SPECIAL CALLED
MEETING MINUTES
State Board of Education Meeting

DATE
Tuesday, July 19, 2021

TIME
12:00 p.m.

LOCATION

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
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 State Board of Education (SBE) members were in attendance virtually: Chair-Elect Alan Walters, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; Jon Butzon, First Judicial Circuit; Crystal Stapleton, Second Judicial Circuit; Cathy D. Chapman, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Dr. J.R. Green, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Cynthia A. Downs, Ed.D., Eighth Judicial Circuit; Larry Kobrovsky, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Jean W. Pearson, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; and David Whittemore, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit.

Members not in attendance, Delaney Frierson, Third Judicial Circuit; Dr. Tracy West, Fifth Judicial Circuit, Carl S. Hinze, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Sallie R. Lee, Tenth Judicial Circuit; and Michael Brenan, Governor's Appointee.

South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff attending were Cathy Hazelwood, Deputy Superintendent, Division for Legal Affairs; David Mathis, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness; Bradley Mitchell, Director, VirtualSC Office,

Division of College and Career Readiness; Nancy Williams, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Finance; Kriss Stewart, Program Coordinator, Office of Finance; Katie Nilges, Staff Attorney, Governmental Affairs, Division for Legal Affairs; Barbara Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; Audrey Shifflett, Grants Manager, Grants, Division for Legal Affairs; Frances Katsos, Program Coordinator, Grants, Division for Legal Affairs; Quincie Moore, Director, Early Learning and Literacy, Division of College and Career Readiness; Sarah Longshore, Director, Federal and State Accountability; Lynn Hammond, Education Associate, Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability & School Improvement; Laurie Traywick, Administrative Coordinator, Superintendent's Office; Ryan Brown, Chief Communications Officer, Superintendent's Office; Jennifer Austin, Administrative Specialist, Governmental Affairs, Division of Legal Affairs; and Tracy Moore, SBE Minutes Taker; Division for Legal Affairs.

I. MEETING

The SBE Special Called Meeting convened at 1:06 p.m. Chair Woodall called the meeting to order and stated that a quorum was present. Cathy Hazelwood thanked those members in attendance. Chair Woodall recognized David Mathis to present the first item to the Board for approval. Dr. Mathis thanked Ms. Woodall and introduced Bradley Mitchell to present the Virtual Learning Programs information.

II. STATE BOARD ITEMS

SBE SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EDUCATION—REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

01. Approval of District Virtual Learning Programs — Bradley Mitchell, Director, VirtualSC Office

Mr. Mitchell thanked Dr. Mathis, the Chair, and the Board. Mr. Mitchell reported the details of the criteria for District Virtual Learning Plans and provided the list of districts that have submitted plans for approval by the Board.

- Criteria have been developed for full-time virtual learning programs and reviewed with districts who are starting a virtual learning program. The criteria includes:
    - At least 25 percent of the instruction must be through synchronous instructional opportunities;
    - Each course must be taught by a teacher holding a valid SC teaching certificate for the course(s) being taught virtually;
    - Provide for frequent, ongoing monitoring of an individual student's program to verify each student is participating in the program;
    - Include proctored assessments for core subjects per semester that are graded or evaluated by the teacher;

  - Conduct required state assessments for all students following testing requirements;
  - Conduct at least bi-weekly parent-teacher contact in person, electronically, or by telephone;
  - Provide for a method to define and verify student attendance;
  - Provide for verification of ongoing student progress and performance in each course as documented by assessments and examples of coursework; and
  - Participate annually in a program review conducted by the SCDE.
- Districts that were planning to offer a virtual learning program have submitted their plans to the Office of Virtual Education for review.
- Plans were reviewed to ensure they, at a minimum, meet the established criteria as well as follow best practices established by the National Standards for Quality Online Learning Programs.
- After review, 33 plans meet the established criteria and are recommended for approval: Aiken, Anderson 1, Barnwell 45, Chesterfield, Darlington, Dorchester 2, Fairfield, Florence 3, Greenwood 50, Greenwood 52, Horry, Jasper, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lexington 1, Lexington 5, Low Country Education Consortium, Marion, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Richland 1, Salkehatchie Education Consortium, Saluda, Spartanburg 4, Spartanburg 6, Sumter, Union, Williamsburg, York 1, York 2, York 3, York 4.

Chair Woodall thanked Mr. Mitchell and asked if there were any questions. Ms. Chapman asked if the 33 plans were the total plans to be submitted. Mr. Mitchell responded that there are at least two school districts whose plans will be presented in August. Mr. Mitchell also let the Board know that VirtualSC encompasses both middle and high school, and that some districts are referring parents there for an alternative.

Chair Woodall called for a motion to approve the item. Chair-Elect Walters made the motion to approve the item. Mr. Whittemore seconded the motion. The motion passed.

FOR INFORMATION

Chair Woodall recognized Dr. Mathis.

02. Review of K–5 Literacy Programs—David Mathis, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness

Dr. Mathis thanked the Chair and the Board Members. He then reported on the details of the SCDE's Review of K–5 Literacy Programs and the recommendation process.

Separate from the SBE Instructional Materials Adoption process, the SCDE Review Team will review K–5 literacy programs that specifically address the key components of the science of reading. The recommended literacy programs will be available to the K–5 Palmetto Priority schools to purchase using local Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. There is a strong need in these schools to provide appropriate literacy instruction and student materials.

1. Publishers will be asked to submit K–5 literacy programs and provide sample materials for evaluation by the SCDE Review Team of district literacy specialists and elementary teachers.

2. The Review Team will meet in Columbia to evaluate and determine the list of recommended literacy programs for district selection. During the team meeting, the publishers will have the opportunity for presentations or question and answer sessions with the Review Team.

3. The list of recommended K–5 literacy programs will be shared with the appropriate districts and schools. To assist districts with their literacy program selection, the SCDE will plan and facilitate an information session with publisher presentations.

4. The goal is to have the new K–5 literacy materials in schools by January 2022. The Review Team's work will be completed in October/November to allow districts time to order the materials from the publishers and conduct professional development.

Chair Woodall thanked Dr. Mathis and asked if there were any questions. Ms. Chapman asked Dr. Mathis if he would send the results of the audit. Dr. Mathis agreed to send the Board Members the results.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.