

MINUTES
State Board of Education Meeting

Date

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Time

12:00 p.m.

Location

Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Kristi Woodall, Chair

Alan Walters, 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 Tracy Moore.

Notice: Due to allergies of staff and visitors, we ask that visitors refrain from wearing scented products when attending the State Board of Education (SBE) 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.

The following State Board of Education (SBE) members physically attended: Chair Woodall, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; Chair-Elect Alan Walters, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; Crystal Stapleton, Second Judicial Circuit; Delaney K. Frierson, Third Judicial Circuit; Cathy D. Chapman, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Dr. J.R. Green, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Carl Hinze, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Cynthia A. Downs, Ed.D., Eighth Judicial Circuit; Larry Kobrovsky, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Sallie R. Lee, Tenth Judicial Circuit; David Whittemore, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; Mary Cordray, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; and Michael Brennan, Governor's Appointee.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff were physically attending: Molly Spearman, State Superintendent of Education; Cathy Hazelwood, Parliamentarian, Deputy Superintendent, Division of 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; David Mathis, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness; Mary Hipp, Director, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources; Quincie Moore, Director Early Learning & Literacy, Division of College and Career Readiness; Kimberly E. Mack, Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School

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Improvement; Tracy Moore, Minutes Taker, Division for Legal Affairs; Ryan Brown, Chief Communications Officer, Office of Communications; Derek Phillips, Public Information Director, Office of Communications; Travis Huggins, Information Technology Manager I, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; Rashard Huntley, IT Specialist II, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; and Quinn Murphy, IT Specialist III, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations.

I. WELCOME/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SBE meeting convened at 1:00 p.m. Chair Woodall called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone who attended either physically or virtually.

Chair-Elect Walters 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 NOVEMBER 16, 2021

Chair Woodall asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes as presented for the SBE meeting on November 16, 2021. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 14, 2021

Chair Woodall asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda as presented for the December 14, 2021, SBE meeting. Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND NEWS MEDIA

Chair Woodall welcomed any media and asked if any had signed in. Chair Woodall recognized Mary Greer, Reporter, WIS TV; guest, Elizabeth Hanna with Pearson, and public commenters, Jill Tyner and Catherine Malmquist with the South Carolina Association of School Librarians (SCASL), and Dr. Gary Burgess from Florence 4.

V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Woodall welcomed everyone and presented service awards to the following Board Members whose term expires at the end of this year.

- Jon Butzon, First Judicial Circuit, served January 18, 2018, to December 31, 2021 (3 years, 11 months)
- Dr. J.R. GREEN, Sixth Judicial Circuit, served January 18, 2018, to December 31, 2021 (3 years, 11 months)
- Dr. Cynthia Downs, Eighth Judicial Circuit served June 29, 2017, to December 31, 2021 (4 years, 6 month)

- Jean W. Pearson, Twelfth Judicial Circuit, served July 10, 2018, to December 31, 2021 (3 years, 5 months)

Chair-Elect Walters presented the Gavel Set to State Board Chair, Kristi Woodall.

Both Dr. Woodall and Mr. Walters congratulated the Board members on their service to the State Board.

Dr. Woodall stated that it's been a pleasure and an honor. She truly enjoyed this year of service. Dr. Woodall stated she learned a lot very quickly from everyone. She thanks everyone for their patience, for all the things that she learned about how our meetings work and especially during COVID and virtual meetings. And timing, that so many of you had to remind me is important when people are at a distance. Dr. Woodall stated she is very honored to have served.

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Superintendent Spearman welcomed everyone who attended today's meeting either physically or virtually and congratulated the Board for their service as well as anyone who devotes time to the work of public service. She then reported to the Board the following items:

2021 Educator Supply and Demand Report

On November 30, 2021, the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA) released its annual Educator Supply and Demand Report. The CERRA report shows that while the state's teaching workforce grew by 1,200 full time employees, districts had 1,063 vacancies at the start of the school year. This is a 52 percent increase compared to last year and the largest number of vacancies reported by districts since the Supply and Demand Survey was first administered in 2001.

