MEETING MINUTES
State Board of Education Meeting

DATE
Tuesday, January 12, 2021

TIME
12:00 p.m.

LOCATION
Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Kristi Woodall, Ed.D., 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 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.

In addition to Chair Woodall, the following SBE members were also physically attending Chair-Elect Alan Walters, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; Crystal Stapleton, Second Judicial Circuit; Dr. Shawn Johnson, Third Judicial Circuit; Carl Hinze, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Steven English, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; and Jean W. Pearson, Twelfth Judicial Circuit.

Members attending virtually were Jon Butzon, First Judicial Circuit; Cathy D. Chapman, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Dr. Tracy West, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Dr. J.R. Green, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Larry Kobrovsky, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Debby Howard, Tenth Judicial Circuit; and David Whittemore, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit.

Absent members were Cynthia A. Downs, Ed.D., Eighth Judicial Circuit; Valaree C. Smith, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; and Michael Brenan, the Governor's Appointee.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff were physically attending: 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; Karla Hawkins, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources; David Mathis, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness; John Payne, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement; Nancy Williams, Chief Financial Officer, Financial Office; Kriss Stewart, Program Coordinator, Instructional Materials Adoption Program, Office of Finance; Mary Hipp, Director, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources; Jaclyn Walsh, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources; Sarah Longshore, Director, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement; Kimberly E. Mack, Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement; and Steven Strother, Finance Director, Office of Finance.

I. WELCOME/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The State Board of Education (SBE) meeting convened at 12:20 p.m. Chair Woodall called the meeting to order. Chair Woodall 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 DECEMBER 8, 2020

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

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR JANUARY 12, 2021

Chair Woodall asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda as presented for the January 12, 2021, SBE meeting. Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved by unanimous

consent.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND NEWS MEDIA

Visitor(s) in attendance:

- Kathy Maness, Executive Director, Palmetto State Teachers Association (PSTA)

No media were present.

V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Woodall stated she had no report but wanted to say that she appreciates the flexibility that our educators, students, and parents show every day as we try to do deliver the best instruction possible during this challenging pandemic. She stated that she is always amazed at the work and flexibility that she has seen. Chair Woodall further stated that she feels that she overuses the word "flexibility" but that it is truly touching to see how our teachers and parents go the extra mile to do the best they can for the children of our state.

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Superintendent Spearman, attending virtually, greeted everyone in attendance. She thanked everyone for their well wishes for her family.

Superintendent Spearman began her report with an update on the COVID-19 vaccine distribution stating that South Carolina (SC) was currently in Phase 1(a).

- Under Phase 1(a), the following school personnel are receiving vaccinations:
    - School nurses, physical and occupational therapists, speech pathologists and audiologists, and athletic trainers (only those assisting with school based COVID-19 testing) who are working face-to-face with students; and
    - Districts with those personnel who are having a problem receiving a vaccination need to contact the SCDE and the SCDE will notify the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to assist those personnel with their vaccinations.

- Under Phase 1(b):
    - Vaccine registrations begin tomorrow (January 13, 2021) for those people who are
        - 70+ with or without underlying health conditions; and
        - frontline essential workers.

Superintendent Spearman stated that this morning (January 12, 2021) she sent a letter to Governor McMaster (Governor) requesting that all educators be elevated as a "top priority" in

Phase 1(b). Currently, there is a huge number of people in SC in Phase 1(b), and everyone needs a vaccine; however, at this moment, we are in a situation where we have school districts that are face-to-face (f2f), five days a week and many more districts that want to return f2f five days a week, but with the surge in the number of infections, the districts are having great difficulty staffing their schools. She stated that she believes that due to the impact this pandemic is having on education and the social/emotional health of our students; the impact it is having on families and schools that cannot operate; she thinks that it raises the priority of our educators should be moved to the top of Phase 1(b) to receive those vaccines, immediately.

Superintendent Spearman stated that a meeting was held last week with district superintendents. District superintendents were able to ask questions concerning the pandemic and vaccination plans. They were told DHEC is working to train people to administer shots and the National Guard will also administer shots. DHEC is also reaching out to private providers (i.e. pharmacies, etc.) to increase the number of people who can administer the vaccines. She stated that we are moving forward, but it is not at a fast pace. This is a very fluid situation and as things continue to change, she will keep everyone posted.

Superintendent Spearman also discussed methods of instruction for all students. She stated that districts are meeting or speaking with their school board members, decisions are being made on a daily basis on whether or not staff can work, and students can attend in an f2f environment.

- 22 districts are full time f2f;
- 32 districts are offering some type of hybrid model 2–3 days per week; and
- the number of virtual districts has grown to 28 districts.
    - Superintendent Spearman stated that many of the districts had announced that due to the increase in cases from the Thanksgiving holidays, their district would be virtual until their winter break and into the middle or end of January 2021.

Superintendent Spearman stated she is still committed, and asked district superintendents to remain committed to getting f2f instruction or a hybrid model up and running.

(Loss of audio.)

Superintendent Spearman has received assessments over the winter break. She discussed the preliminary learning loss results in SC. She still does not have a complete, accurate report of the (inaudible) we are now receiving the information from the assessments that were given to students before they left for their winter break. She hopes, at the February meeting, to provide a more accurate report that will include all of the districts that participated in the RALLY ANALYTICS PLATFORM™ tool. She stated that from the information received so far and from yesterday's meeting with the SC Education Oversight Committee (EOC) that there has been

- More learning loss:
    - In math,
    - In earlier grades,
    - In high proficiency districts and among high achieving students, and

    - For students without disabilities.
- No differences in learning loss based on student:
    - Economic disadvantage and
    - English language learner (ELL) status.

Superintendent Spearman went on to say that all of this information is shocking and very alarming. There has been a loss in mathematics and literacy, but there has been more loss in mathematics than in literacy. We thought there would be more loss in earlier grades and there have also been losses in high performing districts; high performing students; and non-disability students. Dr. Mathis will provide more information later in the meeting. A lot of work is currently being done to recoup these losses, and a lot more still needs to be done. (Inaudible) on what we know about those assessments. The data shows that there is no differences in learning loss based on a student's economic disadvantage or ELL status.

Next, Superintendent Spearman went over her 2021 Legislative Priorities

- Ensure the safety and wellness of SC students and educators
    - by requesting renewed funding to ensure that each school have a school nurse($5.5M) and a school resource officer ($23.4M); and
    - the Governor has included those items and amounts in his budget proposal.
- Recruit and retain teachers
    - by reinstating the 2 percent step increase that teachers were supposed to get in FY20–21 and by increasing the base student cost by $50 per student ($218.1M).
- Guarantee every SC student has access to robust college and career readiness opportunities;
    - by expanding broadband access;
    - by securing funding for instructional materials for this year to catch up on the instructional material requirements that need to be met ($30M recurring and $70M non-recurring funds) and she believes that the General Assembly has the funds available to meet that need; and
    - by expanding VirtualSC course offerings ($5.2M).
- Expand early learning and literacy
    - by expanding Child Early Reading and Development Education Programs (CERDEP); strengthening literacy requirements; hiring reading/literacy coaches; providing professional development; expanding the Summer Reading Camps; and parental engagement ($6M). She is excited about the federal funding that the federal government is sending to SC to help with this issue. A teleconference will be held with local superintendents on Thursday (January 14, 2021) to discuss the second funding amount, which is a substantial amount, 3–4 times the amount of funding that was originally received. In addition, the funding categories have been increased (inaudible).
- Maximize district efficiency and additional recommendations
    - by reviewing and improving the education funding formula;
    - by implementing a School Infrastructure Fund to assist with upgrading school facilities in areas of need;
        - by promoting consolidation and shared services between districts where feasible;

        - by constructing additional multi-district career centers; and
        - by supporting districts with less than 1,500 students in their consolidation efforts.
    - by addressing the statewide bus driver shortage by requesting a minimum salary increase of 5 percent per year.

