

MINUTES

State Board of Education Meeting

Date

Tuesday, April 12, 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; Joyce Crimminger, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Carl Hinze, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Larry Kobrovsky, Ninth 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 Brennan, Governor's Appointee. David O'Shields, Eighth Judicial Circuit, attended virtually.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff physically attended: Molly Spearman, State Superintendent of Education; Cathy Hazelwood, Deputy Superintendent, General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Barbara A. Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; V. Henry Gunter, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Tracy Moore, SBE Minutes Taker/Administrative Coordinator, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Katie Nilges, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, 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; Betsy Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; David Mathis, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness; Quincie Moore, Director Early Learning & Literacy, Division of College and Career Readiness; Lilla Toal-Mandsager, Director Educator Effectiveness & Leadership Development; Kimberly E. Mack, Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of College and Career Readiness; Virgie Chambers, Deputy Superintendent, Division of District Operations, Safety, and Student Wellness; Donna Davis, Director Health and Nutrition, Division of District Operations, Safety, and Student Wellness; Derek Phillips, Public Information Director, Office of Communications; Travis Huggins, Information Technology Manager I, 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; Quinn Murphy, IT Specialist III, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; and Raymond Dues, IT Specialist III, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations.

I. WELCOME/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SBE meeting convened at 1:02 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 EDUCATION MINUTES FOR MARCH 8, 2022

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

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR APRIL 12, 2022

Chair Walters asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda as presented for the April 12, 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 reported a wonderful orientation yesterday for the new members. He thanked Superintendent Spearman and her staff for an information-filled afternoon, followed by some fellowship with the new board members. Chair Walters reported that he hopes this will become be a tradition going forward.

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Superintendent Spearman reported on the five finalists for the 2023 State South Carolina Teacher of the Year.

“Zachary Arms is a ninth through 12th grade Social Studies teacher at Liberty High School in Pickens County School District. He earned his Bachelor’s Degree in History and Secondary Education from Clemson University and he is in his fourth year of teaching. The thing about Zachary, I remember in meeting him and we went to each of their classrooms to announce this, while he is not a music teacher, he volunteers as the assistant band director and just does a lot, a lot of extracurricular activities with the students at his school.

Next is Jami Guker, who is a seventh grade Math teacher at Woodruff Middle School in Spartanburg 4. She received her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from USC Upstate, has a graduate degree in Elementary Education from Converse College and a graduate degree in Elementary and Secondary Administration from Converse. She is in her 20th year of teaching, with all 20 of those years at Woodruff Middle School. Her family came in that day and it's just a wonderful experience being in her classroom.

Deion Jamison, our next finalist, is a seventh through 10th grade English teacher at Legacy Early College, a charter school in Greenville County, with the Public Charter District. He earned his undergraduate degree in sociology, at Clemson University and received a Masters from Johns Hopkins University while he was working through Teach For America. This marks his fourth year in the classroom, and you could tell when we walked into his classroom, his students just love him. It was wonderful being there. He told me that he got a chalkboard when he was a little boy and that was his dream, he played school all through childhood and dreamed of being a teacher.

Laura Merck, the next young lady, teaches sixth grade Math at Springfield Middle School, where she graduated eighth grade. The same principal is there who then hired her and her sixth-grade math teacher is now her colleague. It was very sweet to see that family there. She earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Anderson University and a Master's Degree from Western Governor's University. She's been teaching for seven years, and she too was just a delight.

Thomas Slater is our next and final finalist. I enjoyed this one so much because he is a Course

and General Music teacher at Chestnut Oaks Middle School with the Sumter County District. He earned a bachelor's degree from South Carolina State University, a Master's in Education Administration from Grand Canyon University, and he has served over 30 years in the classroom. A native of Lee County, he shared that his father was a principal at Lower Lee Elementary and he went to elementary school there.

The Superintendent reported that they were in for their interviews last Monday, at the USC Alumni House. It was a great day and the judges thoroughly enjoyed meeting all of them. It is a well-kept secret of which one will be the 2023 Teacher of the Year. Superintendent Spearman urged the members to come on May the 4th to be the first to find out who our next Teacher of the Year is.

Superintendent Spearman reported that the Milken Family Foundation came to South Carolina, as they have since 1994, announcing one to two teachers educators. The Superintendent reported that one of the Board Members, Dr. David O'Shields, is a former Milken winner. They brought with them a \$25,000 check, having given over a million and a half dollars just here in South Carolina. The Superintendent was thrilled to go to Dutch Fork Middle School to recognize eighth grade, English Language Arts teacher Lesley Snyder, as she was announced on April 6th as a Milken Educator.

Superintendent then moved on to say, "Now, a big challenge for us, tackling the teacher shortage. I get this question almost everywhere I go. I spoke with a group of about 50 teachers this morning over at the State House this morning. These teachers are on their spring break, but who care so much, they came on spring break to meet with legislators. What are we going to do about the teacher shortage? I want you to know that we are dedicating some of our agency ESSER funds to the teacher shortage recruitment programs. One, we've dedicated 3.5 million, in three areas. One called TeachSC. That is a technology program. We're working with colleges and universities to recruit folks for whom it's kind of difficult for them to go to college. Maybe they're working full time, or they don't have the means to enroll and attend. We're very, very excited about the TeachSC program. We have also donated funds to Teaching Fellows to expand the program by, over 30 additional teachers." She further reported the same funds allocated "for our program that I love so much, Call Me MISTER. We have dedicated funding to expand both of those programs in South Carolina. We have, thanks to our staff here, a new teacher-driven initiative that will allow our teachers to volunteer. This is not anything we are putting on them. They can volunteer to select, implement, and examine an effectiveness and evidence-based program in their classroom and do research with it, collect data and work with the Marzano Research Group. We've invested over 2 million to support this program, to help them and to find best practices that are going on right here in South Carolina. The four districts that we are working with now, Charter Institute, Erskine, Florence 2, Lexington 2 and Pickens. We are very, very proud of that."

Superintendent Spearman reports being "in awe, as always, when I meet teachers. She reported that one of the teachers she met with, and I quote, he said, "I almost didn't make it,

but I'm pretty tough and I've survived COVID "and I'm not going to quit. "And I'm going to be a teacher." Many of my colleagues who feel the same way, we are going to hang in there and do this. We need to support them in any way that we can. We have a lot to be proud of and a special thank you to our classroom teachers and all our educators who are out there every day. We look forward to the May 4th event because that's one way we can say thank you and recognize them. That concludes my report."

VII. PARLEMENTARIAN COMMENT

Chair Walters recognized Cathy Hazelwood, Parliamentarian. Ms. Hazelwood reported that a district athletic waiver had been received after the deadline to add to this meeting's agenda, causing the need for a special called meeting due to the time constraints of the end of the school year. Ms. Hazelwood polled the members on their availability and the meeting was scheduled for April 14, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

IX. STATE BOARD ITEMS

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Walters reported that the sub-committee met and heard 1 action item(s) and 0 item(s) for information. The action items were placed on the Consent Agenda.

This concluded Chair Walters' report.

FOR APPROVAL

01. Request for Approval – Hiring Recommendation for the Position of the Office of Health and Nutrition Director

EP EDUCATOR PROFESSIONS—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Walters recognized Ms. Lee, who reported that the sub-committee met and heard 1 action item(s) and 0 item(s) for information. The action items were placed on the Consent Agenda.

This concluded Ms. Lee's report.

FOR APPROVAL

01. Proposed Revisions to Expanded Program for Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Principal Performance (PADEPP) Rubric and Guidelines

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Walters recognized Ms. Frierson, who reported that the sub-committee met and heard 2 action item(s) and 0 item(s) for information. The action items were placed on the Consent Agenda.

This concluded Ms. Frierson's report.

FOR APPROVAL

01. Adoption of Social Studies Instructional Materials

02. Report of Recommended Instructional Materials from the Physical Education 9–12 Review Panel

ELC EDUCATOR LICENSURE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Walters recognized Ms. Chapman who reported the sub-committee met and took action upon the following 17 cases; 1 public reprimand, 15 suspensions and 1 permanent 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 4 cases; 1 certification denial, 1 certification approval, 1 reinstatement, and 1 permanent revocation. He further confirmed that the Full Board ELC ratified the work of the ELC. Chair Walters commented, "A lot of folks may not realize how much work takes place during all these morning committee meetings, before we get to this meeting. Ms. Chapman, certainly your group had a very full agenda today."

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

All Committee Items presented to the State Board for approval by motion make up the Consent Agenda. Ms. Stapleton made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Dr. Collier 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
No update.

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 in Allendale on the 28th of March, they had a community meeting at Allendale Fairfax High School. This is the second in-person community meeting, which was well attended. UTU Enterprises presented a natural hair care workshop for the Allendale Fairfax High School cosmetology students on the 15th, and Saturday school resumed on March 12th to provide additional support to students in need of assistance in any of their subject areas.

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 Florence 4, Brockington Elementary, Johnson Middle and Timmons High schools hosted Beta Club induction ceremonies during the month of March. Timmons High School seniors participated in the HBCU Fair in collaboration with Florence 1 Schools.

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 the Williamsburg County School District hosted parent-teacher conferences on March 30th. Additional community meeting dates and times will be held to inform parents, guardians, and the community about graduation and summer school plans. The district also participated in a Cognia Diagnostic Review on March 28th and 29th to assess the district's strengths and improvement priorities.

This concluded Ms. Mack's report.