The SCDE is investing a portion of the agency's set aside funds from the American Rescue Plan's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund to grow proven educator recruitment and preparation programs including; South Carolina Teaching Fellows Program, Call Me MISTER, and Teach.org. The SCDE is also using federal funding to support school and district leaders to build expertise in best practices for recruiting, retaining, and developing high-quality teachers.

Prior to the start of the 2022 legislative session, the SCDE submitted a budget request that includes a \$162,000,000 increase in teacher salary for the 2022-23 fiscal year. This amount includes an adjustment to step increases for years one through five on the state minimum salary schedule and a two percent, across the board, teacher pay increase. In addition to salary increases, the agency supports legislative actions frequently cited by educators as barriers to entering and staying in the profession including:

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- Providing teachers with protected unencumbered planning time to dedicate to non-instructional tasks;
- Increasing the teacher supply supplement amount available to teachers;
- Funding the salary supplement for National Board-Certified Teachers;
- Providing step increases through 28 years of service; and
- Continuing to allow retired educators who return to covered employment in the K-12 public education system to be hired and earn up to \$50,000 annually, without impacting their monthly retirement allowance.

Partnership to Provide Virtual Tutoring Support to South Carolina Students

On November 22, 2021, we announced a partnership with the South Carolina State Library to assist students and families who have been academically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Tutor.com is available for families 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Students will have access to highly qualified tutors in over 200 subject areas. In addition to individual tutoring, Tutor.com provides a service for administering practice tests to determine if students are on the trajectory for content mastery as well as submit writing assignments for review and feedback. Further, in addition to improving grades, tutors of Tutor.com assist with time management and planning strategies.

High dosage tutoring is a proven strategy to assist both students performing on grade level who need additional assistance and those who are having academic difficulty and are at-risk of not meeting on-time graduation requirements.

United States Senate Youth Program

Two South Carolina high school students have been selected as delegates to the 60th Annual United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) that will be held March 5-10, 2022. Each delegate will receive a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship.

Each year this extremely competitive, merit-based program brings 104 of the most outstanding high school students—two from each state, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity—to Washington, D.C., for an intensive week-long study of the federal government. Student delegates will hear major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, officials from the Departments of State and Defense, and directors of other federal agencies, as well as participate in meetings with the president and a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition to the student delegates attending Washington Week, the Hearst Foundation will provide each of the 104 student delegates with a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship with encouragement to continue their educational coursework in government, history, and public affairs.

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Aditya Bhatt, son of Sunita and Hemang Bhatt of Greenville, South Carolina, is a Senior at J. L. Mann High School in Greenville County Schools. Aditya is involved in Speech and Debate, Youth in Government, and also is a member of the varsity tennis team.

Emmett O'Brien, son of Elizabeth and Joe O'Brien of Beaufort, South Carolina, is a Senior at Beaufort High School and serves as the Senior Class President. Emmett is a publicist for the French National Honor Society, and was selected as one of two senators to represent South Carolina at American Legion Boys Nation in Washington, D.C.

JROTC Coding at Columbia High School

Superintendent Spearman visited Columbia High School on December 8, 2021, with Governor McMaster to observe the school's JROTC Military Cybersecurity Pilot Program. Columbia High is one of just 30 schools in the U.S. selected for this program.

As mentioned at last month's SBE meeting, South Carolina continues to be a champion in offering computer science coursework to students. Just last month Code.org's 2021 State of Computer Science Education Report revealed that 92 percent of South Carolina high schools are offering computer science courses to students, tied with Arkansas for tops in the nation.

This concluded Superintendent Spearman's report.

VII. PARLEMENTARIAN COMMENT

Parliamentarian Hazelwood reminded the Board Members that, if at the end of their term, they do not wish to continue serving, they must submit a resignation to the Chair. Otherwise, Board Members will serve until their legislative delegation appoints their replacement.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jill Tyner, SCASL and Catherine Monquest, SCASL commented as officers of the South Carolina Association of School Librarians with regard to library books and the policies related to objections and reviews.

Dr. Gary Burgess, Spokesperson, Florence County School District Four commented on the state of Florence Four School District and its pending consolidation plans.

Chair Woodall thanked everyone for their comments.

IX. STATE BOARD ITEMS

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT

DID NOT MEET.

EP **EDUCATOR PROFESSIONS—COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ms. Pearson reported that the committee met and heard four action items and no information items. The action item(s) were placed on the Consent Agenda.

This concluded Ms. Pearson's report.

FOR APPROVAL

01. South Carolina Educator Preparation Guidelines: Standards, Policies, and Procedures Specialty Area Program Approval Standards—Jaclyn Walsh, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability, and School Improvement

02. State Accreditation Decision: Columbia International University—Jaclyn Walsh, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability, and School Improvement

03. Approval of Out-Of-State Clinical Experience Placements: Winthrop University—Jaclyn Walsh, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability, and School Improvement

04. Educator Preparation Program Modification: College of Charleston—James Ritter, PhD, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability, and School Improvement.

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

Mrs. Stapleton reported that the committee met and heard two action items and no information items. The action item was placed on the Consent Agenda.

This concluded Mrs. Stapleton's report.

FOR APPROVAL

1. Report of Recommendations from the 2021 Instructional Materials Review Panels—Ms. Kriss Stewart, Program Coordinator, Instructional Materials Adoption Program, Office of Finance

2. Report of Recommendations from the Instructional Materials Advisory Committee for the 2022 Adoption Cycle—Ms. Kriss Stewart, Program Coordinator, Instructional Materials Adoption Program, Office of Finance

Chair Woodall recognized Mr. Kobrovsky. Mr. Kobrovsky thanked the staff for making the

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decision to delay and further review. Mr. Kobrovsky urged the Board Members to take the time to review the materials for themselves, reminding them that public education is one of the most important work we do. He opined that with declining newspaper distribution, students will form their views on what it is to be an American and what our country is about. He reminded the Board Members that the textbooks of our grandparents were not the textbooks they used, and the textbooks now are not the textbooks we used. He further urged the Board Members to read the texts and see who the authors are, as most are American Studies professors. As an example, Mr. Kobrovsky recounted passages in one textbook that in World War Two, the Nazis and fascists believed in traditional gender roles. As a Jew, Mr. Kobrovsky notes that this is not germane to fascism at all. He reported that as others read the texts, they will see other things as well. Mr. Kobrovsky opined that we should all, as part of the collective wisdom of the state, bring those perspectives to the table. He considers this to be one of the most important things we do. Mr. Kobrovsky again thanked the staff for taking the pause for further review.

Dr. Woodall recognized Dr. Green. Dr. Green reported that he had spent time reviewing the comments and, in full disclosure, he did not review all of the textbooks and materials. Dr. Green reported concerns with a recurring theme in social studies texts that people want to avoid some of the stains of this country in this state relative to our history around race. "And I saw the term race baiting and issues that divide us and not focus on things that divide us, but the history is the history. Any attempt to ignore the history with the goal of somehow bringing us together, I think is a faulty proposition." He recalled reading the Isaac Woodard story, "and ironically, he was from Fairfield County, a World War II veteran, who was blinded in South Carolina. And it was very enjoyable, but it was very disappointing that I had never learned that history in my 52 years. And the fact that a young person from Fairfield County would not know that history is very disappointing. And there's so much other history that I think there are some who want us to try and avoid that simply we've not done a good job of really is sharing. I want to be sure that we don't succumb to some of this public pressure that wants to, pardon my pun, but try and whitewash history and act as if certain things just simply did not occur. We have moved past a lot and we're all thankful for that. But I suggest that we should focus and teach true history. I'm not talking about critical race theory or anything that proposes, that theorizes, how the impact of race has affected people of color. I'm talking about facts. I'm talking about the fact that George Floyd was executed. We're talking about the Tulsa race massacre. We're talking about George Elmore. I mean, we're talking about things that actually occurred. And as I listened and I read the comments, I just want to be sure as we delay this adoption that we aren't asking publishers to somehow remove items that are documented historical facts in this nation and this state because that definitely concerns me."

Chair Woodall reiterated her gratitude to the Board Members and the public for the review of the texts and their comments. It was a huge task and the work was invaluable to us all.

Chair Woodall recognized Superintendent Spearman.

Superintendent Spearman responded, “I too wanted to thank everyone, board members, parents, the public who have helped us review the textbooks you write. It's one of the most important things that you do as a board. We're taking this very, very seriously and looking at all the comments and then going back and looking at the text.

Dr. Green, I hear you. And I agree. We need honest history and I think you'll find the Department is very dedicated to that. Even the story that you talked about.

I grew up shopping in Batesburg. Even had Batesburg-Leesville in my house district plan. I was in the legislature and had never heard that story either, but it is on our African American history calendars that we produced. There are other attempts that we're making to bring history, all the facts of history and the appropriate recognition for folks who have played such an important part in our history.

And Mr. Kobrowsky, I hear you clearly. We are going to do our best to make sure that our history books are accurate history books, not just current event collections, but that are good history books I appreciate the Board assisting us. We spent an awful lot of time over the last few months on this. Kriss Stewart and her folks, and all of our offices were very involved with this. Thank you for giving us a little extra time and we'll do our best to have a report back to you. But in no way, do we intend to cover up any history. We want it to be good, factual history that's told accurately, and in a way that will also help our students understand what a great country we live in. Even with its flaws, still the greatest place to live. So thank you”.

ELC **EDUCATOR LICENSURE—COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair-Elect Walters presented the Educator Licensure Committee (ELC) report.

Chair-Elect Walters stated that the committee met and took action on eight cases. Of those eight cases, seven were suspensions for unprofessional conduct for breach of contract, one case was for unprofessional conduct.

Chair-Elect Walters asked if there was any further discussion.

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

Chair Woodall stated the FB-ELC met and took action on five cases. Of those five, one approved initial certification case, one denied initial certification, one order of public reprimand, and two orders of suspension.

N **NOMINATION FOR THE 2021 CHAIR-ELECT—COMMITTEE REPORT**

01. 2022 Chair-Elect Committee Report—Larry Kobrovsky, Chair, Nominations Committee

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Mr. Kobrovsky reported that the Committee met, at the last meeting in-person. We met today, again, to discuss the selection nominee for the 2022 chair elect position. The Committee has elected, by unanimous consent, to present Chrissy Stapleton, Second Judicial Circuit as the Committee's nominee as the 2022 Chair-Elect.

02. Nomination of Chair-Elect for 2022—Chair Kristi Woodall, South Carolina State Board of Education

Chair Woodall stated that it was the recommendation of the Nomination Committee that Crissy Stapleton, be named the SBE Chair-Elect for 2022.

Chair Woodall asked if there were any recommendations from the floor. There being no other recommendations, Chair Woodall asked for a motion.

Dr. Downs made the motion. Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion.

Chair Woodall asked if there was any discussion. There being none, the motion carries.

Chair Woodall invited Alan Walters and Crissy Stapleton, the 2021 Chair-Elect, to join her to be sworn in by taking the oath of office.

O OATH OF OFFICE

01. Swearing in of the 2022 Chair—Chair Kristi Woodall, South Carolina State Board of Education

Chair Woodall administered the Oath of Office to Alan Walters, the new 2022 Chair of the South Carolina State Board of Education. This was Chair Woodall's last official duty.

02. Swearing in of the 2022 Chair-Elect—2022 Chair Alan Walters, South Carolina State Board of Education

Chair Walters administered the Oath of Office to Mrs. Chrissy Stapleton, the new 2022 Chair-Elect of the South Carolina State Board of Education. This was Chair Walters' first official duty.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

All Committee Items presented to the State Board for approval make up the Consent Agenda.

