

MINUTES
State Board of Education Meeting

Date

Tuesday, May 9, 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; Joyce Crimminger, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Dr. Joette Johnson, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Dr. Christian T. Hanley, Jr., Ninth Judicial Circuit; Sallie Lee, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Tammy 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 Terrible, 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; V. Henry Gunter, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Devan Davis, Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Larry Huff, Chief of Staff; Matthew Ferguson, Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness (Chief Academic Officer); Phillip Cease, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, Division of Legal Affairs; Dr. Quincie Moore, Director, Office of Career and

Technology, Division of College and Career Readiness; Tracy Moore, SBE Minutes Taker/Administrative Coordinator, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Frances “Cricket” Katsos, Administrative Coordinator, Office of Governmental Affairs, Division of Legal Affairs; Stephanie DiStasio, Director, Office of Personalized Learning, Division of College and Career Readiness; Kim Mack, Director, Office of School Transformation, Division of College and Career Readiness; Theresa Penney, Engineering/Associate Engineer III, Office of School Facilities, Division of Operations and Wellness; 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 II, 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 1:02 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 APRIL 11, 2023

Chair Stapleton asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes as presented for the SBE meeting on April 11, 2023. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR MAY 9, 2023

Chair Stapleton asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda as presented for the May 9, 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. She recognized Lesley Snyder and Lucas Delaney and Nora Snyder from Lexington-Richland 5 School District and USC, Kristen Davis from the South Carolina Education Association (SCEA). Mr. Craig King, we appreciate you planning the “Hill Days”. My district was able to take part in one as well just happened to be on a state board meeting day. I know it was so wonderful and beneficial for those that attended. Thank you for planning those. Also, we have Perry Mills and several others from the South Carolina Public Charter School District. Chair Stapleton also recognized news media from Queen City News and FOX News.

V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Stapleton welcomed everyone and thanked all participants for their interest in education. She then reported, "May is such a special time and a busy time for all of our schools. Many of the schools across the district have been celebrating Teacher Appreciation Weeks and Staff Appreciation Weeks. On behalf of the board, we express how grateful we truly are to everyone that works within our schools, not just our teachers but also bus drivers, cafeteria staff, custodians, everyone that plays a part in impacting the life of a child every day. We are so grateful for that. We hope everyone here will go and extend that gratitude to those within their areas and within their school districts back home.

I'd also like to mention in my report today as well that we are so grateful for all of the work that the State Department did for the Garden Party, for the State Teacher of the Year. It was such a wonderful time, and it was so well planned. I tell you; I can't even imagine pulling all that together. We are so appreciative of that and so many of our board members were able to attend that day as well. It is always wonderful to celebrate alongside our teachers in our districts and be a part of all the great things that are happening.

Ms. Frierson, the teacher forum that's here today visiting is in your district and I wanted to call on you in case you wanted to say anything special to them."

Ms. Frierson reported that the teachers were from Sumter County, and said, "God bless you, and we're so glad to see you here. I started in Sumter County a long time ago. Thank you for coming."

Chair Stapleton thanked Ms. Frierson and welcomed the Sumter School District Teacher Forum." This concluded the Chair's report.

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Chair Stapleton recognized Superintendent Weaver.

Superintendent Weaver reported, "I will start my report with a little bit of history, but I love that we have Sumter in the house today because one of my favorite education stories in the state of South Carolina took place in a little town called Mayesville in Sumter County. This is where Mary McLeod Bethune lived her life, grew up and went on to become one of the most distinguished educators we've ever graduated from the state of South Carolina. It is wonderful to have you all in the house today. Show-and-tell was always my favorite part of kindergarten. I would like to do a little show-and-tell today if I can lift this thing. We found this here in the recesses of the Department of Education. It is very heavy; it is also obviously very old. There are no serial numbers on it or anything, so I do not know the providence of this seal. I would like to try to figure that out. We have asked State Archives if they can do some research into it

to find out what it was used for, when it may have been used and what part of our history it may represent. You can tell that it got a lot of use because it's very faint, it's kind of hard to see. If you all want to look at it, come up to me afterwards. It says Office State Superintendent of Education, South Carolina, and what I love most about it, is that it has a book with a key on it. That is what we are here to celebrate and to do all day every day. Knowledge as the key to the future, to economic success, to personal success, to success in life. I just love the symbolism of that, and I was so excited to discover this little piece of South Carolina history right here in the department.

