

MINUTES
State Board of Education Meeting

Date

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Time

1:00 p.m.

Location

Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dr. Crystal Stapleton, Chair
Dr. David O'Shields, Chair-Elect
Ellen E. Weaver, 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 attended: Chair Crystal Stapleton, Second Judicial Circuit; Chair-Elect David O'Shields, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Maya Slaughter, First Judicial Circuit; Delaney Frierson, Third Judicial Circuit; Jacqueline "Jackie" Lynn, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Beverly Frierson, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Joyce Crimminger, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Dr. Joette Johnson, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Dr. Christian T. Hanley, Jr., Ninth Judicial Circuit; Sallie Lee, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Tammie Shore, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Richard Harrington, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; Cheryl Collier, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; Mary Cordray, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; Alan Walters, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; Jackie Terribile, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; and Rita Allison, Governor's Appointee.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff attended: John Tyler, Deputy Superintendent, Parliamentarian, General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Barbara Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Henry Gunter, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Ian Headley, Deputy Superintendent, Senior Advisor Strategic Projects; Laura Bayne, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Strategic Engagement; James Rawl, Director, Division of Strategic Engagement; Therese Penney, Engineer III, Office of School Facilities, Division of

District Operations and Support; Llewellyn Shealy, Interim Director, Office of Assessment & Standards, Division of College and Career Readiness; Sandra Ammons, Team Lead, Office of Assessment & Standards, Division of College and Career Readiness; Dawn Hood, Education Associate, , Office of Assessment & Standards, Division of College and Career Readiness; Janelle Wilson, Education Associate, , Office of Assessment & Standards, Division of College and Career Readiness; Dawn Jacobs, Education Associate, , Office of Assessment & Standards, Division of College and Career Readiness; Marquita Blaylock, Education Associate, , Office of Assessment & Standards, Division of College and Career Readiness; Kayce Prince-Harvey, Education Associate, , Office of Assessment & Standards, Division of College and Career Readiness; Brenda Ponsard, Education Associate, Office of Assessment & Standards, Division of College and Career Readiness; Susan Creighton, Education Associate, , Office of Assessment & Standards, Division of College and Career Readiness; Tracy Moore, SBE Administrative Coordinator, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Frances “Cricket” Katsos, 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; Quinn Murphy, IT Specialist III, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; Rashard Huntley, IT Specialist III, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; Brando Butler, IT Specialist III, 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 1:19 p.m. Chair Stapleton called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone who attended.

Chair-Elect O’Shields led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 14, 2023

Chair Stapleton asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes as presented for the SBE meeting on November 14, 2023. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 12, 2023

Chair Stapleton asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda as presented for the December 12, 2023, SBE meeting.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND NEWS MEDIA

Chair Stapleton welcomed any media and asked if any visitors had signed in. Chair Stapleton

recognized visitors.

V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Stapleton welcomed everyone and thanked all participants for their interest in education. She then reported, "For the Chair's report we have some special recognition. We do have some of our board members who are officially retiring their time on the board and their years of service. We appreciate their time and all they've done as a commitment to public education in South Carolina.

Ms. Cheryl Collier, 13th Judicial Circuit.

Ms. Delaney Frierson, Third Judicial Circuit.

Mr. Alan Walters, 15th Judicial Circuit.

Mr. Walters then reported, "The only duty I have as the past chair is to present you with your service award, from the Second Judicial Circuit. Dr. Stapleton, thank you.

Chair Stapleton responded, "I know I speak on behalf of the board for everyone and your commitment to what you do. There is a lot of work and dedication that goes into serving in this way. Thank you for your time, Ms. Collier, Ms. Frierson, and Mr. Walters, we sincerely appreciate it.

Dr. O'Shields then reported, "I have the privilege, the pleasure the opportunity to know someone who has been this year's chair. The words that come to mind are poised, professional, polite, you exemplify all the characteristics of what an incredible chair is, and you never had to put the hammer down. We present you your own version, in miniature the gavel; In grateful appreciation to the Chair".

Dr. Stapleton responded, "Thank you so much, it has truly been an honor to serve alongside each of you, and to be able to lead in that way this year. I just think this is such a strong group of individuals. I was asked recently in a podcast about how I felt leaving the state board, with all that we have going on or any decisions that are currently in place. I said, I have no concerns at all because of the individuals that are sitting around that table. I have such respect for each of you. So, thank you for letting me work alongside you these last few years".

This concluded the Chair's report.

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Chair Stapleton recognized Superintendent Weaver.

Superintendent Weaver reported, "Dr. Stapleton. I just want to add my sincere thanks to our members of the board who, until your replacement is named, hopefully won't be going

anywhere. We obviously have a lot of work to do on behalf of the students of our state, and I just wanted to add my personal thank you for your mentorship in this last year of service here as state superintendent. I have learned so much from each of you about how to carry yourself effectively on the State Board of Education. How we can all come together from every corner of our state to do what is best for our students and our teachers. Thank you for the example that each of you have set.

I also wanted to briefly introduce a wonderful group of individuals that we have here with us today, the College of Charleston Teacher Leaders. I had the privilege of meeting with these teacher leaders after the education oversight committee yesterday, and so they are spending several days in Columbia really acclimating themselves to the different decision makers that we have here in Colombia. Unfortunately, the General Assembly is not currently in session for you all you'll have to come back for that once they reconvene in January. They were able to attend yesterday at the Education Oversight Committee and then here today. This year's cohort, we have 13 pre-service teachers, most of them in their junior year. They've been nominated by at least two of their faculty, based on their academic performance and leadership potential. They represent the whole span of the teaching profession, early childhood, elementary, middle grades, secondary and special ed. And they're each partnered with a mentor who has or currently is a leader in the educational community. Their leadership skill workshops focus on civil discourse and moral leadership. And at the culmination of this fellowship each teacher leader must identify an issue facing a local classroom teacher, research the issue and write a whitepaper to raise awareness for those in positions of power, or a report with actionable items to assist in ameliorating the issue. I want to say on behalf of the State Board we look forward to receiving the research that you do as part of this process. Thank you so much for your commitment to going into the classroom and for what I know you'll do for the students of South Carolina in years to come.

Madam Chair, I'd also like to report that at the Education Oversight Committee meeting yesterday, the members of that committee also affirmatively adopted our 2030 vision. I'm so excited to say that both of the governing boards of the state of South Carolina have set a high benchmark for academic achievement in this state and that we are all excited to work together to align resources to actually accomplish that 2030 vision, which is at least 75% of students at or above grade level proficiency by the year 2030.

Briefly, we're going to show, in the spirit of the holiday season, a video. Some of the things that have been going on here at the department over the last month. Just a couple of those highlights in front of you is the African American history calendar. This is the 34th annual calendar. We had a wonderful celebration here in Columbia just a few weeks ago in which all of the honorees or their representatives attended and received just wonderful commendations for the incredible contribution that they have made in an ongoing capacity to the history of our state and the future of our state. You'll also see in the video a short blurb about what we're calling Project Raise Your Hand, which is a community and school support initiative that we will

be launching early next year here at the Department of Education to really intentionally reconnect the work that happens here in this agency every day with what is happening on the front lines and classrooms. It will be an opportunity for us to go into schools as agency employees and support teachers through serving as a mentor, serving as a reading buddy, maybe it's just sitting in the lunchroom so the teacher can get their planning period. Whatever it is, we want to reconnect and visibly connect our mission here as a state agency with what's actually happening in the classroom. Then the last thing that is featured in the video is something that we had a privilege of participating in last week. We had about 25 of our employees who went to Harvest Hope and were able to pack meals that will serve almost 1,000 students over the holidays. I'm just so thankful for the servant's heart of the agency staff here and the ability to participate in that. We had a great time doing it". (A video, as described above was played).

This concluded the Superintendent's report.

VII. PARLIAMENTARIAN COMMENT

Parliamentarian, John Tyler, General Counsel, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Legal Affairs, reported, "It's December and multiple terms of the board, as we've noted, are coming to an end. I would like to take a moment to mention, first the controlling law, and then what has been the practice of the State Board of Education when a term expires. South Carolina Code Section 59 5 10, governs the selection of board members and appoints one member from each of the 16 judicial circuits, as elected by the legislative delegation to a four-year term commencing in January of each year. Historically it has been the practice of the State Board of Education that upon a member's term being completed, the member may continue to serve until either the legislative delegation appoints a new member for the Judicial Circuit, or the legislative delegation unanimously votes to appoint the member to a successive term. It takes a unanimous vote for a second or successive term. Finally, as a reminder, any member may resign by written submission to the State Board of Education Chair. That concludes today's exciting Parliament period".

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Stapleton welcomed those signed up for public comment. Because of time restraints of 30 minutes for public comment, the first 6 people who signed up for public comment were allowed 5 minutes each to speak. The following 6 persons were recognized for public comment; India Green (teacher), Sheila Reiland (Constitution Day), Susana Saravia (taxpayer), William Coleman (taxpayer), Isabella Troy (former student) and Tamara Cox (SCASL).

Chair Stapleton thanked everyone who came to make public comments and reminded those who were not able to speak to return in the future to sign up.

IX. STATE BOARD ITEMS

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Stapleton reported, “The Policy and Legislation Committee met and heard two (2) item(s) for action. We did approve both of those in the meeting, but we did not place them on the Consent Agenda. Because a little later in today’s meeting you will hear about those and be able to vote on those separately”.

FOR APPROVAL (VOTED UPON TO MOVE TO THE FULL BOARD MEETING)

1. Request for Approval of Property Disposal – Florence One School District
2. Request for Approval of Property Disposal – Laurens County School District 56

FOR INFORMATION

No items.

EP EDUCATOR PROFESSIONS—COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair, Sallie Lee, reported that the Educator Professions’ Committee met and heard four (4) item(s) for approval and one (1) item for information. All four (4) items were placed on the Consent Agenda.

FOR APPROVAL

3. New Educator Preparation Program Approval Recommendation: Coastal Carolina University Bachelor’s Degree Programs
4. New Educator Preparation Program Approval Recommendation: Converse University Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Teaching Degree Programs Readiness
5. Professional Review Committee (PRC): New Member Approval
6. National Accreditation Decision: Charleston Southern University Readiness

FOR INFORMATION

7. Information Item: Review of Certification Assessment Options for Reading

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY—COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair, Delaney Frierson, reported that the Standard, Learning and Accountability Committee met and heard three (3) item(s) for approval and one (1) item for approval to move to the full board meeting for a vote. All three (3) for approval items were placed on the Consent Agenda.

FOR APPROVAL

8. Report of Recommendations from the 2023 Instructional Materials Review Panels
9. Report of Recommendations from the Instructional Material Advisory Committee for the 2024 Adoption Cycle
10. Test Window Extensions and Online Waiver Requests
11. 2023 South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Mathematics Standards for Second Reading

FOR INFORMATION

No items.

ELC EDUCATOR LICENSURE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Stapleton recognized Mr. Walters who reported that the sub-committee met and took action upon the following ten cases; one approval for initial certification, two public reprimands and seven suspensions. Mr. Walters also stated, “Where we say this every month, I would like to take a second and expound upon this. When we thank the Office of General Counsel. I think I'm the longest serving member of the board for the next hour or so. That has allowed me to see the number of cases that had built up, especially coming out of the pandemic. They had been extremely diligent in working that down, while protecting the educators rights their due process, but also embracing alternative resolutions. I know the board members put a lot of time and effort into reading those files and a lot of discussion and deliberation takes place and coming up with these decisions. It is because of the thorough job they do in getting these cases to us. As we see this month, we had 10 cases. For a while there we were running 20 and 25 cases per month, working on that backlog. I would like to truly give them a heartfelt shout-out the day for their efforts”.

FB-ELC FULL BOARD EDUCATOR LICENSURE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Stapleton reported that the Full Board ELC committee met and took action upon the following three (3) cases; one denial for initial certification; one public reprimand, and one permanent revocation. Chair Stapleton also reported that the actions of ELC were ratified during the FB ELC meeting. Chair Stapleton commented, “We echo the words of Mr. Walters for the Office of General Counsel as well as the work of the board members in reviewing

those cases”.

NC NOMINATION COMMITTEE

1. Committee Report—Alan Walters, Nominations Committee Chair

Mr. Walters reported, “The nomination committee, consisting of myself, Ms. Sallie Lee and Ms. Delaney Frierson, met via telephone on November 28, 2023, to discuss the selection of the 2024 Board of Education Chair-Elect. By unanimous consent, the Committee presents The Honorable Rita Allison as the Committee’s nominee for the 2024 Chair-Elect.

2. Nomination of Chair-Elect for 2024—Chair Crystal Stapleton, South Carolina State Board of Education

Chair Stapleton thanked Mr. Walters and the nomination committee members. She then asked if there were further nominations. Hearing none, chair Stapleton called for a vote. Dr. O’Shields made the motion. Ms. Crimminger seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chair Stapleton then called Dr. O’Shields and Ms. Allison to the podium to be sworn in. Dr. Stapleton swore Dr. O’Shields in as the 2024 Board of Education Chair. This was Chair Stapleton’s last act as the 2023 Chair.

Dr. O’Shields swore Ms. Rita Allison in as the 2024 Board of Education Chair-Elect.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Chair O’Shields called for a vote. Ms. Slaughter made the motion. Dr. Hanley seconded the motion. The motion passed.

X. SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

01. Request for Approval of Property Disposal – Florence One School District—Theresa Penney, Associate Engineer III, Office of School Facilities, Division of District Operations and Support

Ms. Penney presented the Florence County School District One’s request for property disposal, including the property details, ownership history and the potential buyer.

Dr. O’Shields, hearing no questions or discussion from the board, called for a motion. Mr. Walters made the motion. Ms. Delaney Frierson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

02. Request for Approval of Property Disposal – Laurens County School District 56 Theresa Penney, Associate Engineer III, Office of School Facilities, Division of District Operations and Support

Ms. Penney presented the Laurens County School District 56's request for property disposal, including the property details, ownership history and the potential buyer.

Dr. O'Shields, hearing no questions or discussion from the board, called for a motion. Dr. Stapleton reminded the board that Dr. O'Shields recused himself from voting on this matter. Ms. Allison made the motion. Ms. Shore seconded the motion. The motion passed.

03. 2023 South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Mathematics Standards for Second Reading—Sandra Ammons, Team Lead, Office of Assessment & Standards, Division of College and Career Readiness

Ms. Ammons reported on behalf of the Office of Assessment and Standards and all those who participated in the review and revision processes, an overview of the South Carolina College and Career-Ready Mathematics Standards for approval, noting public comments. The changes and the final draft for approval.

Dr. O'Shields, hearing no questions or discussion from the Board, called for a vote. Mrs. Crimminger made the motion. Ms. Shore seconded the motion. The motion passed.

FOR INFORMATION

01. Literacy Update — Matthew Ferguson, Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness

Mr. Ferguson reported, "You have heard quite a bit today about the literacy competencies, also the reading, assessment for initial certification and also the adoption of instructional materials around ELA. I want to thank you for that work, but I think we've talked about that quite a bit today. I will skip the literacy update, but just know that we are working for clarity of mission and alignment of resources towards the goal of increasing student achievement across South Carolina, and I think we are making great strides in that work".

02. Allendale County School District (ASCD) Update— Matthew Ferguson, Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness

03. Williamsburg County School District (WCSD) Update— Matthew Ferguson, Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness.

Chair Stapleton recognized Matthew Ferguson, who gave a joint report on Allendale and Williamsburg School Districts. Mr. Ferguson reported, "On the Allendale and Williamsburg front, I wanted to make you aware of an event I had the great opportunity to go with Superintendent Weaver to attend. In Allendale, we unveiled the Meeting Street Scholarship opportunity. All students who are now in Allendale, who are eligible, can receive up to \$10,000 per year for four years towards their college tuition, and that was made possible by a generous donor who gave to all the eligible students in Allendale. It was great to sit in that

auditorium and see many, many children whose lives could be changed because they were currently eligible or tracking towards eligibility as they were getting ready to embark upon their college career. \$10,000 a year or \$40,000 is a lot of money, and you could see in the faces of those kids that some who may not have been really sure they could afford college now saw that as a real possibility so that is a was a great event. That was really an awesome place to be, to see those kids' lives potentially changed and kind of building upon that.

Also, in Allendale and Williamsburg, Superintendent Weaver has announced the Excellence in Teaching Award for all the teachers who are in both Allendale and Williamsburg. There will be additional compensation to reward those teachers for that hard work and student growth. The details of that are still being worked out, but we are looking to announce and work with all the teachers on the parameters and the rules around that beginning in January. Both superintendents, the district office and the principals are really excited about what that is going to be able to do for those teachers, both as a recruitment tool and to bring more folks into Allendale and Williamsburg to serve in those classrooms, as well as a retention tool to keep those good teachers who are already there serving kids every day. This concluded Mr. Ferguson's report.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair O'Shields reminded all members to turn in their travel forms prior to their departure.

"Dr. Oshields then commented, "I always go back to one of two things, Charlie Brown, Christmas, or The Grinch That Stole Christmas. Those are my two go-to pitches. But the phrase from the Grinch said, "Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. Maybe Christmas, he thought, it doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more". I think that what we need to look at here, is in giving that which does not cost. You can give love, you can give joy, you can give hope, you can be the present by being present for others. May that be our message and may we have truly a happy holiday by being present in the moment for someone. Merry Christmas".

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 2:27 p.m.