

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 21, 1999

2:00PM

Blatt Building, Rm. 433

Minutes of the Meeting

Members Present: William Barnet, Rosie Berry, James Bennett, Jim Bryan, William Gummerson, Susan Hoag, Alex Martin, Fern Howard (for Doug McTeer), Nikki Setzler, Joel Smith, Henry Spann, Bob Staton, Ronald Townsend, Lynn Thompson, Larry Wilson

- I. Welcome: Mr. Barnet welcomed members of the Committee and the public to the meeting. He introduced Dr. Terry Siskind and Mrs. Doris Edwards, members of the EOC staff.
- II. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of two meetings, January 12 and January 21st, were approved as submitted with a correction in the day of the January 12th meeting to Tuesday.
- III. Election of a Vice Chair: Upon nomination by Lynn Thompson and seconds by Nikki Setzler and Alex Martin, Dr. Rosie Berry was elected Vice Chairperson of the Education Oversight Committee.
- IV. Subcommittee Reports:
 - A. Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Academic Standards and Assessments Subcommittee. He presented the criteria that shall be used in the evaluation of the content standards. Upon acceptance of the criteria, the Committee forwarded the criteria to the State Board of Education for its concurrence. The process is scheduled to begin in February. Mr. Wilson updated the Committee on the progress in development of prototype report cards and the results of the survey.
 - B. Mr. Staton reported on behalf of the EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee. The Subcommittee has not met since the December EOC meeting, but did provide draft copies of the program review process.
 - C. Mr. Bennett reported on behalf of the Parent Involvement Subcommittee. A work plan has been developed and the first task force meeting is scheduled for February.
 - D. Mr. Smith reported on behalf of the Public Awareness Subcommittee. The survey results are to be announced on January 26 and the events related to that announcement were detailed. The Fund has a small balance (\$1650).
 - E. Mr. Barnet reported that the Staff and Administration Subcommittee had not met. Dr. Anderson presented the February 1 report of the Accountability Division. A draft Annual Report of the Education Oversight Committee is to be discussed at the February meeting.

V. New Business/General Discussion:

Mr. Wilson discussed the Education Issues document developed in conjunction with several members of the Palmetto Business Forum and educators. Dr. Anderson is to work with Dr. Stewart from the State Chamber, Mr. McTeer from the Governor's Office and a representative of the State Department of Education to develop a cost analysis. There was discussion that the same criteria used for EIA/EAA program effectiveness should be used with these issues. Dr. Berry asked for an alignment of PBF issues with other initiatives.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

SC EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 18, 1999

2:00PM

Blatt Building, Rm. 433

Minutes of the Meeting

Members present

William Barnet, James Bennett, Rosie Berry, James Bryan, William Gummerson, Robert Harrell, Susan Hoag, Alex Martin, John Matthews, Douglas McTeer, Nikki Setzler, Henry Spann, Robert Staton, Lynn Thompson, Ronald Townsend, Larry Wilson

Welcome

Mr. Barnet welcomed the members of the Committee and guests to the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the January 21 meeting were amended to note that Senator Setzler was present. The minutes were approved as amended.

Subcommittee Reports

(1) Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson indicated the subcommittee was discussing an interim solution for ratings of high schools because neither PACT nor longitudinal data would be available by November 2001. Mrs. Berry asked if the statute required reporting by gender and suggested that the proportion of students with disabilities be included in the similar schools discussion.

Mr. Wilson also noted that the review of the science standards was to begin on February 23, 1999;

The Committee discussed the process and criteria for development of the cost benefit analyses on the ideas and proposals generated by the Palmetto Business Forum, Governor Hodges, Superintendent Tenenbaum and the Friends of Education;

(2) EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton reported that the guidelines for Accountability Systems had been approved. He again acknowledged the work of teachers and the time commitment for academic planning. Senator Matthews and Senator Setzler concurred. The Subcommittee on Public Awareness is asked to address this issue.

There was discussion of the need for teacher professional development on the standards.

