

**MINUTES**

**State Board of Education Meeting**

**Date**

**May 12, 2020**

**Time**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Teleconference Dial-In**

**Information**

**1-469-480-6671**

**Conference ID: 375 885 474#**

***Michael Brennan, Chair***

***Dr. Kristi Woodall, Chair-Elect***

***Molly M. Spearman***

***State Superintendent of Education***

***Secretary and Administrative Officer to the Board***

**I. WELCOME/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The State Board of Education (SBE) meeting convened at 10:00 a.m. Chair Brennan, Governor's Appointee, stated there was a quorum and called the meeting to order.

The following SBE members were in attendance: Chair-Elect Dr. Kristi Woodall, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; Jon Butzon, First Judicial Circuit; Crystal Stapleton, Second Judicial Circuit; 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; Carl Hinze, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Cynthia A. Downs, Ed.D., Eighth Judicial Circuit; Larry Kobrovsky, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Debby Howard, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Steven English, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Jean W. Pearson, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; David Whittemore, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; Valaree C. Smith, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; and Alan Walters, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff were in attendance: Molly M. Spearman, State Superintendent of Education; Cathy Hazelwood, Deputy Superintendent and Parliamentarian, Division for Legal Affairs; John Payne, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability, and School Improvement; Donna Manning, Interim Director, School Transformation, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability, and School Improvement; Karla McLawhorn Hawkins, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Educator, Community and Federal Resources; Mary Hipp, Director, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources; Jaclyn Walsh, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources; Lilla Toal-Mandsager, Director, Office of Educator, Effectiveness, and Leadership Development, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources; David Mathis, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness; Barbara A. Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; Scott Winburn, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; Henry Gunter, Deputy General Counsel, Office

of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; Holly Hadden, Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; Jennifer Austin, Administrative Assistant, Office of Governmental Affairs, Division for Legal Affairs; Jeff Henry, Project Manager, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; and Noelle Redd, Minutes Taker, Division for Legal Affairs.

Ms. Hazelwood requested an amendment to today's agenda to add Mr. Payne's information item, which was an update on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Chair Brennan also reminded everyone in attendance to mute his or her phones. Chair Brennan asked Ms. Hazelwood if she knew whose phones were muted. Ms. Hazelwood asked Jeff Henry to explain how the platform worked. Mr. Henry stated that he is going through the phone numbers individually to mute the phones and is leaving the phones belonging to the SBE members with the ability to mute and unmute their phones. However, he will mute all phones and allow the SBE members to unmute and come into the meeting. Ms. Hazelwood informed the SBE that there was only one action item on the agenda for them to vote on and the rest of the items were information items and, if necessary, they could unmute to ask questions to the presenters. Ms. Hazelwood asked Mr. Henry to mute everyone except for Chair Brennan and the presenter.

Chair Brennan thanked everyone for their attendance and had Dr. Woodall lead the participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR APRIL 14, 2020**

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

## **III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AMENDED AGENDA FOR MAY 12, 2020**

Chair Brennan asked if there were any objections to approving the amended agenda as requested by Ms. Hazelwood. Hearing no objections, the amended agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

## **IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA**

Ms. Hazelwood received an email attendance notification from Darath A. Mackie, Candidate for SC House District 25. Ms. Mackie stated in her email that she appreciated the opportunity to listen and learn.

No news media were present.

## **V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Brennan shared that he had the privilege of speaking with Congressman Jim Clyburn after a banking meeting. They discussed how to make sure, during the midst of this crisis, that we do use this crisis as an opportunity to expand and bring broadband capability to our most rural areas. Chair Brennan stated that in light of how our children in South Carolina (SC) are currently being educated, and may be educated in the future, it is certainly critical to make sure that we have broadband so that the children can access to online and eLearning. The other advantage to that also advantages to health and telehealth services. Congressman Clyburn assured

Chair Brennan that broadband is a key item in his agenda and he fully expects to have Congress help with that issue. Chair Brennan feels that this was positive information on the education and health of SC children.