That carries me right into the actual substance of my report, which is really centered around literacy. I was able to hand out to each of you one page that we have recently put together that just explains a little bit about the Science of Reading and what this Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training is that we have been talking about all this time. I know people have been asking a lot of questions, so we hope that this will give you some information to have a more informed conversation with folks in your networks about what we're really working on here at the department.

I was able to get out into the field a little bit a couple of weeks ago. I visited Forts Pond Elementary School in Lexington School District One, Superintendent Postlewaite was kind enough to host. I was able to actually sit down after school and just have an off the record conversation with a number of teachers who have started this LETRS training. It was so encouraging to hear some of the things that they said. One of the teachers said, "I didn't know how to help and now I know what to do." Another one said that it's "given them a common language to use". But rather than listen to me talk about it, I actually have a short four-and-a-half-minute video that I wanted to show you all today. This video will feature a teacher from Forts Pond, a teacher from Horry County Schools, Dr. Maxey was kind enough to send in some videos, and also Dr. Kennedy in Charleston." (Video is shown to board members and attendees).

Superintendent Weaver followed up after the video, saying, "I hope you all are as encouraged by that as I am. Really, this is a movement to empower teachers as much as it is to empower students. When we hear those stories from the classroom, it just warms my heart and gives me such a sense of purpose in terms of moving this forward. We are so thankful for the support we've gotten from the general assembly and the growing momentum that we see around the state. In addition to those districts, there was a wonderful story out of Fort Mill with Superintendent Epps looking to realign his district around the Science of Reading. It is really exciting, the movement and the energy that we have here on the ground, I think this is going to pay huge dividends for both our teachers and our students.

May is certainly a month for celebration. In addition to the wonderful teacher of the year, Renee Atkinson, that we were able to recognize at our Teacher of the Year celebration. I want you all to know that the young lady who planned our Teacher of the Year Gala in the Garden, Evers-Thordall, now Montgomery, got married on Saturday. I told her she would remember

the spring when she essentially planned two weddings simultaneously.

I would also like to recognize two very special teachers who are here with us today. These teachers are each past recipients of the Milken Award. The Milken Award was created in 1987 and it is a nationally and internationally prestigious award that allots teachers \$25,000 unrestricted when they win this. This is targeted to teachers who are in their early to mid-career. Oftentimes we see awards that are for accumulative lifetime achievements, but this is really about retaining those teachers who are early in their profession. We have two educators with us today, interestingly, two Leslies, one -ie and one -ey.

Leslie Sullivan was named as a Milken educator in February of 2020, right in the middle of the pandemic. She brings history to life for her students at Palmetto Scholars Academy in North Charleston. She is a master of content for her honors and advanced placement classes, including US History, Government and Economics. More than three quarters of Palmetto's graduates are enrolled in college or have earned degrees. Alumni say that Sullivan's high expectations have helped them in their post-secondary studies. A role model for her peers, Leslie has mentored new teachers, led professional development for Palmetto faculty and contributes lesson plans to an online network for AP US history teachers. She did receive her award during the pandemic, it was mailed to her, but she never was officially presented with it, and we wanted to rectify that today.

Our second recipient, Lesley Snyder, our most recent Milken educator recipient, at Dutch Fork Middle School, was named for this award April of last year. She creates innovative, purposeful learning experiences that motivate and engage her ELA students. She challenges the eighth graders in her honors class to think independently and holds every student to the same high standards. Lessons include real world examples and career connections with parents, administrators, and community members often joining the class for hands-on learning experiences. Thanks to Snyder's strategies for teaching text-dependent analysis, students leave her class as strong, confident readers and writers. One student even published a book that was inspired by a classroom project. We are so excited to recognize both of these Leslies today."

This concluded Superintendent Weaver's report.

VII. PARLIAMENTARIAN COMMENT

Chair Stapleton recognized Parliamentarian, John Tyler, General Counsel, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Legal Affairs. Mr. Tyler reported, "Today is the next installation of our Robert's Rules for the busy professional. I thought it might be helpful to offer tips regarding Robert's Rules of Order. The State Board of Education, you all often vote verbally. Sometimes it may seem unclear whether the result of that vote was a yes or no simply depending on where you are seated. Perhaps you're seated near the loud nays, though it may be the dissenting minority. Perhaps you're seated nearest the loud yeas, though they may be the dissenting

minority. If at any point prior to the next motion you would like a vote by show of hands, because it seemed unclear to you, you can simply call for a “division of the house” or “role call vote”. This does not need to be seconded. However, if it is objected to by any member of the board, there would be a vote required to determine whether you would have a division of the house vote, in other words, a show of hands. So that's all for today. I thought that that little tip might be helpful at some point.”

