

MINUTES

State Board of Education Meeting

Date

September 8, 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. 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; Cathy D. Chapman, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Carl Hinze, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Debby Howard, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Steven English, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Jean W. Pearson, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; and Valaree C. Smith, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit.

Members attending virtually were: Crystal Stapleton, Second Judicial Circuit; Dr. Shawn Johnson, Third Judicial Circuit; Dr. Tracy West, Fifth Judicial Circuit; J.R. Green, PhD, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Larry Kobrovsky, Ninth Judicial Circuit; David Whittemore, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; and Alan Walters, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

Jon Butzon, First Judicial Circuit and Cynthia A. Downs, Ed.D., Eighth 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; Barbara A. Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; Katie Nilges, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, Division of 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 Noelle Redd, Minutes Taker, 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; and Kimberly E. Mack, Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement.

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

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR AUGUST 11, 2020

Chair Brennan asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes as presented for the SBE meeting on August 11, 2020. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent. (Due to technical issues during this portion of the meeting, a virtually attending SBE member was unable to object to the approval of the minutes. After the meeting, the virtually attending SBE member requested, via email, that two name corrections be made to the SBE attendees list. The corrections were made and the Revised August Minutes were reposted on September 9, 2020.)

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

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

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA

No visitor(s) or news media were physically present at today's meeting. Chair Brennan did welcome all individuals who were attending the meeting virtually.

V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

No report.

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Superintendent Spearman welcomed everyone to today's meeting.

Superintendent Spearman gave a brief overview on the status of district reopening plans as of today, stating that this information changes on a daily basis.

- Fourteen of seventy-nine school districts are teaching face-to-face (F2F) classes, five days a week;
- Eighteen districts are offering only virtual classes;
- Forty-seven districts are teaching hybrid classes using a combination of F2F for two days and three days of virtual instruction; and
- the two charter school districts (Erskine Charter Schools and the Public Charter School District) are using a mixture of teaching platforms (mostly virtual) as determined by each charter school in both of the charter school districts.

Superintendent Spearman and all of the district superintendents attended the South Carolina Association of School Administrators conference last week. Dr. Brannon Traxler, Physician Consultant with the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) spoke at the conference and answered questions on COVID-19. One of the big decisions that districts have now is, “what if.” What if there is a case; what if a staff member becomes infected; what if a student becomes infected. Dr. Traxler had an extensive discussion with the superintendents that the main focus is not to panic and do not overreact when an outbreak happens in their schools, that DHEC and the SCDE are here to help them. The districts need to follow the protocols that have been provided to the districts. Dr. Traxler gave the district superintendents her phone number in the event they needed to speak with her before making any decisions. Superintendent Spearman also stated that the SCDE/DHEC School Nurse Consultant, Victoria Ladd, is available, and has already been on a number of phone calls with districts to assist with decisions on how to run school if there is an outbreak. She encouraged the district officials to reach out Ms. Ladd and DHEC as they make those decisions for their districts and to realize that every situation will be a different for everyone and it is hard to predict what each situation will involve. She wants the districts to be able to make good decisions and if a case does come up, it does not mean that the entire school needs to be closed, or the entire classroom needs to be closed. It all depends on the individual case.

Superintendent Spearman stated that all personal protective equipment (PPE) had been distributed to all school districts. She has heard from some teachers that, as of last week, they have not received their PPE from their districts. She stated that there was no reason for teachers not to receive their PPE. Superintendent Spearman stated that the reports on the delivery supplies show that districts started receiving PPE in July. Her staff is working with districts to determine why their PPE is not reaching their teachers and non-teaching staff members, including bus drivers, cafeteria workers, etc. Superintendent Spearman asked if any of the SBE members hear of any school personnel who have not received their PPE, to please notify her, immediately, and her staff will reach out to the district.

Last week, Superintendent Spearman testified before the Senate Reopening Committee Ad Hoc group and the House Ways and Means Committee on our Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding. The SCDE received an appropriation of

- \$15M to operate the Academic Recovery Camps (ARC);
- \$160M to operate the five LEAP days for grades K–8, consisting of
 - o orientation days;
 - o instruction days, and
 - o assessment days
 - the LEAP days went extremely well, in fact, many district superintendents and teachers are talking about it, love it, and have indicated that they want to do LEAP days to continue bringing smaller groups of students in at the start of each year.