## **VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT**

Superintendent Spearman welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that she has been very busy since the April SBE meeting. She thanked Chair Brennan for taking every opportunity to speak up for the needs and to help promote education, as he did with Congressman Clyburn. She confirmed that broadband is an issue and that it is time to fix it. It has been a discussion for some time, and now is the time to take advantage of this crisis and come out of the crisis with a better SC. Katie Nilges and Superintendent Spearman have been attending the AccelerateSC committee meetings on Governor McMaster's (Governor) Task Force. The Resource Committee (RC) is the committee that she and Ms. Nilges have been involved. The RC is chaired by former Senator Greg Ryberg. The RC is the committee that will make recommendations to the Governor on how to spend the CARES Act funding which is the larger amount of money, \$1.9 billion that has to be spent, through reimbursement on those needs that all state agencies have paid to get through this pandemic through this December. There is a short time-frame on this, and the SCDE has given requests of anticipated costs. Superintendent Spearman shared those amounts, which include

- –\$1,015,700 summer reading and math program enhanced camp
  - 4 weeks, 3.5 hours per day;
  - grades K–3;
  - approximately 49,000 students;
  - students who are struggling and have a “Not Met” on Levels 1 and 2; and
  - anticipates that the camp will be in July;
- \$192,000,000 for K–8
  - to open schools six days prior to the start date, currently in law;
  - for instruction; intervention; remediation; academic assessment; emotional assessment; and social assessment immediately prior to the beginning of school;
- \$159,000 for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) masks all for teachers and school staff;
- \$13,000,000 to clean classrooms;
- \$64,000,000 to purchase approximately 160,000 devices for students in the event of another pandemic;
- \$12,000,000 to reimburse food service and labor; and
- the broadband issue is a huge issue that this committee is reviewing. There is a lot of support on the committee to appropriate a large amount of funding for broadband. The issue at this moment are
  - what is the plan;
  - is there a plan in place with the telecommunications industry to get broadband done; and
  - at what level
    - to every house in SC and what that would cost?

Congressman Clyburn has introduced federal legislation for federal funding and the SC legislature is very interested in this issue. The SC legislature will return this afternoon to discuss these issues. The big issue will be how to coordinate this funding with all of the other twenty-nine different pots of money to ensure that there will be no duplication of expenditures; the money is spent wisely; and accountability of that money.

Superintendent Spearman also stated that since the last SBE meeting she appointed an AccelerateED Task Force Committee comprising of

- Building and Student Services Subcommittee Chair–Alan Walters, SBE member;
- Instruction Subcommittee Chair–Patrick Kelly, Educator, Richland County School District Two; and

- Operations Subcommittee Chair–Scott Turner, Deputy Superintendent, Greenville County School District.

They have been working on recommendations and she anticipates that most of the recommendations will be ready by May 22. These recommendations will help with Best Practice Tips (Tips). These will not be mandates from this group, but they will be Tips on how to operate schools starting with the summer school programs and when school reopens in the August. As of last Friday (May 8, 2020), we have received additional guidelines from the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), and generally, those guidelines say that schools should reopen practicing to the extent possible good social distancing. We know that when the children come back to school, it will be almost impossible to keep six feet or thirty-six square feet apart. She stated that she appreciates DHEC understanding that, by giving us Tips on how to make that happen. As an example,

- staggering arrival times;
- students having breakfast and lunch served in the classrooms; and
- school desks arranged as far apart as possible or facing in the same direction.

Those types of very reasonable guidelines will help us operate more normally. Superintendent Spearman does not feel that it is going to be necessary to split the population as she thought that they might have to do, in the beginning, with very small class sizes. We would be able to operate with a more normal class size using some of the Tips that DHEC has suggested. Currently, we are about two–three weeks away from the end of this school year.

In the Governor’s most recent Order, he gave districts more flexibility to do what is needed for collecting materials, but the Governor also gave districts flexibility to begin some type of face-to-face instruction, in very small groups, where the family and instructor agree to where some services could be provided; some assessments could be provided. For instance, some students are coming in to take exams; some students are coming in for adult education; some students are coming in to take the General Education Development (GED) Exam and that exam can be done using social distancing. We are working hard to get all of that going. One of the most exciting things that is happening are the plans for graduation ceremonies. Seniors have to have all of their course work completed and turned in by May 15; teachers have to enter the information into PowerSchool by May 22; and graduation ceremonies held practicing very strict social distancing guidelines. We have sent out some recommendations to districts on how that should operate. Again, the districts have the flexibility to offer a graduation ceremony with safety issues, as best they can, with graduates and the audience sitting six feet apart. We have received a wide-array of graduation ceremony plans. It is very important to us that seniors have this opportunity, and she is looking forward to seeing the different types of ceremonies during the last week of May and the first week of June.

