

MINUTES

State Board of Education Meeting

Date

January 9, 2024

Time

1:00 p.m.

Location

Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dr. David O'Shields, Chair
Ms. Rita Allison, Chair-Elect
Ellen E. Weaver, State Superintendent of Education,
Secretary and Administrative Officer to the Board

Visitor Information

If you require Section 504 or Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations to attend or participate in this public meeting, please contact Tracy Moore.

Due to allergies of staff and visitors, we ask that visitors refrain from wearing scented products when attending the State Board of Education (SBE) meetings in South Carolina Department of Education facilities.

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

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff attended: John Tyler, Deputy Superintendent, Parliamentarian, General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Barbara Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Henry

Gunter, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Tracy Moore, SBE Executive Liaison, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Travis Huggins, Information Technology Manager I, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; Quinn Murphy, IT Specialist III, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; Rashard Huntley, IT Specialist III, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; Brando Butler, IT Specialist III, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; and Raymond Dues, IT Specialist II, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations.

I. WELCOME/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SBE meeting convened at 1:01 p.m. Chair O'Shields called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone who attended.

Chair-Elect Allison led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 12, 2023

Chair O'Shields asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes as presented for the SBE meeting on December 9, 2023. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR JANUARY 9, 2024

Chair O'Shields asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda as presented for the January 9, 2024, SBE meeting. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND NEWS MEDIA

Chair O'Shields welcomed any media and asked if any visitors had signed in. No visitors.

V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair O'Shields reported, "It is such an interesting day, it reminds me of a song 50 years ago this year. This song transcended country, it transcended gospel, it transcended pop. It was the song by Mary John Wilkin, co-author and Kris Kristofferson, One Day at A Time. We have to look at this as dealing with where we are today. Whether we are in person or whether we are online, it is our duty and privilege to serve the state in this capacity. I apologize for the virtual format, but the safety of our students and staff truly is our priority during this unpredictable."

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Chair O'Shields recognized Superintendent Weaver. Superintendent Weaver reported, "It is a

lonely crowd here in the RCC today. We look forward to next month when we are all hopefully prayerfully back together in person. I wanted to briefly report today on something that I have shared with the board previously, which is what we are calling Project Raise Your Hand. Everything that I report I try to always bring back to the strategic 1-4/1-4 plan that I shared with you all a number of months ago. You may recall that one of our three-year goals on that plan was launching a community engagement project to support our teachers and our students within our schools. Today, here at the department, we had an incredible launch meeting with our office directors to talk about how we as the Department of Education are going to raise our hand to provide time as support within our local schools here in our neighborhood. If the Department of Education were zoned for a school district, we would be zoned for Richland One, they are our neighborhood schools and so we have reached out to district leadership. In collaboration with them, as well as with leadership within a number of local schools in Richland One, we are going to be launching this Agency Engagement and Support project. Just with a little bit more flavor about that and in a moment, we will watch a video which I hope that our folks online will be able to see. We will provide a link to it if for some reason it does not work.

I also wanted to mention on the instructional side that we do have instructional caravans that are starting for our new ELA curriculum. I believe those will start in Charleston tomorrow. We are very excited about the caliber of materials that have been selected, their alignment with our priorities here at the agency around the science of reading and ensuring that our teachers have the best material in their classroom. We do not expect them to go out and spend hours and hours of their personal time curating curriculum. We are giving them something that is meaningful and useful here from the state level, very excited about that. Again, there is a short one pager that Mr. Ferguson has put together that we will send to the board following this meeting just as information.

Those were two things that I wanted to call to your attention. During my report I always love to be able to provide a moment of inspiration, of something to celebrate that is happening in public education across our state. Today, we are going to see a video that relates to Project Raise Your Hand and the power of volunteerism within our schools. (A video was played, highlighting a volunteer substitute at Rick Hill High School.)

Not only is Mr. Hill an incredible substitute there at Rock Hill High School but he also is the father of Stephanie Destasio, one of our longtime employees here at the Department of Education and just a really valued part of our team. It warms my heart to think of the possibility of all of the Mr. Hills and Mrs. Hills, who are sitting out there in South Carolina, who would love the opportunity to be able to come into schools and support the journey of our students and our teachers here in South Carolina. I am so excited about the pilot that we are launching. I am excited about the potential for us to ultimately be able to take this statewide. I am incredibly grateful for the awesome work of the committee of staff here within the department. They have really led the work on developing all of the policies and procedures and the important

details that are required for us to do this and to do this well and to be able to measure impact over time”.

This concluded the Superintendent’s report.

VII. PARLIAMENTARIAN COMMENT

(Chair O’Shields lost virtual connection)

Parliamentarian, John Tyler, General Counsel, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Legal Affairs, reported, “Next up would be parliamentary comments. I am going to go ahead and offer the parliamentary comments. Our veteran board members will recall last year at this time filing a statement of economic interest as required by the South Carolina Ethics Act. It is that time of year again, please note that your statement of economic interest is required by March 30th of this year, the State Ethics Commission website is the place to do that. [Ethics.sc.gov](https://ethics.sc.gov), if you need any assistance, their office will be glad to help. That number is 803-253 4192. So once again get those statements of economic interest in by March 30th.

