

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
October 14, 2013

Members Present: Mr. Robinson; Mr. Bowers; Sen. Fair; Ms. Hairfield; Rep. Smith; Sen. Matthews; Dr. Merck; Rep. Patrick; Mr. Warner; Mr. Whittemore; and Dr. Zais.

Staff Present: Ms. Barton; Dr. Andrews; Ms. Geiger; and Ms. Yow

I. The minutes of the following meetings were approved as submitted: August 8-9; September 9 and September 16.

II. Key Constituency

Mr. Robinson recognized Pamela Lackey, President of AT&T South Carolina and co-chair of *TransformSC* and Jim Reynolds, CEO of Total Comfort Solutions and a member of *TransformSC*. Ms. Lackey presented an overview of the *TransformSC* initiative, focusing on the goal of the initiative to improve the educational outcomes of students, especially those students who do not graduate from high school or who graduate and still need remediation upon entering postsecondary institutions. Ms. Lackey explained why business is engaged in this effort – increasing difficulty in finding qualified applicants and finding employees who can be trained and retrained. With 65 percent of all jobs requiring postsecondary education or training by the year 2020, the outdated system of public education delivery must be transformed. Ms. Lackey described the results of a parent survey that 74 percent of parents of children in grades 6 through 12 believe that South Carolina should rethink how public education works. Also 68 percent of parents believe that teachers teach to the test while only 50 percent of parents believe that struggling students get the instructional help they need. There are currently 35 schools in 19 districts participating in *TransformSC*. Ms. Lackey noted that in addition to knowledge, learners need to exhibit creativity, integrity, self-direction and a strong work ethic.

EOC members engaged Ms. Lackey and Mr. Reynolds in a discussion that focused on the following: (1) how to determine what flexibility is needed by districts to innovate; (2) what is the role of instructional materials and assessments; (3) how will we know the initiatives are successful; and (4) how to expand the initiative to more districts. Mr. Reynolds focused on the importance of having more students graduating and more students graduating who are college and career ready. The members also discussed the transformation that must occur in the classroom with teachers able to personalize learning to all students, especially at the high school level.

III. Subcommittee Reports

The Committee then turned to the Subcommittee reports.

A. Academic Standards and Assessments:

Dr. Merck summarized the results of a study that determined the relationship between third grade reading performance and eventual graduation in South Carolina using PACT 2000 English language arts (ELA) scores of third graders. The results for South Carolina mirrored the national research in that students who scored at

Below Basic 1 on the 2000 PACT ELA test were less likely to be able to be identified as still being enrolled in public schools in South Carolina and were less likely to graduate than all other students. There was a statistically significant relationship between 3rd grade PACT ELA scores in 2000 and the likelihood that the student graduated in 2009 or 2010.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee

In the absence of Mr. Drew, Mrs. Barton notified that Committee that EIA-funded programs and entities as well as programs seeking EIA funds will have an opportunity on November 12 to present before the subcommittee. The final budget and proviso recommendations will be forwarded to the Committee in December.

C. Public Awareness Subcommittee

Ms. Hairfield reported that the subcommittee has not met since the last meeting.

D. Special Reading Subcommittee

In response to the report on third grade reading, Ms. Hairfield noted that the proposed reading legislation is focused on improving pre- and in-service training of teachers, on progress monitoring of struggling students, and on reading proficiency from early literacy through high school. Ms. Hairfield informed the Committee that EOC staff members, Dr. Rainey Knight and Ms. Yow will be traveling to Florida later in October to meet with individuals at the Just Read Office! and at the Florida Center for Reading Research at Florida State University and to tour schools in Tallahassee.

V. 2013-14 EOC Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives of the Committee for the current fiscal year were approved as distributed.

VI. New Business

Mr. Robinson called upon Mr. Warner to present his proposal for amending the state's education accountability system. The proposal highlighted systemic problems with the current system and demonstrated that transformation of public education must be based on treating teachers as professionals and empowering education entrepreneurs to develop alternative measures and metrics to personalize learning for students and to develop critical thinkers for the 21st century. The Committee discussed the proposal and its incorporation into the cyclical review of the accountability system report that the EOC will consider at its December meeting.

VII. Adjournment

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned.