

**SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**December 10, 2012**

Members Present: Mr. Robinson; Mr. Bowers; Mr. Drew; Senator Fair; Senator Hayes; Mrs. Hairfield; Mr. Martin; Rep. Patrick; Rep. Smith; Mrs. Taylor; Mr. Whittemore; and Dr. Zais

Mr. Warner participated via conference call.

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Robinson welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- II. Approval of the Minutes of the October 8, 2012 Meeting - The minutes were approved as distributed.
- III. Subcommittee Reports

The committee then turned to the Subcommittee reports.

A. Academic Standards and Assessments:

Dr. Merck had an emergency at his high school this morning and could not attend. Mrs. Barton updated the committee concerning the release of the 2012 state district and school report cards. She pointed out the analysis on student performance that was published by the EOC and the information provided to all members of the General Assembly.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms

Mr. Drew was recognized. He notified the committee that the EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee had finalized its budget and proviso recommendations for Fiscal Year 2013-14 during a meeting held at 10:00 a.m. on December 10. The recommendations center around four key funding principles:

- 1. Public funds for education will be allocated based on the needs of students with the ultimate goal being that all children are prepared for success in a career or in postsecondary education.
- 2. Educators will be empowered to allocate resources at the school and classroom levels to best meet the academic needs of individual students. Such flexibility will allow teachers to provide innovative strategies and interventions to prepare all students for success in a career or in postsecondary education.
- 3. Schools and school districts will be held accountable for the results, which will be based on student performance and the ability of each student to succeed in a career or postsecondary education.

4. Consolidation of line item appropriations assists in the simplification of the public education funding system and in the targeting of resources to students.

Mrs. Hairfield asked a question about STEM. Mrs. Taylor asked why the subcommittee recommended an increase for Teach For America but not an increase for the Teaching Fellows program. Senator Fair and Mr. Drew discussed the importance of technology and the changing role of ETV in public schools.

Mr. Bowers made a motion that the subcommittee recommendation be amended to reduce the funding for Teach For America from \$1.0 million to \$500,000 and to increase the appropriation for the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA) by \$500,000. Senator Fair seconded the motion. Mr. Josh Bell, Executive Director of Teach For America, SC, and Ms. Jane Turner, Executive Director of CERRA, both addressed the EOC, reiterating that the two organizations work together and not against one another in attracting and recruiting individuals into classrooms throughout South Carolina.

Rep. Patrick asked for unanimous consent to amend the motion of Mr. Bowers to increase the appropriation to CERRA by \$500,000 and to reduce the increase for the SC Teacher Loan Program funding by \$500,000. Both Mr. Bowers and Senator Fair concurred with the amended motion. The motion was adopted.

#### C. Public Awareness

Mrs. Hairfield reported that the Public Awareness Subcommittee continues to expand the EOC's message using several new initiatives: (1) a video conference contest for middle and high school students to create a two-minute video on innovation. The EOC received over 80 entries. (2) an occasional publication called "Tips for Educator Engagement" that is receiving significant online hits and interest from classroom educators throughout the state. Dana Yow then expounded on other initiatives: (1) Mr. Robinson has written and submitted an op-ed focusing on the success of high-poverty, high-performing schools and districts; (2) the executive director was on a panel at the SC School Boards Association where 385 school board members and superintendents were in attendance; (3) the EOC is working with the South Carolina Department of Education on revisions to the Family Friendly Standards which will include a new website for instant access to some of the web-based features; and (5) the EOC is collaborating with the SC State Library and county libraries throughout the state on initiatives to assist libraries in knowing how to assist struggling readers who visit the library.

#### IV. Policy Discussion - 2013 Legislative Session

The committee then reviewed a document that included five policy areas and prior and future EOC positions on: innovation; governance; reading; technology; and accountability.

Mr. Warner reiterated that the EOC can be a leader in designing a new K-12 public education system that truly changes teaching and learning. Mr. Robinson concurred that it is time to “reinvent the box” and not to “stay in the box.” Mr. Bowers commented on governance and the antiquated and fragmented system of governance at the state level. Senator Hayes asked that the EOC probably needs to look at the size of local districts and the issues related to cost-effective management of schools. The issue of improving reading is one that impacts all students in the state as does technology. As Mr. Warner noted, the lack of broad-band access is a problem in many urban areas of Greenville. He reiterated that a clear focus on improving education through access to online courses and instructional materials is critical.

The committee asked that the staff present at a subsequent meeting on these and other policy issues.

V. Adjournment

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned.