

MINUTES

State Board of Education Meeting

Date

Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Time

1:00 p.m.

Location

Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Alan Walters, Chair

Crissy Stapleton, 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 Alan Walters, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; Chair-Elect Crystal Stapleton, Second Judicial Circuit; Maya Slaughter, First Judicial Circuit; Delaney K. Frierson, Third Judicial Circuit; Cathy D. Chapman, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Joyce Crimminger, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Carl Hinze, Seventh Judicial Circuit David O'Shields, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Sallie R. Lee, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Cheryl Collier, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; Mary Cordray, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; Kristi Woodall, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; and Michael Brenan, Governor's Appointee. Larry Kobrovsky, Ninth Judicial Circuit attended virtually.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff were physically attending: Cathy Hazelwood, Deputy Superintendent, General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Holly Hadden, Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division of 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; Tracy Moore, SBE Minutes

Taker/Administrative Coordinator, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Kenzie Riddle, Program Manager, Office of Governmental Affairs, Division of Legal Affairs; Frances “Cricket” Katsos, Administrative Coordinator, Office of Governmental Affairs, Division of Legal Affairs; Adam Compton, Law Clerk, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Whitney Barnes, Law Clerk, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Travis Huggins, Information Technology Manager I, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; Quinn Murphy, IT Specialist III, 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; Raymond Dues, IT Specialist II, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; and Courtney Ardis, IT Technician III, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations.

Also in attendance were the following employees: Dr. Christina Melton, Director; Kayce Cook, Team Lead; Llewellyn Shealy, Program Manager; Marquita Blaylock, Education Associate; Mandy Hocker, Education Associate; and Kayce Prince-Harvey, Education Associate, all in the Office of Assessment and Standards, and Abbey Duggins, Director, Early Learning and Literacy, Division of College and Career Readiness.

I. WELCOME/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Chair-Elect Stapleton led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 11, 2022

Chair Walters asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes as presented for the SBE meeting on October 11, 2022. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 8, 2022

Chair Walters asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda as presented for the November 8, 2022, SBE meeting. Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND NEWS MEDIA

Chair Walters welcomed any media and asked if any visitors had signed in. No media or visitors signed in.

STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Walters reported that next month's full board meeting, will be at 1:30 p.m. "If you haven't voted today, of course it is election day and we will find out who the new superintendent will be probably tonight. It is no shave November, that's what this is face is about. Men's health issues and prostate cancer awareness. My wife has a shiny new razor waiting for December the first. She waves it at me every day." This concluded the Chair's report.

V. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Chair Walters recognized Superintendent Spearman.

The Superintendent reported that today is election day. She encouraged everyone to go and participate. "Hopefully we will know tonight who my successor is." The Superintendent pledges that "whomever it is, we will do everything possible here at this agency for a smooth transition to help them be set up and ready to go on January the 11th, the day of the inauguration. So looking forward to that. My staff and directors are already working on transition information to hand over to the Superintendent elect next week. We will be very cooperative and try to set a good example of how transitions are supposed to happen. Now I have one other thing, I'll say that at the end, but this month has been so busy and time is just flying by. I can't believe it, that it's November and I only have one meeting left with you all, in December, but looking forward to that.

This past week I had the chance to go down to make an announcement along with Congressman Clyburn and the Regional Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Our transportation staff began, months ago, with our grants office to work on South Carolina's application for funding for electric school buses. They did a remarkable job. We began the conversations with the utility providers so that they can be ready with the infrastructure to set up should we be awarded. We had several phone calls; the EPA was on calls with us and I could tell that they were impressed with our agency and the collaboration that we had around our award. We were not shocked, but we were very grateful that South Carolina did win an extensive grant, \$58 million, the third highest in the nation; California and New York, then little old South Carolina. How about that? I do think our collaboration with the utility industry helped our support from our congressional delegation. We are just thrilled about this. We are set, ready to go, as soon as that funding arrives, we are ready to order the buses, the utility companies are ready to go to set up the infrastructure. There will be, as you see there, 148 buses will be purchased for 16. There are rural districts that have been identified by the EPA as eligible, Orangeburg District was allocated \$6 million. They will be one of the districts that will be set up early on. We had a wonderful event, special thanks to the Orangeburg district for their hosting the event. The reporters were there to ask us questions. The best part were the students. Orangeburg has a magnet school of communication and