(3) Parent Involvement: Mr. Bennett reported that the Task Force had met the previous evening. The meeting went well. Members asked about actions that would be taken based upon their recommendations. He invited members of the EOC to the meetings. Senator Setzler suggested the Subcommittee also work with the Public Awareness Subcommittee to ensure that parents understand the standards and the change this brings to our schools;

(4) Public Awareness: Mr. Martin reported on the status of the request for proposals for the public awareness campaign. Upon Mr. Martin's motion, the Committee approved that the Subcommittee could issue the RFP (through state procedures and offices) and select the contractor. Senator Matthews asked that the campaign (and the RFP) address rural and minority populations;

(5) Staff and Administration: Mr. Barnet indicated that the Staff and Administration Subcommittee would meet immediately following the full Committee meeting.

The Annual Report was approved with additions about the Public Awareness campaign.

Other Business

Mr. Spann asked about approaches to addressing the instructional needs of ninth graders who are functioning at the fifth grade level. Members of the Committee discussed issues relative to adequate notice of the program requirements. The committee agreed to ask for a representative of the Attorney General's Office to meet with them in March.

Report on the Middle Grades Project

Dr. Baron Holmes reported on the Carnegie Middle Grades Project (included in the Committee's Annual Report). The Committee discussed the dilemmas of middle grades performance and recommendations for improvement.

The Committee adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting

March 18, 1999

2:00 p.m.

Room 433, Blatt Building

Members present: William Barnet, James Bennett, Rosie Marie Berry, Jim Bryan, William Gummerson, Susan Hoag, Alex Martin, Nikki Setzler, Joel Smith, Henry Spann, Bob Staton, Lynn Thompson, Larry Wilson

Members in legislative session: Ronald Townsend, Bobby Harrell

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Barnet welcomed the members of the Committee and the visitors to the meeting.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting were approved as distributed.

III. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson reported on the status of work before the Subcommittee. The staff is working with the three review panels for the science standards and a technical advisory committee for the development of school ratings. The prototype report cards have been distributed for comment (2500 packets with cards for four school levels). At this time, all information regarding the report card is considered conceptual and subject to change.
- B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Because the subcommittee had not met, Mr. Staton had no report.
- C. Parent Involvement: Mr. Bennett reported on the March 17 Task Force meeting and reminded members of the June 17 meeting with Dr. Joyce Epstein.
- D. Public Awareness: Mr. Smith reported that the Request for Proposals had been published. Respondents have one month to submit proposals. After complimenting Senator Setzler's article expressing appreciation to teachers, Mr. Barnet asked the Public Awareness Subcommittee to continue the effort to acknowledge teacher contributions during this first year of accountability implementation.

- E. Staff and Administration: Mr. Barnet presented the Employee Personnel Manual. The Committee approved the manual as presented. He asked if there were questions regarding the Funding Public Education paper. Dr. Anderson briefed the Committee on the status of the Palmetto Business Forum project.

IV. Discussion Regarding the Timing of Requirements for Promotion/Retention and the Exit Exam

Speaking at the request of the Committee, Emory Smith (Assistant Deputy Attorney General) reviewed the issues regarding retention and exit exam requirements for diplomas. He referenced the "Debra P. v. Turlington" case. He suggested that the issues were adequate notice, confirmation that students had been taught the materials, and opportunity for remediation.

Dale Stuckey, Chief Counsel to the State Department of Education, discussed the Debra P. case and others. She also discussed a case in the Fourth Circuit regarding retention. Mrs. Stuckey indicated the current exit exam requirement (the new PACT) applied to the Class of 2002. She said the Committee might wish to discuss the timing of the requirement with testing and assessment leaders.

There was general discussion of the need for adequate professional development. Mr. Barnet asked that he, Mr. Wilson and Dr. Anderson meet with Superintendent Tenenbaum to discuss the opportunities for additional professional development on the standards for Summer 1999.

V. Invited remarks from a Key Constituency: Superintendents' Committee on Accountability

Dr. Pat Burns spoke for the Committee. Her remarks are taken from the Superintendent's document, "A Framework for Effectiveness", to be released in early April. Dr. Burns offered five recommendations for priority consideration:

- Design and implementation of a quality professional development program;
- Review and strengthen the support structure for schools (SDE capacity, structure of regional initiatives, clarification of roles);
- Promote quality teaching and learning by appropriate and flexible use of time;
- Statewide leadership for families and children, birth to age three;
- Provide statewide leadership to the development of alternative instructional settings.