Chair Walters called for a motion to approve all items on the consent agenda.

Mr. Brennan made the motion to approve all items on the consent agenda. Mrs. Stapleton seconded the motion.

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

XI. SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

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

Dr. Mathis reported that in September, during a reorganization, the College and Career Readiness Division combined the Office of Standards and Learning with the Office of Assessment. This created the Office of Assessment and Standards. The goal was to create a seamless approach to the development and delivery of content standards that aligned to the development of summative assessments. At the same time, the Office of Curricular Innovations was created to provide resources that addressed the rigor and depth of the standards as well provide materials that provided a cohesive assessment system to include formative and interim assessments that prepared students for summative state assessments.

The English language arts standards (ELA) are being revised with an original timeline to present them to the SBE for approval in the spring of 2022. Working through this revision, we have determined that additional time is needed to make certain the standards are fewer in number, deeper in understanding, and prioritized in a continuum from grade level to grade level. In addition, the extension of the development stage of the standards would ensure a quality assessment is developed with the appropriate content identified at each grade level.

Department staff met with the Education Oversight Committee staff to discuss this process and received their support. Our goal is to have the ELA standards to you for approval in fall of 2022. This will allow for further revision and development prior, followed by a period of public comment and feedback.

This concluded Dr. Mathis' report.

Chair Woodall asked if there were any questions.

Chair Woodall thanked Dr. Mathis for his report.

02. Update on Library Materials Selection and Best Practices—Katie Nilges, Director, Governmental Affairs, Division of Legal Affairs

Ms. Nilges reported, "At last month's board meeting, you asked us to review current district policies, identify best practices, and present you with a "model policy" for selection and reconsideration of library materials. Since that time, some additional research has been completed".

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- Antiquated laws from 1962.
 - Library Committee
 - Superintendent Spearman will reconvene the Library Committee.
 - Furnishing Library Books
 - The Department did publish some guidance in the past (1986)
 - Included in this publication was the statement: “Each school district should have a written policy for the selection of library materials approved by the board of trustees.”
- A review of what occurred between 1962, when these laws were written, to 1986 when this list was last published, a few events have occurred that explains the shift in these decisions resting at the local level.
 - 1973: College of Librarianship at the University of South Carolina (USC) had its first graduating class;
 - 1977: Education Finance Act (changed the way districts received funding with the aim to equalize public school finance in SC); and in
 - 1978: New certifications became available for librarians which led to districts and schools having more expertise at the local level.

“Therefore, it is the recommendation of the Department that selection of library materials rests at the local level, as they are the ones best equipped to make the appropriate decisions for their schools and communities. With that in mind, on November 28th, Superintendent Spearman convened a meeting with executive committee members of the South Carolina Association of School Librarians (SCASL) to discuss best practices and to better understand the processes which occur at the local level. Two spoke during the public comment period and one has submitted written comments, which is included in your packet.

“During this conversation, a few key points were made and best practices discussed:

- The importance of drawing the distinction between library books and instructional materials.
 - Library books are funded by local dollars and serve as options for students to read.
 - Instructional materials are funded by state dollars, align to state standards, and are assigned to students for instruction.
- Librarians, with their expertise and training, understand the needs of their school and what is appropriate for the grade levels they serve.
- The need for policies to be widely known, discussed, and available and to ensure that the processes outlined in the policies are followed.

After discussions with SCASL and some concerned parents, as well as review of multiple district board policies, a model policy was drafted and is included in your packet.

