MINUTES
State Board of Education Meeting

Date

Tuesday, March 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; Delaney Frierson, Third Judicial Circuit; Cathy D. Chapman, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Joyce Crimminger, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Dr. Joette Johnson, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Dr. Christian T. Hanley, Jr., Nineth Judicial Circuit; Sallie Lee, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Tammy Shore, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Richard Harrington, Twelfth 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.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff attended: John Tyler, Deputy Superintendent, Parliamentarian, 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 Superintended, Curriculum and Instruction (Chief Academic Officer); Lisa Widener, Assistant 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; 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; 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 1:03 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 FEBRUARY 14, 2023

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

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

Chair Stapleton asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda as presented for the March 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. Chair Stapleton welcomed guests Marshall Fisher and Wesley Gibson. She then recognized Ms. Lee. Ms. Lee, university supervisor for teacher candidates, announced the appearance of four student teachers from Clemson University, Kerry Garner, Jaylen Hill, Cat Cave and Julia Loy. Ms. Lee wanted them to see the work of the State Board of Education and how it impacts the classrooms across the state.

V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Stapleton welcomed everyone and thanked all participants for their interest in education. She then called for Michael Brenan, former Governor's Appointee for the SBE, to step forward. Chair Stapleton reported, "We wanted to recognize Mike Brenan today because he served on the State Board of Education for 13 years. He was the Chair when I came on, the first person that I was able to meet, and not only served for 13 years, but twice was the Chair. Mr. Brenan

served as the Chair whenever we first entered the experiences of COVID. I know for me personally; I can't imagine anyone better to have led us during that time. I am appreciative of all of his knowledge, his expertise, and everything he does for education in South Carolina. His work goes beyond just the State Board. He serves on so many committees, task forces, boards. He is a true champion for children. We wanted to recognize him today for his 13 years of service. Mr. Walters is also going to share.

Mr. Walters reported, “Mike, we have got a little memento here for you as well. I just want to express my appreciation for Mr. Brenan. When I came on the Board and then I ultimately became Chair, I always thought, I want to be like Mike when I grow up. I still aspire to that goal. Mike, you've been an outstanding advocate for public education in South Carolina and certainly a great role model and mentor for me. On behalf of a grateful Board and the State, we want to thank you for your service. This is your actual first appointment letter from Governor Sanford dated January 4th, 2010.”

Mr. Brenan responded, “I never got much of a chance to stand up here during all that time. But no, I think all of you know that one of my favorite words is gratitude. I just want to express gratitude for the opportunity to serve with each of you, to serve with your predecessors, to serve previous superintendents, Madam Superintendent, many chairs, Chair Stapleton. It has been one of the joys of my life to be able to do this, quite frankly. When Governor Sanford asked me to do it, I was replacing somebody who resigned. When Governor Haley became governor, she said, "We just want you to stick around." Then Henry said he wanted me to stick around. Until this January, I think it was January or December, he called me and he said, "Mike," he said, "You've been doing this a long time. You've chaired the board twice. It's time for somebody else to do this." I said, "Governor, I serve at your pleasure, so I am happy to do that." Then I found out that Rita Allison was going to replace me as the governor's appointee, and I couldn't be more pleased with Rita. She and I have been buddies for a long time. We've worked on lots of education issues over time. She's going to be an excellent governor's appointee.”

Ms. Allison commented, “I wouldn't have taken it had I known you were not going to be with me.”

Mr. Brenan continued, “You are going to be great. Ellen and I, we've known each other for a long time. I was going to resign when Molly was finished with her term, but Ellen and I spoke and she said, ‘Well, if you could maybe stick around another year.’ But obviously, the governor had other plans and that's fine. I would have enjoyed having that year. But we are close, we are going to stay in touch.

Just one more thing. My mother a long time ago said, ‘Mike, if you ever have an opportunity to speak in front of, you know, more than five or six people, give them something to think about.’ What I want to give you to think about, and I hope all of you thought through this anyway, that every decision that you make at this table, you first and foremost say, ‘is this what's right for the children of South Carolina?’ If you can't answer that, then maybe it's not the right thing to

do. The second thing is, is this the right thing to do for the teachers in in our schools throughout the state? Again, if it's not the right thing to do, don't do it. I just leave you with that thought that children and teachers ought to help you navigate through your decision making. If you do that and do that well, you will be a board that accomplishes a lot and one that people can say, 'Gee, they did great things for children and great things for teachers and great things for public education.' So again, I'm grateful. It's good to be with all of you, and it was kind of interesting to sit out there versus sit around that table. But this has been one of the joys in my life, so thank you."

Chair Stapleton then reported, "One thing I did also want to share in my report. Yesterday we were able to have a Board orientation here at the department. I know I have had so many of our Board members share about how wonderful that was. We are so grateful to Superintendent Weaver and the Department staff for leading that. It was so beneficial for everyone.

This concluded the Chair's report.

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Chair Stapleton recognized Superintendent Weaver.

Superintendent Weaver reported, "I also would like to thank the agency staff for the wonderful work that they put into giving us really just a high-level overview of the fiduciary responsibilities that we hold here on the State Board. Many great ideas came out of that. One of them is something I will begin discussions on with Deputy Superintendent Ferguson, but the idea that we might want to get our Education Oversight Committee (EOC) and State Board together. I think figuring out ways that we can collaborate constructively and be on the same page would be a wonderful use of time. Interestingly enough, Mike has already left, but when I first came on to the EOC, that was one of the first meetings that I attended when he was Chair of the State Board. We had a combined meeting and I thought it was really productive. We will look for opportunities to do that in the future.

Just a couple of quick things that I wanted to bring to the Board's attention. We have a memo going out to superintendents here in the next few days. I know Dr. O'Shields, and maybe you, too, Chair Stapleton, are aware of it, but our Schools of Innovation Exploration Fellowship, we will be inviting superintendents to come and engage in a really robust learning opportunity around the Schools of Innovation law that Ms. Allison was such an instrumental part of passing when she was in the General Assembly. This will not be an obligation to districts, but it's a coalition of the willing, people who want to learn more are being invited to learn more.

I am also very grateful as the house debates the budget on the floor this week that they have included a significant amount, just over $40 million for the literacy initiatives that we proposed in our Education Innovation Fund. I am very excited to see that. I will be working hard with lawmakers and our staff to ensure that that stays in the budget and that we can

move that important work forward.

I am also very excited that this week is the first opportunity that I have had to engage in the Teacher of the Year celebration. This is the big week where we narrow down our five finalists. We are going to be making surprise visits around to districts in the state. We have expanded the celebration this year from a classroom celebration to a school-wide celebration at the schools where these lucky teachers, these wonderful teachers are residing. I am excited about that. That will be the rest of my week and we will culminate that celebration with the selection of a finalist at a celebration that we're calling "The Gala in the Garden." We are going to be having a wonderful garden party luncheon on the grounds of the Governor's mansion in collaboration with the Governor on April the 26th. We are very excited about these celebrations. It's wonderful to have some of our Teachers of the Year from the district level here, and we're just really, really excited about that celebration."

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 had no report this month.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Stapleton recognized Fran Bailey with Anderson School District 1. Ms. Bailey introduced the five Teachers of the Year for Anderson School District 1 who were in Columbia to visit the State House where they are discussing educational advocacy. The teachers were; Ellie Baker from Hunt Meadows, Nancy Machamer from Palmetto Middle, Hunter Walters from Powdersville Elementary, Ann-Marie Yonai from Palmetto High, and Danielle Young from Powdersville Middle.

IX. STATE BOARD ITEMS

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Stapleton reported that the sub-committee met and heard one action item and one item for information. The action item was placed on the Consent Agenda.

FOR APPROVAL

01. Amend Regulation 43-188: Displaying the flag, Second Reading

FOR INFORMATION

02. Waivers Approved by the SCDE

EP EDUCATOR PROFESSIONS—COMMITTEE REPORT

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

This concluded Ms. Lee's report.

FOR APPROVAL

03. Critical Need Subjects and Schools for Employment of Retired Educators

04. Approval of Out-of-State Clinical Experience Placement: University of South Carolina–Columbia (USC–Columbia)

05. New Educator Preparation Program Approval Recommendation: Charter Inspire Alternative Certification Pathway (Charter Inspire) submitted by the South Carolina Public Charter School District (SCPCSD)

06. New Educator Preparation Program Approval Recommendation: Lowcountry Educator Alternative Pathway (LEAP) for Beaufort County School District

FOR INFORMATION

07. Professional Review Committee (PRC): Educator Preparation Provider and Program Updates

08. Annual Report on Individuals Certified through American Board

09. Report on Individuals Certified through the South Carolina Teach for America Program 2021-22

10. Annual Report on Individuals Certified through Teachers of Tomorrow

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Stapleton recognized Ms. Frierson who reported that the sub-committee met and heard three action item(s) and no item for information. The action item was placed on the Consent Agenda.

FOR APPROVAL

11. Integration of American Sign Language (ASL) standards into the 2019 SC College-and Career-Ready Standard for World Language Proficiency–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 15 cases; one approval for initial certification; one public reprimand; and 13 suspensions.

