MINUTES
State Board of Education Meeting

Date

Tuesday, February 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; Delaney K. Frierson, Third Judicial Circuit; Cathy D. Chapman, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Larry Kobrovsky, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Sallie R. Lee, Tenth Judicial Circuit; David Whittemore, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; Mary Cordray, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; and Michael Brenan, Governor's Appointee. Members attending virtually were Cynthia A. Downs, Ed.D., Eighth Judicial Circuit.
Dr. J.R. Green, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Carl Hinze, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Jean Pearson, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; and Kristi Woodall, Sixteenth 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, Division of Legal Affairs; Barbara A. Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Katie Nilges, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, Division of Legal Affairs; Tracy Moore, State Board and Division of Legal Affairs Administrative Coordinator, Office of General Counsel, Division

of Legal Affairs; Kinzie Riddle, Administrative Coordinator, Office of Governmental Affairs, Division of Legal Affairs; Frances "Cricket" Katsos, Administrative Coordinator, Office of Governmental Affairs, Division of Legal Affairs; Betsy Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; John Payne, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Federal Programs and Comprehensive Educational Services; David Mathis, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness; Kimberly E. Mack, Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Federal Programs and Comprehensive Educational Services; Marlene Sellars, Administrative Coordinator, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability, and School Improvement; Carla Edwards, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services, Recruitment and Recognition, Division of Federal Programs and Comprehensive Education Services; Derek Phillips, Public Information Director, Office of Communications; 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; and Raymond Dues, IT Specialist II, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations.

I. WELCOME/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SBE meeting convened at 1:03 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. (Due to the pandemic, all JROTC performances are discontinued until further notice.)

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATIOON MINUTES FOR JANUARY 11, 2022

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

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

Chair Walters asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda as presented for the February 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 had signed in.

V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Walters introduced Dr. Cheryl Collier, recently appointed State Board Member for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. Dr. Collier replaces David Whittemore, who has served since January 1, 2015. Chair Walters thanked Mr. Whittemore for serving past his term until his replacement was appointed. Chair Walters also wished Mr. Whittemore happy birthday. Mr. Whittemore wished happy birthday to Chair Walters.

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Superintendent Spearman reported on the following:

1. ESSER Funding Dashboard
    a. Launched January 27, 2022
    b. Transparent way for taxpayers to see how schools and districts are utilizing federal funds.
        i. Website: www.ed.sc.gov/data/reports/esser-funding

2. Second Annual Student Writing Contest- sponsored by Dominion Energy
    a. Juniors and seniors encouraged to write about a notable African American with ties to S.C. who has inspired them.
    b. Winners receive an Apple MacBook Air and $1,000 for their school.

3. Suicide Prevention Hotline Partnership
    a. The SCDE has provided $250,000 to Mental Health America of Greenville County to sustain the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.
    b. 2021 saw the highest call volume in ages 7-19 (suicide & family relationships).

4. National School Counseling Week
    a. National School Counseling Week is February 7-11, 2022.
    b. The SCDE would like to thank the more than 2,370 school counselors who serve our schools.

VII. PARLEMENTARIAN COMMENT

Chair Walters recognized Cathy Hazelwood, Parliamentarian. Ms. Hazelwood reminded the Board members to file their 2022 Statements of Economic Interest.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

IX. STATE BOARD ITEMS

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Did not meet.

EP EDUCATOR PROFESSIONS—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Walters recognized Ms. Lee, who reported that the sub-committee met and heard two action item(s) and no item(s) for information. The action items were placed on the Consent Agenda. This concluded Ms. Lee's report.

FOR APPROVAL

01. Adoption of Additional Certification Assessment Option for School Leadership

02. Identification of Critical Need Subject Areas for 2022-23

FOR INFORMATION

No items.

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Walters recognized Ms. Frierson, who reported that the sub-committee met and heard one action item(s) and 0item(s) for information. The action items were placed on the Consent Agenda. This concluded Ms. Frierson's report.

FOR APPROVAL

01. Adoption of Additional Social Studies Instructional Materials

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 19 cases: 17 suspensions, 1 Public Reprimand, and 1 revocation. Ms. Chapman further reported that these matters were ratified during the Full Board ELC meeting.

FB-ELC FULL BOARD EDUCATOR LICENSURE–COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Walters reported that the Full Board ELC met and took action upon the following 5 cases: 3 initial certification (1 application denied), 1 suspension, and 1 permanent revocation. He confirmed that the Full Board ELC ratified the work of the ELC.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

All Committee Items presented to the State Board for approval by motion make up the Consent Agenda. Mr. Brenan made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Stapleton seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

X. SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

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

Dr Mathis reported that one of the priorities that Superintendent Spearman has set forth for the SCDE in the current calendar year, is to complete the revision of English language arts (ELA) and Math Standards. As an update to this priority, the Office of Assessment and Standards is taking the lead in this work. Writing committee members throughout South Carolina have been identified and have begun this work. Additionally, national consultants have also been identified to ensure our standards are competitive when compared to other states.