The ARCs data indicates that for those districts that were able to offer the F2F camps, those camps did well and the districts will be reimbursed, once they have spent all of their reading camp funds. The camps were to begin in July 6, 2020, however due to the intensity of the virus, at that time, many of the school districts had to cancel their ARCs. Those that didn’t cancel were able to move their ARCs to a virtual format. Some districts cancelled, some districts changed their format, and some districts delayed their ARCs, and many parents chose not to send their children. Twenty thousand students were invited to attend and the final attendance count was

- 3,500 students F2F; and
- 7,000 students virtually.

Overall, a little over ten thousand students were able to participate in some version of the ARCs, but the reimbursement for those camps was approximately \$2.4M and there is approximately \$48M remaining. Superintendent Spearman stated that she has asked the legislature to allow her to repurpose the remaining funding to take care of some of the impact of COVID-19 that the districts are having to fund.

Superintendent Spearman stated that she just received notification from Katie Nilges at the Senate Finance Committee (SFC) meeting that the SFC has responded very favorable to allow us flexibility to

- buy additional PPE supplies for districts/schools;
- help fund school nurses;
- help fund technology; and
- help fund tutors for students who need help with their lessons.

Superintendent Spearman stated that we still need the approval of both legislative bodies, but she is very encouraged that this will be approved. In fact, she has been contacted by a few districts stating that if they had more Plexiglas, they could get more students back into a F2F environment for five days a week. She indicated that making the classroom safer for the teachers and the students is what she would like to see happen. She is thrilled that, so far, the legislature is responsive to her request to repurpose the remaining funds, which need to be spent by December 31, 2020.

Superintendent Spearman announced that on Wednesday, September 9, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., she will hold a telephone town hall meeting with the Florence County School District Four (FCSD4) community to discuss the future of FCSD4 and the schools in the district. The current district enrollment is 669 students of which 173 students are enrolled in the high school. We made a lot of progress, but as you know, it is becoming increasingly difficult to continue to operate financially. So she will be having a discussion with those parents about that and receiving their input to make a decision on how we move forward. Superintendent Spearman is very concerned about the stability of remaining with such a small student population. She stated that she will report back to the SBE on the outcome of the town hall meeting.

This concluded the Superintendent's report.

Chair Brennan thanked Superintendent Spearman for her report and asked if there were any questions. Chair Brennan recognized Mrs. Howard who asked about the status of the missing student. Superintendent Spearman indicated that with the districts working overtime and the with the help of DHEC and local law enforcement, the districts have been able to locate more of the students, some of which have either transferred out of the district or transferred to a private or charter school. We are now down to a couple of hundred students that we are still trying to locate. With student registration in progress for the new school year, the districts are now cross referencing student registrations with the list of missing students. Superintendent Spearman thanked the school districts and their staff; DHEC; and local law enforcement for their tremendous effort in helping to locate these students. She stated that Ms. Nilges had the last numbers on the remaining missing students and would ask Ms. Nilges to provide that information to the SBE.

Chair Brennan thanked Mrs. Howard.

VII. PARLIAMENTARIAN COMMENTS

No report.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

IX. STATE BOARD ITEMS

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

Chair Brennan asked Chair-Elect Woodall, who sat in for him as this morning on the P&L Committee, to give the Committee Report. Chair-Elect Woodall stated that the committee met and heard two action items. There were no information items presented. Both action items were placed on the Consent Agenda.

This concluded Chair-Elect Woodall's report.

01. Waiver Request of Richland County School District Two (RCSD2) for Spring Valley High School (SVHS)—Sarah Longshore, Director, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement

02. Proviso 1.88(B) Allocation—Florence County School District Three—Betsy Carpentier, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations

EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Brennan recognized Mrs. Pearson who reported that the committee met and heard three action items and three information items. The three action items were placed on the Consent Agenda.

This concluded Mrs. Pearson's report.

FOR APPROVAL

01. Proposed Amendments to the State Board of Education (SBE) Regulations 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-53 (R.43-53), Credential Classification (First Reading)—Mary Hipp, Director; Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

02. Approval of South Carolina Art Education Program Approval Standards—Jaclyn Walsh, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

03. Approval of South Carolina Computer Science Education Program Approval Standards—Jaclyn Walsh, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

FOR INFORMATION

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

05. Summary of 2020–21 COVID-19 Emergency Provisions for Educators—Mary Hipp, Director, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

06. COVID-19 Educator Evaluation Flexibility 2020–21—Lilla Toal Mandsager, Director, Office of Educator, Effectiveness, and Leadership Development; Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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

This concluded Ms. Howard’s report.