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Stapleton welcomed those signed up for public comment. She then recognized Denise Robinson with the Sumter Teacher Forum.

Ms. Robinson reported, “My name is Denise Robinson. I'm Sumter School District Teacher of the Year and I'm joined by a ton of tremendous other educators that are also teachers of the year for their particular schools. This year we have really focused on advocacy in Sumter. We had a brand-new superintendent, and all of our school board seats were up for election, so we put a lot of time and focus on that. We just wanted to take advantage of our “Hill Day” today, that was planned by PSTA and be able to come and attend a State Board of Education meeting. Thank you for everything that you are doing.”

The Superintendent thanked Ms. Robinson and the Sumter Teacher Forum for being at the State Board meeting.

IX. STATE BOARD ITEMS

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Stapleton reported that the sub-committee met and heard two action item(s) and zero item(s) for information. The action items were placed on the Consent Agenda.

FOR APPROVAL

01. Request for Approval of Property Disposal – Hampton County School District

02. Request for Approval of Property Disposal – Cherokee County School District

FOR INFORMATION

No items.

EP EDUCATOR PROFESSIONS—COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Lee reported that the sub-committee met and heard three action item(s) and zero item(s) for information. The action items were placed on the Consent Agenda.

FOR APPROVAL

- 01.** South Carolina Educator Preparation Guidelines: Standards, Policies, and Procedures
Specialty Area Program Approval Standards—English for Speakers of Other Languages
- 02.** New Educator Preparation Program Approval Recommendation: Newberry College
Bachelor of Science in Special Education: Multi-categorical (PK–Grade 12)
- 03.** New Educator Preparation Program Approval Recommendation: Bob Jones University
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Teaching World Languages

FOR INFORMATION

No items.

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Stapleton recognized Ms. Frierson who reported that the sub-committee met and heard one action item(s) and zero item(s) for information. The action item was placed on the Consent Agenda.

FOR APPROVAL

- 01.** Personal Finance (one-half unit) Course Standards Approval—Second Reading

FOR INFORMATION

No items. (Note: The “For Information” item regarding a curriculum update was not done in committee earlier, but that will just be part of the literacy update that Mr. Ferguson does later.)

ELC EDUCATOR LICENSURE—COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Stapleton recognized Mr. Walters who reported that the sub-committee met and took action upon the following 20 cases; one approval for initial certification, one public reprimand, and eighteen 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 4 cases; one approval for initial certification and one suspension. Chair Stapleton also reported that the actions of ELC were ratified during the FB ELC meeting. Chair Stapleton commented, “To our office of General Counsel, thank you again for all the work you do to help prepare us. We are greatly appreciative of that and how smoothly everything is done and how well you prepare everything for us to review.”

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Ms. Crimminger made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Walters seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

X. SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

PUBLIC HEARING

01. Request for Graduation Requirement Waiver by the Greenville County School District

– Quincie Moore, Director, Office of Career and Technology Education, Division of College and Career Readiness

Chair Stapleton recognized Henry Gunter, Deputy General Counsel, who reported, "Good afternoon, Madam Chair, members of the board, and Madam Superintendent. As you all know, my name is Henry Gunter and I'm with the Office of General Counsel. What I am introducing for you today is a somewhat unique matter, and so Mr. Tyler believed it would be advantageous for me to give you all a little bit of a legal background as well as outlining the procedure for the waiver request that you're going to hear today.

There is a waiver before you requested by the Greenville County School District on behalf of one of its students, and the regulations sought is a waiver of state board regulation 43-234, which governs various academic requirements. In terms of background, I know what you all may be thinking. "This isn't that unique of an issue. We heard a similar issue last month." Well, the issue last month is distinguishable, because the issue last month involved a graduating senior and there was a statute that directly addressed the matter. In this case, there is no statute directly addressing the matter, so it falls under the board's general authority to waive its own regulations where such waiver would not be contrary to any statute or constitutional requirements.

In terms of the statute at play, South Carolina Code section §59-29-10 specifically requires certain subjects be taught, aside from those subjects required by statute, the state board is charged with requiring any additional subjects. Of issue here, computer science is not required by the statute and is required by the state board regulation. In terms of that regulation, State Board Regulation §43-234 directs that a student must earn a total of 24 units of credit as follows, English Language Arts, four credits, Mathematics, four credits, Science, three credits, US History and Constitution, one credit, Economics, 0.5 credits, US Government, 0.5 credits, other Social Studies, one credit, Physical Education or Junior ROTC, one Credit, Computer Science, one credit, Foreign Language or Career and Technology Education, one credit, and Electives, seven credits. Looking at the regulation, it further states that each school district

must ensure quality schooling by providing a rigorous, relevant curriculum for all students. As I noted earlier, as the public body that creates the regulations, the state board possesses the authority to waive those regulations when it deems it appropriate under unique circumstances. For the board's review today, first, Dr. Quincy Moore and her staff from the office of our Career and Technology Education are going to present facts relevant to the regulatory requirements and their application to the case before you today. Next, representative or representatives of the Greenville County School District will formally present the request for waiver and provide further context from the district's perspective. The board will then go into executive session to discuss the matter. Mr. John Tyler and Ms. Devan Davis will be present to provide any legal advice that the board needs during their consideration of the issue. I will yield the podium to Dr. Moore and her staff. Thank you very much."

The Chair recognized Dr. Quincie Moore. Dr. Moore reported, "Good afternoon, Madam Chair and State Board members. Greenville School District reached out to the State Department of Education for clarification on whether or not the Greenville Technical College dual credit course CP 170 Micro Computer Applications, would satisfy the computer science graduation requirement. Based on Regulation §59-29-250, it does not. The State Department does not have the authority to waive this regulation, or any state requirements put in place by the State Board or the legislature. At this time, I will introduce Mr. Eric Williams from the Greenville County School District, who is the Executive Director of College and Career Readiness, to present their request."

The Chair recognized Eric Williams with the Greenville County School District. Mr. Williams reported, "Good afternoon. Thank you so much for your time. I did want to provide a brief timeline of the extenuating circumstances regarding this request. In the spring of 2018, Mrs. Runyon asked the J.L. Mann High School's school counseling department if her son could take a dual credit, computer science course, and use that course to satisfy the state computer science requirement. At that time, the computer science regulation had not yet changed and districts had autonomy over what classes could satisfy computer science requirements. Her son was able to take the dual credit course mentioned by Dr. Moore CPT 170 through Greenville Technical College to satisfy the computer science requirement. In 2021, Mrs. Runyon asked the school counseling department if her daughter could take the same Greenville Tech course instead of the typical high school computer science course as her son did previously. The School Counseling Department informed Ms. Runyon that she could take the course but neglected to tell her that the course would not count as the computer science requirement as it did for her son. By 2021, of course, the computer science requirements in the state had changed, and in order to meet the state requirements, students must choose from a list of the state generated course. While the student did receive elective credit with dual weighting for the course she took, it did not count towards her computer science requirement. At this time, I'd like to yield some of my time to Mrs. Runyon and let her explain some additional circumstances."

Chair Stapleton recognized Mr. and Mrs. Runyon. Ms. Runyon reported, "Madam Chair and members of the State Board of Education, my name is Gina Runyon. This is Bob. I didn't know

we would have quite the crowd today, but it looks like it's cleared out a little. I want to thank you for the opportunity to be here today to speak on behalf of our daughter, who actually took her fourth and final AP exam this morning. She has no idea about this dilemma or this appeal. Bob and I felt it was important enough for us to take a time off from work and be here today with you to advocate on her behalf.

In all honesty, we never imagined that we would be standing here before you requesting a waiver for a college level computer course that she took last summer that was approved by the Greenville County School's J.L. Mann guidance department. Like other class of 2024 students, our daughter began her freshman year in a mask with very little social interaction and a great deal of anxiety. She learned that she could control to some degree her academic performance, so she dug in. Confidentially, there are private elements that we are unwilling or uncomfortable to talk about today that should be in your written documents that you received. While sophomore year saw much more normalcy, obviously, Lily injured her back and subsequently had a microdiscectomy as a result. Spring 2023, which has arguably been her most difficult semester with four AP classes and honors physics, she's been plagued with illness. She had COVID and a visit to the ER with lingering symptoms. Currently she's ranked 20 out of 490 with a 5.178 GPA. She's already met the requirements for Palmetto Fellow, the state's highest scholarship. Superintendent Weaver, you may be interested to know that her AP research project was on early childhood literacy in South Carolina.

