

MINUTES OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

State Board of Education

Tuesday, September 1st, 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*
Dr. Joette Johnson, *Seventh Judicial Circuit*
Dr. Christian Hanley, *Ninth Judicial Circuit*

Anthony Vincent, *Tenth 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:

Virginia Catoe, *Fifth Judicial Circuit*
Tammie Shore, *Eleventh Judicial Circuit*

David Trent, *Eighth 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 August 4, 2026:** The minutes of the regular board meeting for August 4, 2026, was approved by unanimous consent.
- III. Approval of State Board of Education Agenda September 1, 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*, recognizing teachers Kaitlyn Turner and Miranda Graham for their involvement with Sleep in Heavenly Peace of Westminster, SC. The organization, whose motto is "No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town," provides beds, bedding, and pillows at no cost to children in need. Through volunteer efforts, more than 600 beds have been built and delivered to children who would otherwise be sleeping on floors, couches, air mattresses, or in shared sleeping arrangements, ensuring they have a safe and comfortable place to sleep.

Chair Mathis recognized and welcomed Dr. Trent Ivey, the newest member of the State Board of Education, representing the Third Judicial Circuit.

- VI. State Superintendent of Education Report:** Superintendent Weaver presented the 2025-26 SC READY test score results, highlighting our states's strongest ELA performance on record, with proficiency increasing from 41.2% to 61.3%, a gain of 20 percentage points since 2017-18. She also recognized several schools for outstanding achievement and growth, including Meeting Street Elementary School at Burns (#1 in student growth statewide), Kelly Miller Elementary School (#2 in student academic growth statewide), Carolina Springs Elementary School (high growth and excellence in achievement, particularly in 3rd grade math), and Alexander Elementary School (top 10 in student academic growth statewide with a 14-point proficiency increase from the previous year).

VII. Public Comment

Bryce Fiedler, Carolina Academic Leadership Network
Scott Price, SCSBA

VIII. State Board of Education Committees

- A. Policy & Legislative Committee Report:** During the Policy & Legislative Committee, there was one item to be placed on the Consent Agenda. The *SC Model Code of Ethics and Effective Board Governance*, First Reading, will be approved on the South Carolina Board of Education report.

FOR APPROVAL

1. Request for Approval of Property Disposal—Aiken County School District, 422 Hazzard Circle, Ridge Spring, SC 29129—Theresa Penney, Associate Engineer III, Office of School Facilities
2. Approval of *SC Model Code of Ethics and Effective Board Governance*, First Reading—Rebecca Blackburn Hines, Director of Policy

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

2. Professional Review Committee (PRC): Provider and Program Updates—Jaclyn Walsh, Team Lead, Office of Educator Services

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

FOR APPROVAL

No items.

FOR INFORMATION

1. Curriculum Cohort Fellowship: Early Implementation Briefing—Brenna McCormick, Education Associate, Instructional Resources & Technology Strategy

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 seven cases which resulted in one approval of initial certification, one Order of Public Reprimand, and five 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 one case resulting in a 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, Ken Richardson seconded. The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

X. South Carolina Board of Education Report

FOR APPROVAL

1. Approval of SC Model Code of Ethics and Effective Board Governance, First Reading—Rebecca Blackburn Hines, Director of Policy

Chair Mathis requested a motion to approve the item presented to the South Carolina Board of Education Report. Chair-Elect Crimminger made a motion, Dr. Joette Johnson seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

FOR INFORMATION

2. Academic Updates – *2026 VirtualSC Update*--Dr. Abbey Duggins, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer & Bradley Mitchell, Director of Virtual Education

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 1:48 p.m.