This concluded Superintendent Spearman's report.

Chair Woodall asked if there were any questions.

Chair Woodall thanked Superintendent Spearman for her report.

VII. PARLIAMENTARIAN COMMENTS

Chair Woodall recognized Ms. Cathy Hazelwood.

Ms. Hazelwood reminded the SBE that their SC Statement of Economic Interest forms (SEI) are due on March 30, 2021. Ms. Hazelwood indicated that after todays meeting, she would send the members instructions on how to access and file their forms with the Ethics Commission. She went on to remind the SBE that she would be more than happy to help them complete their SEI.

Ms. Hazelwood stated that the three SBE members whose terms ended on December 31, 2020, as well as Mr. Whittemore (term ended December 31, 2019), are still serving on the SBE, until their replacement is named, they are still required to submit an SEI, if they are still serving as of March 30, 2021. She stated that if those four SBE members do not want to fill out an SEI, then they must send a letter of resignation to Superintendent Spearman.

Chair Woodall asked if there were any questions.

Chair Woodall thanked Ms. Hazelwood for her report.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Maness, Executive Director of the PSTA presented metal platters with a palmetto tree design to each of the board members, in honor of National School Board Appreciation Month, and thanked Superintendent Spearman and the board members for all their work to improve education in SC, especially during COVID-19.

IX. STATE BOARD ITEMS

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Woodall reported that the committee met and heard one action item and one information item. The action item was placed on the Consent Agenda.

FOR APPROVAL

01. Online Testing and Testing Window Extension Waiver Requests—Elizabeth Jones, Director, Office of Assessment, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement

FOR INFORMATION

02. School District Waiver Requests Update—Dr. Sarah Longshore, Director, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement

EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Woodall recognized Dr. Johnson who reported that the committee met and heard seven action item(s) and one information item(s). Seven action item(s) were placed on the Consent Agenda.

This concluded Dr. Johnson's report.

FOR APPROVAL

01. Identification of Critical Need Subject Areas for 2021–22—Carla Edwards, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

02. Identification of Critical Need Geographic Areas (Schools) for 2021–22 for the South Carolina Teacher Loan Program—Carla Edwards, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

03. Provider Accreditation Decisions: The University of South Carolina at Aiken (UofSC–Aiken) and North Greenville University (NGU)—Jaclyn Walsh, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

04. South Carolina Educator Preparation Guidelines: Standards, Policies, and Procedures Educator Preparation Program Admission Requirements: Initial- and Advanced-level Certification Programs—Jaclyn Walsh, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

05. Program Modification: UofSC–Aiken Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Special Education: Multi-categorical—Auburne Hutchinson, PhD, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

06. Alternative Route Program Approval: Additional Certification Areas for Teachers of Tomorrow—James Ritter, PhD, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

07. Approval of Members to Serve on the Professional Review Committee (PRC)—Clay Barton, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

FOR INFORMATION

08. Report on Individuals Certified through the South Carolina Teach for America Program 2019–20—Mary Hipp, Director, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Woodall recognized Mrs. Stapleton who reported that the committee met and heard two information item(s).

This concluded Mrs. Stapleton's report.

FOR INFORMATION

01. Update on Cyclical Review of South Carolina's Accountability System—Mr. Jonathan Payne, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement

Mrs. Stapleton asked Mr. Payne to provide his committee report to the SBE.

Mr. Payne stated that last Friday (January 8, 2021) the SBE received a copy of the Cyclical Review. He stated that he was pleased that he was able to engage with the National Center for Assessment, which is an organization that is nationally renowned for working with states in developing, amending and changing their accountability system. The accountability committee wrestled with a number of design priorities such as

- how often or frequently do we change versus having stability over time; and
- how simple do we want the system to be versus how comprehensive; and really thinking, as well, about collecting new information or innovative information and balancing that with minimizing burden to school districts.

