**MEETING MINUTES**
**State Board of Education Meeting**

**DATE**
**Tuesday, October 13, 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***

**If you require Section 504 or ADA accommodations to attend or participate in this public meeting, please contact Noelle Redd.**

**Notice: Due to allergies of staff and visitors, we ask that visitors refrain from wearing scented products when attending the State Board of Education meetings in SCDE facilities.**

*SBE Mission: The State Board of Education's mission is to provide a leadership role in helping South Carolina set policy and direction to transform teaching and learning so that students are prepared with the necessary knowledge and skills, including innovation, to compete globally and live a productive life.*

## I. WELCOME/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The State Board of Education (SBE) meeting convened at 12:00 p.m. Chair Brenan, Governor's Appointee, called the meeting to order. Chair Brenan welcomed everyone who attended either physically or virtually.

In addition to Chair Brenan, the following SBE members were also physically attending: Chair-Elect Dr. Kristi Woodall, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; Crystal Stapleton, Second Judicial Circuit; Cathy D. Chapman, Fourth 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; Valaree C. Smith, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; and Alan Walters, Fifteenth

Judicial Circuit.

Members attending virtually were Jon Butzon, First Judicial Circuit; Dr. Shawn Johnson, Third Judicial Circuit; Dr. Tracy West, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Dr. J.R. Green, Sixth Judicial Circuit; and David Whittemore, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff were physically attending: Molly M. Spearman, State Superintendent of Education; Noelle Redd, Minutes Taker, Division for Legal Affairs; Cathy Hazelwood, Deputy Superintendent and Parliamentarian, Division for Legal Affairs; Barbara A. Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; 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; and Alexandra Robinson, IT Specialist III, Service and Support Center, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations.

SCDE staff attending virtually were: Betsy Carpentier, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; David Mathis, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness; Dr. Sabrina Moore, Director, Office of Student Intervention Services, Division of Educator, Federal, and Community Resources; Sherrie Beaver, Education Associate, Office of Student Intervention Services, Division of Educator, Federal, and Community Resources; Mary Hipp, Director, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources; and Kimberly E. Mack, Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement.

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

Before the beginning of the meeting, Chair Brenan congratulated Dr. Green on his selection for the University of South Carolina Black Alumnus Award for 2020. The Outstanding Black Alumnus Award is presented to a graduate who has uniquely distinguished themselves in their professional career, shown remarkable leadership capabilities, and positively affected their community. Congratulations to Dr. Green.

## II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

Chair Brenan asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes as presented for the SBE meeting on September 8, 2020. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

## III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 13, 2020

Chair Brenan asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda as presented for the October 13, 2020, SBE meeting. Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

## IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND NEWS MEDIA

Chair Brenan recognized and welcomed Ms. Hicks stating that she would speak to the members during the Public Comment portion of today's meeting.

## V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

No report.

## VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Superintendent Spearman greeted everyone in attendance.

Superintendent Spearman stated that October is recognized as our National School Principal Month. She has always said you cannot have a great school, if you do not have a great principal and leadership does matter regardless of it being at the SBE level, the superintendent level, and from the principal level down to the teacher level. All of these levels make a huge difference in education.

Superintendent Spearman stated that today she had the privilege of meeting with the SC Principals of the Year, and apologized that the winners were not present with us at today's meeting, but she knows that everyone will join her in congratulating the winners.

Each year, the South Carolina Association of School Administrators selects three outstanding South Carolina principals, one each at the elementary, middle, and high school level to receive this honor. Recipients compete for national honors through the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) or National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). The three winners are:

- Jessica Patterson, Principal, Chastain Road Elementary School, Pickens County School District;
- Dr. Robin Coletrain, Principal, W.A. Perry Middle School, Richland County School District One; and
- Sonya Bryant, Principal, Batesburg-Leesville High School, Lexington County School District Three.

