MINUTES OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
State Board of Education
Tuesday, October 6th, 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*
Donna Elmore, *First Judicial Circuit*
Jacqueline Lynn, *Fourth Judicial Circuit*
Virginia Catoe, *Fifth Judicial Circuit*
Dr. Joette Johnson, *Seventh Judicial Circuit*
David Trent, *Eighth 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*
Rita Allison, *Governor's Appointee*
Ellen Weaver, *State Superintendent of Education*

SBE Members Absent:
Trevor Ivey, *Third Judicial Circuit*
Tammie Shore, *Eleventh Judicial Circuit*
Anthony Vincent, *Tenth Judicial Circuit*

I. **Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance:** The State Board of Education meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Mathis. Chair-Elect Crimminger let the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. **Approval of State Board of Education Minutes for September 1, 2026:** The minutes of the regular board meeting for September 1, 2026, was approved by unanimous consent.

III. **Approval of State Board of Education Agenda October 6, 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 the 2026 Beating the Odds report, published by the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee, which highlights schools demonstrating that high levels of poverty do not have to determine student achievement. The report recognized McCormick Middle School and Green Sea Floyds High School and as the state's first middle and high school, respectively, to earn the distinction of "Beating the Odds." Additional schools

recognized on the 2026 *Beating the Odds* list were Green Sea Floyds Elementary School, North Central Elementary School, and Woodfields Elementary School.

VI. State Superintendent of Education Report: Superintendent Weaver, presented her report highlighting school achievements and recognition programs across South Carolina. The report included student participation in Constitution Day with the Cannons Elementary Ambassadors, recognition of high-performing schools through the Superintendent's 75% Club, and statewide honors for school leaders.

Superintendent Weaver recognized Cooley Springs-Fingerville Elementary School and Waccamaw Elementary School for achieving 75% or more of students meeting or exceeding expectations on the 2025-26 SC READY assessments.

The South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA) was present along with the 2025-26 South Carolina Principals and Assistant Principals of the Year. This included: Kelli Overcash of Kershaw Elementary School, Bentli Lewis of Oakbrook Middle School, Ashley Wardlaw of Blue Ridge High School, Kristal Stefanov of Bethany Elementary School, Alexandra "Alex" Mundinger of Lakeside Middle School, and Mary "Hannah" Studemeyer of North Charleston High School

VII. Public Comment
Tayler Simon, Liberation is Lit

VIII. State Board of Education Committees

A. Policy & Legislative Committee Report: During the Policy & Legislative Committee, there were no items to be placed on the Consent Agenda. Both items will be approved on the South Carolina Board of Education report. There were no items For Information.

FOR APPROVAL

1. Guidance, Model Policy and Sample Agreement for Request for Private ABA Providers Delivering Medically Necessary Services During the School Day, First Reading—Lisa McCliment, Office of Special Education

2. Approval of *SC Model Code of Ethics and Effective Board Governance*, Second Reading—Rebecca Blackburn Hines, Director of Policy & Government Affairs

FOR INFORMATION
No items.

B. Education Professions Committee Report: During the Educator Professions Committee Report, the following item was unanimously approved to be placed on the Consent Agenda:

FOR APPROVAL

1. Request to Approve Additional Partnership Locations for Teach Right USA (TRUSA)—Jaclyn Walsh, Team Lead, Office of Educator Services

FOR INFORMATION

No items.

C. Standards, Learning, & Accountability Committee Report: During the Standards, Learning, & Accountability Committee, the following item was unanimously approved to be placed on the Consent Agenda:

FOR APPROVAL

1. Florence One Schools' Requests an S.C. Code Ann. §59-19-350 Schools of Innovation Waiver—Jewell Stanley, Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability

FOR INFORMATION

No items.

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 two Denials for Initial certification, two Orders of Public Reprimand, four Orders of Suspension, and one Order of 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 three cases resulting in one approval for Initial Certification and two Orders 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, Joette Johnson seconded. The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

X. South Carolina Board of Education Report

FOR APPROVAL

1. *Guidance, Model Policy and Sample Agreement for Request for Private ABA Providers Delivering Medically Necessary Services During the School Day*, First Reading—Lisa McCliment, Office of Special Education

   Chair Mathis requested a motion to approve Item #1. Ken Richardson made a motion, Chair-Elect Crimminger seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Approval of *SC Model Code of Ethics and Effective Board Governance*, Second Reading—Rebecca Blackburn Hines, Director of Policy

   During the Policy & Legislation meeting, committee members voted to delay the Second Reading until the November committee meeting.

FOR INFORMATION

3. Academic Updates—*Updates from the Office of Special Education Services*-- Dr. Abbey Duggins, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer & Peter Keup, Director of Special Education

   Peter Keup, Director of Office of Special Education Services, provided an update on special education services, highlighting improvements in graduation rates, post-secondary outcomes, and educator staffing for students with disabilities. The presentation also addressed ongoing efforts to improve academic achievement and reduce achievement gaps through statewide collaboration, professional development, and evidence-based instructional practices.

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 2:27 p.m.