MEETING MINUTES
State Board of Education Meeting

DATE
Tuesday, September 14, 2021

TIME
1:00 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 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 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; Sallie R. Lee, Tenth Judicial Circuit; and Michael Brenan, the Governor's Appointee.

Members attending virtually were Dr. Tracy West, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Cynthia A. Downs, Ed.D., Eighth Judicial Circuit; and David Whittemore, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit.

Jon Butzon, First Judicial Circuit; Lawrence Kobrovsky, Ninth Judicial Circuit; and Mary Cordray, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit were absent.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff were physically attending: Molly Spearman, State Superintendent of Education; Cathy Hazelwood, Parliamentarian, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; Tracy Moore, Minutes Taker, Division for Legal Affairs; Ryan Brown, Chief Communications Officer; Barbara A. Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; David Mathis, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness; Kimberly E. Mack, Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement; Travis Huggins, Information Technology Manager I, Service and Support Center, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; Quinn Murphy, IT Specialist III, Service and Support Center, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; John Payne, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement; and Derek Phillips, Public Information Director.

SCDE staff attending virtually were: Betsy Carpentier, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; and Mary Hipp, Director, Office of Educator Services, Division of Educator, Community, and Federal Resources.

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 AUGUST 10, 2021

Chair Woodall asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes as presented for the SBE meeting on August 10, 2021. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

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

Chair Woodall asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda as presented for the September 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.

V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Woodall acknowledged the school community and expressed her appreciation for teachers, administration, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, nurses, custodians and all other staff for their efforts to ensure student learning and engagement during the pandemic.

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Superintendent Spearman welcomed everyone who attended today's meeting either physically or virtually and echoed Dr. Woodall's acknowledgement to the school community. She then reported to the Board the following items.

COVID-19 Cases Among Staff & Students

- As of September 14, 2021, DHEC reports over 7,000 cumulative cases among staff & students. Current estimates show over 40,000 quarantines.
- DHEC will transition to reporting student and staff isolation and quarantine information gathered from school districts publicly once per week beginning September 15.
- DHEC has also sent out guidance for schools with recommendations for school closures.

Current Operational Status

- Full Remote Learning
  - 3 Districts: Clarendon 2, Dorchester 2, and Dorchester 4
- Mixed Learning
  - 7 Districts: Aiken, Berkeley, Charleston, Horry, Lexington 1, Lexington 2, and York 4

Report Cards

- 2021 Report Cards and Assessment Results Released on September 1, 2021.
- Decline in overall state assessment scores and participation rates compared to 2018-19.

The Superintendent expressed concern with the results, though a decline was anticipated.
The Superintendent encouraged everyone to consider getting vaccinated, for ages 12 and up.

2021 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Finalists

- Scott Buhr: Science Teacher at Hillcrest High School of Greenville County Schools, 8 years teaching experience

- Katie Thompson: Math Teacher at the Academy for the Arts, Science, and Technology of Horry County Schools, 11 years teaching experience

- John Hostetler: Math Teacher at Aiken High School of Aiken County Public Schools, 11 years teaching experience

- Nicole Yemothy: PLTW Teacher at Gettys Middle School of Pickens County School District, 16 years teaching experience

- Sharonda Jacobs: Math Teacher at Aiken Scholars Academy of Aiken County Public Schools, 20 years teaching experience

This concluded the Superintendent's report. Chair Woodall thanked the Superintendent and asked if there were any questions.

VII. PARLIAMENTARIAN COMMENTS

Parliamentarian Hazelwood announced that lunch will be provided to the in-person attending Board Members unless notified otherwise. She apologized for the confusion with today's luncheon.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

IX. STATE BOARD ITEMS

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Did not meet.

EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS—COMMITTEE REPORT

Did not meet.

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY—COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. Stapleton reported that the committee met and heard one action item(s). The action item(s) was placed on the Consent Agenda.

This concluded Mrs. Stapleton's report.

FOR APPROVAL

01. Approval of District Virtual Learning Programs—Dr. David Mathis, Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness

FOR INFORMATION

No items.

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 six case(s), which consisted of one Consent Order of Suspension and five Orders of Suspension.

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

Chair-Elect Walters stated that the FB-ELC met 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 a reinstatement.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Chari-Elect Walters made the motion to approve all items on the consent agenda. Mr. Brenan 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.

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

FOR APPROVAL

01. Approval of District Virtual Learning Programs—Dr. David Mathis, Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness

SBE SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EDUCATION—REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

01. Athletic Waiver Request of Student Athlete for the Charleston County School District—Ryan Brown, Chief Communications Officer, South Carolina Department of Education and Agency Representative for South Carolina High School League Executive Committee

Please see the attachment for transcription.

Mr. Brenan had no questions, but made a motion to approve the athletic waiver request presented by the Charleston County School District. Mr. Hinze seconded the motion. Chair Woodall asked that the members vote on the motion. The motion passes 9-3.