journalism for elementary students. The students were wonderful. They were sharper, I would say, than the paid professionals who were there with their questions. It was just a treat to be questioned. The Congressman was questioned by them as well. I was very, very proud of how Orangeburg, had the focus on them and they met the occasion.

A few weeks prior to that, I went up to Marlboro County and into Dillon County to celebrate with infrastructure funding. This is the funding through the state general assembly for rural school districts. We awarded \$3 million to Marlboro County for some renovation and replacements of equipment there. That's part of the \$140 million that was appropriated in this year's budget. We also stopped by Dillon. We had already announced their award, but we needed to stop and celebrate in person with the folks there in Latta and in Dillon. \$15 million there, for their two school districts. They are building a new elementary school where they're consolidating several elementary schools into one. Really good progress being made in the infrastructure in these rural counties. I hope that the General Assembly will keep that award coming because there's certainly plenty need across our state.

I have served as President of CCSSO over this last year, a real honor to work with the board of directors and to represent my colleagues from across the country. Several staff members went with us last week for a conference. Dan Ralyea was invited to be on a panel to tell about the innovative work that we have done in our data and research areas, through technology and our system. Very few departments are able to get all the data from their districts. When we came into this building it was not done. It has been building trust so that the districts would work with us and share data. We are now one of the few states in the country that has a system where we get all of that information from the districts, and far beyond that now with Dan's leadership and Brian Pratt and all of our folks working together. They were highlighted in a panel. I was really proud of our state, so that was fun. Kirsten Basler is the State Superintendent of North Dakota and she has now taken the reigns as president of CCSSO. Slowly but surely I'm shedding all of my responsibilities. But I will be here with you all until January the 11th at 11:00 a.m.

Starting today, our tech staff is recording and also broadcasting/live streaming the committee meetings. It was not widely broadcast and advertised for today, as it was a trial run to make sure it goes okay. I think it did. For you all who are listening in the future, you will be able to attend virtually the committee meetings that are held in the morning and be able to listen in to all of the discussion. I think that's particularly important since we do use the consent agenda format. Folks want to hear more discussion; they will be able to do that from home."

Chair Walters commented, "Thank you for that and it is important. The public really needs to see how much work goes on in those committee meetings. We give summaries and such in this meeting, but it is a lot of hard work, a lot of hours in the morning and a lot of hours of preparation that the committee members put into those meetings to be able to get the work

done. Thank you for implementing that and hopefully the public will avail themselves of this technology.”

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

VI. STATE BOARD ITEMS

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Walters reported that the sub-committee did not meet.

FOR APPROVAL

No items.

FOR INFORMATION

No items.

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Walters recognized Ms. Frierson, who reported that the subcommittee met and heard two action items, and no items for information.

FOR APPROVAL

- 1. New Educator Preparation Program Approval Recommendation: College of Charleston Bachelor of Science (BS) in Special Education**
- 2. New Educator Preparation Program Approval Recommendation: Francis Marion University Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) in Special Education**

FOR INFORMATION

No items.

EP EDUCATOR PROFESSIONS—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Walters recognized Ms. Lee, who reported that the subcommittee met and heard 2 action items, and 0 item(s) for information.

