

MINUTES

State Board of Education Meeting

Date

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Time

1:00 p.m.

Location

Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dr. Crissy 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; Cathy D. Chapman, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Joyce Crimminger, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Sallie Lee, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Tammy Shore, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Mary Cordray, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; and Alan Walters, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; Jackie Terribile, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; and Rita Allison, Governor's Appointee. Cheryl Collier, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, was absent with her apologies.

New members in attendance today: Dr. Joette Johnson, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Dr. Christian T. Hanley, Jr., Ninth Judicial Circuit; and Richard Harrington, Twelfth Judicial Circuit. New members in attendance today were not eligible to vote but will be eligible in February.

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; V.

Henry Gunter, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Larry Huff, Chief of Staff; Matthew Ferguson, Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction (Chief Academic Officer); Brian Pratt, Chief Information Officer, Chief Information Office; Phillip Cease, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, Division of Legal Affairs; Kim Mack, Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement; Mary Hipp, Director, Office of Educator Services, Division of College and Career Readiness; Kenzie Riddle, Program Manager, Governmental Affairs, Division of Legal Affairs; Tracy Moore, SBE Minutes Taker/Administrative Coordinator, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Francis "Cricket" Katsos, Administrative Coordinator, Office of Governmental Affairs, Division of Legal Affairs; Carla Renfrow, Executive Assistant, Chief of Staff Office, Office of Superintendent; Travis Huggins, Information Technology Manager I, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; and Quinn Murphy, IT Specialist III, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations.

I. WELCOME/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SBE meeting convened at 1:04 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 JANUARY 17, 2023

Chair Stapleton asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes as presented for the SBE meeting on January 17, 2023. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 14, 2023

Chair Stapleton asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda as presented for the February 14, 2023, SBE meeting. Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND NEWS MEDIA

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

V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Stapleton welcomed everyone and thanked all participants for their interest in education. Chair Stapleton then introduced new board members, Dr. Joette Johnson, representing the Seventh Judicial Circuit (Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties); Dr. Christian Hanley, Nineth

Judicial Circuit (Berkeley and Charleston Counties); and Mr. Richard Harrington Twelfth Judicial Circuit (Florence and Marion Counties). The Chair announced that board orientation has been scheduled for March 13th, the day before their next regularly scheduled meeting, from 1:00 to 3:00. Chair Stapleton stated, "This a wonderful opportunity for our new members to truly understand how things work within the Board of Education, but also for any of our members to have a refresher. We do recommend that everyone attend if they are able. We would love to have everyone in person, but there is a plan for any who wish to attend virtually".

Chair Stapleton then announced a need for a special called board meeting to hear a student appeal of ineligibility for the South Carolina High School League. The meeting will be held virtually and the link to a Webex meeting will be distributed. The Board Members will be sent emails to coordinate the date.

This concluded the Chair's report.

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Chair Stapleton recognized Superintendent Weaver.

Superintendent Weaver reported, When I delivered my first report to you a month ago, I was just a few days on the job and so now at a month in officially, I'm an old pro at everything, I feel like it's a month that has been 10 years, but in the best possible way. I was sharing with a few of the board members over lunch that I go home, and I sleep well every night, but it's like a purposeful exhaustion. It is just again, the honor of a lifetime to be able to serve you all, to serve the students of this state in this role.

I'd like to go ahead and introduce just a couple of staff members who were not here last board meeting who have since joined the team. I'll start with Phillip Cease; Director of Governmental Affairs and he comes to us most recently from the Children's Trust. Not here today, but someone who you should know is Lisa Manini Widener, who is his assistant. She comes to us from the South Carolina Senate, she has worked for Senator Peeler and Senator Alexander amongst others. She has a lot of experience up there at the State House and so we are very excited to have her on the team as well. I'd like to introduce our special assistant to our Chief of Staff, Carla Renfrow. I have to say a special thank you to Dr. Akil Ross at Lexington Richland 5, for her arrival. She brings a great perspective both with her background as a lawyer and most recently as a classroom teacher. We are super excited to have her on the team and grateful for what she may contribute to our mission here.

I have had a number of meetings with our superintendents both in their locales as well as through the school boards association here. Those conversations have been incredibly cordial, productive. I think we have found a lot of common ground and things that we're looking forward to pushing together over the years. I've been able to get into several schools. I've been in Orangeburg, I've been at R.B. Stahl in Charleston. I actually will be visiting a great

school, elementary school in Greenwood tomorrow. I'll get to see a literacy lesson and read to some students there, which I'm very, very excited about. What I've really seen as the unifying theme of those visits is just the incredible principal leadership that is in each of these schools.

As I'll share a little bit later on with some of my budget priority requests, I think continuing to develop that principal leadership pipeline is really critical when we think about addressing our teacher recruitment and retention shortage because we know that principals build the culture that teachers work in. Fostering that great leadership is something that I think is an important role of this department and something that I'm excited to partner with our district cohorts on.

One of the most special things that I've experienced over the last month, special and terrifying simultaneously, is when people recognize you when you are out in public. One of the, I think most poignant times I was actually getting ready to get my nails done and I sit down in the pedicure chair and the person next to me leans over and says, "You look like our new superintendent." I said, "You know, I get that all the time. I don't know what you're talking about." I said, "Yes ma'am, I am." It turns out she was a teacher and we had just a wonderful conversation. Everywhere I've gone, teachers have come up to me, some seem very nervous, others are just, you know, go right for it. But those have been some of the greatest conversations because I think they feel like they can share confidentially and confidently their experience. I just ask them, "What do you need your superintendent to know?" I've gotten some really exciting feedback and helpful feedback that way.

Here at the department, yesterday we released, or actually I believe today we released the school improvement designations for 2022. This is actually something that has been a point of great conversation with our superintendents, working collaboratively to make sure that we are correctly and fairly applying the criteria that we are required to apply in Every Student Succeeds Act Plan, or ESSA, in the parlance. We did release those yesterday for our schools of improvement. As you would expect, we did see that number increase due to COVID, but we are committed here at the agency to continuing to partner with schools to figure out how we address the learning loss that we know many of our students experienced.

In my second week on the job just after I spoke to you all, I was able to go before the House Ways and Means subcommittee to present our budget priorities here at the agency for the year. I carried over several of the priorities that Superintendent Spearman had already submitted, in addition to adding a few of my own. I wanted to call special attention to this handout that I gave to each of you, which is a one pager that we have put together that outlines the investment that the General Assembly has made in really modernizing our school bus fleet. I think many of you will recall, not too distant past, we had what they call thermal incidents. I would call them a bus fires and things that we just never want to have happen in terms of compromising student safety. This was a huge priority for Superintendent Spearman over her tenure. I wanted the General Assembly to understand the return on investment that they are actually getting for those dollars that they have partnered with our department to allow us to modernize our bus fleet. You will see on the back of it that we actually have now

received the keys to our first electric bus. There is a lot of work that is going into building out the infrastructure required to support those buses and a lot of collaborative partnerships with our utilities and local co-ops that we are building in order to make that possible. We also have some propane buses. We are diversifying the fleet and there's a lot of cost savings that are attributed to that efficiency that we're able to get. Those will be going to the members of the General Assembly this week so that they can kind of understand what we've been doing with all that money that they sent over to us.

At a very high level, 52% of my request was for direct personnel salaries and support for teachers and bus drivers. 22% of my request was for our rural infrastructure fund. We've made a lot of progress in terms of supporting replacement and modernization of facilities in some of our rural districts that simply don't have the tax base to handle it all themselves. I've asked the General Assembly to continue that investment so we can continue to make progress there as well as maintain our bus replacement cycle—the 15-year replacement cycle. 16% of my budget is what I categorize as innovation transparency and parent engagement. I will share briefly what that entails. 9% is devoted to high quality instructional materials and support. At our last board meeting we approved our new ELA standards and so we will be replacing that curriculum. Ensuring that we have high quality curriculum that is aligned to our most current standards is something that we have to continue to do and invest in. Thankfully we are up to date on that, and I want to stay up to date on that. Finally, 1% of what we requested was to cover things here within the agency. We did not request any new FTEs or anything like that.

I wanted to dig in just very briefly on the ideas in our public-school innovation fund. We have a lot of non-recurring money at the state level this year and I said, you know what, if I don't ask for the money somebody else is going to, so I'm going to ask for the money, and we'll see where we end up. The idea behind this innovation fund is for us to be able to create a competitive grant process, a coalition of the willing if you will, that invites districts in to partner with us to test and pilot ideas that we think are best practice ideas that could really make a difference. We will actually measure those pilots in a meaningful way to be able to report back to the General Assembly; "this worked, this didn't work, maybe we should consider investing more money here strategically." Ultimately, it is strategic compensation for educators. You may have seen there was a great piece in the "Post and Courier" that they wrote about that a couple of weeks ago. I think that it just makes sense. Great teachers should get great pay. Again, we're not taking anything away from anyone. We are recommending a salary increase across the board for teachers, but this would help us incentivize and attract the best teachers to our highest needs areas. We know that a great teacher is what's really going to make a difference in the classroom for those kids. And we want to get great teachers into our highest needs classrooms.

I mentioned to you all last time that the science of reading and improving literacy instruction is going to be a top priority for me. If a child can't read at the end of third grade, it just gets harder and harder and harder for them to do what they need to do to be successful in school. That early literacy instruction is going to be a top priority.