Superintendent Spearman thanked the teachers for stepping up for their students, but she wanted to especially thank the food service and bus transportation employees for the extraordinary work they did to prepare and serve meals and delivering meals to the homes of students, to food drop-off sites throughout the state. Last week, May 4–8, the breakfast and lunch meal counts we prepared; served; and delivered is 1,456,513 meals. We have been doing this for eight weeks, and during those eight weeks, we served 9,659,668 meals. She is sure that with what was served on May 11th and by the end of today (May 12th); it will be over the 10,000,000 mark. It is incredible what these employees have accomplished and thanks to all of the cafeteria staff and transportation staff and to the SCDE’s Office of Health and Nutrition, and the Office of Transportation. Superintendent Spearman also stated that Horry County received assistance from the SC National Guard and a non-profit, Operation BBQ, that helped when some school cafeterias had to be closed due to health concerns. Many thanks to Operation BBQ and all of the other non-profits for serving over 78,000 meals to the children. Superintendent Spearman stated that she has learned that the districts are losing money on every meal served because the

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) does not totally reimburse for those meals. The USDA reimburses for breakfast and lunch, forty cents per meal, so that is one of the things we will ask the AccelerateSC and the resource committee to refund the districts for those meals, and she is sure that it will happen. She went on to say that for future planning, we are to the point where we can look forward to opening summer school and getting school started in August. There will be safety precautions; we still don't have everything ready to go, but we are certainly concentrating on giving Tips to school districts so that they can plan and have schools run as normal as possible, but the health; safety; and social distancing of our students is the first factor that we are working on.

This concludes Superintendent Spearman's report.

Chair Brennan stated that, during the Superintendent's report, Dr. West had sent him an email asking if the Superintendent had data on the number of meals that were not accepted by the recipients and what is happening to those meals. Superintendent Spearman stated that she did not have that information with her, but would provide it. Superintendent Spearman shared that in her district, she spoke with the local superintendent who stated that one day, a mother met the bus to pick up meals and stated that she had no money to feed her family and the superintendent gave her money from his wallet. Superintendent Spearman notified the SC Department of Social Services (DSS) of the family's situation. DSS is helping families fill out the forms necessary to receive food assistance.

Chair Brennan recognized Mr. Butzon. Mr. Butzon stated that he had read a national survey, dated May 11, 2020, that was taken by parents concerning what parents were looking for from schools, for reopening schools. According to the survey, two-thirds of the parents said that they do not want to send their children back to school until it is absolutely safe. Mr. Butzon's question to Superintendent Spearman was whether or not we have talked to parents or surveyed SC parents about what they are looking for and what their expectations are for their children when our schools reopen. Superintendent Spearman agreed with Mr. Butzon about the parents' safety concerns, stating that we have to have the confidence of the parents that their children are returning to a safe environment. She stated that she has been talking with parents. Yolande Anderson (Directory, Family and Community Engagement) has held town hall meetings and there is a town hall meeting scheduled to hear from parents across the state. Yolande has also had a town hall meeting with students, as well. Superintendent Spearman knows, by listening to the parents, they do need that confidence. Some parents are talking about their children that have special health needs, and they may consider not sending them back to school and doing some type of virtual arrangement. We are working on all of those situations, but to get to a place where it is 100 percent safe is going to be difficult. Even if we test every student, every day, it still does not mean that no child in the school is a carrier of the virus. It is a very difficult situation and we are leaning heavily on health experts at DHEC to guide us through this time, and to use DHEC's recommendations. Superintendent Spearman has been very impressed with DHEC's understanding that children need to be in a learning environment and the best environment is at school with their teachers. We can only make it to 99.9 percent safe, but she does not feel comfortable saying 100 percent, stating that we will do everything we possibly can to make it as safe as possible by using masks, keeping students apart, no large grouping of students, no assemblies, no hanging out in the gym, and students going directly to their classrooms. We will continue to talk with parents and do everything we possibly can to reach a goal that parents can feel confident returning their children our schools. Mr. Butzon stated that he was happy that we are listening to parents and stated that the goal is to offer confidence and trust to parents, he offered the suggestion that the SCDE offer an online survey so that every parent has a chance to respond yes or no, and give input. He stated that he has yet to talk to a parent that is comfortable with the idea of their children going back to school. His constituents have been talking to him about the problems with eLearning; spending all their time teaching; having children home all day; but no one has commented on being comfortable and confident on sending their children back to school without some type of reassurances. He also feels that sending out a parent survey is one of the easiest ways to start moving in that direction. Superintendent