FOR APPROVAL

3. South Carolina College- and Career- Ready English Language Arts Standards–First Reading

Dr. Mathis reported that “it is every seven years, and this is the year for English Language Arts (ELA) to be revised. As I mentioned in the meeting today, all standards are important, all content is important, but especially ELA because it permeates all of our content. I have always said we need to learn to read well, and we need to learn to read early well and with the content standards that we're presenting, I think that will happen. The group that you saw stand is in Dr. Melton's division, Office of Assessment and Standards. this will be one of the first times that we will be able to develop an assessment together as the standards were developed. This takes that guesswork out of all that. Casey Cook is the team lead for that office and was instrumental in leading the revision of the standards that she will present to you that information.”

Ms. Cook reported, “Chairman Walters, thank you. My name is Casey Cook and I am honored to be the spokesperson for this process. I will walk you through a few slides that we shared this morning. We appreciate the opportunity to come back today and share this afternoon. This is a timeline that just shows the journey of our process. We began in fall of 2020 and here we are today, two years later, very excited about what we think is a strong and rigorous product. We are excited to share that with you and the field.”

Ms. Cook reported on the demographics of the standards writing committee for 2022. “We were intentional to select committee members who are evenly distributed among grade levels.” She highlighted representative grade levels from K2 to high school, intentional representation of gifted and talented expertise, AP and IB expertise as well as special ED and English language learner expertise. She further detailed the years of experience of the committee members in the 2022 standards writing committee and the communicated opportunity to engage in the standards writing committee and release that survey into the field to request participation. Ms. Cook reported that the committee demographics of the districts that engaged with that committee survey link and the districts that they represent. She also reported on the representation of the sizes of the districts of the committee members. Ms. Cook provided “a great visual of our standards writing committee and the demographics, how the makeup of our standards writing committee mirrors the demographics of our state. Ms. Cook reported on the “guiding recommendations behind the standards writing process, the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) provided recommendations as well as the field and educators in the field. She provided slides showing the recommendations and the actions that were taken by the committee. It was recommended that we reduce the number of strands from six, we did that there are now four. It was also recommended that we reduced the number of standards. We did that, so we had 41 in 2015, we now have 20, in the 2022 document. We have added foundations of literacy and we have really paid attention to eliminating repetitive verbs and making the product very

concise, vertically articulated, measurable, and cognitively appropriate, developmentally appropriate. We also made the completed draft available to the field in various ways, the State Department website, social media and other ways and meetings. We had over 300 responses from the field and made that draft available along with a rubric. The calculation was seven points for content and rigor, three points for clarity and specificity for a score of 10. 9 to 10 would be strong, 7 to 8 would be good. Anything below 4 was weak. Everything ranked in good and strong from the field. We were very pleased with that. We also took the field's comments and made those comments and revisions and recommendations available to the committee, all of them. We created our own rubric so that we could be efficient. Any comment that came from the field that was not actionable received a score of one. And that meant, "Hey great job, we appreciate the direction we're heading, great product" Twos were comments and recommendations that needed the standards committee attention. They needed to weigh in and make decisions. If the comment received a three, that was something that we could act immediately with; which would be maybe a formatting error or something that we could do in our office immediately. All scores and feedback, again, were made available to the committee. The revisions were drafted. And you see the new draft is what we have available today.

Chair Walters commented, "for the public's benefit, most of the board members actually sat in this committee meeting this morning, which is, doesn't always happen. But this is such a serious topic. There was a lot of interest in, there's some good discussions. I think it would be appropriate, Ms. Frierson, if you want to bring up some of those points."

Ms. Frierson replied, "It bears repeating that I was very moved by this committee and the things that you are doing, the back to basics and education with the cursive writing and students needing to have mastered cursive writing by fifth grade touched my heart immensely. I mentioned this morning that I saw where you addressed political and social essays, to which I totally agree. In addition, I think it was historical, scientific, and political essays. I suggested that you would add to the list of essays, college applications essays because students are really not getting the funding that they could get from across this nation as well as in the state because they do not have or feel confident with those skills. Especially in the rural and disenfranchised or disconnected districts that we have. I remember that there was reference to regarding speeches, students being able to orally communicate. I ask that you consider some way, somehow of adding mock job interviews, scholarship interviews, college admission interviews, especially for our students, again, who are in these small communities who may not have the opportunity to get jobs like in our larger communities with business and industry. All of this is moved by what we say we are, who we say we are. We are South Carolina's College and Career Readiness. That's who we are and these are our standards. If we are going to be college and career ready, we need to get our babies college and career ready."

Dr. O'Shields was recognized and commented, "There were some notable pros as compared to questions or concerns. I do think it should be noted that the formatting is incredibly teacher friendly. The appendices are very helpful. There are checklists that teachers can use. The progression of skills is built into the formatting. Skills seem to be broken down better and the language isn't as vague as it had been in the past. I felt reassured today that as this is rolled out, two things happen; bridge documents or blueprints and support documents for those in the field. Many times, people who might be even teaching elementary may not be first career teacher. They may have to come through an alternate certification. The better we can help prepare them with additional supports and additional documents. As I talked with Dr. Melton outside, it's incumbent that we as a state board ensure to the best of our ability that we advocate for the full funding of it. You don't become better in ELA without the materials needed. That means books and consumables and things that would then be needed. It is going to take a heavy lift and it is going to take some money. But the reality is, you don't learn to read if you don't have material to read. I think we have to be mindful of that. Don't forget those districts that may, as we would see, have schools in the Palmetto priority that we roll out the standards with additional support. I think they've thought through thing, I had a laundry list of things, but I think it is a definite step in the right direction. I just think, whereas in looking at where we are going next to be mindful of the teachers who may be doing that, imparting of that love of learning as well as the need for the resources to make that learning occur."

The Superintendent responded, "I know that they've been working for a long time, and I appreciate your dedication to this. It is so obvious that you have listened to the teachers and educators across the state. They have been crying out for fewer, deeper standards and so obvious that you all have done that. I remember this is one of the few things that I've been here long enough to see. You know, once every seven years in a term you don't get to see that. But since I've served two terms, I remember when we came into office in 2015, election 2014 January, come into office, we had no standards. We had to act very quickly, we took the work that my predecessor had started just a few months earlier and really turned this thing around in a few months instead of the two years that it really needs to be done so, so deeply. We rushed and frankly did the best we could with it. I appreciate the work that was done. But this is a great step in the right direction for fewer standards and especially now connected with our assessment. I have always been very concerned that we are assessing and some of the things we're assessing, didn't match up with what the standards were. I believe that this board and our next state superintendent and all of our teachers, all parents, families, everyone, students are going to benefit from the work that you have done. Thank you so much."

Chair Walters confirmed with Ms. Frierson that the item had been approved and placed on the Consent Agenda. Ms. Frierson confirmed. Chair Walters reminded the Board that this item would come back to the Board for second reading, most likely in January.

FOR INFORMATION

No items.

ELC EDUCATOR LICENSURE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Walters recognized Ms. Chapman who reported the sub-committee met and took action upon the following 22 cases; 1 approval(s) for initial certification, 20 suspensions, and 1 public reprimand(s).

Chair Walters commented, “I want to thank the Office of Legal Counsel. They are short-handed and they are still working these cases, getting them to us. As you all are aware, in the last few months, it's unfortunate, that we have twice as many cases to deal with. They are trying to stay ahead of them as they come in so that we don't get behind, and these matters can get resolved in a timely fashion. I want to recognize and thank you for that as well.”

FB-ELC FULL BOARD EDUCATOR LICENSURE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Walters reported that the Full Board ELC met and took action upon one case, resulting in a dismissal of the action. Chair Walters also confirmed that the FB ELC ratified the work of the ELC.

N NOMINATION FOR THE 2023 CHAIR-ELECT—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Walter announced the selection of the Committee Chair, Cathy Chapman, and members for the Chair-Elect nominating Committee, Dr. Woodall and Ms. Frierson. The results will be presented at the December meeting.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Dr. Stapleton made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Dr. O'Shields seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

IX. SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

01. Second Reading of Proposed Amendment to Regulation 43-234. Defined Program for Grade 9-12. – Kenzie Riddle, Program Manager, Office of Governmental Affairs, Division of Legal Affairs

Chair Walters recognized Kenzie Riddle.

