



SC EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Reporting facts. Measuring change. Promoting progress.

PO Box 11867 | 227 Blatt Building

Columbia SC 29211 | WWW.SCEOC.ORG

AGENDA EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee Monday, November 15, 2021 10:00 AM, Room 433, Blatt Building

- I. Welcome and Introductions Dr. Bob Couch
- II. Approval of Minutes of October 18, 2021 Dr. Bob Couch
- III. Information: EIA 2020-21 Reports & 2022-23 Budget Requests
Presentations:
 - SC Department of Education.....Katie Nilges
Staff Attorney, Governmental Affairs, SCDE (10:15-10:35)
 - Teach for America SCTroy Evans
Executive Director (10:40-10:55)
 - Center for Educational Partnerships..... Dr. Cindy Van Buren
Director & Associate Dean, UofSC (11:00-11:15)
 - Office of First Steps to School Readiness Georgia Mjartan
Executive Director (11:20-11:35)
- Lunch 11:35-12:35
- SC Arts Commission Ashley Brown
Deputy Director (12:35-12:50)
- Reach Out & Read Carolinas Emily Bartels
State Director (12:55-1:10)
- SC Council on Economic Education Jim Morris
Chief Executive Officer (1:15-1:30)
- Break 1:35-1:45
- VI. EIA Budget Deliberations EIA Subcommittee
- V. Adjournment

- Ellen Weaver
CHAIR
- Barbara B. Hairfield
VICE CHAIR
- Terry Alexander
- April Allen
- Melanie Barton
- Neal Collins
- Bob Couch
- Raye Felder
- Greg Hembree
- Kevin L. Johnson
- Sidney Locke
- Brian Newsome
- Neil C. Robinson, Jr.
- Jamie Shuster
- Molly Spearman
- Patti J. Tate
- Scott Turner

EIA & Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee Members:

- Dr. Bob Couch, Chair Sen. Kevin Johnson
- April Allen Dr. Brian Newsome
- Melanie Barton Jamie Shuster
- Rep. Neal Collins Ellen Weaver

C. Matthew Ferguson, Esq.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting

October 18, 2021

Members in attendance: Dr. Bob Couch; Melanie Barton; April Allen; Ellen Weaver; Sen. Kevin Johnson, Dr. Brian Newsome, and Rep Collins.

EOC Staff: Matthew Ferguson; Hope Johnson-Jones; Dr. Rainey Knight; Dr. Jenny May, and Dana Yow

Dr. Bob Couch called the meeting to order, and the meeting minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Dr. Couch stated that per statute, the EOC makes funding and programmatic recommendations to the General Assembly and takes testimony from EIA-funded programs seeing continued or additional funding. Dr. Knight reminded members that an independent evaluation was being completed for all teacher recruitment and retention programs receiving EIA funding. The spreadsheet in members' packets shows the EIA appropriations for 2021 and approved budgets. Dr. Couch first asked Katie Nilges from the SCDE to approach the podium.

Katie Nilges presented along with Lila Toal Mandsager, SCDE Director of Educator Effectiveness and Teacher Development on the Teacher Quality Commission. Ms. Nilges will be back in November to speak on 33 additional SCDE efforts. From preparation to career development and advancement, the Office of Educator Services and Effectiveness and Leadership Development supports educators throughout their career. The Teacher Quality Commission funds support both the infrastructure to ensure districts are hiring qualified teachers and direct services to school teams working on teacher leadership.

Ms. Mandsager spoke about how the funds used are to support retention of high-quality teachers through a collective leadership initiative in 2016 as a teacher leadership model. Research shows that "shared influence and collective leadership" have improved consistently. Five initial districts have helped design a model of teacher and administrator teams learning skills for leading together and gathering data to solve site-specific problems. Twenty-four school teams participated in 20-21, 25 in 21-22.

Dr. Jenna Hallman, from CERRA spoke, explaining the various EIA-funded programs under CERRA. Data from the Supply and Demand Survey will be shared in October, earlier than usual. The full report will be available in December. They are working with the SCDE on retention. Upcoming activities include working with rural recruitment districts and hosting focus groups of teachers about reasons they are considering leaving and/or why they are willing to stay; supply and demand efforts; ramping up support for national board candidates.