Superintendent Spearman reported the news that Allendale County was hit by the tornadoes last week. Some of the worst, I think it went across to Clinton. I have been in touch with Dr. Gilmore. She did have some staff members whose homes were damaged. They have done some food drives to help. If you want to contribute or assist with any families there we could help you do that by working with Dr. Gilmore, but no one was injured seriously. School was closed on Thursday and Friday, but they're back in school, but she has been very involved. They used the elementary school as a shelter that first night. Things are better, but it was quite a scare for the community. Thank goodness those school districts down in that area did close that day at noon. That's a hard decision that superintendents have to make, calling the weather, but they absolutely did the right thing to get the children home before the bad weather hit that afternoon. Please keep that area in your prayers, because it takes a long time to recover from something like that.

Superintendent Spearman added that, Dr. Gilmore reported that board members attended the community meeting as well. They have held a board meeting and it went very well. There needs to be an election. I think one of the members has decided not to run again. There may be some change on the Allendale Board, but I think the Superintendent was very, very pleased with how the members took care of business that night. Not a lot of action, but some training going on

and plans for the future. They came to the community meeting, Ms. Gilmore recognized them and recounted that they took part in the awards ceremony. That went well, same thing down in Williamsburg. The board is beginning to meet. Superintendents are attending the meeting, giving an update, and we plan to include them as the budget is developed in both Allendale and Williamsburg for this next year. I think we're well on the track to transition in the fall, back to local authority for those districts. We're watching it carefully and the School Boards Association is assisting us by giving some extra training to those boards. In Florence 4 and Florence 1, the children, the students have been working on their selection of courses and Ms. Mack assists with that. Thank goodness she has been so willing to go and serve in Timmonsville, spending a lot of time, at least one day a week at the school and maybe more on top of her other duties. Florence 1 personnel are working with the Florence 4 families to make sure the students are signed up, ready to go. I don't know if they've held the Open House yet, it is in the plans to invite the families to come into the schools. We have recommended to the Florence County Delegation, Legislative Delegation, that we would hope that they would do local legislation before this general assembly session ends to take care of a few things like the drawing of the lines for the new district. The taxation, that our recommendation would be that Florence 4 is held harmless on capital projects taxation, and of how, in supporting the consolidation of the district. So that has not been done yet. They've got time to do that and we are encouraging them almost on a daily basis that they need to take care of that. The consolidation will go forward with or without the local legislation, but there are some questions that it would be helpful if they were answered in local legislation prior to the consolidation on June 30th.

05. Legislative Update — Kenzie Riddle, Office of Governmental Affairs, Division of Legal Affairs Ms. Riddle reported that no bills dealing with the State Board of Education have fully completed the process of going through the House and the Senate or vice versa, but a lot of time was spent talking about saving women's sports. Ms. Riddle reported that she was previously at the House for seven years and has never seen that many amendments, 950 amendments to one bill. She and Ms. Nilges listened to about 75 of them, but then the weather and various other things ended that, and it has moved on to the Senate now. There has been more discussion about Critical Race Theory, and while she is unsure which body will take that up next, it is a bill. She believes it passed the House and is at the Senate right now.

Two weeks ago, Superintendent Spearman and a few of us went to the Senate Finance meeting and presented to them. They are deliberating this week, and in two weeks they will go to the Senate floor. Ms. Riddle is hopeful that in the May meeting there will be some budget projections from the Senate. Crossover was last Thursday and a lot of bills went away. They typically come back next year, as *sine die* is actually May 12th. There are five or six bills that involve the State Board that she hopes to report on in the May meeting.

This concluded Ms. Riddle's report.

Mr. Walters reported that he had heard that the Senate Finance Committee had dropped the amount of teacher raises from \$4,000.00 to \$2,000.00. Ms. Riddle responded that the amount last discussed was \$3,800.00.

Superintendent Spearman reported that the Senate has heard concerns from local districts about the new funding formula and the impact that it would have on different districts in different ways. It appears that they're trying to answer those concerns. They are looking at doing some funding on the old formula, some funding on the new formula. We appreciate them looking at the concerns, but in some ways, it is more confusing. It is a difficult year for us to interpret exactly how this all plays out down to the district level and same for the Senate Finance as they work on that and when it goes to Conference Committee. That is putting a different take on how the conversations are going, because they did have a number of district finance directors talk about the impact of the new funding formula. Yesterday the reporting was that this is going to be done under the old formula, but any new money, you'll get the same money that you got last year, I believe is how they explained it. But the new money that we have that the state has and is appropriating would go out under the new formula, which is, sounds good, but may be confusing. We are working studiously to figure it all out.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Walters spoke in appreciation to the Board Members, as well as to explain to those in virtual attendance, relating that the reason this meeting moved so expeditiously this afternoon is because of the hours and hours that were put in reading all the materials in preparation for this meeting. Between approving textbooks and your committee, Ms. Chapman, with those 17 case files and other board members and the other committees, it takes a lot of time to prepare for that. The morning is filled with several hours of meetings, and if that foundation wasn't laid, we would not be able expeditiously move through our agenda in this meeting. Mr. Walters thanked the Board Members for all the time and effort put into the work of education.

Mr. Kobrvosky publicly thanked Dr. Mathis for excellent work in the time afforded and meticulousness given towards the textbook reviews.

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 1:32p.m.