“This is the second reading for the proposed amendment de regulation 43 234. The proposed amendment is a one-half credit in financial literacy as a requirement for earning a South Carolina High School diploma, it reduces the required credits for electives from 7.0 to 6.5 and provides for a one credit personal finance course to satisfy the one-half credit for financial literacy. This will take effect with the Freshman class of 23/24.”

Dr. Woodall asked if there will be flexibility with the types of certificates that will be approved to teach this class.

Dr. Mathis replied, “That's probably the number one question we get because scheduling a half a unit in a high school without anything to balance in, is very difficult. Our state superintendent is the Chair of CCSSO. So reached out to CCSSO, they say the “gold standard” of personal finance is the State of Virginia. We had a conversation with them, they've been doing this since 2009 and that was their thought, not to put any barriers when it comes to certification. Here is what the stakeholder committee will work through this as we develop the standards. These are considerations and nothing is final. The business teachers who are already teaching the business course, that would count the economics teachers or social studies teachers who are teaching economics. We would consider math teachers; however, superintendents have reminded us that math teachers are hard to come by. They can't give up a period of math to teach personal finance. Virginia also used teachers of consumer economics because of setting up home budgets. Superintendent Spearman suggested AG teachers because of the entrepreneurship and so we're considering that. In talking to the WPEC Superintendents, a couple of weeks ago and the superintendents last week, there is much interest in us considering an endorsement. I have spoken with Mary Hipp in Educator Services. If you are a certified teacher and go through the endorsement process, you're probably pretty passionate about personal finance. We would need to work out what that process would be, whether it would be some kind of certification, like a Dave Ramsey certification or a coursework or micro-credentials. But the stakeholder committee that we have is the financial literacy board that works with Superintend Spearman. Those stakeholders in business and industry are advising us on what that could be. So, to answer your question, we want as much flexibility with the certification for the courses that can be offered so that it is meaningful for students and without any barriers.”

Dr. Woodall responded with appreciation for the research. She reported that no one questions the need for the course, but with the shortages, having that flexibility makes it easier to “roll-out to the districts.”

Chair Walters asked if there were further questions or discussion. Hearing none, Chair Walters reported that because this is a second reading, a motion was unnecessary, and he called for a vote. The item passed by unanimous vote.

FOR INFORMATION

02. State Board of Education (SBE) Meeting Dates for 2023—Crissie Stapleton, Ed.D., Chair-Elect, South Carolina State Board of Education

Dr. Stapleton reported, “Each of you have with you today the list of the 2023 committee and full state Board of Education meeting dates for the New year. The South Carolina Board of Education recognizes that the outcome of the elections today will provide the state with a new superintendent who will be sworn in as superintendent on Spearman stated on Tuesday, January 11th, 2023. As such, the January meeting on your list is delayed to the 3rd Tuesday of January, making it January 17th, 2023, so that she may attend. We look forward to welcoming our new superintendent at that time. That is why you will see a change in our normal date, which is normally the second Tuesday. Please note that the State Board of Education will not meet during the month of July. However, depending on any legislative and/or educational issues that may arise around that time, we may need to meet in July and we would do that as a special called meeting. Also of note, there are no holidays on the second Tuesday this coming year in 2023 to have to contend with. Your attendance is optional at the South Carolina State read-in at the state capital and at the South Carolina Teacher of the Year banquet. Although those are both listed on those meeting dates that we share.

03. Literacy Update - David Mathis, EdD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness

Today’s Literacy Update will focus on the state legislative requirements of Act 213, which is also known Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS) legislation. Act 213 (Dyslexia Screenings) initially began as a bill to address the identification and support of students with potential literacy disorders, including dyslexia. In recognition of the multi-tier requirements in ESSA, the General Assembly expanded the bill to require the SCDE to create a statewide MTSS framework

What is MTSS?

