

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Full Committee Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting

December 11, 2023

Members Present (in-person or remote): April Allen, Dr. Brian Newsome, Rep. Neal Collins, Dr. Bob Couch, Rep. Bill Hager, Barbara Hairfield, Sidney Locke, Sen. Dwight Loftis, Neil Robinson, Dr. Patty Tate, Sen. Ross Turner, State Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver

EOC Staff Present: Dana Yow, Dr. Rainey Knight, Riley Dixon, Dr. Matthew Lavery, Dr. Jenny May, Hope Johnson-Jones, Gabrielle Fulton

Guest(s) Present: Matthew Ferguson, SCDE

Chair April Allen welcomed the committee and acknowledged the Teacher Leader Program at the College of Charleston, whose participants attended. As the first order of business, members voted to approve the minutes from the prior meeting held on October 9, 2023. Rep. Hager made the motion and members approved the minutes unanimously.

Next, Ms. Allen welcomed Dana Yow and Riley Dixon for information on the upcoming school report card release. Ms. Yow began, highlighting the discrepancy between public opinion on school performance and report card results. Additionally, Ms. Yow noted that EOC staff will conduct an investigative study to identify practices of schools with a high percentage of students in poverty that demonstrate high rates of achievement or rapid improvement. Ms. Yow then introduced Mr. Dixon, who provided members with an overview of school test results, highlighting one school in particular, Kelly Edwards Elementary, who hosted the 2023 Report Card Release.

With no further questions, Ms. Allen introduced Dr. Patty Tate, to provide a report of the ASA/PA subcommittee meeting. Ms. Allen brought forward a list of industry credentials and certifications for approval, with 71 out of 75 remaining. Sen. Loftis moved to approve, with all members voting in favor of their approval.

Dr. Couch next provided an EIA subcommittee report, with a brief review of the EIA's roles and responsibilities, before providing the EIA's budget and proviso recommendations for 2024-25. With no questions or discussion, members voted unanimously in favor. Superintendent Weaver thanked the EIA subcommittee. Ms. Allen presented the next item for action, the discussion of the vision statement proposal from the Joint Retreat held with the State Board of Education. Dr. Tate moved to affirm the State Board of Education and SC State Dept. of Education-adopted vision statement which states that by 2030, at least 75% of students will be at or above grade level. This statement revises the current goal in the SC ESSA Plan that states that by 2035, 70% of students in grades 3-8 will be on grade level.

Furthermore, the EOC maintains the commitment made seven years ago to the Profile of the SC Graduate, foundational language that guides decisions that lead students in K-12 to ultimate success in college and careers. One notable career is the military, an economic engine in SC that generates one in every nine jobs in the state. In January 2024, the EOC will create a working group of Military Recruiters, School Liaison Officers, School Liaison Program Managers, SC Purple Star School District Point of Contacts and Department of Education staff to define and measure the academic and physical characteristics of a "military-ready" student. The working group will make recommendations to the EOC no later than June 30, 2024. The Fort Jackson Post Command Team has offered to coordinate a briefing and tour of the Future Army Soldier Preparatory Course for EOC members to be conducted in early 2024.

Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Sen. Loftis inquired if military readiness would be tied to ROTC, with Dr. Tate noting that this would be investigated through the working group. Mr. Couch noted the impact of the military in our state and the importance of ASVAB results in determining career choices. Sen. Loftis asked for an examination of pathway programs and internships such as Project Lead the Way. All approved Dr. Tate's motion.

Ms. Yow provided a brief executive director update thanking Mr. Robinson for his role as a valuable member of the committee. Ms. Allen echoed Ms. Yow's acknowledgement and with that, the meeting adjourned.