I actually am very excited to be able to continue my own learning. So, we have invested in the LETRS program for many of our teachers and looked to hopes to see that expand in the coming year. I have actually signed up to do that training myself. I'm really excited to see what our teachers are learning and to be able to talk to our teachers comprehensively about their learning journey and how they're applying that in their classroom to serve their students well.

We have talked briefly about the mentoring and tutoring core. I think engaging communities in our school is a way that we not only support students but show teachers that the community has their backs. We talked a little bit about principal development. I'd love to develop some leadership programs that can really help foster that leadership pipeline for our principals.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present these ideas to you and I'm happy to answer any questions."

The Chair recognized Dr. O'Shields. Dr. O'Shields asked for clarification about the money discussed for innovation and transparency. Superintendent Weaver responded that it is requested funding, in the amount of 100 million dollars.

The Chair recognized Alan Walters. Mr. Walters wanted to "remind the board members and those who may be joining us, that today is the fifth anniversary of Parkland. For those involved with school safety, it is a very somber day. But it's also a time for us to thank the people throughout South Carolina that are keeping our schools safe. In particular, tomorrow is National School Resource Officer Day. If you see your SRO in the school, give them a hug and a pat on the back." Chair Stapleton echoed Mr. Walters message.

This concluded the Superintendent's report.

VII. PARLIAMENTARIAN COMMENT

Chair Stapleton recognized Parliamentarian, John Tyler, General Counsel, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Legal Affairs. Mr. Tyler reminded the members that ethic filings are due before March 30th. He offered to guide any member who requested assistance.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Stapleton recognized Tinley Middleton, Legislative Chair, South Carolina Association of School Librarians (SCASL). Ms. Middleton was in Columbia with other librarians across the state to meet with legislators to talk about the positive impact that our libraries have on student learning.

Chair Stapleton thanked Ms. Middleton and everyone who joined her and their commitment to students within their school sand across the state.

IX. STATE BOARD ITEMS

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Did not meet.

FOR APPROVAL

No items.

FOR INFORMATION

No items.

EP EDUCATOR PROFESSIONS—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Stapleton recognized Ms. Lee who reported that the sub-committee met and heard three 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. New Educator Preparation Program Approval Recommendation: Lander University Bachelor of Science (BS) in Middle Level Education (Grades 5–8)
02. Identification of Critical Need Subject Areas for 2023-24
03. Identification of Critical Need Geographic Areas (Schools) for 2023-24

FOR INFORMATION

No items.

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY—COMMITTEE REPORT

Did not meet.

FOR APPROVAL

No items.

FOR INFORMATION

No items.

ELC EDUCATOR LICENSURE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Stapleton recognized Mr. Walters who reported the sub-committee met and took action upon the following 25 cases; two denials for initial certification, two public reprimands, and twelve suspensions. Mr. Walters reported that these matters were ratified during the Full Board ELC meeting. Mr. Walters again commended the work of the Office of General Counsel in gaining ground with the backlog of educator disciplinary matters.

FB-ELC FULL BOARD EDUCATOR LICENSURE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Stapleton reported that the Full Board ELC committee met and took action upon the following two cases; one denial for initial certification and one permanent revocation. Chair Stapleton confirmed that all ELC matters were ratified by the Full Board ELC. Chair Stapleton echoed the sentiments of ELC Chair Walters for the Office of General Counsel.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mr. Walters made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Chair-Elect, Dr. O'Shields, seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

X. SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

No items.

FOR INFORMATION

1. 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 19th, 2023, the Allendale Fairfax High School Bow Tie Club hosted its first luncheon. Their guest speaker for this event was Terrence Tucker. Mr. Tucker talked to the young scholars about the importance of dressing for success and all of the young men had on bow ties. They looked great. The district hosted a combined board and community meeting on Monday, January 23rd in the multipurpose room of Allendale Fairfax High School. The district also received a check for \$12,275 from the SRP Federal Credit Union for the 2022 High School Affinity Debit Program. This concluded Ms. Mack's report.

2. 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 Williamsburg County School District, Kingstree Middle Magnet School of the Arts introduced a video broadcast production room for their students. The students have access to technology that will enable them to produce network quality shows. The district partnered with the Blueprint Leadership Academy to offer mentoring and leadership to high school students, the kickoff event was held on January the 12th.

This concluded Ms. Mack's report.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Stapleton commented that "We are so grateful to all of the board members for the time that you put in preparing for today, but also the work that you do in those meetings prior to our full board meeting." Chair Stapleton reminded all members to turn in their travel forms prior to their departure.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 1:30 p.m.