The recommendations that came out of the committee fell into three categories

- Revising the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Accountability System
    - specifically to develop and record information related to achievement gap and having achievement gaps in some way influence school ratings;

  - evaluations of current school performance ratings to ensure they reflect clear; appropriate; and consistent criteria;
  - changes to graduation readiness and career- and college-readiness, currently, we use a four year graduate cohort and, while the committee thought this was critically important, they also felt that it was important to give some credit to those school districts that graduate students (inaudible) fifth year (inaudible) some credit, but not as much (inaudible) changes to career readiness credits (inaudible) give opportunities for those students based on their personalized pathways for completing their high school diploma in five years; and
  - to allow career-readiness credit to be given to qualifying students who earn the SC High School Credential to disabled students who are unable to attain a high school diploma, yet, complete a robust and comprehensive program that includes career opportunities that allow for internships that demonstrate these students based on their personalized pathways are ready for (inaudible).
- Research & Development
  - Enhancing data collection and reporting goes back to ongoing monitoring and evaluations of our career-readiness measures and really research development (inaudible) reporting initiative to better communicate (inaudible); and
  - developing and (inaudible) better communicate conditions for student success.
- Recommendations for Further Research & Development
  - Looking for alternatives for academic and trans-academic measures for students in K–12, specifically;
  - developing state guidance and standards for performance demonstrations that could help the Capstone projects, services initiatives, and research studies are examples;
  - thinking through and considering, through assessments, rather than end-of-year summative assessments; and we have already begun work to look at that and working with some other states;
  - assessing criteria for student progress in ELL to make sure that those growth and expectations are appropriate; and
  - the EOC felt that social science, especially citizenship, is not adequately addressed in each grade.

Mr. Payne stated that with this report, the next steps would be to continue working with the EOC and other stakeholders since this report was generated on a very broad level. We can now take this report and begin diving into the weeds to determine when, how, where, and why on a granular level. As we do that, we will be vetting it by stakeholders and getting feedback and input from all stakeholders involved. Once that is done, that will culminate in a revised, consolidated Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) plan that will go out for public comment as well as come before the SBE and the EOC. Mr. Payne went on to say that, Dr. Downs represented the SBE during this work and he appreciates and thanks Dr. Downs for her contribution, time, and expertise.

This concluded Mr. Payne's report.

Chair Woodall asked if there were any questions.

Chair Woodall and Mrs. Stapleton thanked Mr. Payne for his report.

02. SC Office of Career and Technical Education Industry Recognized Credential—Ms. Angel Malone, Director, Office of Career and Technology Education, Division of College and Career Readiness

Mrs. Stapleton asked Ms. Malone to provide her committee report to the SBE.

Ms. Malone provided an update on the 2020–21 Industry Recognized Credentials and the reorganization of the credentials into a stackable framework.

Ms. Malone reported on the approved Industry Recognized Credentials list proposed for 2020–21 and a Stackable Industry Recognized Credentials transition timeline. She explained that the next phase for SC is to shift to the Stackable Credentials to show Industry Credentials of value. Ms. Malone shared decisions and events that happened because of those best practices with employing industry credentials and having them as a part of programs of study. Ms. Malone shared that the revised Industry Recognized Credentials list was approved by the EOC in December 2020. She explained that the list was vetted by various stakeholders and approved and supported by the Department of Commerce, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Education and Economic Development Coordinating Council. She explained the need to move the Credentials timeline into Stackable Credentials and the importance and value of obtaining credentials for students from middle school to adulthood. She reported on the transitioning of the stackable format into three tiers and what that will look like.

