

MINUTES

State Board of Education Meeting

Date

February 4, 2025

Time

1:00 p.m.

Location

849 Learning Lane
West Columbia, SC 29172

Ms. Rita Allison, Chair

Dr. David Mathis, 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 Rita Allison, Governor's Appointee; David Mathis, Second Judicial Circuit; Maya Slaughter, First Judicial Circuit; Delaney Frierson, Third Judicial Circuit; Jacqueline "Jackie" Lynn, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Beverly Frierson, Fifth Judicial Circuit (1:00 – 1:45); Joyce Crimminger, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Dr. Joette Johnson, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Dr. David O'Shields, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Dr. Christian T. Hanley, Jr., Ninth Judicial Circuit; Sallie Lee, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Richard Harrington, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; Cheryl Collier, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit and Ken Richardson, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. Tammie Shore, Eleventh Judicial Circuit was not in attendance.

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; Matthew Ferguson, Deputy Superintendent, Division of College, Career and Military Readiness; Tracy Moore, SBE Executive Liaison, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Tara Lang, Administrative Coordinator, Office of General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Mary Hipp,

Director, Office of Educator Services, Division of College, Career and Military Readiness; Kristi Austin, Director, Office of Assessment and Standards, Division of College, Career and Military Readiness; Rebecca Blackburn Hines, Policy and Board Liaison, Office of Government Relations and Policy, 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 1:00 p.m. Chair Allison called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone who attended.

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

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR JANUARY 7, 2025

Chair Allison asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes as amended for the SBE meeting on January 7, 2025. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 4, 2025

Chair Allison asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda as presented for the February 4, 2025, SBE meeting.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND NEWS MEDIA

Chair Allison welcomed any media and recognized those visitors who had signed in.

V. STATE BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Allison reported on celebrations that “made us who we are today, such as: President’s Day, Groundhog Day, Valentine’s Day. African American History Month, as well as Heart Health, Cancer and Low Vision awareness.

This concluded Chair Allison’s report.

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Chair Allison recognized Superintendent Weaver. Superintendent Weaver reported on the Office of School Facilities Annual Committee Meeting, the PowerSchool cybersecurity event, and the release of the Nation’s Report Card (NAEP). She further reported on her presentation to the House Ways and Means Committee, the celebration of the 2025 African American

History Calendar, and 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Superintendent Weaver also reported on Education Scholarship Accounts and where the legislature is in their process. She then recognized Waterloo Elementary in Laurens CSD 55 being named one of five finalists for National Institute for Excellence in Teaching Awards, their Founders Award. Superintendent Weaver then reported on her visit alongside Chair Allison to two schools in Spartanburg CSD 1 to see the agency's LETRS training in action and the English Language Arts Curriculum approved by the State Board. She highlighted the celebration and renaming of the Converse Bus Shop to The David T. Brewington School Bus Maintenance Center; in honor of David T. Brewington, who has been in school transportation for 58 years (56 of those years as an employee of the SCDE, 2 years as a student bus driver). Superintendent Weaver concluded her report highlighting Bamberg County School District becoming a part of the Meeting Street Scholarship Fund, an eligibility-based college scholarship, bringing the total participants to 14 counties.

This concluded the Superintendent's report.

VII. PARLIAMENTARIAN COMMENT

Parliamentarian, John Tyler, reported that the deadline for filing Statements of Economic Interest is March 30, 2025, at noon. He advised the board members he would forward more information to them after the meeting.

This concluded the Parliamentarian's report.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Allison welcomed those signed up for public comment. She then asked for a motion to waive Rule of Governance BCBI, to allow speakers 2 minutes to speak so that all who signed up have an opportunity. Those signed up for public comment included: Angela Prestil (Families Against Book Bans (FABB)), Robin Liebenberg (FABB and Authors Against Book Bans), Mary Foster (FABB), Patricia Milley, Elliott Naddell (DAYLO), Jessieke Spearman Childs (Anderson Reads), Jennifer Rainville (SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center), Valerie Byrd Fort, Mary Rita Watson (The SCEA), Lacey Lane, Angela Wash, Whitnie Hendrix, and Jennifer Boykin (DAYLO).

X. STATE BOARD ITEMS

POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE (PL) — COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Allison reported that the committee met and heard one item for approval and no items for information. The approved item was placed on the Consent Agenda.

FOR APPROVAL

1. Florence County School District 5 (District) Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. §59-39-160(C)(1) Interscholastic Activities

FOR INFORMATION

No items.

EDUCATOR PROFESSIONS (EP) — COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Allison recognized Dr. Johnson, Chair, who reported that the committee heard three items for approval and no items for information. The approved items were placed on the Consent Agenda.

FOR APPROVAL

2. Identification of Critical Need Subject Areas for 2025–26
3. Areas (Schools) for 2025–26
4. Alternative Route Program Approval: Additional Certification Fields for Winthrop University's Network for Alternative Preparation in Teaching (NetAPT)

FOR INFORMATION

No items.

STANDARDS, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY (SLA) — COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Allison recognized Jacqueline Lynn, Chair, who reported that the committee met and heard two action item(s) and no item(s) for information. The approved items were placed on the Consent Agenda.