Senator Johnson asked if student teachers can be allowed to complete student teaching at their home district; Ms. Nilges said she would get back and answer. Ms. Weaver asked about the potential for an additional senior year internship and what that would look like for students if dual credit course work was allowed in the sophomore year. Dr. Hallman said they are looking at a variety of levels and more placement opportunities.

Mr. Ferguson asked if CERRA has data on teacher cadets and if they go on to become certified teachers. Dr. Hallman stated that she thought so anecdotally, but it is hard to track empirically. CERRA would like to answer that question, but there is information from SCDE they need to do so systematically.

Dr. Gibbs-Brown and Mrs. Thomas Meyers spoke on behalf of the SC State University Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SCSU) program. The mission is to increase the pool of teachers by focusing on non-traditional students and teachers' aides as well as expand geographical area and employment placement in areas of the state declared critical needs schools.

Senator Johnson asked how it is determined which districts participate. Ms. Meyers stated that the Superintendent sends letter to districts in support of the program and identifies critical need; then Mrs. Thomas Meyers reaches out.

Rep. Collins asked about how financial aid amounts are determined. Ms. Meyers stated that amounts are based on students' needs. Mr. Ferguson asked why SCSU students were not also accessing SC teacher loans. Ms. Meyers stated she would check with the financial aid office. Dr. Gibbs-Brown described a challenge as teacher candidates aren't aware that they can access SC teacher loan as well as the SCSU Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers program.

Dr. Gibbs-Brown spoke about the SCSU Bridge program which begins when a student is a junior in high school, supporting them to become teacher candidates at SCSU. Cohort 2 began summer 2021 with 11th graders.

Dr. Anthony Pittman from Claflin University spoke about the Summer Bridge Program at Claflin University (CUBE), which is working to recruit and retain SC educators. They are working to counteract the negative climate around teaching. The Claflin program has 3 transition points as a program to ensure integrity of teacher effectiveness particularly along the I-95 corridor. Next steps include growing cohort 2; continuing to engage effective assessment models and monitoring progress; reducing administrative costs; and funding vouchers for requisite licensure examinations and test prep.

Mr. Ferguson asked Dr. Pittman to confirm that \$35,000 was spent for 25 practice PRAXIS tests from ETS. Pittman said that that is true.

Sen. Johnson asked how they connect with districts; Dr. Pittman stated that SCSU is working with Clarendon schools. Dr. Couch suggested that programs present at the Education Business Summit.

The meeting was dismissed for lunch at 11:45 a.m., and resumed at 1 p.m.

Ray Jones from SC Student Loan Corporation presented via Zoom. He discussed the current borrowing landscape for the SC Teacher Loan program as well as the impact of COVID. Ms. Barton asked about the balance of the revolving fund account. Revolving account disperses the funds in accordance with the timeline needed. Mr. Jones stated that because of the recent changes allowing access to the revolving fund, there have been no qualified applicants to SC Teacher Loan program who have been denied due to a lack of funding.

Dr. Roy Jones presented on Clemson's "Call Me MiSTER" program, which is now in its 21st year. Diversity among teachers is a complex but important issue that demands national attention. Dr.

Jones shared photos and stories of impact and activity. In 2021-22, 195 new Misterys were enrolled in a program of study. The program has been replicated in other communities.

Ms. Barton asked what the biggest challenge getting students into the program was. Dr. Jones said 16 to 17-year-old black males don't typically want to be an elementary school teacher because the cultural messaging isn't to do so; there are plenty of negative messages around teaching. He said they seek to put things in perspective for students to give back to their own community or a community like theirs.

Dr. Tommy Hodges, Interim Dean of the College of Education at UofSC, spoke about an innovative model for alternative teacher preparation. In Feb. 2020, the Carolina CAP program was approved for their first cohort of teachers. Tria Grant, Director of Carolina CAP, spoke about the details for the program that seeks to target non-certified school district employees to become certified teachers. Carolina CAP is designing a residency component to be piloted in January to support alternative teacher candidates not yet ready to take on the position as teacher of record.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m.