Spearman also agreed that he had a wonderful suggestion and she will meet with her communications staff to see what ideas they have for a parent survey and allow the parents to give us their thoughts and suggestions. Mr. Butzon asked when the next AccelerateED meeting would meet. Superintendent Spearman stated that the subcommittees had met on May 7th and believes that they are planning to meet tomorrow (May 13th), and the full committee meeting will be this Thursday afternoon (May 14th) 1:00–2:30 p.m. That information appears on our website and everyone is welcome to listen to the meeting. Mr. Butzon stated that he watched last week's meeting and found it very useful. He was impressed with the scope and the depth that the committee is reviewing. He was particularly interested in the comments made by Mr. Patrick Kelly, Chair of the Instruction Subcommittee and Dr. LaToya Dixon, Director of Elementary Programs and Gifted Education in York County School District One about the opportunities that are presented to us during this time, especially the opportunity to not go back to what we had, but to use this as a stepping off point to continue using methods that are better and more improved for SC public education. Mr. Butzon also recommended that the rest of the SBE members listen in on the upcoming AccelerateED meeting.

Chair Brennan thanked Mr. Butzon for his comments. Superintendent Spearman also thanked Mr. Butzon and stated that she has been notified that we have two public relations groups assisting us and there are two virtual focus group meetings with professional moderators one for parents and one for teachers meeting today and this information will be given to the AccelerateED committee.

Chair Brennan recognized Mr. Walters. Mr. Walters stated that as the SBE's representative on AccelerateED he also wanted to thank Superintendent Spearman for the opportunity to chair and work the Building and Student Services Subcommittee because his day job is Risk Management. Currently, the Subcommittee is finding out the current situation is very fluid. There are concerns about when students can return, safely, to schools. There are concerns about the digital divide, students wanting to maximize their educations by returning early, but the concern within his Subcommittee is with the fluidity of the situation, what they decide on could be outdated by the beginning of June. While we are going to do the best we can, in the timeframe we have, this is something that needs to be monitored and constantly updated, just as DHEC is updating their plans and regulations. While Superintendent Spearman did a good job updating everyone today on how buildings and schools will look, he feels that the information will change either way by late June or the beginning of July. The Subcommittee will continue to work on those issues. Mr. Walters wanted to mention that in addition to the members on the various subcommittees, each of the subcommittees have advisory groups that are working within the scope of each of those subcommittees. Mr. Walters stated the advisory groups are comprised of experienced individuals from the both the public and private sectors.

Chair Brennan thanked Mr. Walters for his service on the Subcommittee.

Chair Brennan recognized Superintendent Spearman who stated that the General Assembly was meeting today and she anticipates that they will pass, before going home, a continuing resolution with details on how decisions will be made, so we should have a little more information that will help AccelerateSC and AccelerateED as we move forward. As Mr. Walters stated, these are very fluid topics and the more decisions that are made along the way, will help us. We will be looking at the health status of communities, as we get closer to summer school in July and opening schools in August. It is hard to predict what the situation might be; we are making plans to run a summer reading program; we are making plans to open in August, if possible. If health conditions change and we are unable to do that, we will have back up plans to be better prepared with virtual and distance learning in the fall.