FOR INFORMATION

01. Standards Revision Updates for Science and Physical Education—Dr. Anne Pressley, Director, Office of Standards and Learning, Division of College and Career Readiness

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 thirteen cases, which consisted of two Revocations and eleven Suspensions.

Chair Brenan stated that the FB-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 PACE Application and one Suspension. Both cases were approved.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Brenan 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. Mrs. Pearson 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

FOR APPROVAL

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SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY—COMMITTEE REPORT

No action items.

SBE SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

No action items.

FOR INFORMATION

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

Dr. Mathis began by saying that as schools begin to analyze pre-assessment results, the SCDE is positioning itself to support districts with the resources in the areas of greatest need.

Dr. Mathis indicated that as of today, his office would release **Priority and Support Standards**, Kindergarten through grade 12, in English Language Arts (ELA) and math. The Office of Standards and Learning facilitated a team of school and district administrators and teachers who reviewed our state standards and identified priority and support standards. Priority standards are the standards a student must know by the end of the year to be prepared for the next grade level of work. Support standards, those that scaffold and build to the priority standards were also identified. While all standards must be taught, priority standards allow teachers to drill deeper and focus on identified standards that have the greatest impact and must be mastered for success at the next grade level. The SCDE will provide professional learning for districts on the effective use of the Priority and Support Standards.

The South Carolina Dyslexia Handbook: A Guide to Early Literacy Development & Reading will also be released to schools this week. This work grew from the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) legislation and the work of the Learning Disorders Task Force. Dr. Quincie Moore, Director of Early Learning and Literacy, facilitated a writing team from the SCDE, school districts, and higher education with the purpose of providing information to educators, students, families, and community members about the core elements of effective evidence-based reading instruction, early literacy development, reading difficulties, dyslexia, and the best practices for identification, instruction, and accommodation of students who have reading difficulties.

The initiative to provide a comprehensive guide was requested by the South Carolina Learning Disorders Task Force. The Learning Disorders Task Force was created under South Carolina Act 213 for the purpose of working with the department in matters relating to reading disorders to include, but not be limited to dyslexia.

With this purpose in mind, the intent is to:

1. Highlight the essential components of effective reading instruction.
2. Serve as guidance to educators, parents, and community members in the prevention of reading difficulties through the use of assessment and effective reading instruction.
3. Assist educators and parents to understand the processes schools should use to identify students with reading difficulties and those students at risk for dyslexia and other language-related disorders.

Additionally, as school districts prioritize their professional learning needs for the current year, the SCDE is offering a menu of opportunities that will allow districts to engage at different times during the year and not miss out on any of the offerings. Professional learning includes:

- Read to Succeed Coaching Institutes;
- Promising Practices for Early Learners;
- Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Practices;
- Personalized Learning;
- Effective Instructional Practices in a Virtual Environment; and
- Priority and Support Standards.

Many of the professional learning opportunities will repeat during the year so that districts can schedule professional learning around their greatest needs throughout the year.

This concluded Dr. Mathis's update.

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

Superintendent Spearman covered FCSD-4 in her monthly report to the SBE.

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

- Superintendent Gilmore conducted Facebook Live presentations for parents and community members to discuss district's reopening plans. Dr. Gilmore also held virtual TEAMS meetings with parents and community members.

- August 17–20, all Allendale County School employees virtually celebrated the opening of the new school year. A virtual convocation was held with student speakers, greetings from the Honorable Molly Spearman and Senator Margie Bright-Mathews, as well as keynote speaker, John Perricone.
- LEAP Week was August 24–28, and 72 percent of K–8 students attended to participate in literary and math assessments as well as receive class schedules, technology devices and orientation regarding the virtual platform.
- Parents and guardians attended Parent Orientation geared to support students following the hybrid model or the virtual academy.
- ACSD was the only recipient in South Carolina for the Grow Rural Education Grant, an award for \$15,000 to enhance STEM curriculum in their schools.

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

- Community virtual meetings were held on August 3rd, 6th, and 10th to discuss school reopening and field parent questions.
- Additionally, on 8/19, Superintendent Wilder and the Director of Special Services hosted conference calls to address concerns for parents of children with disabilities.
- Students participated in MAP testing during LEAP week.
- District administration published a handbook of Instructional Guidance for Virtual Learning for parents, students, and teachers.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

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

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 12:25 p.m.