One other parliamentarian comment today, due to the inclement weather, as you all are aware, we are not entirely in person today. That makes the public comment portion quite a challenge. However, it has become the practice of this board, and became the practice of this Board during COVID, that members of the public could email their public comment, and then staff for the South Carolina Department of Education will read those comments. We do have time restrictions that remain in place. We do have a limitation for the overall period of time for the public comment portion in place as well.”

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair-Elect Allison (acting Chair) welcomed those signed up for public comment, noting that because of the virtual nature of the meeting it was determined the most practical determination was to allow for public comment to be submitted via email to General Counsel. In order to accommodate the number of people who requested to provide public comment, the Chair suggested that the minutes allocated be lessened to three per speaker in order to allow for ten speakers to have their comments heard. Ms. Cordray made the motion. Ms. Crimminger seconded the motion. The motion passed. Simultaneously, while the ten public comments were read into the record, a copy of all comments submitted were live streamed to the public.

Lacey Lane, Emily Bacomo, Stephanie Patterson, Kay Mein, Katherine Ramp, Brian Linder, Rebekah Gilliam, Carly Carter, Jill Slapnick, and Melissa Masters’ comments were read aloud to the Board. While reading public comments, all public comments scrolled on the live feed for everyone to see.

Chair-Elect Allison commented, "Thank you. I want to thank staff for reading those public comments that have come in. We have seen them all on video also for people to read on their own. Thank all of you who took the time to send us those comments. At this time, before we proceed, I would like to check to see if Chair O'Shields has had the opportunity to resolve his connection issues."

Chair O'Shields, "I am here, I don't know if you can hear me."

Chair-Elect Allison, "We can hear you, Chair. Thank you so much and we will let you move on with the agenda."

IX. STATE BOARD ITEMS

POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE (PL) — COMMITTEE REPORT

Did not meet.

EDUCATOR PROFESSIONS (EP) — COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair O'Shields recognized Dr. Stapleton, acting Chair, who reported that the sub-committee met and heard one action item(s) and no item(s) for information. The action items were placed on the Consent Agenda.

This concluded Dr. Stapleton's report.

FOR APPROVAL

01. New Educator Preparation Program Approval Recommendation: Anderson University Bachelor of Science (BS) Programs

FOR INFORMATION

No items.

STANDARDS, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY (SLA) — COMMITTEE REPORT

Did not meet.

EDUCATOR LICENSURE (ELC) — COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair O'Shields recognized Ms. Crimminger who reported the sub-committee met and took action upon the following ten cases; two public reprimands and eight suspensions. Ms. Crimminger further reported that these matters were ratified during the Full Board ELC meeting. Ms. Crimminger also reported, "I would like to thank the Office of General Counsel and the wonderful job they did in the virtual environment for us this morning, and to our board members who put in a great deal of time reading over all this material before we

met.”

FULL BOARD EDUCATOR LICENSURE (FB-ELC) — COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair O’Shields reported that the FB ELC met for the limited purpose of ratifying the matters heard in ELC. Chair O’Shields echoed the comments of Ms. Crimminger in thanking the Office of General Counsel and the board members.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Chair O’Shields called for a vote. Ms. Crimminger made the motion. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

X. SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

No items.

FOR INFORMATION

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

Mr. Ferguson reported, “Happy new year, everyone. I want to give everyone a quick update on our literacy initiatives. To begin with, Letters is starting its second statewide rollout. We have an additional 1,000 teachers who will begin their Letters journey in the next few weeks. In addition to those 1,000 educators across South Carolina, we are also beginning an IHE educator prep cohort. There are forty professors, and IHE faculty members who are scheduled to begin their Letters journey. This Thursday actually will be the kickoff, Superintendent Weaver will be there, to kick off that cohort meeting. Letters is well underway, and we are making plans to include everyone who has not been trained to begin their journey in August. By next August, our plan is that everyone will have begun the two years Letters journey and are working towards the science of reading training.

In addition to that, Superintendent Weaver mentioned we are also beginning our caravans for the selection of our high-quality instructional materials. Those caravans begin tomorrow in Charleston and there will be several meetings held across the state. Those caravans are an opportunity for the vendors to propose their materials to the districts. It's also an opportunity for the department to support districts in the selection of their instructional resources, with an eye towards quality, as we seek to improve student outcomes and also support our educators, always keeping in mind are these materials that we would use with our own children and in our own classrooms”.

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

Mr. Ferguson jointly reported on Allendale and Williamsburg School Districts, stating, “Moving into the report on the Hope Network districts. We are continuing to support Allendale and Williamsburg with technical assistance to help clarify our vision around student outcomes and align systems within those districts to improve the instructional program. We are beginning some very intentional work with the instructional team beginning in February. We are also inviting additional districts who are tracking towards underperforming status to join us in that journey on that technical assistance to build out the instructional program and create alignment towards improving student outcomes. Also, we have been working on the rollout of our strategic compensation pilot in both Allendale and Williamsburg and finalizing those details. In short order we'll be rolling out those details to the educators in Allendale and Williamsburg. We are hoping to write some very large checks to those educators based on student growth this year. We will also use that pilot to help us recruit the best and brightest teachers from across the state to help us staff those schools next year as we work to improve student outcomes for students across the state.”

This concluded Mr. Ferguson’s report.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair O’Shields informed the Board Members that staff would be in contact with regarding travel and per diem for today’s meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 1:48 p.m.