Chair Brennan recognized Valaree Smith. Ms. Smith asked if the focus groups had representation from all of the school districts or just a small number of people that are on this group. [unclear] Superintendent Spearman stated that she did not have the exact number of people in the focus groups and she would ask Ryan Brown to

provide her with the information for Ms. Smith. She went on to say that, the issue is always at the top of the list when creating a focus group to ensure good representation by using small districts and large districts from across the state to ensure that all communities are well represented. These two focus groups are run by professional organizations with third-party moderators. The SCDE is not involved in running the focus groups. We want the people attending these virtual meetings to feel comfortable and speak freely.

Chair Brennan thanked Ms. Smith.

Chair Brennan stated that Superintendent Spearman is in communication with the other State Superintendents across the nation, because getting children back in the classroom is a problem in every state. He feels certain that all of the State Superintendents are sharing thoughts and ideas to come up with the very best practices across all states. Superintendent Spearman stated that she and her staff have been participating in numerous groups, such as the Southern Regional Educational Board (SREB) and she has asked Shonda Jefferson, the SC State Teacher of the Year and Dr. Harrison Goodwin, Superintendent, Chesterfield County School District, to represent her on the SREB. The SREB is also looking into the best practices for reopening schools. Both Ms. Jefferson and Dr. Goodwin are also on AccelerateED. My staff are on numerous phone calls each week with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) working with them, learning, using and sharing the information with each other. We are learning a lot from others and others are learning from us. Last week Superintendent Spearman participated in a telephone town hall meeting with the Hunt Institute group from North Carolina, and she, along with the State Superintendents from North Carolina and Virginia were on a panel. There were several hundred thousand people at the meeting. There were good questions and ideas. Superintendent Spearman invited anyone who was attending the SBE meeting to feel free to share his or her ideas with her.

Chair Brennan thanked Superintendent Spearman for her report.

## **VII. PARLIAMENTARIAN COMMENTS**

No comments.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Brennan stated that due to the pandemic there would be no public comments at today's meeting. He went on to say that Ms. Hazelwood had been forwarding all of the parent comments that she has received to the SBE members; the State Superintendent and her staff; and the Governor.

Chair Brennan assured that the comments are being shared and to thank the public for their comments.

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| <b>IX. STATE BOARD ITEMS</b> |
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**SBE SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EDUCATION—REPORT**

**FOR APPROVAL**

**01. New Educator Preparation Provider and Program Approval Recommendation: North Greenville University (NGU) Certification Track Program in Early Childhood Education**—Jaclyn Walsh, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

Ms. Walsh presented the New Educator Preparation Provider and Program Approval Recommendations for NGU’s Certification Track Program in Early Childhood Education.

Chair Brenan called for a motion to approve the New Educator Preparation Provider and Program Approval Recommendations for NGU’s Certification Track Program in Early Childhood Education.

Mr. Walters made the Motion. Mr. Butzon seconded the Motion.

Chair Brenan opened the floor for discussions, there being none, Chair Brenan called for a vote. The members unanimously voted approve the New Educator Preparation Provider and Program Approval Recommendations for NGU’s Certification Track Program in Early Childhood Education.

**FOR INFORMATION**

**02. School Counselor, School Librarian, and Speech Language Professional Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Professional Teaching (ADEPT) Support and Evaluation System Guidelines Revisions**—Lilla Toal-Mandsager, Director, Office of Educator, Effectiveness, and Leadership Development, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

Mrs. Toal-Mandsager presented a PowerPoint presentation showing the special areas evaluation revision timeline. Stakeholder feedback and needs assessment took place during the winter–fall of 2019. The Stakeholder group was comprised of job-specific stakeholders (i.e., practitioners, professors, district leads, principals, evaluators, and mentors); human resource leaders; and an advisory group. After feedback was received, drafting and guideline revisions were prepared during the summer–winter of 2019. The revisions were presented as an information item to the SBE in spring 2020 with anticipated SBE approval in spring 2021. Proposed training will take place in both summer 2020 (virtually), and summer 2021 with implementation of the pilot program (selected districts) in 2020–21. Once the evaluations of the pilot programs have been studied, Mrs. Toal-Mandsager anticipates full implementation in 2021–22.

The advisory groups came up with five major changes to the guidelines, as follows:

- alignment to national standards/organizations;
- using a four-level rubric to measure growth;
- equipping administrative evaluators with knowledge of school support roles and responsibilities;
- reduce paperwork: year-long guiding document; and
- replace isolated interviews with conferencing and reflection

These five changes come from best practices, teacher and principal evaluation systems, and school leadership. If

we think that an evaluation is worth doing, we should first build a process that reflects research on what best supports students, then build a process that builds relationships evaluators and educators. Finally, to make sure that the process is on the growth of each individual educator. Functionally, all of the educator advisory groups advocated for a reflective process that closely measure teacher and principal evaluations. The reflections on interviews is a special area of evaluation because they are no longer isolated, and instead are imbedded in pre- and post-conferences and conversations between the evaluator and the practitioner. A dialogue allows support specialists to reflect on their professional practice and get feedback on areas of reinforcement and refinement. Work was done on removing the paperwork from the evaluation process. Instead of requiring long-range plans, interviews, and other unrelated documentation, we focused work on what speech-language professionals, school counselors, and school librarians already do every day. Their professional goals are aligned to their updated national professional standards and the support that they need from administrators to understand their unique goals. She hopes that this new evaluation will better support our special area educators and reflect the current demands of their jobs.

This concluded Mrs. Toal-Mandsager report.

Chair Brennan asked if there were any questions.

Chair Brennan recognized Mr. Butzon who stated that because of the pandemic, has consideration been given to revising the criteria for practitioners due to the effects of the pandemic. Mrs. Toal-Mandsager stated that her office is on a monthly call with districts; specifically, with the people who support educator evaluations and the attendance at those monthly calls has been increasing since schools are physically closed. She stated that she had ninety-five people on the call last week, which supports what her office is providing. Mrs. Toal-Mandsager indicated that what observations will look like; what conferences will look like; and what support will look like particularly for new teachers who will be coming into the field after completing an untraditional student teaching and then starting classrooms that will certainly look different this fall. That is the type of guidance that Mrs. Toal-Mandsager's office is providing them. Her office is also working with their national partners in other states to assist with those issues.

Chair Brennan thanked Mrs. Toal- Mandsager for her report.

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

As districts are closing out the current school year, most are also making plans for summer and the start to the 2020–21 school year. The SCDE is making every effort to assist districts.

- **Summer Reading Camp**

Districts have the option to utilize their Summer Reading Camp funds to offer remote opportunities for students in primary grades during the month of June or delay their camps until July with the possibility of a face-to-face summer program. Literacy specialists have spent the past few weeks developing lessons and activities that can easily be used by teachers and adapted for online instruction or pencil and paper packets. Literacy specialists have also developed learning activities that can be used during the month of June for parents or teachers to utilize with the goal of keeping students engaged.

- **Summer School**

Office across the agency are working with Superintendent Spearman's AccelerateED Task Force, which is charged with recommending a summer program as well as a plan for starting school in the fall. The SCDE recommended to the task force a face-to-face (with virtual options) K–3 summer program in July focusing on literacy and math. The summer program mirrors summer reading camps that we have offered over the past few years, but expands to math and an opportunity to serve more students. Some of the program components included:

- a minimum of 4 weeks;
- a minimum of 3½ hours a day;
- pre and post assessments;
- transportation provided; and
- meal service.

Districts were asked to identify students in K–3 who may need summer instruction. Districts considered previously administered benchmark assessments, formative assessments, and teacher input to identify students. To date, districts have identified approximately 49,000 students.

- **Support to Schools**

Dr. Quincie Moore and our literacy specialists have prepared a series of 20 K–3 literacy and math lessons that a school has the option to use during summer school. The lessons can be adapted to any platform, face-to-face, eLearning, or pencil and paper packets. The lessons will be ready June 1st to provide districts time to review, study, edit to meet their needs, or simply use as an exemplar.

As we move from summer to fall, diagnostic assessment of students will be important. Districts have benchmark and formative assessments as well as Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) screeners in place to inform teachers on planning instruction. One additional support that will be in place is a Learning Progressions tool. Learning Progressions in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics are being designed by the SCDE to provide teachers and students with tools to ensure that students have mastered the key concepts and learning targets that are essential for success in the next grade-level. This will enable teachers to be strategic and innovative in planning instruction. Additionally, lessons and other resources developed around key concepts and learning targets are currently being developed to support instruction. The learning progressions will be available July 1, 2020, and professional development will be provided by the SCDE in how to use the tool.

- **Additional Information:**

Due to expected budget cuts, it is unlikely there will be adequate funding for Social Studies textbook procurement. Social Studies Units of Study for each grade level will be available July 1, 2020, and they will inform schools on instructional delivery of the 2019 Social Studies Standards.

Because of the challenges textbook procurement could present, school districts will have the option to delay the implementation of the 2019 Social Studies Standards to the 2021–22 school year. However, districts who have the support and resources in place may move forward with implementation in 2020–21.

Chair Brenan thanked Dr. Mathis for his report and asked if there were any questions. Mr. Butzon asked for the number of children that attended the FY2018–19 summer camps. Dr. Mathis stated that it was less than 10,000 students, but Mr. Butzon needed to realize that all of those children were in the “Not Meets” category and for the FY 2019–20 summer camps, those categories have been broadened because of the education effects of the pandemic. Mr. Butzon clarified that his concern was not that this year's numbers were too high; his concern is

that maybe those numbers are too low.

Chair Brennan thanked Mr. Butzon for his comments.

**04. CARES Act Presentation**—John Payne, Deputy Superintendent, Federal Programs, Accountability & School Improvement

Mr. Payne presented a brief power point presentation on SC's CARES Act Funding. According to Mr. Payne, the SCDE will receive \$216,311,158 for

- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds;
- 10 percent for state-reserve activities (approximately \$21,631,116); state-level activities must address emergency needs related to COVID-19 pandemic; 90 percent (\$194,680,042) flow-through to school districts as subgrants;
- Governor's Office will receive \$48,467,924 (Governors' Education Emergency Relief Funds, or GEER Funds) and \$1.9 billion in federal aid, with SCDE requesting a portion of those funds
  - o Of \$1.9 billion, requesting funds for instruction, technology, cleaning, food services, protective gear; and
- The SCDE is working closely with Governor's Office and districts to ensure maximizing resources and minimizing duplication.

**ESSER Funds – Districts**

- Application for funds
  - o Budgetary information
  - o Descriptions of how district has prioritized funds, how it will address learning gaps, and promote remote learning
- Grant Awards upon review and approval of applications
  - o Amount determined in proportion to Title I, Part A allocation (but no solely for Title I schools) based on summer 2019
  - o Typical terms, conditions, and assurances for federal funds
  - o Funds can pay for expenses beginning March 13, 2020 and expire Sept. 30, 2021
- Districts must provide quarterly reports; SCDE must monitor
- Districts must provide equitable services to non-public students and teachers

**Twelve Areas of Allowable Uses of Funds**

1. Any activities authorized under
  - ESSA
  - IDEA
  - Adult Education and Family Literacy Act
  - Perkins Act
  - Subtitle B of McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
2. Coordinate emergency response
3. Address needs of highly vulnerable populations
4. Support school leaders and school needs
5. Ensure preparedness and coordination (systems & procedures)
6. Training related to infectious diseases
7. Purchase cleaning supplies to sanitize and clean schools
8. Planning/coordinating for long-term closures for education to continue
9. Purchase education technology

10. Mental health supports
11. Summer learning
12. Other activities to ensure continuity of education and employment

Chair Brennan thanked Mr. Payne for his report.

Chair Brennan asked there were any questions and recognized Valaree Smith. Ms. Smith expressed her concern that not all districts will be able to purchase equipment for their students to take home. Superintendent Spearman replied that the SCDE has been working with districts and a number of those districts have placed the purchase of technology as their top priority. Betsy Carpentier, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Data, Technology & Agency Operations, has done a survey of the districts, and this survey indicates that 160,000 devices are need, statewide, for those students who currently do not have technology to use. She anticipates approximately \$400 per unit totaling \$64,000,000. When you look at the districts, she would say that many of the districts with the allocation they will be getting, especially the smaller districts, they will be able to purchase the needed number of devices with the money they will receive from the CARES Act. Superintendent Spearman has also asked for additional money from AccelerateSC to purchase equipment, which she hopes to receive. We anticipate that there will be large purchases made by the districts and wants the SCDE to work with the districts to centralize the individual district orders and submit a large order which will allow better pricing and discounts for the districts as opposed to each district submitting their own purchase orders.