Superintendent Spearman also announced the three winners of the South Carolina Assistant Principals of the Year. The three winners are:

- Dr. Twanisha Garner, Assistant Principal, Langford Elementary School, Richland County School District Two;
- Leah Sarantopoulos, Assistant Principal, Carolina Springs Middle School, Lexington County School District Three; and
- Julie Painter, Assistant Principal, White Knoll High School, Lexington County School District One.

Superintendent Spearman stated that Dr. Garner was recently promoted to the principal position at Langford Elementary School; and Ms. Painter was recently hired as the new principal at Pleasant Hill Middle School, which is also located in Lexington County School District One.

All of the winners provided Superintendent Spearman with information on what programs were working in their schools and which ones were not. Superintendent Spearman stated that she was receiving all types of information from the winners. They have all agreed to continue their conversations with Superintendent Spearman via Zoom later. Superintendent Spearman looks forward to sharing the discussion with the SBE at a future meeting. Superintendent Spearman stated that one of the discussions she could share with the SBE today was that all of you have helped us by approving a streamlined teacher evaluation program. As you are aware, last March we waived the teacher evaluations for the end of the last school year, but we said this year we are going to go forward, but we streamlined it. Moreover, the group said that it is much better. Therefore, that may be something that we need to keep forever. They were also very complementary about streamlining and prioritizing our standards. We have heard for a long time from teachers that we were requiring so many standards that teachers cannot get through all of them. The pandemic has caused us, over the summer, to do that, and they are thrilled. Therefore, another thing that we have learned is to take somethings off the platters of our teachers, which are overflowing from all that the teachers have to do. Superintendent Spearman was pleased to hear about that and she wants to get more good suggestions from them. Superintendent Spearman and Dr. Mathis have been attending meetings throughout the state with those districts who are not yet back to face-to-face (F2F) instruction. We are making great progress working with each school district. Currently, we have five districts, four since Orangeburg has some F2F instruction. Four districts are completely virtual; fifty-nine districts are using some type of hybrid instruction; and there are seventeen districts that are completely F2F five days a week as well as offering virtual classes. We will continue to make sure that a virtual option are available to students, probably forever. Superintendent Spearman that this morning she sent out an announcement and will be in Spartanburg tomorrow. Governor McMaster (Governor) has been extremely supportive and encouraged her, and the legislature, as well, that we have to buy whatever our districts need to get the districts back F2F as safely and as soon as possible. Our Procurement Office has just placed an order for $33M for masks; 63,000 gallons of hand sanitizer; and the biggest portion of this purchase order is for Plexiglas, and as we have observed, and learned through the pandemic, the use of Plexiglas, in the correct dimensions, can allow us to bring more students back into the classrooms, safely. In working with the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), and following their guidelines for social distancing,

we now know that setting up the classrooms with Plexiglas barriers on the desks and wearing facemasks, will allow schools bring students back, safely, into the classroom. The use of the Plexiglas barriers will allow for three feet of social distancing instead of six feet. Many more schools will have to use the Plexiglas barriers as more and more families are requesting to return to F2F instruction. We are working to supply school districts with that equipment, and she believes that her message to parents and the community is that, right now, school is probably one of the safest places for children because the students are complying. They are wearing their facemasks, washing their hands, and maintaining social distancing. The adults are cleaning the buildings and we are doing contact tracing. Those are the five mitigation factors that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) says that if you implement those factors well, you can have a safe, controlled environment, and that is what is happening in our schools. Yes, we are having a few cases, which is expected. She believes that most of those were not contracted at school. There have been times when we have had to quarantine a class, but people are following the protocols. When that happens, the schools are moving the students to virtual instruction and doing exactly what they are supposed to do. Superintendent Spearman is very pleased with how it going, and she is looking forward to having every district in SC offering at least two options, a F2F option and a virtual option for parents to choose from. She stated that she appreciates the SBE's support and that she would be happy to answer any questions.