To say we're proud parents is an understatement. Bob and I are proponents of public education. We followed our children from elementary school to middle school to high school, volunteering, sitting on school improvement council where I still would be had work not interfered. I tell you all of this to say that our faith in public schools has been strong up until this point. Starting in eighth grade, we mapped out Lily's academic plan. We've never relied specifically on guidance counselors to tell us what to take. We've worked in partnership with them. We thought that this situation was no different. She took CPT 170 the summer between her sophomore and junior year, which allowed her to take an additional English course and participate in J.L. Mann's AP Capstone Program. As you can see in the timeline that you received, our son took the same computer course the summer between his sophomore and junior year. What we did not know was that the legislature had changed the requirements and obviously our guidance department did not know this either. We do have confirmation August of 2021 and spring of 2022 that the class would count towards the graduation requirements. I have it in writing twice. We had no reason to believe that it would not count. Imagine our surprise nine months later when we learned that indeed it does not count for graduation. You may ask why our student can't just tack on another class her senior year. Her father and I would first offer that she's already taken a college level computer course that was once accepted by the state of South Carolina. She should not be punished for this unintentional error. This summer is also not an option for her to take the course. She's working at camp and she's going on a mission trip. Senior year she's taking AP Stat, AP Lit, AP Environmental Science and a dual enrollment American government course, which I do have in writing, checked twice from J.L. Mann guidance, that it does count toward graduation.

The grueling college application process starts this summer and continues into the fall. She is also hoping for a fall internship and plans to find a job, which we wholeheartedly support. A computer course cannot replace one of her four core credits that she's taking senior year. Any college admissions counselor will tell you that a competitive application includes one of the four core courses. Also, if the computer course is tacked on to the previously mentioned schedule, it will raise a red flag on her competitive college admissions and will be impossible to explain. Lastly, and most importantly of all, we're concerned about her mental health. From the pandemic to back surgery to COVID and experiencing long-term symptoms, she has struggled to catch a break in high school. She will not understand while she's being punished for an error she did not cause. So today we're asking for your thoughtful consideration of this waiver as it directly impacts our daughter's mental health and could impede her college acceptances. We ask you, the members of the State Board of Education, to do the right thing and support one of your students granting a waiver for CPT-170 to count toward her graduation requirements is not setting a precedent, it is righting a wrong. Thank you."

Chair Stapleton thanked the parents and the district for appearing today. She then inquired if any Board members had questions of the SCDE, the district or the parents. Hearing none, Chair Stapleton called for executive session for deliberations. The Board then retired to a conference room to deliberate.

At 2:21p.m., Chair Stapleton returned the Board meeting to open session.

Ms. Slaughter made a motion, based upon the unique set of facts and circumstances at issue in the instant case, that the request for course substitution for the approved Computer Science course credit be approved. Mr. Walters seconded the motion.

Chair Stapleton recognized Dr. Hanley. Dr. Hanley commented, "This is a unique case, as Ms. Slaughter said. I would only be willing to vote in favor of this if the staff in fact does write the letter of approval in such a way that it makes it clear that this is not to be precedent for future approvals and that because of the unique circumstances here, such as this was the first year of full implementation of the policy and because of extenuating circumstances within the district, that this is in fact a unique case."

Chair Stapleton thanked Dr. Hanley for the clarification of the motion. There being no further questions or comments, she then called for a vote of the board. The motion carried.

FOR INFORMATION

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

"Good afternoon, Madam Chair, members of the board. I am really excited to be sharing with you a literacy update. There are a lot of exciting things going on with literacy, but as usual, superintendent Weaver stole my thunder with that wonderful video earlier. I think to really see

the power and know the power of what is happening across the state in literacy is to hear it's best heard from the voice of teachers. And I think what we have seen as we've gone around the state where LETRS is being implemented and as districts are changing their practice, teachers are feeling empowered, they're feeling relief and they're feeling transformed in their practice to be able to improve and serve students and improve their outcomes. I am really excited about that. Also, wanting to recognize the unique place we are in as far as policy right now. I have worked in literacy for a long time. This iteration of standards being approved, they are really good ELA standards of the K-12 curriculum, happening over the summer and into the fall with us looking at professional development through the funding of the foundational literacy skills for all teachers K-three beginning next year. It also allows us to look at assessment for literacy. Those "blocks" lining up like that has not happened in my entire career. We often adopt curriculum and then approved standards and then we change the assessment two or three times. This is a really unique opportunity where the stars are aligning. We just have to make sure we get it right. I think we are doing many of the things necessary to make sure we are getting it right. The Science of Reading handout points to some of those things.

As many of the superintendents know, we are barnstorming the state, talking to every group of educators that we can about the power of the Science of Reading and how it's improving student outcomes. Superintendents, district staff, and teachers are really open to that idea right now. They are all lining up to participate in the training beginning next year, in addition to the 60 districts and 5,600 teachers that have already started over the last two years. It has really informed some of the practices that we hope to scale and spread, because we have certainly learned lessons from what the LETRS professional development looked like in those 220 schools. There are some places where it worked really well. There are models that we hope to be able to replicate across the state. There are others where, because of how it was structured outside of the instructional day or because teachers didn't feel as involved in it, it didn't work as well. We hope to be able to learn from that experience and make the rollout statewide much more effective.

Related to that and those Palmetto Literacy project schools also wanted to update the board around the English Language curriculum. As you may remember, through some ESSER funding, there was a special allocation set aside for curriculum adoption in the Palmetto Literacy project schools. There were five choices selected in that process that was funded through federal funds. Subsequent to that approval, Proviso 1.93 passed only two districts adopted and chose to use EL curriculum as a part of the Palmetto Literacy project schools. One of those districts was Charleston. Charleston has since identified some controversial material within that curriculum. We have done an independent review at the State Department of the concerns raised by Charleston and concur with their findings. As a result of that, the Department of Education will be removing the EL curriculum from the approved list for the Palmetto Project literacy schools going forward. I wanted to make you all aware of that decision from the department staff. That concludes the literacy update."

Chair Stapleton recognized Mr. Harrington. Mr. Harrington commented, “I can't understand why, if it is some innovative thing that comes up that changes something, that we wouldn't have to go back and train the teachers that have already been through schools of education. I did not hear you say anything about what we are doing with the schools of education or higher education in order to see that these teachers are trained in this method before they come to the school as employees.”

Mr. Ferguson responded, “Mr. Harrington, that is such a good question. It is not something that is currently in what has passed this session. We are including the schools of education in the conversations, we are inviting them to participate in the LETRS training. We have a cohort of faculty from the schools of education that are signed up to begin that process next year of the professional development. One additional piece that's in proviso right now is the addition of a Science of Reading praxis assessment for teachers who are initially certified in elementary or early childhood. That is an incentive for the schools of education to change their practices, so that they are more aligned with the Science of Reading, because you are absolutely right, we have to provide that training to teachers who are currently in classrooms, but we need to also correct that discrepancy on the front end. As a high school English teacher, I can tell you they never taught me how to teach reading when I came through educator prep. Far too many of our teachers do graduate not knowing how to teach reading.”

Chair Stapleton recognized Dr. Hanley. Dr. Hanley commented, “Mr. Ferguson, thank you very much for your team's work in this. Charleston County is one of the counties that I represent, and yes, I had a conversation with that district concerning this material. And yes, there was an awful lot of inappropriate material for young children as well as there was even one student who was quoted as saying, "You're coming into the classroom and asking, 'What sad story are we going to read today?'" It's just awful, this material. Thank you very much for reviewing it and for removing it. Thank you.”

FOR APPROVAL

02. Personal Finance (one-half unit) Course Standards Approval Second Reading — Dr. Quincie Moore, Director, Career and Technology Education, Division of College and Career Readiness

Chair Stapleton reported that the second for approval item was skipped over. She reminded the members of Ms. Frierson's report and asked for any comment or questions. Hearing none, she called for a motion. Mr. Walters made the motion. Ms. Allison seconded the motion. The motion carried.

FOR INFORMATION

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

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

Chair Stapleton recognized Mr. Ferguson for a combined report on Allendale and Williamsburg Counties. Mr. Ferguson reported, “This update is a little shorter, but we are currently working with an external review team, and they are this week on the ground in Allendale County conducting interviews and observations. Last week they were in Williamsburg County on the ground observing classrooms and talking to teachers, principals, administrators at the district office. Two weeks prior to that, they were conducting interviews and looking at processes in Human Resources, finance, technology, and instruction. The result of those visits will culminate in a report this summer. We will use that evaluation, that report to co-create an action plan for both Allendale and Williamsburg next year that outlines plans for improvement that work to improve student outcomes. It will outline responsibilities of both at the district, but also the supports that the department hopes to be able to provide in support of that work.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Stapleton reminded all members to turn in their travel forms prior to their departure. She further reminded the board that a separate public hearing was scheduled after the regularly scheduled board meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 2:30 p.m.