

**SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**February 14, 2011**

Members present: Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Hairfield, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Senator Hayes, Mr. Martin, Dr. Merck, Rep. Neal, Rep. Owens, Mr. Stowe, Mrs. Taylor, Mr. Warner, Mr. Whittemore, Dr. Zais

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Robinson welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He introduced new EOC members: Rep. Owens, Mr. Warner, Mr. Whittemore, and Dr. Zais.
- II. Minutes of the Meeting: Upon the motion of Mr. Drew and second by Mr. Stowe, the minutes of December 13, 2010 were approved as submitted.
- III. Subcommittee Reports
  - A. Academic Standards & Assessments  
Action Item: Modified Diploma Recommendations: Mr. Stowe presented on behalf of the Subcommittee. He reviewed the proposal and asked Dr. Anderson to provide background information including the costs of implementation. Mrs. Taylor spoke on behalf of the recommendations, indicating that the work has been “a long time coming.” The recommendations were adopted unanimously.
  - B. Education Improvement Act and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee  
Information Item: Budget recommendations, including member survey - Mr. Drew reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He provided information on General Fund and EIA revenues as well as the status of EOC recommendations currently before the Ways and Means Subcommittee on K-12 Education and Special Schools. Senator Fair questioned the Clemson appropriation, citing tuition capacities at the colleges and universities. Members engaged in a discussion of the impact of state appropriations either directly to institutions or through scholarships. Mr. Warner pointed out that the scholarship programs had encouraged many of the best and brightest students to stay in South Carolina. Mr. Drew also reviewed the document indicating priorities among EIA programs as submitted by EOC members.
  - C. Public Awareness  
Information Item: SC Literacy Champions Award  
Mr. Robinson reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He introduced the winners of the 2010 Literacy Champions Award, the Community Partners in Learning Program, at the University of South Carolina. Mr. Bill Rogers, SC Press Association, presented the award. Dr. Tesha Tropp Laman, Dr. Chantelle Baker-Parnell, Dr. Karen Heid and Mr. Randall Clamp described the program for EOC members.

Information Item: Annual Report

Mr. Robinson drew members' attention to the draft annual report and asked Mrs. Yow to describe the process and respond to questions. Mrs. Yow indicated that the report is to be published on March 1. Members are asked to provide advice and amendments to Mrs. Yow.

IV. Special Reports

- A. Proposed Changes to School Funding: Mrs. Barton presented members with information on the House and Senate bills amending the Education Finance Act and utilizing work developed by the EOC. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work on these issues. Senator Fair and Senator Hayes complemented Mrs. Barton on the support she had provided to the discussions.
- B. Schools "on target" to meet the 2014 Reading Benchmark: Dr. Andrews presented an analysis of reading performance and the likelihood of schools meeting the 2014 benchmark if the current rate of progress is sustained. Data suggest that "doing the same" will not enable schools to reach the benchmark, particularly for historically low-performing groups of students. Members discussed the need to adapt practices substantially and to address the barriers to higher school achievement.

V. School and District Progress: How Change is Achieved

- A. Arcadia Elementary School, Spartanburg School District Six: Dr. Darryl Owings, Superintendent and Dr. Charles Bagwell, Principal showcased the school community, the culture of achievement and the accomplishments realized.
- B. Abbeville County Schools: Dr. Ivan Randolph Superintendent, and Mrs. Jean Smith, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, provided members with information on how a district administration inspires high levels of performance among schools.

Without further business, the EOC adjourned.