Chair Brenan thanked Superintendent Spearman and asked if there were any questions. Chair Brenan recognized Mr. Butzon who stated that every week he watches for the school pandemic numbers released by DHEC. He has noticed over the last month that there has been a very steady rise in the numbers. He asked if anyone has been able to identify a point, where when it gets to a certain number, we need to rethink what we are doing. Superintendent Spearman stated, in the beginning of the pandemic, she had asked that question to the state health experts. The answer is that there is no exact number, but it should be handled in a school setting just like how we would handle any other infectious disease. With the flu, for example, if a school gets to an absentee rate of somewhere around 20–30 percent, then the school would notify the school district; and the local district office in conjunction with input from their local DHEC office will make the determination to shut the school down. However, to answer your question, Mr. Butzon, there is not a set percentage or a magic number. We are following the protocols set by DHEC for community use. Mr. Butzon asked if these numbers would have to get beyond 150,000–200,000. The numbers are based on an individual schools student population or at a district level percentage of their total student population if the infection were to get so high that an entire school district had to shut down. We need to pray that it does not happen on a district-wide level. Statewide, if it came to that, we would do what we need to do, but she does not anticipate that happening. Currently, we do have a few cases involving a class where a teacher tested positive and because of her interaction with the students, entire classroom was sent home to quarantine for fourteen days, but it is being handled on a case-by-case basis by and it is looked at by how much contact the infected person has had. One child being infected in the classroom does not necessarily mean that the entire class would be quarantined. It all depends on how much contact they have had with other people. It is looked at very carefully on a case-by-case basis.

Chair Brenan thanked Mr. Butzon and asked if there were any more questions. There being none, Chair Brenan thanked Superintendent Spearman for her report.

## VII. PARLIAMENTARIAN COMMENTS

Ms. Hazelwood notified the SBE members that there would be a Special Called Meeting of the SBE on either Thursday (10/15/2020), Friday (10/16/2020) or, at the latest, Monday (10/19/2020). Since there are so many educators on the SBE, Ms. Hazelwood is proposing a start time of 3:30 p.m. to avoid interfering with those educators' work day. The meeting will be virtual, or by telephone. Because by law, Ms. Hazelwood has to post a public notice of the meeting 24 hours in advance of the meeting, she will be contacting everyone, tomorrow, via email to determine which day worked best for each of the members. She asked the members to look for her email tomorrow morning.

## VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Brenan explained the rules of Public Comment to Ms. Jacqueline Hicks.

Ms. Hicks stated that she is a district school bus driver. She opened her comments that we are mentors, coaches, confidents, friends, and sometimes, we are babysitters. We are 8,300 strong; we are bus drivers. Since COVID-19 has impacted the world, like a leviathan earthquake, reminding us how precious life is, we had to rethink, redefine, and reinvent our lives and our finances for the safety of our fellow man and ourselves. Every year before schools begin, bus drivers have an in-service meeting to get us equipped and prepared for driving school buses. We ask questions and most of them have been answered, but one question stood out and left us unsure about tomorrow. Since driving a school bus is a sole income for some of our bus drivers, becoming ill due to the virus, is there something in place for us, and the answer was no. As she stands before the SBE, she is inquiring about hazard pay to be implemented for bus drivers; those drivers that fell victim to the virus; and for bus drivers who died from COVID-19 eliminating the income from the household. Because, truth be told, when, if, or after the pandemic ends, there may be a greater need for bus drivers. Having to hire and train prospective bus drivers is expensive, not to mention the time it takes for training. Hazard pay would let the drivers know that the SBE cares, and to remind them that we are all are all in this together. Thank you.

Chair Brenan thanked Ms. Hicks for her comments to the SBE.

## IX. STATE BOARD ITEMS

### PH PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Brenan stated that no one signed up to address the board members on PH-01 or PH-02

**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 (Second Reading)—**Sherrie Beaver, Education Associate, Office of Student Intervention Services, Division of Educator, Federal, and Community Resources

Ms. Beaver presented the proposed amendments to SBE R.43-273 (Doc. 4980), Transfers and Withdrawals for Second Reading. During her presentation, Ms. Beaver stated that she had not received comments from the public on the amendments she presented.