Dr. O'Shields asked for clarification on the cure period. Dr. Ferguson explained that the publishers who did not pass the first review were given the opportunity to amend and today's presentation reflected those publishers whose changes were approved.

This concluded Ms. Lynn's report.

FOR APPROVAL

5. Adoption of the Read to Succeed Implementation Guidelines for Endorsements and Course Approval Guidance Document
6. Report of Recommendations from the 2024 Instructional Materials Review Panels from the Cure Period

FOR INFORMATION

No items.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS REVIEW (IMRC) — COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Allison recognized Dr. Hanley who reported that the committee met on January 9, 2025, and heard six items. The committee provided Reports and Recommendations on each item. Ms.

Beverly Frierson objected to numbers 7, 8, and 9 being on the Consent Agenda. Dr. O'Shields objected to number 10 being placed on the Consent Agenda. Numbers 11 and 12 were placed on the Consent Agenda.

7. Perks of Being a Wallflower – Stephen Chbosky: Remove (*)
8. All Boys Aren't Blue – Johnson, George M: Remove (*)
9. Flamer – Curato, Mike: Remove (*)
10. Push – Sapphire: Remove (*)
11. Bronx Masquerade – Grimes, Nikki: Retain (*)
12. House on Mango Street- Cisneros, Sandra: Retain (*)

*Recommendation of Committee

EDUCATOR LICENSURE (ELC) — COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Allison recognized Ms. Crimminger who reported the committee met and took action upon the following eight cases:

- 2 Orders of Public Reprimand
- 6 Orders of Suspension

Ms. Crimminger thanked the Office of General Counsel and issued a special thank you to Committee Member Sallie Lee for her service on the Committee at her last meeting. Ms. Crimminger further reported that the FB ELC Committee ratified the work of the ELC.

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

Chair Allison reported that the FB ELC reported the committee met and took action upon the following two cases:

- 1 Order(s) of Suspension
- 1 Order(s) of Permanent Revocation

Chair Allison confirmed that the FB ELC Committee ratified the work of the ELC.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Chair Allison called for a vote. Dr. O'Shields made the motion. Dr. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

XII. SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

FOR APPROVAL

Chair Allison called for a discussion and vote on the materials objected to in the Instructional

Materials Review Committee.

7. Perks of Being a Wallflower – Stephen Chbosky: Remove (*)

Mr. Cathcart presented the recommendation of the Committee. Dr. O'Shields requested that the materials be sent to the Board Members in a timelier manner. Chair Allison called for the vote. Dr. Hanley made the motion. Ms. Collier seconded the motion. The motion passed with Dr. O'Shields and Ms. Beverly Frierson voting in opposition.

8. All Boys Aren't Blue – Johnson, George M: Remove (*)

Mr. Cathcart presented the recommendation of the Committee. Chair Allison called for the vote. Dr. Hanley made the motion. Ms. Crimminger seconded the motion. The motion passed with Dr. O'Shields and Ms. Beverly Frierson voting in opposition.

9. Flamer – Curato, Mike: Remove (*)

Mr. Cathcart presented the recommendation of the Committee. Chair Allison called for the vote. Dr. Hanley made the motion. Dr. Mathis seconded the motion. The motion passed with Dr. O'Shields and Ms. Beverly Frierson voting in opposition.

10. Push – Sapphire: Remove (*)

Mr. Cathcart presented the recommendation of the Committee. Chair Allison called for the vote. Dr. Hanley made the motion. Ms. Crimminger seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ms. Beverly Frierson voting in opposition.

FOR INFORMATION

01. HOPE Network Updates— Matthew Ferguson, Deputy Superintendent, Chief Academic Officer, Division of College and Career Readiness

Dr. Ferguson reported on the highlights of the NAEP scores referenced by the Superintendent in her report, an assessment given across all 50 states that compares the academic achievement of students. Dr. Ferguson recognized the work of former Superintendent Molly Spearman and Dr. Mathis (former Deputy Superintendent) for the really smart investment in some of our ESSR programs that really focused on students, particularly in the LETRS work and the work around foundational literacy skills in our most at risk schools.

Dr. Ferguson then reported on the HOPE network, reviewing the update sent to the General Assembly on Williamsburg County School District. He reported on the history of the SCDE taking control, discussed the benchmarks needed going forward and the steps in place to release control back to the District and its Board tentatively in January of 2026, and reported on the things the SCDE would continue supporting the District on once released.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Allison asked if there was any other business. Chair Allison reported to the Board Members that the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee had sent out notices of the

five-year cyclical review of the state accountability system requesting nominations for the State Accountability Advisory Committee and focus convenings. The deadline for nominations is Friday, February 14, Valentine's Day. Chair Allison encouraged members to turn in their nominations.

Chair Allison concluded by recognizing Sallie Lee, Tenth Judicial Circuit, and thanking her for her dedication to the State Board during her tenure as a board member. She then introduced Tony Vincent, new member for the Tenth Judicial Circuit and welcomed him as a member for the March meeting.

Dr. O'Shields asked if there was an update on the survey regarding the cellphone policy. Superintendent Weaver reported that a survey was sent out to all educators in December and would provide the results at a later date. She then highlighted the positive responses and feedback she has received.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 3:00 p.m.