MINUTES
State Board of Education Special Called Meeting

Date

Thursday, April 14, 2022

Time

2:00 p.m.

Location

Via Webex
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Alan Walters., Chair
Crissy Stapleton, Chair-Elect

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 attended: Chair Alan Walters, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; Chair-Elect Crystal Stapleton, Second Judicial Circuit; Cathy D. Chapman, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Joyce Crimminger, Sixth Judicial Circuit; David O'Shields, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Larry Kobrovsky, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Mary Cordray, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; and Kristi Woodall, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit. Carl Hinze, Seventh Judicial Circuit; and Sallie R. Lee, Tenth Judicial Circuit were absent. Michael Brenan, Governor's Appointee, was unable to attend due to a technical difficulty. Cheryl Collier was not present and had recused from the matter earlier.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff attended: Cathy Hazelwood, Deputy Superintendent, 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.

The SBE meeting convened at 2:00 p.m. Chair Walters called the meeting to order and stated that a quorum was present.

I. STATE BOARD ITEMS

ATHLETIC WAIVER REQUEST OF STUDENT ATHLETE FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PICKENS COUNTY- Cathy Hazelwood, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Legal Affairs

Chair Walters recognized Cathy Hazelwood. Ms. Hazelwood thanked Chair Walters and the SBE and reported that the Pickens County School District had contacted the SCDE and requested this special called meeting to request approval on an Athletic Waiver Request, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-39-160(C)(1)(a) (Supp. 2020). Ms. Hazelwood explained that the special called meeting request was necessary because over half the sport season would pass if not heard until the SBE's next regularly scheduled meeting on May 17, 2022. Ms. Hazelwood reminded the Board of its authority to "waive a student's ineligibility to participate in interscholastic activities due to misinformation concerning eligibility requirements being provided by district personnel" and, that a "waiver may be granted when a written statement from a school district superintendent and athletic director has been received stating circumstances, including, but not limited to: (a) student's ineligibility to participate in interscholastic activities is due to misinformation concerning eligibility requirements being provided by district personnel".

Ms. Hazelwood reported that L.F., a student and athlete at Easley High School, completed 2 courses in the Fall of 2021 through VirtualSC to apply toward eligibility requirements for Spring 2022 sports. She referred the Board to the synopsis and correspondence from the District Superintendent for an outline of the issues. Both the high school and VirtualSC missed the issue related to U.S. History Credit Recovery. Ms. Hazelwood concluded by reiterating the request for waiver for the student due to the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the incorrect enrollment and subsequent denial of earned credit for the required course.

Mr. Walters asked if there were any questions. There being none, Chair Walters asked if the members were prepared to make a motion and noted that Ms. Collier recused herself from the voting for a potential conflict. Ms. Stapleton made the motion to grant the waiver request. Ms. Chapman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Walters directed Ms. Hazelwood to notify the District of the Board's decision.

II. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 2:03p.m.