In the revision of both sets of standards what we know to be important to teachers:

- Fewer standards that are prioritized for each grade level,
- Practitioners' input from teachers and administrators,
- Advice from national experts,
- Standards that are written with clarity,
- Vertical alignment from grade level to grade level,
- Supporting documents and resources linked within the standards,
- Remove the guesswork from what will be assessed, and
- ELA and Math Standards written in the same format to avoid confusion of what is expected.

This is important work that will be valuable to districts in their efforts to address unfinished learning brought on by the pandemic. Currently, we are on track to complete the writing process by fall 2022 which will be followed by a period of review and public comment before Education Oversight Committee approval and the return to the SBE for approval.

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 on January 6th, ASCD announced a partnership with the Celebrate

Freedom Foundation for a drone training program and the district leadership team met to develop a plan to address all subgroup deficiency areas and learning loss from the previous year.

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

Ms. Mack reported that in FDSD-4, Brockington Elementary School celebrated their honor roll recipients on January 19th. The district celebrated the hundredth day of school on the 28th of January and benchmark testing took place during the week of January 31st.

04. 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 in WCSD, Kingstreet High School placed in the top 10 for the South Carolina 2-A basketball. Selected staff from C.E. Murray and Kingstreet High School met on Thursday January 27th to begin discussing school colors and the mascot for the consolidation of C.E. Murray and Kingstreet High School. Future meetings will include selected students from each high school.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Superintendent Spearman updated the Board on the progress with the consolidation of Florence One and Four. On January 13th, the Florence One Board met and voted to allow Dr. Richard O'Malley, its superintendent, to serve as my designated representative in Florence Four. Dr. O'Malley has worked very quickly and appropriately with Ms. Mack to move forward on the plans for consolidation. They have surveyed all of the staff and found that most everyone in Florence Four would like a job in Florence One, with a few retirements. They are in the process of scheduling meetings for the personnel directors of Florence One to interview those staff members so that the best placement can be made. As previously mentioned, if a job is not available, I have committed to assist in notifying surrounding superintendents of their availability. Information has been sent out to parents of the middle school and the high school students allowing those families to make a choice as to which high school in Florence One or which middle school they would like to attend next year. Many have already responded, though more high school students than middle school students have responded. They are aware and plan for continued information and communications so that parents understand what the available options are. Dr. O'Malley, his staff, and Ms. Mack are working on all of that.

Last Thursday I held a meeting with the Board Chair and Vice-Chair of both Florence One and Florence Four, to assemble that group through the school-board's association. Ms. Mack was

on the call as well as other staff members with me to provide Ms. Joe and the Vice Chair, Mr. Echols, up to date information on the progress that has been made. I thought it was a very productive meeting and appreciated their time. Moving forward, more has to be done as quickly as possible, and we are doing that. Superintendent Spearman shared that she as well as Katie Nilges has continued to meet with the Florence County legislative delegation because there are some local legislation needs. I met this morning with Senator Johnson briefly, reported that these conversations would be ongoing, and that some movement should be noticed very soon. The introduction of some local legislation will take care of several issues, such as the consolidation, how the tax levy will be handled, how the representation for Timmonsville and the farms board will be handled. She is very pleased with the work that's going on.

Superintendent Spearman reported that things continue to move in Williamsburg. Dr. Wilder is working to do similar type information-gathering from the families at C.E. Murray as we will be closing the C.E. Murray High School at the end of this school year. Those students will be transferring over to Kingstreet. Dr. Wilder is holding meetings with the students about school colors, school mascots, those things that are really important. You know the minutia, but we're allowing those students to be very-very involved with that. They are very excited. I've had no complaints from students, and I think the parents realize this is the best move for their students.

Superintended also reported that in Allendale, there is a meeting scheduled at the end of this month with their board officers to discuss the process for transition with them.

Mr. Kobrovsky asked about the transportation times of students with the closing of C.E. Murray. Superintendent Spearman replied that the amount of time a student travels on a bus is an issue by state law, that no student can be on a bus more than 90 minutes, one-way. The SCDE and the districts stay as far south of that as we possibly can. They are evaluating how many will come close to or possibly exceed this, and consider how many high schoolers will drive to school. She also reported that we will be looking at that and stay within the law. Superintendent related that in Williamsburg County, upon takeover we closed the charter school, which was way out in the country. This closed some of the proximity for those students. Some of those families elected to go to, instead of coming into town into Kingstreet for elementary school or the nearest elementary school in Williamsburg, they were actually closer to Andrews Elementary in Georgetown County. The Georgetown School District has been very open to helping with that and she appreciates that. Superintendent Spearman does not think this is an available option right now in Williamsburg but will consider every alternative possible to stay within the law and accommodate as many students as possible.

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 1:27 p.m.