

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
February 13, 2012

Members Present: Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Hairfield, Mr. Brown; Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Senator Hayes, Mr. Martin, Dr. Merck, Mrs. Taylor; Mr. Whittemore and Dr. Zais

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Robinson welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- II. Approval of the Minutes of December 12, 2011: The minutes of December 12, 2011 were approved as distributed.

III. Key Constituencies:

Mrs. Betty Bagley, Superintendent of Anderson School District 5, and instructional leaders from her district provided an overview of the district's choice programs and actions taken to date to prepare for implementation of the Common Core State Standards in the curriculum and teaching. Participating in the presentation were Tripp Dukes, Assistant Superintendent of instruction; Amy Hawkins, Director of Middle and Secondary Education; and Cindy Martin, Director of Early Childhood and Elementary Education. Mrs. Bagley first described the choice options available to students in Anderson 5. Each school in the district has a professional development theme that serves as the vehicle to deliver curriculum. The district is operating with a curriculum blue print and a timeline for implementation of Common Core that begin in the fall of 2010 when district staff began to study the new state standards. Between January and March 2011, the district provided initial professional development for teachers. In March 2011 the district developed a plan for infusing the new standards into all curricula because of the emphasis on instructional text. In the summer of 2011, the district provided additional professional development in English language arts and mathematics and professional development focused on literacy in science and social studies. The professional development included principals and administrators. The professional development continued in the fall of 2011. Today the district is also examining information provided by other states to assist the district in "cross-walking" the prior ELA and mathematics standards with the new state standards to prepare for the bridge year, 2013-14.

The specific timeline adopted by Anderson 5 for implementation is as follows. For the current school year, 2011-12, Anderson 5 implemented the new standards in kindergarten, grade 3, and grades 6, 7 and 8. In 2012-13 the district will implement the standards in grades 1 and 4. In school year 2013-14, the standards will be implemented in grades 2 and 5. Questions still remain concerning the development of a fourth math class that must be operational by 2014-15, the first year of full implementation statewide.

Mr. Drew asked how transportation was handled with the choice options. Senator Fair asked for clarification between changes in the writing standards from an emphasis on narrative to persuasive writing. Mrs. Taylor emphasized the need for more collaboration across districts and more leadership at the state level in assisting districts with transition to the new standards. When asked about the costs that Anderson 5 has absorbed with the writing of curriculum, Mrs. Bagley estimated that since 2001 the district has expended approximately \$2.0 million. Dr. Zais applauded the entrepreneurship of

Anderson 5 and the choice program options as demonstrating innovation and transformation from the bottom up. Both Mrs. Hairfield and Mr. Martin asked questions about the inability of smaller districts without the infrastructure or human capital to provide their teachers with such professional development and curriculum options. Mrs. Bagley stated that the door is always open to other districts for support.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

The committee then turned to the Subcommittee reports.

- A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Dr. Merck noted that the cyclical review of the science standards is underway with the EOC staff in the process of forming three panels to review the standards. He also noted that the information report regarding the growth indices will be the basis for having simulations performed to determine if the criteria for determining the growth ratings should be amended for the 2012 school and district report cards.
- B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Drew called upon Mrs. Barton to give an update on the Fiscal Year 2012-13 EIA budget. Mrs. Barton notified the committee that many of the EOC's recommendations were included in Governor Haley's Executive Budget. She also communicated that the full Ways and Means Committee will complete its deliberations on the budget during the week of February 20.
- C. Public Awareness: Mrs. Hairfield reported that the subcommittee will pursue a public awareness campaign with the Clare Morris Agency to assist staff in promoting the 2020 Vision and in engaging stakeholders in actions to meet the goals of the 2020 Vision. Such action includes the new page on the EOC website designed with resources to help parents, educators and community/business leaders.

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned.