COMMITTEE REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

01. Adoption List of Formative Assessments—Ms. Elizabeth Jones, Director, Office of Assessment, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement

SBE SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

01. State Board of Education: Health and Safety of Students Policy—Katie Nilges, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, Division of Legal Affairs

Ms. Nilges stated that the policy will grant Superintendent Spearman with the authority to take any precautionary safety measures in all SC public schools and facilities, which are deemed necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the students and staff. As you know, on March 15, 2020, the Governor issued an Executive Order directing the closure of all public schools in the state of SC for all students and non-essential employees, beginning on March 16, 2020. The public school facilities remained closed until the end of the 2019–20 school year. As the 2020–21 school year is approaching, the SCDE, to best protect the safety and welfare of the public school students

and staff, we support the state and national effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 by requiring facemask coverings to be worn on school buses and within public school facilities. This policy is being presented to you today, for approval, and you have, attached to the synopsis, the Face Mask Policy, which Superintendent Spearman provided to all districts on August 3, 2020.

Chair Brennan thanked Ms. Nilges for her presentation.

Chair Brennan called for the vote for approval of Item 01.

Dr. Johnson made the motion to approve Item 01. Mrs. Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Brennan opened the floor for discussions, and recognized Mr. Butzon. He noticed that previously, when emergency powers were given to the Superintendent, it was done in the form of a regulation, not in the form of a policy. Why is there a difference? Chair Brennan asked Ms. Nilges to explain. Ms. Nilges stated that the regulation that went into effect back in March was an “Emergency Regulation,” which dealt with a broad range of authority. It allowed Superintendent Spearman to essentially waive the regulation requirements. As you know, the emergency regulation was only in effect for a ninety-day period, which has now expired. This is a policy that will allow the Superintendent to continue to make these decisions for the safety and welfare of our students. Mr. Butzon stated that he did not see an expiration date on this policy; it looked like it could go on forever. Ms. Nilges stated that Mr. Butzon was correct. Chair Brennan stated that since no one could predict when COVID-19 would end, it would be best to not list an ending date. Mr. Butzon disagreed stating that this policy needed to be revisited to see where we are with COVID-19 particularly when what this policy does is effectively provides a blank check to the Superintendent. If we can make it about the safety and welfare of the students, there is no limit to what can be done. Mr. Butzon doesn’t want to suggest that anything bad could be going on, but he is just saying that the SBE has an obligation to make this process crystal clear and very carefully defined and delineated, so that at some point down the road, we don’t wind up getting cross-threaded with somebody, or a school district, or the General Assembly, or anybody else that says we have overstepped our bounds and have been careless with the public’s trust.

Chair Brennan thanked Mr. Butzon for his comments and recognized Mr. Walters who stated that he has been working very closely with Superintendent Spearman on the health and safety issues, not just on AccelerateED, but also because it is his job with his district. Superintendent Spearman has consulted with Mr. Walters on the facemask issues. He appreciates Mr. Butzon’s comments, but he does not think that this policy is going to be abused, or over-used. Mr. Walters asked Ms. Nilges, please correct him if he was wrong, stating that even though it is not a statute, the SBE can withdraw it at any time, by this same action, when they choose to do so. Moreover, if there is a big concern, Mr. Walters stated that the SBE can call a special meeting to rescind the policy. Therefore, it is not really a blank check, it is just a little more open ended than Mr. Butzon likes. Nevertheless, it does give the SBE oversight on what is going on. Ms. Nilges concurred with Mr. Walters comments.

Chair Brennan thanked Mr. Walters for his comments.

Chair Brennan asked if any other comments were. there being none, Chair Brennan called for a vote. The policy passed with Mr. Butzon voting no.

FOR INFORMATION

01. Literacy Update—David Mathis, EdD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness

Dr. Mathis stated that this month's update would veer from a focus on literacy to a broader update on support the SCDE is providing districts as we begin the 2020-21 school year.

Academic Recovery Camp (ARC) Update—Grades K-3 ELA and Math

We are currently updating our enrollment in ARC. In an earlier count, districts proposed 9,566 would be attending ARC. While counts are not final, districts have reported a total of 3,121 students attended ARC. We are waiting on enrollment numbers from 10 districts. Lower numbers than expected resulted in ARCs being canceled due to high spread ratings of the virus or parents who declined sending their child after indicating an intent to attend.

Reopening Plans

Plans for all districts have been approved with each offering a virtual option and a face-to-face option when it is considered safe with all protocols in place. Seventeen districts plan to open with full face-to-face (5 days per week), 48 districts are opening with a hybrid model, and 16 districts are opening with a virtual start and evaluating with the SCDE every two weeks when it is safe to reopen.

LEAP Plans (Learning, Evaluating, Analyzing, Preparing)—PK- Grade 8

The SCDE has approved 53 district LEAP plans. Districts are required to invite all PK–8 grade students for at least one day to school during LEAP days. LEAP days are to be scheduled for 5 days prior to the start of school. Days are to be used for any of the following areas:

- 1) Revisiting Content and Skills;
- 2) Diagnostic Activities (assessing students in ELA and Math);
- 3) Social-Emotional Check-In and Preparation;
- 4) Data Analysis;
- 5) Review of IEPs; and
- 6) Establishing Routines and Procedures

Pre and Post Assessments in ELA and Math

In fulfilling S.C. Act 142 of 2020, the SCDE approved five assessment tools to pre-assess students during LEAP or the first ten days of school in ELA and math and a post assessment in December of 2020. The five assessment tools are MAP, STAR, iReady, TE 21, and HMH Reading and Math Inventory. Pre and post results will be provided to the SCDE where we will transfer this data to the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) for evaluation.

Support to Districts

Beginning a school year is always a busy and often hectic time for schools, but beginning school in the fall of 2020 will be significantly challenging. With the challenges also come opportunity. The SCDE is positioned to provide a support system that will lead to promising practices, not simply best practices. Here is a sampling of the support the SCDE is providing:

National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET)

NIET has developed the Companion Virtual Instruction Rubric to our South Carolina Teaching Standards 4.0 Rubric (all teachers in SC are immersed in the 4.0 rubric each year) and the SCDE has entered a partnership with NIET to assist SC educators in strengthening capacity in virtual instruction. All South Carolina teachers and administrators can participate in free training around the indicators of the rubric in three 90-minute sessions designed around effective virtual teaching practices. This is available to higher education faculty and student

teachers. Registration opened last week and currently over 1500 teachers and administrators have registered for the sessions.

NIET landing page: <https://www.niet.org/our-work/events/show/south-carolina-virtual-instruction-training>.

Rethink K-12 Education Model Grant

SC received a three-year \$15M grant from the USDE with the goal of improving the quality of remote learning through the state. The goals of the grant are to:

- 1) Increase availability of remote learning resources to students and teachers in areas of S.C. that lack broadband access;
- 2) Improve education resources for specific, identified gaps by developing and curating engaging, high-quality content;
- 3) Increase teacher experience, confidence, and proficiency with remote learning technology and resources; and
- 4) Improve communication between families, teachers, and schools to support remote learning

Learning Object Repository

With CARES funding, the SCDE is building a Learning Object Repository (LOR) to provide all districts with high quality, robust curriculum, materials, assessments, and resources that can be easily accessed by all teachers. The goal is to provide all teachers with the 'go to' place for standards-based resources to provide high quality instruction. The LOR will be designed to interface with any Learning Management System (LMS) a district may utilize.

eLearning and Readiness Districts

The SCDE is working closely with the EOC in the third year of the eLearning pilot project of allowing districts to utilize eLearning for weather make-up days. The pandemic has shifted the focus to include an emphasis in building a high quality digital learning environment, which takes significant preparation and resources. The 2020–21 school year is the third year of the EOC's pilot with 42 school districts and 4 charter schools identified as eLearning districts who have the infrastructure and resources to support full remote learning. An additional 29 districts have been identified as Readiness districts who have much of the infrastructure and resources in place, but could use the mentoring and coaching from eLearning districts. Readiness districts have been divided into six cohorts and will receive yearlong coaching from the eLearning districts in best practices, lessons learned, and pitfalls to avoid.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

A team across the SCDE is developing resources to support teachers in embedding SEL in all PK–12 academics. To accomplish this goal the SCDE has launched a website at <https://sel.ed.sc.gov/> where resources for teachers, parents, students, and support professionals can be found. Of particular interest, the site contains 20 lessons that teachers can readily incorporate in their instruction. Additionally, as part of the Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS), S. C. Act 213 of 2018, requires the SCDE to select SEL screeners that can be used as a tool to provide a tiered system of support for students. A team from the SCDE is currently vetting screeners that can be provided to schools.

Priority Standards and Learning Progressions

The SCDE is working with a team of school and district leaders to develop priority standards in ELA and math. While all standards are important and subject to be included on state assessments, these are standards that are critically important, as they must be mastered to be successful at the next level of work. The team is currently identifying those critical standards at each grade level as priority standards and those that serve as support.

In addition to priority standards, the team is developing Learning Progressions. Learning Progressions will serve

as a tool to teachers in demonstrating how students should progress through mastering the content and standards at their current level and signaling at what point the student is prepared for the next level of work or if remediation is necessary before moving on in the progressions. Learning Progressions are not a pacing guide, but serve as a tool for teachers and students to analyze student work to determine the level of mastery at the current level and timeliness of moving to the next level of work.

This concluded Dr. Mathis's report

Chair Brennan thanked Dr. Mathis stating that the SCDE is providing a great amount of support for the districts and schools, and asked if there were any questions.

Chair Brennan recognized Mr. Kobrovsky. Mr. Kobrovsky thanked Mr. Mathis for his report and asked what a "screener" was. Dr. Mathis stated that a screener is an evaluation tool that takes a few minutes for a teacher or a counselor to administer to a student to determine the social and emotional wellbeing of the student. How the students see themselves and others. A piece of that is also included in our kindergarten assessment of how well they understand themselves; how well they deal with conflict; how they deal with and understand the feelings of others. It is a tiered system. In a top tier, such as Tier 3 it could show where a student may need more support with mental health issues. Mr. Kobrovsky asked what qualifications the people had that are doing the screening. Dr. Mathis stated that an SCDE team will select the screener, but it is a readiness indicator that a teacher or a counselor can use the screening tool. Mr. Kobrovsky thanked Dr. Mathis for the clarification.

Chair Brennan recognized Mr. Butzon. Mr. Butzon recalled a significant amount of discussion and concern, as schools were closing, about a combination of a "COVID slide" along with a "summer slide" resulting in a decision that we had to do something about it. Mr. Butzon recalled that the initial number was that 49,000 students that needed to get involved the summer camp learning program. Dr. Mathis stated that Mr. Butzon was correct and stated that it was the number of K-3 students who may not be ready for entry into third grade. Mr. Butzon asked if they were most likely to be heavy-duty victim of the COVID/Summer slide wanting to know where the student are in their learning process. Dr. Mathis agreed. Mr. Butzon stated that the number was cut back to 25,000 students for funding reasons. Dr. Mathis agreed. Mr. Butzon stated that now we have ended up with 3, 000 students, and his question was, what would be the mechanism to counter the impact the COVID/Summer slide, or is that something that will be put into the regular school year. Dr. Mathis stated that the estimates are that 15-20,000 students did receive virtual support and we are waiting on confirmation of those numbers and, as Superintendent Spearman brought up, as we move into the year, we assess these students on the diagnostic assessment to determine what the slide may be. He went on to say that, we have engaged education analytics to do our growth rating to really analyze in the end how much of a slide occurred. Was it a summer slide, was it a COVID slide, once we get the diagnostic data, from our pre-assessments, we can compare that to historical data and determine what caused the slide. The key at this point is that moving forward, is championing the resources that we have left to provide intervention activities once we have the students with face-to-face or virtually, because virtual instruction is very different moving into the fall than it was in March and he thinks, that as Superintendent Spearman mentioned, the tutors, interventionist, or even the intervention activities will enable us to actually have more direct contact with those students that we didn't have contact with.

