

## MINUTES OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 12:25 p.m.

849 Learning Lane

West Columbia, SC 29172

In Attendance: Chair Rita Allison, Governor’s Appointee; Dr. David Mathis, Chair-Elect; Jacqueline “Jackee” Lynn, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Joyce Crimminger, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Dr. Joette Johnson, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Dr. Christian T. Hanley, Jr., Ninth Judicial Circuit; Anthony Vincent, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Tammie Shore, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Richard Harrington, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; Cliff Warren, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; Ken Richardson, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; Joey Haney, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; Ellen E. Weaver, State Superintendent of Education

Absent: Maya Slaughter, First Judicial Circuit; Dr. Rosa Dingle, Third Judicial Circuit; Beverly Frierson, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Cheryl Collier, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

The State Board of Education meeting was called to order at 12:25 p.m. by Chair Allison.

The Board entered Executive Session at 12:26 p.m. on motion of Mr. Richardson with a second by Dr. Hanley to receive legal advice regarding the State of Education Emergency Declaration of Jasper County School District Pursuant to S.C. Code § 59-18-1640.

The Board re-entered Open Session at 1:32 p.m.

Chair-Elect Mathis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The **minutes** of the regular meeting for June 3, 2025, and special-called meeting of July 18, 2025, were approved by unanimous consent.

The **agenda** was approved as presented by unanimous consent.

Chair Allison welcomed members of the media and visitors.

Chair Allison presented the State Board Chair Report, recognizing the beginning of a new school year.

During the **Superintendent’s Report**, Superintendent Weaver provided an update on the financial takeover of Marlboro County, recognized Keighley George, Lead Interventionist at Forest Lake Elementary School, for being chosen for the Millikin Educator award.

During the **Parliamentarian Report**, John Tyler announced his move to the South Carolina Judicial Department and expressed his gratitude for the honor to serve the Board over the past 2 ½ years.

Five members of the public provided comment: Dr. Tom Balliet with Joyce Jarrell of the Jasper County School Board; Priscilla Fraser of the Jasper County School Board; Angela Bonaparte – District member of Jasper County School Board; Ted Moyd, a non-profit developer and Jasper County School District Board member; and Jamie Gregory of the SC Association of School Librarians.

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

1. School District 5 of Lexington & Richland Counties Irmo High School - Waiver Request of S.C. Code Ann. §59-39-160(C)(1)(a), related to a student Participating in Interscholastic Activities – Henry Gunter, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel
2. Request for Approval of Property Disposal
  - a. Lexington County School District Two— Property 1, 365 Saxe Gotha Road, Cayce, SC 29033 - Theresa Penney, Associate Engineer III, Office of School Facilities, Division of District Operations and Support
  - b. Lexington County School District Two— Property 2, 3500 Henbet Drive, West Columbia, SC 29169- Theresa Penney, Associate Engineer III, Office of School Facilities, Division of District Operations and Support

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

1. Retired Educator Certificate Guidelines (2025) – Mary Hipp, Director, Office of Educator Services
2. Adoption of a Basic Skills Assessment for Paraeducators – Mary Hipp, Director, Office of Educator Services
3. New Alternative Route Program: Aiken Alternative Licensure for Teachers (Aiken-ALT) – Jessica McLees, PhD, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services  
National Accreditation Decisions: Morris College and the University of South Carolina, Columbia – Jaclyn Walsh, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services
4. Professional Review Committee (PRC): Provider and Program Updates – Jaclyn Walsh, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services

During the **Standards, Learning, & Accountability Committee Report**, the following items were unanimously approved to be placed on the Consent Agenda:

1. Report of Recommendations from the 2024 Instructional Materials Review Panels for Computer Education Courses – Nicole Barker, Education Associate, Office of Instructional Materials

The **Instructional Materials Review Committee** did not meet in August.

During the **Educator Licensure Committee Report**, Ms. Crimminger (Committee Chair) reported that the Committee took action on 11 cases, resulting in 1 initial certification, 1 denial of initial certification, 3 public reprimands, and 6 suspensions.

During the **Full Board Education Licensure Committee Report**, Chair Allison reported that the Committee took action on 3 cases, resulting in 1 initial certification, 1 permanent revocation, and 1 order of dismissal. The Committee ratified the work of the Educator Licensure Committee.

Under the **Consent Agenda**, Ms. Crimminger made a motion to approve all items presented to the State Board for approval by Committees. Chair-Elect Mathis seconded; Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

During the South Carolina Board of Education Report, Ashley Storey, Esq., White & Storey, Outside Counsel, provided background information regarding the State-of-Education Emergency Declaration of Jasper County School District. Motion to approve the state of emergency declaration of Jasper County School District pursuant to S.C. Code 59-18-1640 made by Chair-Elect Mathis, seconded by Dr. Hanley and passed unanimously.

Phillip Cease, Director of Government Affairs, provided information on the Model Policy for School Board Livestreaming. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Ms. Crimminger. Dr. Hanley moved to amend to strike if a district governing body provides evidence of limited or no access, they strike that part and instead add, upon showing a reasonable effort to comply with the requirement, a district's governing body with evidence of limited or no broadband access. Chair-Elect Mathis seconded. The Model Policy was unanimously approved as amended.

Phillip Cease, Director of Government Affairs, provided updates to Model Policy for Unencumbered Time: School Nurses— Proviso 1.15 amended from 1.11 from last year. Required that nurses be included in unencumbered time. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Crimminger, seconded by Ms. Shore and unanimously approved.

Dr. Abbey Duggins, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer, provided academic updates.

Jason Schumacher, Budgets Manager, provided a report on Fiscal Year 2024–25, Quarter 4 State Board of Education (SBE) Financial Statements.

In other business, the Chair reminded Board members to remember travel forms.

Mr. Richardson moved to adjourn; Chair-Elect Mathis seconded. Motion was unanimously approved; meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.