Ms. Hazelwood provided further explanation to the SBE stating that annually, we will have a situation where a homeschooled student is going to return to a public school, or you have a transfer of a private school student coming into a public school, and their transcript states that they have completed "X, Y, and Z," and when they get to the school district and the district says, "No, you have not completed "X, Y, and Z," and we are not going to give you credit. Or, the district wants the student to retake Algebra I again because they do not believe what the student took was Algebra I, or the course was an Honors course for their homeschool or their private school and the district refuses to give Honors weight to that score. You know how they are in high school, Honor weight is an important weight for your GPA. Therefore, we have the setup, as Ms. Beaver stated, about the Honors Rubric. Does it meet the requirements of our Honors Rubric, and if it does, then the district needs to provide that weight in the transcript. There is a means to provide a meaningful review of the transcripts of a homeschool student or a private school student to get to an acceptable answer on SC courses. This has become an issue that filters down to Ms. Hazelwood's office every year.

Chair Brenan thanked Ms. Beaver and Ms. Hazelwood for their presentations, and asked for a motion.

Mrs. Howard made a motion to approve the Second Reading of R. 43-273 (Doc. 4980). Mr. Walters seconded the motion. Item PH-01 passed.

Chair Brenan opened the floor for discussion recognizing Mr. Kobrovsky who thanked Ms. Hazelwood for her explanation and asked how this would change the Honors Rubric. Ms. Hazelwood stated that it would not change the rubric. She went on to say the rubric was created in the 2019 regulation, to provide an aid to districts when they have those non-public school students transferring into a public school setting. Mr. Kobrovsky asked if this was something that the homeschool associations (HSA) have asked for and Ms. Hazelwood stated yes, saying further that the HSA has requested this change more than the private schools. However, private schools also have these issues, but has been driven more by the HSA. Mr. Kobrovsky thanked Ms. Hazelwood for her clarification.

Chair Brenan thanked Mr. Kobrovsky, and recognized Dr. Green who asked what the SBE was voting on. Ms. Hazelwood stated that the SBE was voting on the second read of a regulation that the SBE approved the first reading of two or three months ago. In the interim between the first

and second readings, Ms. Beaver has been in the field asking for public comments, as you can see, no one showed up for public comment, if anyone made a comment via email, their comments were not enough to cause a change to what the SBE approved at first reading. Now it comes back to you to either approve, disapprove, or change the amendments to the regulation. If the SBE pass these proposed amendments, then it goes to the legislature for review.

Ms. Beaver asked Dr. Green if he was on the Uniform Grading Policy (UGP) change committee. She stated that there is really no change to what the policy says. We are changing the regulation language to align the UGP and this regulation. (microphone feedback from an unmuted microphone) Dr. Greens states that the Honors (unmuted microphone feedback) that Ms. Hazelwood identified earlier, which is that there are times when homeschool parents decide that their student needs an Honors weight from the district (unmuted microphone feedback) Honors weight. Dr. Green wanted to know how that would resolve those kinds of situations. Ms. Hazelwood replied that her concern was that districts were not using the Honors Rubric. The districts would not look at the student's transcripts to determine if they were entitled to honors weight, the district told the student that the student had to take the district's honor courses to earn honors weight. If the district uses the Honors Rubric, and determines that it does not meet the honors requirement under the rubric, then in this situation, the district would be correct in saying that the student does not deserve honors weight. Nevertheless, the districts need to show due diligence that they have used the Honors Rubric.

Chair Brenan thanked Dr. Green and asked if there was any more discussion. There were no other comments on this item.

**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 (Second Reading)**—Dr. Sabrina Moore, Director, Office of Student Intervention Services, Division of Educator, Federal, and Community Resources

Dr. Moore presented the proposed amendments to SBE R.43-279 (Doc. 4981), Minimum Standards of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Enforcement Procedures to be Implemented by Local School Districts for Second Reading. During her presentation, Dr. Moore stated that she had not received comments from the public on the amendments she presented.

Chair Brenan thanked Dr. Moore and asked for a motion.

Dr. West made a motion to approve the Second Reading of R. 43-279 (Doc. 4981). Mr. Hinze seconded the motion. Item PH-02 passed.

Chair Brenan opened the floor for discussion and recognized Mr. Walters.

Mr. Walters stated that he worked with the task force that developed this regulation and he wanted to elaborate briefly on the regulation. He stated that essentially, what the issue was that with sexting, it was a level-three recommendation for expulsion and criminal charges and there really was not a lesser included offense, so what do you do with those cases where it does not

rise to that level, but, it definitely needs some type of disciplinary action. Therefore, the proposed amendments will clean that up, and gives administrators an option for those less serious offenses.

Chair Brenan thanked Mr. Walters and asked if there were any other comments.

Hearing none, Chair Brenan stated both items received a first and second approval and asked for a vote. The vote was unanimous; both items passed.

## PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT

**No meeting.**

## EP EDUCATOR PROFESSIONS—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Brenan recognized Mrs. Pearson who reported that the committee met and heard one action item(s) and one information item(s). The one action item(s) was placed on the Consent Agenda.

This concluded Mrs. Pearson's report.

## FOR APPROVAL

**01. Request for Out-of-State Student Teaching Placements: Winthrop University**—James Ritter, PhD, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

Mrs. Pearson asked for a report from Mr. Ritter. Mr. Ritter was not available at this time and Ms. Hipp presented the information. Ms. Hipp stated that Winthrop University (WU) presented a request for four out-of-state student teaching placements for spring 2021 semester for two candidates in the area of theatre and two in the area of music. WU does not have sufficient in-state placements for these candidates; Dean Jennie Rakestraw is also available to answer questions. WU has seen an increase for the spring semester of the number of candidates in their theatre and music programs, so WU has worked out placements within twenty miles of WU, for these particular candidates. Ms. Hipp introduced Dean Rakestraw. Dean Rakestraw thanked Ms. Hipp and greeted the SBE members stating that WU has had an increase in teacher candidates, which is a good thing, but it has stretched the number of placements WU had available in their partnership network, which includes several school districts in their part of SC. (unmuted microphone feedback) year there were twelve additional candidates going into student teaching internships (unmuted microphone feedback) usually (unmuted microphone feedback) in theatre we had about ten (unmuted microphone feedback), and in music there were only two candidates. Therefore, this is a good problem. We regret (unmuted microphone feedback) next year (unmuted microphone feedback). We are trying to get more teachers in (unmuted microphone feedback) and our districts to be qualified. Our graduates (unmuted microphone feedback) mentor for our teachers.

Mrs. Pearson thanked both Ms. Hipp and Dean Rakestraw.

**FOR INFORMATION**

**02. Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Professional Teaching (ADEPT) Results for 2019–20 and Presentation of District ADEPT Plans**—Lilla Toal Mandsager, Director, Office of Educator, Effectiveness, and Leadership Development; Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

Mrs. Pearson asked for a report to the SBE from Ms. Mandsager. Ms. Mandsager gave a power point presentation stating that even with school closures in March, due to the pandemic, a total number of 55,111 teachers were assessed, and the overall ADEPT results for 2019–20 were

- 52,501–Met;
- 309–Not Met;
- 1,635–Incomplete; and
- 666–Not Reported.

These results are almost similar to the results for 2018–19. The changes they noted were that the number of teachers Not Met were down 288; teachers deemed Incomplete were up 257 and this is likely because the districts took the flexibility that they offered to give an incomplete in instances where the district could not observe their teachers.