Chair Brennan recognized Dr. West who stated that she wanted to express her appreciation of Dr. Mathis for coordinating the support for National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) that is helping the institutions of higher education with the training of students for the field and taking quite a lot of burden off our institutions. Dr. Mathis thanked Dr. West.

This concluded Dr. Mathis's report.

Chair Brennan recognized Ms. Hazelwood who due to John Payne's absence introduced Ms. Kimberly Mack as the new Director of the Office of School Transformation, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement. Ms. Mack is the former principal of South Florence High School.

Chair Brennan welcomed Ms. Mack to the SCDE.

Ms. Mack began her update.

03. Allendale County School District (ACSD) Update—Kimberly E. Mack, Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement

- **Summer News:**
 - o Task Force Meetings held on 6/18 and 7/15 to establish district re-opening plans;
 - o Parent Orientation for Allendale-Fairfax High School scheduled for 8/24-28;
 - Students will pick up schedules, devices, and textbooks;
 - o ACSD Website won a Reward for Excellence from the SC Chapter of the National Public Relations Association;
 - o 2020 Grad, Javarius Youmans received the SC Football Hall of Fame Bridge Builder Award; and
 - o \$20,000 donation from Collum Lumber Company for culture and climate change initiatives
- **LEAP Days:**
 - o August 24–28, 2020
- **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:**
 - o August 31, 2020
- **Re-Opening Plans:**
 - o Will offer parents a choice of hybrid and virtual models.

04. Florence County School District Four (FCSD-4) Update—Kimberly E. Mack, Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement

- **Summer News:**
 - o Task Force Meetings held on 7/7 and 7/14 to establish district re-opening plans;
 - o Academic Recovery Camp held 7/20–8/7; and
 - o Hosted COVID-19 drive-thru testing on 7/31
- **LEAP Days:**
 - o August 3–7, 2020
- **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:**
 - o August 17, 2020
- **Re-Opening Plans:**
 - o Will begin virtually and offer a hybrid option starting 9/8/20

05. Williamsburg County School District (WCSD) Update—Kimberly E. Mack, Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement

- **Summer News:**
 - o Three virtual community meetings were held on 8/3 to share the district’s reopening plan and address concerns/questions from virtual audience;
 - o Virtual Summer Reading and Math camp held for K–12 students from 7/15–8/12; and
 - o Will be partnering with the MUSC on its “Back to Business” initiative
- **LEAP Days:**
 - o August 24–28, 2020
- **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:**
 - o September 8, 2020
 - o
- **Re-Opening Plans:**
 - o Will offer parents a choice of hybrid and virtual models.

This concluded Ms. Mack’s report.

Chair Brennan thanked Ms. Mack and asked if there were any questions.

06. Quarterly Review of State Board of Education’s Fiscal Year 2019–20 Budget—Nancy Williams, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Finance

Mrs. Williams stated that as of July 31, 2020, and consistent with prior years, the SBE budget is still \$58,034. The budget continues to be comprised of two components, an operational piece that covers per diem and travel related expenditures for the SBE members and a second component that consists of covering the costs associated with teacher licensure cases. Since the state is operating under a continuing resolution, we have made very little changes to the amounts that are associated with component of the budget. There is \$26, 034 loaded in your budget to cover the travel associated costs and \$32,000 to assist with the cost of those teacher cases. As of the end of July, there were no expenditures incurred or paid from either component. As always, she will continue monitor the expenditures as we go throughout the year to ensure that the amount loaded to each component is sufficient to fulfill its intended purposes.

This concluded Mrs. Williams’s report.

Chair Brennan thanked Mrs. Williams and asked if there were any questions.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Brennan asked if there was any other business to come before the board.

Chair Brennan thanked those members who were physically in attendance and those who attended virtually. Chair Brennan stated to those were virtual, that he missed seeing them face-to-face.

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 1:43 p.m.