A multi-tiered system of supports or MTSS is a framework with a tiered infrastructure that uses data to help match academic and behavior assessment and instructional resources to each student’s needs.

In this tiered, data-informed framework, educators work to ensure that the majority of students respond to core instruction. Students who need additional supports for enrichment or remediation are identified by data and provided that support with the right focus and intensity.

Focus of Act 213

- The SCDE was required to develop a statewide MTSS framework and offer training on MTSS.
- The framework included the creation of a universal screening process, which must be used to identify students who may be at risk of experiencing academic difficulties in reading, math, or writing, and who also may be at risk of experiencing difficulties in social-emotional development.
- Districts are required to screen all students for potential literacy difficulties three times a year in grades K–1, and are encouraged to develop similar processes for identifying and serving students in other grades and subject areas
- Although the legislature’s reporting requirements focus on the early grades, MTSS is a 4K-12 process.

Chair Walters asked Dr. Mathis for an update on the instructional hub.

Dr. Mathis reported, “We allocated funding from our ESSR funding, our federal COVID funding, to help build this instructional hub that is available now to all teachers. I can you just give a two-minute update on where we are at that. We are moving ahead with the instruction hub, and the purpose of the hub is to provide all educators, all children in our state with the most appropriate resources regardless of their ability to purchase materials. We have loaded that with materials that we've purchased through ESSR monies; Discovery Education, DreamBox Learning, Math Nation. Those resources are there, but we are on the cusp, I think, of something that is really going to be powerful in the instruction hub. We are taking some of our best teachers and they are creating lessons and unit plans. I have read a number of those, and they are going to be loaded into the repository such that a teacher can go in anywhere he or she is in the state, and lift those out. They will be well-aligned to our standards, to that core instruction for those tiered systems of support, so that they can pull those lessons out and either modify them or teach them as they are. If you have, as Dr O’Shields spoke about earlier, first year teachers coming in, or may not be coming the traditional route, you want them to see a good lesson plan. They can go in and pull that lesson plan out and see in simple. I think this is one of those things that we often use the word “game changer”. As you know, we overuse it, but I think this will be a “game changer” once a teacher sees it's one place to go and get all those resources. We are to the point of bringing on a few more people to really manage all the resources that will be put in there. I am especially impressed with the quality of lessons that these teachers are out there writing.”

This concluded Dr. Mathis’ report.

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

On October 12th, Allendale County School District hosted a school board community meeting. They had parent teacher conferences on October the 20th and they held a volunteer orientation session on October 19th.

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

In Williamsburg, Hemingway Community meetings were held on October 25th and October 27th, where the district received feedback and input by the community. Williamsburg County School District High School students will begin taking courses offered by the continuum in Lake City and Francis Marion University. This is an addition to the partnership the district has with Williamsburg Technical College. The Flexible Academy will begin to serve over age students in grades 6 through 12.

This concluded Ms. Mack's report.

Chair Walters recognized Superintendent Spearman for remarks.

Superintendent Spearman commented, "I will just add thank you Ms. Mack, I appreciate all the work that you do as a connector and supporter in both of those school districts. Elections are being held in both Williamsburg and Allendale for vacancies on the school board. We are watching and it looks like some very qualified people are running. As you know, we hope to transfer the authority back as soon as possible to those local communities. We hope that will happen, but we are still watching, but working very closely with, particularly the Allendale board, to make that transfer happen. We are also working with Williamsburg but watching very closely how the election goes today. Thank you."

Chair Walters commented, "That is not something that expires with your term, if you are not satisfied with that, it can carry over."

Superintendent Spearman responded, "That is exactly right. We will make the decision that's in the best interest of the students there."

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Walters reminded all members to turn in their travel forms prior to their departure.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 1:52 p.m.