- The graduation rate for the past year was 98.4 percent which was a three percent increase from the previous year, and validates the importance of students completing a career and technical education program as well as receiving the industry credential that validates their skill set and indicates they are ready for the industry;
- last year, 55 percent of completers received industry credentials which allowed them to enter gainful employment immediately after graduation;
- 35,000 students received credentials and they now understand how that transfers to the next phase of their life, especially during this pandemic where we now understand the importance of certain skill sets needed to obtain jobs;
- last year, out of those students who signed up for technical education, there was a 90 percent pass rate which was a 2 percent increase over the previous year, and we are excited about the work that we are doing and with how we are transitioning to stackable industry recognized credentials; and showing those students what trajectory they need to take to move towards gainful employment;
    - under Health Science, the trajectory a student may take a CPR assessment for that credential or a basic life support, but we want to show them the continuum to say that not only will the student get that credential; but also a CNA or Phlebotomy credential, and then they could move on to a RN or a MD, or any other credential under Health Science;
- for 2020–21 the Office of Career and Technology Education (CTE) submitted their industry credentials to the EOC, and the credentials were approved on December 15,

2020, and also supported and vetted by not only our CTE leaders and instructors but also business and industry stakeholder, to include the SC Department of Commerce, the Chamber of Commerce and our Coordinating Council who supported these industry credentials;
    - the list of consisted of 298 credentials of which 15 were deleted from the 2019–20 list and 59 were added in the areas of transportation and agriculture with agriculture being the largest industry in SC;
- for 2021–22, the CTE office is currently working on a three tier format and it is a transition year;
    - Tier 1: students beginning a credential program;
    - Tier 2: students working through their credential program; and
    - Tier 3: students obtaining their credential and moving into the workforce
        - the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) is helping her facilitate those conversations with our CTE leaders, post-secondary partners, business, industry and other important stakeholders; and
        - once the framework has been completed, we will release it for public input in March 2021, and make any necessary revisions based on the input received from the stakeholders, and then we will submit the revised framework to the EOC for approval and full implementation in 2022–23.

This concluded Ms. Malone's report.

Chair Woodall asked if there were any questions.

Chair Woodall thanked Ms. Malone for her report.

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 ten cases, which consisted of one Public Reprimand(s) and nine Suspension(s).

Chair-Elect Walters did state that two of the suspensions were COVID-19 related. Those two cases received the same consideration that all of our cases received. Those two cases are referred to as default cases, which means both teachers decided not to request a private hearing to present their cases to our hearing officer in the hopes of overturning the ruling of their local board. Since there was no hearing, there was no additional information that could have been provided to the ELC and we had to base our decisions on the record that was available. If there had been a request for a hearing based on mitigating circumstances, we would have considered the mitigating circumstances before making a decision on whether or not to suspend those two cases.

Chair-Elect Walters stated that the FB-ELC met at 11:00 a.m. and approved the ELC report.

FB-ELC FULL BOARD EDUCATOR LICENSURE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Woodall stated the FB-ELC met and took action on one case, which consisted of one Public Reprimand.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mr. Hinze made the motion to approve all items on the consent agenda. Mrs. Stapleton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE— CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

FOR APPROVAL

01. Online Testing and Testing Window Extension Waiver Requests—Elizabeth Jones, Director, Office of Assessment, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement

EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS—CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

FOR APPROVAL

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SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY—COMMITTEE REPORT

No items for approval.

SBE SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EDUCATION—REPORT

FOR INFORMATION

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

Dr. Mathis stated that his staff are carefully analyzing assessment data provided through pre-and post-benchmark assessments to accurately report the current performance levels of our students and the conditions that led to the results. Superintendent Spearman indicated earlier, that we would provide a report of those reports in February that will detail the results of ELA and math, as well as the conditions that we think led to those results. Superintendent Spearman also mentioned a report released, yesterday, by the EOC with some results that centered on interviews conducted with teachers and administrators in fifteen districts on the impact of remote learning as well as Academic Recovery Camp data and the conditions around that. Also data from a partnership that the EOC conducted with Northwest Education Association on their MAP data. Additionally, the SCDE is working with Education Analytics to take a deep dive into the analysis of our fall and winter assessments to include the variations across the different tests that were administered that would be, for example, MAP, STAR, iReady, Math and Reading Inventory; the MTSS Screeners, and the variations among grade levels. He stated that they were conducting an analysis of the impact of student and district factors that should be considered in making any decisions around those results. He stated what they do know about what the preliminary analysis is showing, as stated by Superintendent Spearman, a greater loss in math as opposed to reading, but regardless, as Superintendent stated, there is a lot of work that needs to be done in both areas. Dr. Mathis feels that it is time, that as we look at the data that we work systematically, and as a state system, in developing a plan, in how we can recover academically, and he thinks that it needs to support Superintendent Spearman's visions and that it needs to focus on a strategic plan as we rollout the assessment results.