Mr. Payne also added that in addition to some other flexibility that SC, like some other states, have received, about four weeks ago, SC received approval to add an additional year to expend some of our Title IV money. Oftentimes, a district will use their Title IV money to purchase technology, so under this flexibility, we now have more time and more flexibility to spend that money, and as Superintendent Spearman said, to pull all of these pockets of money together into one large order and get the biggest discounts for the districts. Mr. Payne stated that he is confident that when all the parts and pieces fit together, we will have a solid plan to meet the exact needs you described Ms. Smith.

Chair Brennan thanked Ms. Smith and stated that Dr. West emailed a question asking if the SBE could receive information on what districts are updating their technologies assuming the SCDE know what districts are in need of the devices. Superintendent Spearman stated she did have that information and the agency's technology office has been working with external stakeholders. Dr. Mathis; Ms. Carpentier; and Brian Pratt, Chief Instructional Officer, are working with Dr. Lee D'Andrea; the Education Oversight Committee; and others on a task force technology focus committee to improve eLearning and looking at those fifteen districts that are piloting an eLearning platform; how far along the pilot districts are; and what the needs are to expand the program. Superintendent Spearman stated that the information requested by Dr. West would be sent out to all SBE members.

Chair Brennan thanked Dr. West for her question.

**05. Florence County School District Four (FCSD-4)Update**—Donna Manning, Interim-Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement

Included are highlights of the graduation plans and a brief overview of some significant end-of-year activities that will occur in all three districts over the next month.

FCSD-4 will conduct a “drive-in” graduation ceremony for the class of 2020. The drive-in ceremony will take place on May 29th at the William “Bill” Tate Stadium. This will be a closed ceremony (one car per graduate) however; the community can watch the ceremony live via Facebook. There will also be a parade of graduates through the town of Timmonsville following the ceremony.

FCSD-4 will not conduct ceremonies for the lower grades; however, they are considering programs, ceremonies or other activities to celebrate those students when they return in the fall.

The district will communicate end of year closeout procedures to both parents and students via phone calls, district/school websites, and through social media.

**06. Allendale County School District (ACSD) Update**—Donna Manning, Interim-Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement

Allendale-Fairfax High School’s graduation is scheduled for Friday, May 29 at 9:00 a.m. at the high school’s Tiger Stadium. Each graduate will receive two tickets to invite attendees. The ceremony will be live-streamed for those unable to attend. A parade is planned following the ceremony where graduates will ride in decorated vehicles for community members to cheer them on as they drive through the various neighborhoods.

Friday, May 22, 2020—is the last day for eLearning for all students, with final grades due May 28th.

May 28–June 1, 2020—Students will be able to return all electronic devices, books, and any other school issued materials or equipment. Large spaces like cafeterias and gyms will be utilized and the drop off times for each grade will be staggered over those three days, in order to minimize large crowds from gathering and to promote social distancing.

June 2–3, 2020—Faculty/staff will come in for final check-in/check-out.

**07. Williamsburg County School District (WCSD) Update**—Donna Manning, Interim-Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement

The WCSD will hold graduation ceremonies for all three of their high schools from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. on June 6th. All ceremonies will be held on each school’s football field. Graduates will be provided two tickets to invite attendees. Policies and procedures to ensure social distancing will be released to the public prior to the ceremonies.

The WCSD has created checkout documents for all faculty and staff to complete prior to the end of the year. Each of the school’s websites contains information for both parents and students regarding end of the year closeout procedures.

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| <b>X. OTHER BUSINESS</b> |
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Ms. Hazelwood stated that state government would begin reopening, in three phases, beginning June 1. She stated that the June 9, 2020, meeting would be virtual. Ms. Hazelwood also indicated that since there were no physical, on-site SBE meetings since April, and due to privacy issues, educator hearings could not be presented, the SBE might want to consider a physical meeting in July to prevent being overwhelmed by the number of cases for the SBE’s review and action.

Chair Brennan stated that he agreed with Ms. Hazelwood.

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| <b>XI. ADJOURNMENT</b> |
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There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 11:27 a.m.