The Committee is proposing 8 modifications to the Education Accountability Act:

- Offer alternatives to retention;
- Implement flexible summer school requirements;
- Fully fund all EAA requirements (e.g., summer school);

- Provides schools alternatives to the Act 135 requirements (e.g., substitute the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools planning requirement);
- Review and revise the "absolute" rating to eliminate the over reliance on one test;
- Review and revise roles of SBE, EOC, and SDE;
- Add a district superintendent to the EOC;
- Balance EOC membership geographically.

VI. Open Discussion

The Committee discussed a number issues related to fulfillment of its statutory duties. The Committee asked the Staff and Administration Subcommittee to plan a retreat to discuss: clarify of roles, responsibilities of the Committee, advocacy challenges, and how to be most effective with a variety of constituencies.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
April 15, 1999

Members Present: William Barnet, III; William Gummerson; Robert Harrell, Jr.; Susan Hoag; Alex Martin; Douglas McTeer; Joel Smith; Henry Spann; Robert Staton; Ronald Townsend; Larry Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman convened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. and welcomed members and guests.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the March 18 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments

Mr. Wilson reported on the review of the science standards and the efforts to schedule subsequent review and assessments. He also reported on responses to the report cards and the work in refining the prototypes. The staff is working with measurement specialists on the technical models to be used in developing school ratings. He discussed the importance of professional development that supports teachers as they implement the standards.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms

Mr. Staton reported on matters that had been discussed at the previous Subcommittee meeting (Teacher Specialist program, the determination of data availability for evaluation of Act 135). He indicated that the Subcommittee had scheduled a full-day work session for June 22 to review EIA/EAA program information.

C. Parent Involvement

Mrs. Bockus reported on behalf of Mr. Bennett. The Task Force is working. The April meetings focus on existing programs and services and the content standards. Members were reminded to reserve the luncheon hour to hear Dr. Joyce Epstein, professor, Johns Hopkins University.

D. Public Awareness

Mr. Smith reported that all proposals were to be submitted by 5 p.m. on April 15. The Subcommittee is meeting on April 23 for a proposal briefing and again on May 18 for selection.

E. Staff and Administration

Mr. Barnet referred members to a series of articles that had appeared in the Spartanburg Herald-Journal. He reminded them that Superintendent Tenenbaum was including them in the Summit on Teacher Quality. He also informed them that Mr. Bennett had been nominated for the Ports Authority.

The retreat is scheduled for July 15-16 (noon to noon).

Dr. Anderson presented the Executive Director's report (attached to meeting materials).

IV. Remarks from a Key Constituency

Dr. Frank Roberson spoke on behalf of the Instructional Roundtable. A copy of his remarks is available in the Committee offices.

Mr. Barnet indicated that the schedule includes remarks from the SCSBA at the May meeting and the Teacher Forum at the June meeting. A panel of principals is to be invited to the August meeting.

Mr. Staton recommended that we invite a group of students to a meeting.

V. Other Business

Mr. McTeer asked for the e-mail addresses of members so that they could be included in the Governor's legislative update.

VI. Adjournment

Mr. Barnet thanked everyone for attending. The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting May 20, 1999

Members present

William Barnet, Rosie Berry, James E. Bryan, William Gummerson, Alex Martin, John Matthews, Joel Smith, Henry Spann, Robert Staton, Lynn Thompson, Ronald Townsend,

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He noted that several legislative members were serving on conference committees that were meeting at the same time.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the April meeting were approved as presented.