The Chair will be sending a letter to the High School League passing the waiver.

FOR INFORMATION

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

Dr. Mathis reported that during the October SBE meeting, the Department will provide a presentation on the 2021 state summative assessment results. Dr. Mathis provided a quick overview of information for the Board to review ahead of the October meeting. Dr. Mathis asked the Board to email ~~your~~ questions so that we can make sure they are addressed.

"The 2020-2021 school year was a year like no other. We should be cautious in the review of the data when comparing to previous years. Modes of instruction: virtual, hybrid, face-to-face, quarantine of students, nuance of digital tools through learning management systems, and loss of instructional time to name a few impacted student learning unlike previous years. Using 2019 results as a benchmark of information, we can begin the path forward of addressing unfinished learning."

Dr. Mathis reported the following information:

SC READY English Language Arts (ELA) and Math Grades 3-8:

- The scores you have before you represent students score at Meeting or Exceeding Expectations. Students scoring at this level are on track to demonstrate college and career readiness. During the October presentation, we will provide you with the percentile cut scores for each scoring level.
- Math scores yielded the larger decline.
- Sixth grade math had the second highest decline, but demonstrated a slight increase in ELA.
- Grades three and four resulted in some of the largest declines. Keep in mind, 2021 was the first year that students in either grade were administered a summative assessment.

End of Course Evaluation Program (EOCEP)

- More D's and F's and fewer A's, B's, and C's in Algebra I, Biology, and US History.
- A comparison of English scores is not recommended. In 2018-19 the EOC English exam administered was English I. In 2021, the English EOC exam move to English II. Students taking the English I assessment in 2021 represent a very small population of upperclassman who had not taken the English I exam.

Ready to Work

Administered to all 11th grade students.

- Successfully pass a minimum of Level 6 and 7 in all assessments to be ready for 99% of jobs in the workforce (Platinum)
- Successfully pass a minimum of Level 5 in all assessments to be ready for 90% of jobs in the workforce. (Gold)
- Successfully pass a minimum of Level 4 in all assessments to be ready for 65% of jobs in the workforce. (Silver)
- Successfully pass a minimum of Level 3 in all assessments to be ready for 35% of jobs in the workforce. (Bronze)
- Students receiving a silver, gold, or platinum ready to work certificate meet the Career Readiness indicator for South Carolina Accountability.

ACCESS

Administered to student who qualify for multi-lingual services working toward Language proficiency.

- Students are assessed in four domains, reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
- To be considered language proficient, a student must score a 4.0 or higher on each of the domains and an overall composite score of 4.4 or higher.
- Students in grades four and five demonstrated the largest gap when compared to 2018-19.
- ACCESS assessment at grades four and five are at a higher level of difficulty, more expectations of completing parts of the assessment online as opposed to a paper and pencil format.

- The 2021 ACCESS administration was the first year that was almost completely administered online. Previously, there was a significant amount of paper administration which included locally based hand-scoring.
- In addition to ACCESS, multi-lingual learners must also take grade level summative assessments (SC READY, SC PASS, EOCEP, Ready to Work).

This concluded Dr. Mathis' report.

Chair Woodall asked if there were any questions.

Chair Woodall thanked Dr. Mathis for his report.

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

Ms. Mack reported that the Allendale County School District hosted a community meeting on August 23, 2021, and had 125 participants. The district moved to virtual learning from August 27-September 8, 2021. The new primary wing opened for Allendale-Fairfax Elementary school.

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

Ms. Mack reported that the district sponsored a school supply distribution at each of its elementary schools on August 14th. Williamsburg County School District have 418 fully-vaccinated employees and four employees waiting on a second dose. The district has approximately 535 employees. The district will be providing incentive pay to all staff who are fully vaccinated.

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

Ms. Mack reported that the FCSD 4 moved to virtual learning from September 1-September 10, 2021. The FCSD 4 was also selected as a recipient for Team Honda's Week of Service Virtual School Supply Drive.

This concluded Mrs. Mack's report

Chair Woodall thanked Mrs. Mack for her report.

Chair Woodall asked if there were any questions.

Dr. West had questions concerning an email from FCSD 4 School Board that discussed several concerns. Dr. West wanted their concerns noted and addressed.

Ms. Hazelwood reported the SCDE are in constant contact with the district and school board. Inquiries have been made concerning the shared services between districts and have been answered by the SCDE. All emails and correspondence are responded to in a timely manner. Ms. Hazelwood confirmed that Florence 1 and Florence 4 will continue the consolidating process.

Superintendent Spearman stated she is in constant communication with Florence and the appropriate school board chairs. Questions are continuing to be answered and replied to by SCDE. Still waiting on redistricting information from the General Assembly concerning Timmonsville area. An election for vacancies in Florence 4 is scheduled for this November, but they will be very short terms. Florence 1 did open enrollment to Florence 4 students this school year. One hundred thirty four students elected to go to Florence 1 schools.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.