

MINUTES OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday, April 7th, 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
Jacqueline Lynn, Fourth Judicial Circuit
Virginia Catoe, Fifth Judicial Circuit
Tammie Shore, Eleventh 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
Ellen Weaver, State Superintendent of Education

SBE Members Absent:

Dr. Joette Johnson, Seventh Judicial Circuit Joey Haney, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit
David Trent, Eighth Judicial Circuit

- I. Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance: The State Board of Education meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Chair Mathis. Chair-Elect Crimminger led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Approval of State Board of Education Minutes for March 3, 2025: The minutes of the regular board meeting for March 3, 2026, was approved by unanimous consent.
- III. Approval of State Board of Education Agenda April 7, 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 Middle Tyer Community Center in Spartanburg, an organization that offers resources and support services to children, families, adults and seniors.

- VI. State Superintendent of Education Report: Superintendent Weaver talked about Edunomics: Education Finance Bootcamp for School Boards. Over ninety local school board members and superintendents came to this interactive budget workshop, representing over forty different school districts.

The 2026 Teacher of the Year will be in April. The five teacher finalists are:

Christie Palladino, Aiken County CTC
Nashari Williams, Hodges Elementary School
Meagan Jognson, Royal Elementary School
Alex Wharton, Berkeley High School
Kaitlyn Rhodes, SC Governor's School for Agriculture

On National Medal of Honor Day, Superintendent Weaver and JROTC students from Lucy Beckham High School honored American heroes aboard the USS Yorktown in Patriots Point, SC. She also wanted to thank Allegiance, who donated ten thousand American flags for A Flag for Every Classroom Project.

- VII. Public Comment
Tenley Middleton, SC Association of School Librarians

VIII. State Board of Education Committees

- A. Policy & Legislative Committee Report: During the Policy & Legislative Committee Report, the following items were unanimously approved to be placed on the Consent Agenda:

FOR APPROVAL

1. Greenville County School District, Greer High School-- Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. §59-39-160(C)(1)(c), related to a student Participating in Interscholastic Activities —Todd Atwater, General Counsel
2. Lexington Two School District, Airport High School-- Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. §59-39-160(C)(1)(c), related to a student Participating in Interscholastic Activities —Todd Atwater, General Counsel
3. GREEN Charter Greenville, Middle School Campus—Request for Instructional Day Waiver—Christina Hall, Team Lead, Office of Innovation & Support

- 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. Teach for America South Carolina (TFASC) Partnership Request—Alicia Gaither, Team Lead, Office of Educator Services
 2. New Career and Technical Education (CTE) Work-Based Certification Field in Emergency Medical Services—Robin Amick, Team Lead, Office of Educator Services
- C. Standards, Learning, & Accountability Committee Report : During the Standards, Learning & Accountability Committee Report, the following item was unanimously approved to be placed on the Consent Agenda:

FOR APPROVAL

1. Appointment Recommendations for the 2026 Instructional Materials Review Panel—Nicole Barker, Education Associate, Office of Instructional Materials, Division of College, Career, and Military Readiness
- 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 eleven cases which resulted in: one with no action, one public reprimands, seven orders of suspension, one order of revocation and one order permanent revocation.
- 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 order of permanent revocation.
- 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: There were no items for Approval and one item for information

FOR APPROVAL

No items.

FOR INFORMATION

1. Academic Updates—"Measuring Progress: Spring Assessments in South Carolina," Dr. Abbey Duggins, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer & Kristi Austin, Director of Assessment and Standards
- XI. Other Business: Chair Mathis reminded Board members to turn in travel forms and to RSVP for the upcoming Teacher of the Year Gala on April 23, 2026.
- XII. Adjournment: Ken Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cliff Warren seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 1:49 p.m.