The next slide showed the ADEPT results comparison. The overall ratings for teacher evaluations are very similar to the overall ratings for 2018–19. However, there was a change in student learning objectives (SLOs) where the number of unknown or uncompleted SLOs went up to 49 percent. Ms. Mandsager believes the increase was because many of the teachers could not give their plans the same month last spring and that gave way to the simplified learning objectives that Superintendent Spearman gave at the beginning of the meeting.

Finally, Ms. Mandsager wanted to share the teachers' top strengths on the SC teaching standards this year, on content models, respectful culture, and environment. The top areas of growth, according to the rubric, were questioning, assessment, and thinking. Her office will continue to use this data to support districts and in growing their effectiveness.

Mrs. Pearson thanked Ms. Mandsager.

**SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY—COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair Brenan recognized Ms. Howard who reported that the committee met and heard one action item(s) and there were no information items.

This concluded Ms. Howard's report.

**FOR APPROVAL**

**01. Instructional Materials Advisory Committee Recommendations to Fill Vacancies—** Ms. Kriss Stewart, Program Coordinator, Instructional Materials Adoption Program, Office of Finance

**ELC EDUCATOR LICENSURE—COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mrs. Chapman presented the Educator Licensure Committee (ELC) report. Mrs. Chapman stated that the committee met and took action on eleven cases, which consisted of one Revocation; three Public Reprimands; eight Suspensions; and one Reinstatement.

Chair Brenan stated that the ELC met at 11:00 a.m. and approved the ELC report.

**FB-ELC FULL BOARD EDUCATOR LICENSURE—COMMITTEE REPORT**

The FB-ELC met and took action on one Suspension and one item where the FB-ELC approved a motion to reopen a case. The justification was to reopen the case to ensure that the FB-ELC was upholding the plaintiff's rights to due process. This case will be sent back to the SCDE for mitigation.

## X. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mr. Hinze made the motion to approve all items on the consent agenda. Dr. Downs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**No meeting**

**EP EDUCATOR PROFESSIONS—CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**FOR APPROVAL**

**01. Request for Out-of-State Student Teaching Placements: Winthrop University—** James Ritter, PhD, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

**SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY—CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**FOR APPROVAL**

**01. Instructional Materials Advisory Committee Recommendations to Fill Vacancies—** Ms. Kriss Stewart, Program Coordinator, Instructional Materials Adoption Program, Office of Finance

**SBE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION—REPORT**

**FOR INFORMATION**

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

As outlined in last month's Literacy Update, Dr. Quincie Moore, Director of the Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL) worked with stakeholders from education, medical, and research communities to develop a Dyslexia Handbook to serve as a resource for school communities. The handbook supports a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) for effective literacy instruction for all students and interventions for those who may demonstrate reading difficulties including dyslexia. The handbook, linked here, https://ed.sc.gov/instruction/early-learning-and-literacy/multi-tiered-system-of-supports-mtss/sc-dyslexia-handbook/, is also a resource for teachers, administrators, and parents.

The handbook has been distributed to all school districts with guidance on best ways to use the handbook and incorporate it in school-based professional learning. The SCDE is also providing training this fall and spring in virtual sessions in hopes of reaching as many educators as possible.

Our State Superintendent, Molly Spearman, states, *"The South Carolina Dyslexia Handbook is a key next step in our state's commitment to literacy. This handbook addresses how to systematically improve reading instruction, how to screen for reading difficulties and progress monitor, and how educators can best support students with dyslexia."*

The handbook begins with a definition and characteristics of dyslexia. It also provides information on the key components of effective, high-quality reading instruction delivered in both systematic and explicit delivery methods. Guidance is also provided on the effective practices at each tier of instruction emphasizing the importance of high-quality instruction for all students in tier one and strategic interventions at tiers two and three. A critical section of the handbook describes in detail the proper use and examples of assessments for gathering data on students' learning through the use of universal screeners, monitoring progress to determine if the instruction is effective or if a different approach is needed, diagnostic assessments that identify specific strengths and weakness of a student, and summative assessments given once instruction has been delivered such as our state-mandated assessments.

