# MINUTES

State Board of Education Meeting

**Date**

August 13, 2024

**Time**

1:00 p.m.

**Location**

Rutledge Conference Center
429 Wholesale Lane
West Columbia, SC 29172

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 David O'Shields, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Chair-Elect Rita Allison, Governor's Appointee; Maya Slaughter, First Judicial Circuit; David Mathis, Second 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; and Ken Richardson, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. Delaney Frierson, Third Judicial Circuit and Beverly Frierson, Fifth Judicial Circuit were absent.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff attended: John Tyler, Deputy Superintendent, Parliamentarian, General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Dr. Matthew Ferguson, Deputy Superintendent, Chief Academic Officer, College, Career and Military Readiness Division; Barbara Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Matthew Ferguson, Deputy Superintendent, Division of College, Career and Military Readiness; Kendra Hunt, Deputy Superintendent, Chief Financial Office; 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; Raymond Dues, IT Specialist II, 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; Jonathan Glover, IT Specialist III, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; Alex Vora, IT Specialist III, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations; and Mark Jones, IT Specialist III, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations.

## I. WELCOME/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SBE meeting convened at 1:05 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 THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING ON JUNE 11, 2024

Chair O'Shields asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes as presented for the SBE meeting on June 11, 2024. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

## III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR AUGUST 13, 2024

Chair O'Shields asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda as presented for the August 13, 2024, SBE meeting.

## IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND NEWS MEDIA

Chair O'Shields welcomed any media and asked if any visitors had signed in. The visitors on the list were announced in the Superintendent's report. The following visitors were recognized: Mary Green, WIS TV; representative from AP, representative from Charleston Post & Courier and representative from WLTX TV (names not provided). Visitors included Debbie Elmore, SC School Board Association.

## V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair O'Shields apologized for missing the ribbon cutting that happened the prior day. He then expounded the new location for the SCDE. School has resumed for most schools. He then welcomed to the first State Board meeting at the new location. He reiterated his apology for not being able to attend the ribbon cutting, explaining that a friend and employee had passed away and Dr. O'Shields served as a pallbearer. This month's homily is named Address Change Notification, referring to a southern gospel song. He spoke on change, including various prior topics to which he has spoken. Today is National Left-handed People Day. He spoke on the Roman calendar, and how months got their names and noted the historic changes to the

calendar. The 1868 Constitution established the department and provided for a state superintendent, county commissioner and systems that we know today as the public school districts. The first State Superintendent of South Carolina was Justice K. Jillson. The next year the legislature adopted textbooks and the examination and certification of teachers. The Rutledge Building, our former residence, became the Department's home in 1966.

Dr. O'Shields concluded, "Times change, things change, education becomes far more sophisticated and complex. But may we always remember that as time and buildings change, the inevitability of an address change notification looms large for all of us." Referencing his friend and colleague's passing again, he said, "May our calling be to make the most of the time we have been granted, because time, once used, cannot be replaced."

That concludes the state board chair report.

## VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Chair O'Shields recognized Superintendent Weaver. Superintendent Weaver reported, "What an incredibly joyful day yesterday was, truly a historic day for the department. We had four of the five living Superintendents at the ribbon-cutting, Barbara Nielsen's health prevented her from attending." She spoke about the separate offices now all being housed in one building. She then recognized Travis Huggins, Information Technology Manager I, Chief Information Office, Division of Data, Technology and Agency Operations for his outstanding work in the new building and specifically his dedication in ensuring the State Board room and meeting were ready for today. Superintendent Weaver related Mr. Huggin's ethics to the spirit and energy of all those employees willing to go the extra mile to make sure that the job gets done for the students and teachers in our state.

Superintendent reviewed department work happening over the summer, highlighting the Health and Nutrition Offices' work with the Summer Break Café and Seamless Summer Options. She reported that forty-four sponsors with the Summer Break Café and over eight hundred operational sites, with approximately over 822,000 meals estimated as being served. The Seamless Summer Options reported sixty-five sponsors and over seven hundred sites, serving approximately 750,000 meals served. The Superintendent visited one of the sites, commending them for their meal services, mentoring, tutoring, as well as activities. The Superintendent showed a short video highlighting the work at the TyJasKey Learning Center. She then reported on the first day of school, having visited Del-May Elementary School with Dr. Jolly, a Title I, Spanish emersion school, and Compass Academy, expounding on the partnerships to ensure student success. The Superintendent visited with McCloud Healthcare Systems, sharing the vision of a workforce partnership to provide incredible opportunities for high school students in Florence 1, focused on creating a healthcare workforce, including positions outside of medical providers. Her last stop was The Farm in Myrtle Beach, who offers equine therapy. The Superintendent was strongly affected seeing the multitude of partnerships on her trip. She then showed a short video highlighting the first day of school at Del-May Elementary School.

Superintendent then reported on the work the cell phone policy that is under consideration during the meeting today. She spoke about the Superintendent's round table in Myrtle Beach and at the department, and how thankful for the participation in this process.

This concluded the Superintendent's report.

## VII. PARLIAMENTARIAN COMMENT

No Parliamentarian comments.

## VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair O'Shields welcomed those signed up for public comment. Patrick Kelly, Policy Director, Palmetto State Teacher's Association, spoke on Regulation 43-170. J. W. Ragley, Volunteer, Phone Free Schools, spoke about the proposed personal electronic device policy.

## X. STATE BOARD ITEMS

**POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE (PL) — COMMITTEE REPORT**

Dr. O'Shields reported that the subcommittee met and heard two action item(s) and zero item(s) for information. Item 1 was approved to delay voting, by consent, and moved this item to the full board meeting at 1:00 p.m. Item 2 was approved to move to the full board meeting for a full vote. Immediately after the meeting adjourned, the Board was reminded that the SCASA Superintendent's Roundtable was scheduled for the first Thursday.

This concluded Dr. O'Shields report on the committee.

FOR APPROVAL

1. Personal Electronic Communication Device Policy

2. Proposed Changes to State Board of Education (SBE) Rules of Governance (Rule) BC; Board Meetings

FOR INFORMATION

No items.

**EDUCATOR PROFESSIONS (EP) — COMMITTEE REPORT**

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

This concluded Dr. Johnson's report.

FOR APPROVAL

3. Professional Review Committee (PRC): New Member Approval

4. New Educator Preparation Program Approval Recommendation: Francis Marion University Bachelor of Science (BS) in Special Education: Multi-categorical

FOR INFORMATION
No items.

**STANDARDS, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY (SLA) — COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair O'Shields recognized Ms. Lynn, 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 Ms. Allison's report.

FOR APPROVAL

5. Additional Appointment Recommendations for the 2024 Instructional Materials Review Panels

FOR INFORMATION
No items.

**EDUCATOR LICENSURE (ELC) — COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair O'Shields recognized Ms. Crimminger who reported the sub-committee met and took action upon the following 16 cases: one approval and one denial for initial certification, and 14 suspensions. Ms. Crimminger further reported that these matters were ratified during the Full Board ELC meeting.

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

Chair O'Shields reported that the FB ELC met and took action upon the following two cases: one suspension and one revocation. Dr. O'Shields further confirmed the ratification of the work of the Educator Licensure Committee.

## XI. 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. Allison made the motion. Ms. Lynn seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## XII. SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

1. **Newberry County School District (District) Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. §59-39-160(C)(1)(c), related to a Student Participating in Interscholastic Activities** — John Tyler, Deputy Superintendent, General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs

Mr. Tyler reported on the statutes governing the three waiver requests being presented. Representatives of Newberry County School District presented the appeal. Dr. O'Shields called for a motion. Dr. Hanley made the motion. Mr. Richardson seconded the motion, The motion passed.