The goal today is to provide it for information, but I do want to point out a few important components:

- School librarians shall use their professional training and expertise to evaluate the existing collection and consult reputable and unbiased sources when selecting new materials.
 - List of items for consideration included as well (i.e. appropriateness for students in each school (grade and age) and educational significance).
- When there is a request for a material to be reconsidered:
 - Important that they either reside in the district or have a student who attends a school in the district;
 - The complainant has read the material in full and can full respond to all questions on the reconsideration form;
 - A separate form must be completed for each material being requested for reconsideration.
- A standing review committee should be formed, and depending on the membership size of the district, there may be a school level and district level, or just district level.
 - Included is an example list of who all should be represented on such committees.
- The committee has 15 days to review and issue a report, during which time the book shall be removed from circulation. If the material is deemed to be appropriate, it shall immediately be placed back into circulation.
- Local boards shall establish an appeals process, which should not extend beyond 15 business days.
- Once a decision has been reached regarding the appropriateness of a reading material, it cannot be challenged again for a period of 5 years (this could be shortened).
- The policy and form should be prominently posted on the district and school website. Local board policies shall list all relevant policies connected to library/media centers to this policy. Local boards shall periodically review and update this policy.”

Ms. Nilges welcomed any feedback and encouraged everyone to take time over the next month to review and gather input from your districts.

SECTION 59-31-220. Furnishing library books.

The State Board of Education shall furnish library books, from an approved list, to the public-school districts or counties of this State upon the same terms and conditions that textbooks are now furnished under the terms of this article. But when any school district or county shall pay the State Board of Education the purchase price, plus interest, for such library books, such books shall become the property of such school district or county.

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

- Two Allendale-Fairfax High School students, Da’Nayja Johnson and Sha’Mya Shipman, have been awarded \$1,000 scholarships. These students participated in the Central Savannah River Area College Night on November 4, 2021. Students who maintained a 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale or equivalent were eligible to win one of the fifteen scholarships during the virtually live event.
- The Marquis Publications Board has presented Allendale County School District Superintendent Dr. Margaret Gilmore with the 2021-22 Who’s Who in America Award.

04. Florence School District 4—Kimberly E. Mack, Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement

- Dr. Patrick, one of Brockington Elementary School coaches started the Proficient Performer’s program at the elementary school securing several fifth-grade volunteers to serve as mentors for Brockington Elementary School kindergarten students. The mentors first assignment was to assist their mentees with learning to spell and write their names properly. Two of the 10 kindergarteners have learned to spell and write their full names properly. The mentors will begin teaching site words to assist these two students with learning to read effectively.
- Career-on-Wheels was held on November 16, 2021, for third through eighth grade students.

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

- Kingstree High School’s Band was chosen by spectators as a Top Band in SC State’s SC Band Day.
- Marco McGill, graduate of Kingstree High School and diplomat for the US State Department, made a Zoom career presentation to all three district high schools.

This concluded Mrs. Mack's report

Chair Woodall thanked Ms. Mack for her report.

Chair Woodall asked if there were any questions.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Walters reminded the Board members to turn in travel forms. He continued, "I have one item I want to bring up as an information item for today. Certainly, we've seen a lot in the headlines lately across our state with behavior issues, discipline issues, threats, weapons, and such. And we all know about the terrible tragedy in Michigan. We also so know that today is the ninth anniversary of Sandy Hook. I think it's important time to bring our board members up to date on what we've been working on now for about a year and a half. If you remember from the AccelerateED Report, one of the recommendations that our committee made was to have a South Carolina School Safety Center, and that would be an entity that would build upon the good work already being done by the State Department of Education, and really take it to a new level. We've been working on that and in early 2022 there will be a formal announcement. I thought it was important to share that with you today. As a school district safety director, I can tell you the need is there for it. So with that, is there any other business?"

Chair Woodall recognized Superintendent Spearman, who reported, "On our Center for School Safety, we have engaged in negotiations and many meetings. Thanks to your leadership, thankful that you're on the board with your background in law enforcement and that you're so willing to help us. We're excited about it and hope to have an announcement very, very soon."

Superintendent Spearman reported that, "At last month's meeting, we discussed that the General Assembly had given us funding to hire two people to assist the state board. We were in the process of hiring those individuals and they are with us today." Superintendent Spearman then introduced new employees Ms. Kinzie Riddle and Cricket Katsos, welcomed them, and let them know that she looks forward to the Board and the Department being supported.

Chair Walters wished a safe and restful holiday season and reported he looked forward to a wonderful 2022.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.