Further guidance is provided not only on high-quality implementation at each step in providing tiered support and instruction, but the fidelity of the implementation at each tier. Educators will find guidance on next steps for those students who do not respond to the most intensive interventions. Another key area of the handbook is a section dedicated to creating engaging environments for parents in how to provide support for all students, but particularly for the students who struggle with learning to read. The Office of Family and Community Engagement (FACE) led by Dr. Anderson developed a framework for family engagement, which is a valuable resource for educators, parents, and highlighted in the Dyslexia Handbook.

The handbook concludes with professional learning resources and a glossary of the most common terms used in reading instruction.

In closing, Dr. Mathis paraphrased a quote from one of his favorite professional books, *"If we do not teach our students to read early and well, it matters little what else we teach them."* **Annual Growth for All Students, Catch-Up Growth for Those Who are Behind** by Lynn Fielding, Nancy Kerr, and Paul Rosier.

Chair Brenan thanked Dr. Mathis and asked if there were any questions. Chair Brenan recognized Mr. Butzon who asked if, in the area of literacy, Dr. Mathis has gotten enough information from the pre- and post-testing of the Academic Recovery Camps (ARC) to have a sense of where we are with literacy. Dr. Mathis stated that the pre-assessments of ARCs which was done in Learning, Evaluating, Analyzing, Preparing (LEAP for the first ten days of school) has been reported to the SCDE. There are six different assessments that districts used and that information is currently being disaggregated. All of our predictors show that there is a significant gap in literacy instruction, but we should be able to pinpoint specific gaps within the next couple of weeks. Mr. Butzon requested a clarification on the meaning of the word gap, are we behind with where we would have been if there were no pandemic? Dr. Mathis stated that he thought there would be a gap in what the summer slide would have been and how the COVID-19 slide affected the summer slide. Dr. Mathis hopes to have that information at a later meeting.

Chair Brenan thanked Dr. Mathis and asked if there were any questions. Chair Brenan recognized Dr. West who stated to Dr. Mathis that she has looked through the Dyslexia Handbook stating that it is an excellent book with exceptional resources. She indicated that she did not have a question, but a thought. In looking at all of the materials, that have been presented on MTSS, since 2018, when she sees this document with the very prominent title "Dyslexia," she wonders if it will not be something that teachers automatically embrace, in that, Dyslexia is one specific type of learning or reading difficulty. Dr. West is curious if having a broader handbook title, given that the direct focus of this handbook is literacy, a lot of the assessment and your comments about fidelity, evidence-based practices, community and family engagement, all of those can cross into the area of math, as well as behavior which are the things that are looked at under the MTSS system. She knows there has been a lot of discussion on the legislative level about Dyslexia and she appreciates the focus on literacy, but she was curious if the working group had considered a broader, definition for this very important, very informative document. Dr. Mathis stated that Dr. West had a very good question. He is sure that Dr. Moore and her committee studied that, and a lot of what was done was in comparison to what other states were

doing, at the time. He said all that to say, it has been a few weeks since the printing of the handbook, and we have seen some information that we want to add and improvements to the handbook. Therefore, we will consider your suggestion.

Chair Brenan thanked Dr. West and asked if there were any questions.

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

Superintendent Gilmore conducted a F2F community meeting to recognize Teacher of the Month, Support Staff of the Month, District Office Department of the Month, and new employees. Additionally, the District's Strategic Plan was reviewed.

Allendale continues to review DHEC data concerning COVID-19. Fifty virtual students requested to be switched from virtual learning to a hybrid-learning model. On November 9, the district will review COVID-19 cases, and if the county is in the medium category, will move hybrid students to four days of F2F instruction. Virtual students will be eligible to switch to F2F instruction. Currently, 74 percent of ACSD students are participating virtually.

Allendale-Fairfax Middle and High Schools are becoming Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) schools to help target students with the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard.