However, before quick assumptions of the results are made, it is important to look at all related factors and determine a path for enrichment and remediation. In addition to strong instructional leadership and effective instructional delivery, an important condition for increasing student achievement and recovering academically is access to viable curriculum for all students. In an effort to determine what type of systemic changes may need to be made, the Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL) will be conducting an audit of reading/language arts materials in our Palmetto Literacy Project (PLP) schools. As a reminder, the PLP schools had 50 percent or more of their third graders scoring in Does Not Meet (DNM) on the 2019 SC READY ELA summative assessment. Training in conducting an audit can be provided to schools and districts outside of initial focus of the PLP schools.

Through a rubric and training provided by the Southeast Regional Education Laboratory Program, the OELL will focus on three key components of the instructional materials:

1) Instructional Design which will include alignment to the South Carolina ELA Content Standards, scope and sequence, lesson organization, and student assessments,
2) Content (or what is taught) which will include the five key components of reading instruction (phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension), as well as spelling, writing, and speaking and listening skills, and
3) Pedagogy (or how it is taught) to include direct, systematic instruction, scaffolding to assist students in reaching the goal of the lesson, differentiated instruction, and opportunities for clear feedback.

The rubric is aligned to the What Works Clearinghouse research on the most effective ways to delivery literacy instruction.

Once the review is complete, an important next step is to assist districts in developing resources and materials that address their curriculum gaps. The knowledge of the curriculum gaps will provide the SCDE an opportunity to further develop resources that can be accessed through the Learning Object Repository.

This concluded Dr. Mathis' report.

Chair Woodall thanked Dr. Mathis, and asked if there were any questions and recognized Mr. Butzon who stated that he was wondering about the possibility of the EOC coming to the SBE and making a presentation on the study they spoke about yesterday (January 11, 2021). Mr. Butzon stated that he watched the EOC's video meeting and found the report to be sobering. He feels that it would behoove everyone hear it in detail and be able to ask critical questions of the EOC on what they discovered, how they discovered it, and what their recommendations are for proceeding. He asked if it would be possible to schedule the EOC to present the information at a future SBE meeting.

Chair Woodall asked Dr. Mathis to summarize the information; however, he chooses to handle it. Chair Woodall stated that the EOC's information is important and all of the SBE would benefit from hearing it. She stated she would leave it to Dr. Mathis' discretion on when to bring the information back to the SBE.

Dr. Mathis responded that he would be happy to provide the EOC's information as well as information on the data that is being collected by Education Analytics. He feels that both of these reports will be very informative for the SBE.

Chair Woodall thanked Mr. Butzon and asked if there were any other questions.

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

- During December, ACSD hosted several professional development sessions for administrators and teachers regarding curriculum, Socio-Emotional Learning, Assessment and Data, and Technology.
- Three Allendale-Fairfax High School students earned CTE certifications; two students earned OSHA 10 certifications and one student earned the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification.

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

- Brockington Elementary students completed their mid-year assessments. K–5 used LinkIt, K–2 used STAR Early Literacy, and grades 3–5 completed Reading and Math inventory assessments.
- Johnson Middle school students showed improvement in reading and math inventory assessments administered mid-December. Evidence of growth was shown for students who participated in targeted interventions based on their initial reading inventory assessment results.

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

- The Office of Finance submitted its annual audit on December 1, 2020. There were no findings relating to financial statements or federal awards.
- The district established a Student Support Center that includes clothing items, instructional supplies, leveled reading books and personal hygiene products that were donated by local agencies and non-profit organizations to support the McKinney-Vento students.

