

MINUTES OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday, May 5th, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.

849 Learning Lane

West Columbia, SC 29172

SBE Members in Attendance:

Chair David Mathis, *Second Judicial Circuit*
Chair-Elect Joyce Crimminger, *Sixth Judicial Circuit*

Rita Allison, *Governor's Appointee*
Donna Elmore, *First Judicial Circuit*
Virginia Catoe, *Fifth Judicial Circuit*
Dr. Joette Johnson, *Seventh Judicial Circuit*
David Trent, *Eighth Judicial Circuit*

Anthony Vincent, *Tenth Judicial Circuit*
Dr. Christian Hanley, *Ninth Judicial Circuit*
Richard Harrington, *Twelfth Judicial Circuit*
Dr. Cheryl Collier, *Thirteenth Judicial Circuit*
Cliff Warren, *Fourteenth Judicial Circuit*
Ken Richardson, *Fifteenth Judicial Circuit*
Joey Haney, *Sixteenth Judicial Circuit*
Ellen Weaver, *State Superintendent of Education*

SBE Members Absent:

Jacqueline Lynn, *Fourth Judicial Circuit*

Tammie Shore, *Eleventh Judicial Circuit*

- I. Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance:** The State Board of Education meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chair Mathis. Chair-Elect Crimminger led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Approval of State Board of Education Minutes for April 7, 2026:** The minutes of the regular board meeting for April 7, 2026, were approved by unanimous consent.
- III. Approval of State Board of Education Agenda May 5, 2026:** The agenda was approved as presented by unanimous consent.
- IV. Recognition of Visitors & News Media:** Chair Mathis welcomed members of the media and visitors.
- V. State Board Chair Report :** Chair Mathis presented *Hometown Heroes*, honoring The Continuum in Lake City, SC, a high school dual credit and adult education center, where students can gain real world experience. He also wanted to recognize one of the State Board members, Rita Allison and her late husband for their community work they do in Lyman, SC.

- VI. State Superintendent of Education Report:** Superintendent Weaver discussed the 2026 South Carolina Teacher of the Year Gala with this year's winner being Dr. Christie Palladino from Aiken County Career & Technology Center.

Superintendent Weaver also visited Ocean Bay Middle School in Horry County and Riverwalk Academy in Rock Hill, who is one of the finalists for the 2026 National Institute for Excellence in Teaching.

The SC Department of Education will be hosting the 2026 Palmetto Education Summit in Charleston, SC from June 15-17th, 2026.

VII. Public Comment

Felicia Jones

VIII. State Board of Education Committees

- A. Policy & Legislative Committee Report:** There were no items to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

FOR APPROVAL

No items.

FOR INFORMATION

1. Approved Waivers, Pursuant to SBE Regulation 43-261, Christina Hall, Team Lead, Federal and State Accountability

- B. Education Professions Committee Report:** During the Educator Professions Committee Report, the following items were unanimously approved to be placed on the Consent Agenda:

FOR APPROVAL

1. Clemson University New Educator Preparation Programs in Science Teaching—Jessica McLee, PhD, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services
2. South Carolina Certification Assessment Program: 2026-27 Changes—Mary Hipp, Director, Office of Educator Services

FOR INFORMATION

No items.

- C. Standards, Learning, & Accountability Committee Report:** There were no items to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

FOR APPROVAL

No items.

FOR INFORMATION

1. School Report Card Overview and Processes—Dr. Vann Holden, Chief Resource Officer & Dr. Era Roberts, Program Manager, Office of Accountability & Research

D. Instructional Materials Review Committee Report (Not Meeting)

E. Educator Licensure Committee Report: During the Educator Licensure Committee Report, Mr. Cliff Warren, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee took action on nine cases which resulted in nine orders of suspension.

F. Full Board Educator Licensure Committee Report: During the Full Board Educator Licensure Committee Report, Chair Mathis reported that the Committee took action on two cases resulting in one approval of initial certification and one denial for initial certification.

IX. Consent Agenda: Chair Mathis requested a motion to approve all items presented to the State Board for approval by Committees. Chair Elect Crimminger made a motion, Christian Hanley seconded, The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

X. South Carolina Board of Education Report

FOR APPROVAL

No items.

FOR INFORMATION

1. Academic Updates – *Educator Effectiveness and Leadership Data Update*, Dr. Abbey Duggins, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer & Lilla Toal Mandsager, Executive Director for Talent and Continuous Improvement

XI. Other Business: There were no other items for business.

XII. Adjournment: Ken Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cliff Warren seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.