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

Superintendent Spearman conducted town hall meetings with various stakeholder groups to discuss the possibility of district consolidation with Florence County School District One schools.

Next week, Johnson Middle School will extend F2F instruction to four days a week and provide academic support for struggling students in a F2F setting on Fridays.

Professional development regarding the priority standards was held for teachers; pacing guides and benchmarking systems were adjusted to match the priority standards.

Timmonsville High School students continue to participate in the Continuum welding, HVAC, and Information Management Technology (IMT) programs. Because Honda, the local industry, is looking to hire ten welders per month, a cohort of Timmonsville HS juniors and seniors are working on Metal Inert Gas (MIG) welding certification.

**04. Williamsburg County School District (WCSD) Update**—Kimberly E. Mack, Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement
WCSD continues to use various forms of communication to involve parents and community.

The Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant has been approved for $291,828.85 and will be used to support instruction and virtual learning.

The leadership team met to discuss phasing in F2F instruction.

Over twenty-one professional development offerings were provided for faculty and staff during the month of September.
Chair Brenan thanked Dr. Mack and asked if there were any questions. Ms. Howard asked Chair Brenan if she could ask Superintendent Spearman a question, Chair Brenan allowed her to do so.

Ms. Howard asked Superintendent Spearman how well the meetings went in FCSD4. Superintendent Spearman stated that she met with parents; students; teachers; staff; and the community. The meetings were civil; there were a lot of questions; a lot of anxiety, but not so much about consolidating the district. In fact, the consensus from the community is that they understand; they have been expecting a consolidation, and it is okay, but they do not want us to close the high school, and that is very emotional for them. Clearly, the vocal responses she heard from those on the call, were to not close their high school. So, that decision has not been made, neither decisions have been totally made. The reality is that FCSD1 has three high schools (Wilson HS, population 1,000 and has space available; West Florence HS and South Florence HS both have populations of over 1,500), and agreeing to consolidate with FCSD4. FCSD4 is being responsive to FCSD1 saying, yes, they would agree to this consolidation, but wanting keep the their high school open with only 170 students, will be difficult, financially. Superintendent Spearman went on to say that, she understands the emotions; she understands the concern about the high school being the center of the community, so this is a very difficult decision. She is continuing to have conversations with the legislative delegation, she hopes to make a final decision and an announcement after the first of the year, and we will move accordingly. I think that any one on the phone callers the other night would confirm that this was what the feelings at the meeting were.

Superintendent Spearman asked if there were any other questions. There being none, Chair Brenan thanked Superintendent Spearman for her update on FSCD4.

**05. Quarterly Review of State Board of Education's Fiscal Year 2019–20 Budget**—Nancy Williams, Chief Financial Officer, Financial Office
Ms. Williams provided a brief overview of the SBE's budget, as of September 30, 2020. The SBE's annual budget is $58,034; at the end of the quarter ending 9/30/2020, you have gone through twenty-five percent of your fiscal budget, and approximately $6,850 (twelve percent) was expended. Specifically, $2,290 was expended for teacher hearing costs and $4,559 was expended for per diem and travel related expenditures for the first quarter (July–September), as well as the facility rental cost for the off-site July meeting. Over all, the budget is in good standing and she will continue to monitor the expenditures patterns and report back to the SBE in

January.

Chair Brenan thanked Ms. Williams for her report.

Ms. Hazelwood informed the SBE that it is paying for the monthly usage on the WebEx meeting platform that allows them to run their monthly meetings. Ms. Hazelwood was not sure if that purchase was at the end of the first quarter or at the beginning of the second quarter. She also stated that, notwithstanding the amount of Plexiglas the SCDE has bought for districts, she might consider it for the SBE meetings, which would allow more members to attend the meetings F2F, maybe to the point of all of the members being able to attend. First, she needs to speak with the SCDE procurement officer. It would be about 3 feet between each Plexiglas wall. Just please be aware that it could be an expense in the coming quarter.

## XI. OTHER BUSINESS

## XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.