Chair Woodall thanked Ms. Mack and asked if there were any questions. Chair Woodall recognized Mr. Butzon who stated that having just heard, yesterday, a little about the assessments report from the EOC, he is curious about why there has been a decline is among every student group. He stated that the gap had not increased, which suggests to him that everybody is not doing as well as were before the pandemic. Mr. Butzon stated that in ASCD; FCSD-4; and WCSD, progress was being made, but how far behind were we in these three

districts.

Ms. Mack responded that Mr. Butzon had a very good question, but that she will need to research that information and present to the SBE at a later date, and asked if that was acceptable. Chair Woodall and Mr. Butzon stated, yes.

Mr. Butzon asked if that information could be incorporated into her monthly SBE report.

Chair Woodall stated the items mentioned were interesting and that the report would be based on data that Ms. Mack has available. Chair Woodall suggested that she would like Ms. Mack to periodically report on that data.

05. Clarendon School District One Update—Steven Strother, Finance Director, Office of Finance
Mr. Strother previously reported to the SBE:

David Loadholt, the contract CFO for the SCDE, is working with the SC Retirement System (SCRS), the IRS, and the SC Department of Revenue (SCDOR) to settle the liabilities to those systems ($1,350,000.00)

- ***Update: Mr. Loadholt continues to work with the SCRS to settle the liability. As of today (January 12, 2021), no payment has been made towards the liability (Roughly $800,000). (The SCRS wants to assure all quarterly reports are filed and up to date – the process is being followed);***
- ***The IRS Obligation has been paid in full. ($425,000); and***
- ***The Obligation to the SCDOR had been paid in full (Around $125,000).***

After reviewing cash-flow information for December 2020, the cash flow deficit at the end of June 30, 2021, is projected to be **$1.1 million**

Currently:

- The spending freeze remains in effect, reducing accounts payable costs.
- Open positions are not being filled. Some of the open positions where savings have occurred include:
    - The Assistant Superintendent of Special Services retired November 30, 2020. The district is currently paying a stipend to Clarendon County School District Three (CSD–3) to cover these services until consolidation.
    - Transportation between the two districts was consolidated as of January 2, 2021.
    - A vacant HR position remains un-filled with the HR duties being handled by CSD–4.
    - A Medicaid clerk position became open, and will not be filled.
    - CSD–2 is sharing a music teacher so that band students can continue to receive instruction.
- The SCDE, with the assistance of Mr. Loadholt, has identified expenses that can be shifted from the general fund to the CARES/ESSER funds received by the district.
- The CSD–1 Superintendent has submitted a proposal for a reduction of staff expenditures.

- Measures to help reduce the deficit are continually being discussed.
- Mr. Strother stated that he would visit CSD–1 weekly to examine federal expenditures and assist in the filing of the claims.
- The CSD–1 Board of Trustees is being updated monthly on the financial condition of the district.
- The SBE is being updated monthly on the financial condition of the district.

Chair Woodall thanked Mr. Strother and asked if there were any questions.

06. Quarterly Review of State Board of Education's Fiscal Year 2020–21 Budget—Nancy Williams, Chief Financial Officer, Financial Office

Ms. Williams stated that the SBE's beginning budget for the fiscal year was $58,034. As of December 31, 2020, the state is 50 percent through its fiscal year, and the SBE spent $19,248 (approximately 33 percent of their yearly budget), leaving them with a balance of $38,786 (approximately 67 percent). As of December 31, 2020, $8,779 was spent from the dedicated funds for teacher hearing costs and $10,469 was spent on operational costs (per diem; transportation, and awards to departing SBE members). Ms. Williams stated that overall, the SBE was in good financial standing, and she would continue, throughout the remainder of the fiscal year, to monitor the spending patterns of the SBE.

Chair Woodall thanked Ms. Williams and asked if there were any questions.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m.