

MINUTES

State Board of Education Special Called Meeting

Date

Thursday, January 17, 2023

Time

2:30 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; Cheryl Collier, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; Mary Cordray, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; and Alan Walters, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

New members in attendance today: Tammy Shore, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Jackie Terribile, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; and Rita Allison, Governor's Appointee. 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: Ellen E. Weaver, State Superintendent; Larry Huff, Chief of Staff; Cathy Hazelwood, General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; John Tyler, Deputy Superintendent, General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; V. Henry Gunter,

Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Barbara Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Tracy Moore, SBE Minutes Taker/Administrative Coordinator, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Steven Strother, Accounting/Fiscal Manager, Finance Office; Melissa Myers, Director, Auditing Office, Finance Office; Hershula Davis, Audits Manager, Auditing Office, Finance Office; Elizabeth Riddle, Program Manager II, Office of Governmental Affairs, Division of Legal Affairs; Travis Huggins, Information Technology Manager I, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; Rashard Huntley, IT Specialist II, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; Quinn Murphy, IT Specialist III, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; and Raymond Dues, IT Specialist III, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations.

I. WELCOME/CONVENING OF PUBLIC HEARING

The SBE meeting reconvened at 2:30 p.m. Chair Stapleton called the Public Hearing to order and welcomed everyone.

II. STATE BOARD ITEMS

RICHLAND COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE (DISTRICT)

DISTRICT APPEAL OF FISCAL WATCH, ISSUED DECEMBER 6, 2022

Chair Stapleton announced that, procedurally, Richland County School District One is allowed the first 10 minutes for their argument. The State Superintendent is allowed 15 minutes to respond. The District is then allowed an opportunity for rebuttal, up to 10 minutes. At the conclusion of the arguments, the State Board will adjourn to discuss the matter in executive session.

Representing the District: Thomas Barlow, Esq., and Dwayne Mazyck, Esq., Halligan Mahoney & Williams, P.A.

Representing the State Superintendent of Education, Ellen E. Weaver: Cathy Hazelwood

Representing the State Board of Education, V. Henry Gunter and John Tyler

District Representatives: Cheryl Harris, Board Chair; Dr. Craig Witherspoon, Superintendent; Sherri Matthews-Hazel, Chief Financial Officer

It is noted that the fiscal watch was issued under former Superintendent Molly Spearman's term. Prior to this public hearing, Ellen E. Weaver was elected and installed as the current Superintendent.

Mr. Barlow argued the district's position based on the brief previously filed and provided to the Board members, seeking to overturn the Superintendent's declaration of Fiscal Watch. Ms. Hazelwood, representing the Superintendent, argued for the SBE to uphold Superintendent

Spearman's declaration. Mr. Barlow presented the rebuttal and again sought the SBE's overturning of the Superintendent's declaration of Fiscal Watch in the district.

Chair Stapleton asked if there were questions from the SBE. There being no discussion or questions, at 2:56 p.m., the SBE, along with Henry Gunter, Deputy General Counsel for the SBE, and John Tyler, adjourned to go into Executive Session, to deliberate on the information presented during the Hearing. The Executive Session was held in Room 806. The Executive Session ended at 3:09p.m.

Chair Stapleton thanked everyone for their patience and declared the meeting back in Open Session. Chair Stapleton stated that the SBE had earnestly deliberated the issue, and asked for a motion. Mr. Walters made the motion to affirm the Superintendent's declaration of Fiscal Watch. Dr. O'Shields seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous by voting members. The State Board of Education affirmed the State Superintendent's declaration of Fiscal Watch in Richland County School District One.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Having concluded the first Public Hearing, the SBE adjourned at 3:14 p.m.