

MINUTES

State Board of Education Public Hearing Minutes

Date

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

Time

2:30 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;; 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.

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;; 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; 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/CONVENING OF PUBLIC HEARING

The SBE meeting reconvened at 2:30 p.m. Chair Walters called the Public Hearing to order and welcomed everyone.

II. STATE BOARD ITEMS

LANCASTER SCHOOL DISTRICT APPEAL OF FISCAL WATCH, ISSUED FEBRUARY 9, 2022

Chair Walters announced that, procedurally, the Lancaster County School District is allowed the first 10 minutes for their argument. The State Superintendent is allowed 15 minutes to respond. The District is then allowed an opportunity for rebuttal, up to 10 minutes. At the conclusion of the arguments, the State Board will adjourn to discuss in executive session this matter.

Representing the District: J. Alexander Sherard, Esq.

Representing the State Superintendent of Education, Molly Spearman: Cathy Hazelwood

Representing the State Board of Education: V. Henry Gunter

District Representatives: Dr. Jonathan Phipps, Superintendent; and Jennifer White, Finance Director

News Media: Lancaster News

Mr. Sherard argued the district's position based on the brief previously filed and provided to the Board members, seeking to overturn the Superintendent's declaration of a Fiscal Watch. Ms. Hazelwood, representing Superintendent Spearman, argued for the SBE to uphold Superintendent Spearman's declaration. Mr. Sherard presented the rebuttal and again sought the SBE's overturning of the Superintendent's declaration of Fiscal Watch in the district.

Chair Walters asked if there were no further questions from the SBE, there being none, at 2:48 p.m., the SBE, along with Henry Gunter, Deputy General Counsel for the SBE, adjourned to go into Executive Session, to deliberate on the information presented during the Hearing. The Executive Session was held in Room 806. The Executive Session ended at 3:09 p.m.

Chair Walters thanked everyone for their patience and declared the meeting back in Open Session. Chair Walters stated that the SBE had earnestly deliberated the issue. Ms. Crimminger recused herself from voting on this matter due to a potential conflict. The State Board of Education affirms the State Superintendent's declaration of a Fiscal Watch in the Lancaster County School District.

Having concluded the first Public Hearing, the SBE adjourned at 3:13p.m.

CLARENDON SCHOOL DISTRICT 4 APPEAL OF FISCAL EMERGENCY, ISSUED MARCH 2, 2022

The SBE meeting reconvened at 3:14 p.m. Chair Walters called the Public Hearing to order and welcomed everyone.

Chair Walters announced that, procedurally, Clarendon County School District 4 is allowed the first 10 minutes for their argument. The State Superintendent is allowed 15 minutes to respond. The District is then allowed an opportunity for rebuttal, up to 10 minutes. At the conclusion of the arguments, the State Board will adjourn to discuss in executive session this matter.

Representing the District: J. Alexander Sherard, Esq.

Representing the State Superintendent of Education, Molly Spearman: Cathy Hazelwood

Representing the State Board of Education: V. Henry Gunter

District Representatives: Dr. Angela Bain, Superintendent

Mr. Sherard argued the district's position based on the brief previously filed and provided to the Board members, seeking to overturn the Superintendent's declaration of a Fiscal Emergency or, in the alternative, reducing the declaration to a finding of Fiscal Watch, as initially issued on February 9, 2022. Ms. Hazelwood, representing Superintendent Spearman, argued for the SBE to uphold Superintendent Spearman's declaration. Mr. Sherard presented the rebuttal and again sought the SBE's overturning of the Superintendent's declaration of Fiscal Emergency in the district, or, in the alternative, reducing the declaration to a finding of Fiscal Watch, as initially issued on February 9, 2022.

Chair Walters asked if there were no further questions from the SBE, there being none, at 3:38 p.m., the SBE, along with Henry Gunter, Deputy General Counsel for the SBE, adjourned to go into Executive Session, to deliberate on the information presented during the Hearing. The Executive Session ended at 3:42 p.m.

Chair Walters thanked everyone for their patience and declared the meeting back in Open Session. Chair Walters stated that the SBE had earnestly deliberated the issue. Ms. Frierson recused herself from voting on this matter due to a potential conflict. The State Board of Education affirms the State Superintendent's declaration of a Fiscal Emergency in Clarendon County School District 4.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Having concluded the Public Hearings, the SBE adjourned at 3:46p.m.