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 cases; one approval for initial certification, one dismissal, and one suspension.

Chair Stapleton commented, "As always, we are so appreciative of the Office of General Counsel at the State Department and all of the work you do to make sure that we have all the information we need well in advance to be prepared for those."

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Dr. O'Shields made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Crimminger seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

X. SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

PUBLIC HEARING

01. Second Reading of Proposed Amendment to Regulation 43-188: Displaying the flag. — Phillip Cease, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, Division of Legal Affairs

Chair Stapleton reported that these items were approved in Committee and shared in the reports.

02. Second Reading of Integration of American Sign Language (ASL) standards into the 2019 SC College-and Career-Ready Standard for World Language Proficiency—Dr. Rocio Zalboa, Associate for World Languages, Office of Assessment and Standards, Division of College and Career Readiness

Chair Stapleton reported that these items were approved in Committee and shared in the reports.

03. Lancaster County School District (District) Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. §59-39-160(C), related to a Student Participating in Interscholastic Activities- John E. Tyler, General Counsel, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Legal Affairs

Chair Stapleton recognized John Tyler, General Counsel, who reported, “In front of you are four waiver requests for athletics from three districts. This board is quite familiar with the process. These districts have contacted the State Department of Education requesting hearing of waivers pursuant to South Carolina Code 59-39-160(c). Of course, by statute, this Board has the authority to waive a student's ineligibility to participate in interscholastic activities under certain circumstances. Specifically, the code provides as follows: “This waiver may be granted when a written statement from a school district superintendent and athletic director has been received stating a student's ineligibility to participate in interscholastic activities is due to misinformation concerning eligibility requirements being provided by district personnel.” I'm going to present the law one time and let you all hear from the districts on the four pending waiver requests. As a housekeeping matter, I'm going to provide some general instructions to the schools and/or districts who are presenting. 'Tis the season for March Madness. We won't turn on the shot clock, but it should take no more than about two minutes to provide an overview of your request. Then please take a moment for the Board to ask questions and respond to their questions. We'll go a little bit out of order for the sake of efficiency. We'll start with Lancaster, then Bishop England, and then Abbeville, you're going to come last with two separate waiver requests. Let's please hear from Lancaster first.

Erick Funderburk, Athletic Director (AD), Buford High School, Lancaster County School District: “I spoke to Dr. Phipps last night who indicated to Ms. Crimminger that I had permission to speak for our district. We are requesting a waiver on one of our student athletes, a senior soccer player. He was taking a welding class through a tech school in our area. There are approximately ten students at our school who signed up for the welding class at the technical college, as well as four or five other general education classes. The general education classes didn't work out for those guys, they all ended up dropping the general ed classes just to take the welding because they'd gone through our career center and taken all the welding they could do. We did not get word from the tech school that they had dropped these classes until later in the semester. I didn't figure out that he had dropped the classes until I got ready to start soccer eligibility, which was about a month ago. He played on our basketball team. Since seventh grade he's been in our soccer program. He is going to be ineligible for his senior year because of the lack of communication between the tech school and our guidance department. If we had known a little bit earlier, we could have signed him up, put him in another class, so he would've had his two courses that he had to have to be eligible. It was just a lack of communication with everybody involved. We could have had him eligible had we known that he was dropping the classes. He played the rest of basketball season, and we had no idea that he was only taking that one class. We do plan to work with our dual enrollment schools that we work with to try to get a biweekly attendance policy in place so that we'll know in advance beforehand before we get into the situation again. Thank you.”

Chair Stapleton asked if the Board had any questions or discussion. Chair Stapleton recognized Mr. Harrington, who asked if the student was aware of the requirements. AD Funderburk responded that while the guidance department goes through with every student the requirement to have two classes to be a full-time student, however, the student indicated he had never heard it.

There being no other questions, Chair Stapleton called for a motion. Dr. O'Shields made the motion to grant the waiver. Ms. Allison seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

04. Bishop England High School (School) Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. §59-39-160(C), related to a Student Participating in Interscholastic Activities- John E. Tyler, General Counsel, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Legal Affairs

Patrick Finneran, President, Bishop England High School: "You guys are an imposing group. First, I want to thank you for all you all do. I know while I'm at a Catholic school, I truly appreciate the stuff that you all have to do on a daily basis and the decisions you make. As Mike Brenan said, I always kind of focus on my 20 years of being a principal, what does it mean to the students? The student always goes first. The South Carolina High School League, as you saw in my letter, changed in the executive committee to the state law from what they had before. It wouldn't be a big deal if that was done in March when it was voted on by the full body of schools. The problem is, is that the vote was held August 2nd. It was not presented to us fully at schools until September 1st. Then it wasn't given kind of more attention until mid-September for us. We have several students at Bishop England High School who would be eligible under the old rules of the South Carolina High School League by passing four classes in the first semester. They aren't eligible now because of the change in the rule that they have to pass five or their core classes. It's an unusual request on Bishop England High School because it's not just one student. I have three students that are affected by this, and I'm sure there are other students in the state that are affected the same way that you might have talked to before. But that's where we are. One is a senior and she's missing her softball season, and she's actually going to play softball in college. One is a sophomore; one is a freshman. As a principal, president now, I always encourage our kids to do something else in school and athletics is one of those things and that's an extension of our school day. That should represent what we do as a school every day. It is important to me that they have the opportunity to participate. That's all I have."

Chair Stapleton asked if the Board had any questions or discussion. There being no questions, Chair Stapleton called for a motion. Ms. Chapman made the motion to grant the waiver. Mr. Walters seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

05. Abbeville County School District (District) Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. §59-39-160(C), related to a Student Participating in Interscholastic Activities- John E. Tyler, General Counsel, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Legal Affairs

Mason Gary, Superintendent, Abbeville County School District (District): "I have with me Ms. Maggie Jameson. She is the Athletic Director at Abbeville High School. We have today the

opportunity to present two of our students to you to appeal their eligibility as well. In the packet for the first student, you can see a statement written by one of our counselors that indicated nothing about eligibility was discussed with these students. Taking dual credit, they both did not do so well and hence became ineligible. The parents did not know, the students did not know that, and I come to you today telling you that as superintendent we are going to own this problem. That is a situation of when we rise together, and we fall together. We have a communication issue that we are going to correct, starting with our IGP process where we're going to have a statement listed for all students regarding eligibility. We are going to put it in our athletic handbook, our academic handbook, and our coaches will now announce this to their students and parents at their parent meetings. I want you to know I am not coming with excuses; this is a blunder that I am going to accept fully as superintendent. But I am asking for grace for these two students because they are mine and I feel like I need to advocate for them. If you have any questions, we will be glad to answer those."

Dr. O'Shields commented that the Board appreciates the district taking ownership of the issue. He further stated that it was something that has been discussed, to emphasize to all the school districts in the state making sure we communicate clearly in order to avoid those concerns in the future. Dr. O'Shields further stated, "I do think that is something all of us, you know, whether Bishop England, private or part of the high school league, it's something that we can communicate in coach's meetings, South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association, high school league schools, because you're not alone. I do admire and I, seriously, all jokes aside, I do appreciate your willingness to advocate on behalf of your students. Same for Bishop England and Buford with Lancaster. We don't want to punish the children for things that at times might be an adult issue."

Dr. Hanley commented that he appreciated the willingness to take ownership of the issue but appreciates much more greatly the fact that the district has a plan going forward to correct the issue and thanked Superintendent Gary for the leadership.

Ms. Allison commented that based on the requests today and those presented previously, that all parties involved needed to collaborate a great deal more on these issues on the front end so that children are not penalized.

Superintendent Gary responded, "We are reworking some of our articulation agreements with three institutions that do dual enrollment for us. I agree and we're trying to correct that as well."

Dr. O'Shields added, "I do think, too, that it may be something that Ms. Weaver in her role, the State Chair of the technical college system, as well as all of the other dual enrollment possibilities with four-year colleges that we can work because the bottom line is the child gets caught in the pick-off play."

There being no other comments or questions, Chair Stapleton called for a motion on Student

A's request. Ms. Allison made the motion to grant the waiver. Ms. Crimminger seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Chair Stapleton then called for a motion on Student B's request. Dr. O'Shields made the motion to grant the waiver. Ms. Collier seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

FOR INFORMATION

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

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

Mr. Ferguson gave a consolidated report on the districts, saying; "Madam Chair, ladies and gentlemen of the Board, I am here to share some updates around Allendale and Williamsburg. As Superintendent Weaver has often said, we are in listen and learn mode. I am happy to report that over the last couple of weeks we've done a visit both to Allendale and Williamsburg with a team of staff members from the Department of Ed. We have been reviewing plans, looking at data, really digging deep into the assessment plans, the curriculum, and also the instructional programs in those districts. That evaluation and assessment is still ongoing. We did not want to just read it on paper. We actually wanted to go down and meet people, shake hands, and look them in the eyes. We have done that, and we are continuing that work to really assess where everything is and to develop a plan for support going forward. That is really the update is that we are visiting and meeting with people but hope very soon to come back with a more definitive plan around what support looks like."

This concluded Mr. Ferguson's report.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

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 1:43 p.m.