2. **Greenville County School District (District) Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. §59-39-160(C)(1)(c), related to a Student Participating in Interscholastic Activities** — John Tyler, Deputy Superintendent, General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs

Representatives of Greenville County School District presented the appeal. Dr. O'Shields called for a motion. Dr. Hanley made the motion. Mr. Richardson seconded the motion., The motion passed.

3. **Pickens County School District (District) Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. §59-39-160(C)(1)(c), related to a Student Participating in Interscholastic Activities** — John Tyler, Deputy Superintendent, General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs

Representatives of Pickens County School District presented the appeal. Dr. O'Shields called for a motion. Dr. Hanley made the motion. Mr. Richardson seconded the motion., The motion passed.

4. **Personal Electronic Communication Device Policy** — Matthew Ferguson, Deputy Superintendent, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Career, College and Military Readiness; and Robert Cathcart, Policy and Legal Advisor, Office of Governmental Affairs, Division of Legal Affairs

Dr. Ferguson and Mr. Cathcart presented the item for Board consideration, recapping the Policy and Legislation's vote to remove the item and place it on the full board meeting agenda for the full board to consider. Dr. O'Shields called for a motion. Dr. Hanley made a motion that the item be approved as First Reading and brought back before the Board for Second Reading in September. Ms. Allison seconded the motion. Dr. O'Shields asked for any questions or discussion. Mr. Richardson asked if the policy included buses. Dr. Ferguson responded that they are not addressed in the model policy. Dr. Hanley thanked the agency for their work on this item and asked if the policy included teachers. Dr. Ferguson responded that the model policy is for students. Ms. Crimminger commented that parents can help most with implementation of this policy. Superintendent Weaver noted that Florence School District One used parental involvement to implement the policy with success. Dr. O'Shields then called for a motion. Ms. Crimminger made the motion. Dr. Hanley seconded the motion. The motion passed.

5. **Proposed Changes to State Board of Education** (**SBE**) **Rules** of **Governance** (**Rule BC)**; **Board Meetings** — Phillip Cease, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, Division of

Legal Affairs and Robert Cathcart, Policy and Legal Advisor, Office of Governmental Affairs, Division of Legal Affairs

Mr. Cease presented the item for the Board's consideration, noting the reason for the change as aligning with the Legislative Council's deadlines for the promulgation of regulations calendar and deadlines. In the Policy and Legislation Committee meeting earlier, the Board voted to move the meeting day to the first Thursday of the month. After the committee meeting, it was brought to the attention of the Board Chair and the Superintendent that the South Carolina Association of Superintendent's meeting was scheduled for that same day. Chair O'Shields called for a motion. Ms. Allison made the motion. Mr. Richardson seconded the motion. Dr. O'Shields asked if the Board had any questions or discussion. Dr. Hanley made a motion to amend the current motion to change the day to the first Tuesday of each month. Mr. Richardson seconded the motion. There being no objections to the amended motion, the Chair called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

FOR INFORMATION

6. **State Board of Education (SBE) Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024, Quarter 4, Financial Statements** — Kendra Hunt, Deputy Superintendent, Chief Finance Officer

Ms. Hunt reported on the 2023-24 Fourth Quarter expenditures for the State Board, detailed information was provided to the Board members. This concluded Ms. Hunt's report.

7. **The HOPE Network Updates**—Matthew Ferguson, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer, Division of College, Career and Military Readiness

Dr. Ferguson reported, "School has started back in Allendale on July 26 and Williamsburg on August 1. Like many school districts, we were working out e-learning days with the weather last week. One point of note is that both Williamsburg and Allendale cancelled school last week and will need to make those up. We are also working on teacher vacancies. Students without a certified teacher are attending virtual classes until those vacancies are filled."
Ms. Alison asked about international teachers. Mr. Ferguson responded that they were working with several programs, including those for international teaching, to assist with those vacancies.

This concluded Dr. Ferguson's report.

## XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair O'Shields reminded all members to turn in their travel forms prior to their departure.

## XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 2:48 p.m.