Subcommittee Reports

- A. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** Dr. Gummerson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He summarized the recommendations regarding the science content standards and offered the following motion, "The Subcommittee moves to approve the recommendations as presented to the Committee and withhold final approval of the science standards until the Committee has seen the revisions incorporated into the standards." The motion was seconded. Dr. Anderson responded to questions and affirmed that she and Mr. Wilson had met with Superintendent Tenenbaum about the recommendations. On behalf of the Subcommittee, Dr. Gummerson moved "that the Education Oversight Committee not accept any standards that are not accompanied by a comprehensive implementation plan." The motion was seconded and approved.
- B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Staton had no report.
- C. **Parent Involvement:** Mrs. Thompson reported on the May 19 Task Force meeting. The work of the Task Force is proceeding. She reminded members of the June 17 meeting.
- D. **Public Awareness:** Mr. Smith reported the awarding of the contract to Chernoff Silver and Associates (in conjunction with the Grant Group). The Subcommittee met with representatives of the two firms on Tuesday, May 18, and discussed the public awareness efforts. A plan is under development that could include a back-to-school video, community roundtables and ETV programs.
- E. **Staff and Administration:** Mr. Barnet asked members to complete a form indicating their attendance at the July retreat. The Committee has contracted with Glenn Jacobus for facilitation; the retreat is scheduled at SC State's Daniel Conference Center.

Dr. Anderson reported on the development of the report card, referencing the draft June 1 report.

Remarks from a Key Constituency

Dr. Evelyn Berry spoke on behalf of the SC School Boards Association. Written copies of her remarks were distributed to members (and are on file in the EOC offices).

Other Business

Mr. Townsend informed the Committee that the House had concurred in the Senate amendmetns to the school facilities legislation. Mr. Barnet asked if district governance could be strengthened as a support for the utilization of the facilities monies. Senator Matthews indicated training for school board members could be strengthened.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting

Thursday, June 17, 1999
Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center
Columbia, South Carolina

Members Present: Mrs. Berry; Senator Bryan; Dr. Gummerson; Representative Harrell; Mr. Martin; Senator Matthews; Mr. McTeer; Senator Setzler; Mr. Staton; Mrs. Thompson.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mrs. Berry welcomed members to the meeting and acknowledged the day's activities which included the Parent Involvement Task Force luncheon and work with Dr. Joyce Epstein.
- II. **Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of the May 20 meeting were approved as distributed.
- III. **Subcommittee Reports:**
 - A. **Academic Standards and Assessments Subcommittee:** The Subcommittee did not have a report;
 - B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee:** Mr. Staton reported on behalf other Subcommittee. Having reviewed the criteria for the Principal Specialist program, the Subcommittee recommended approval. The Committee concurred. Mrs. Thompson raised questions about the extent to which teacher and principal specialists could receive retirement benefits for participating in the program. Dr. Bedenbaugh confirmed that the 45-day limit had been removed through the FY2000 Appropriations bill;
 - C. **Parent Involvement Subcommittee:** Mrs. Thompson reported on behalf o the Subcommittee. She highlighted the work of the Task Force, the meetings with Dr. Epstein, and outlined the activities for the development of recommendations;
 - D. **Public Awareness:** Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He discussed the "Framework" and indicated the Subcommittee is to meet with Chernoff-Silver on June 21;
 - E. **Staff and Administration:** On behalf of Mr. Barnet, Dr. Anderson presented the Administrative Manual for approval. The Committee concurred. Dr. Anderson presented the Executive Director's report that included a presentation on the school ratings models by Dr. Siskind.
- IV. **Remarks from a Key Constituency:** Dr. Janice Poda introduced three outstanding teachers (Mary Lostetter, Kathy Schwalbe, and Tomiko Smalls) who presented the attached recommendations from the Teacher Forum. Committee members expressed support for extensive and immediate professional development for teachers to work with the standards so that they understand the content, pacing, assessments and see exemplary lessons to assist in the teaching of the standards.
- V. **Other Business:** Dr. Anderson indicated that materials for the Retreat, including directions, would be mailed on July 2.
- VI. **Adjournment:** Mrs. Berry thanked members for a good day and adjourned the meeting.

Attachment

Teacher Forum Recommendations

Minutes of the July 15-16, 1999 Meeting
Elloree, South Carolina

Members present: Mr. Barnet, Mrs. Berry, Senator Bryan, Representative Harrell, Mrs. Hoag, Senator Matthews, Mr. McTeer, Senator Setzler, Mr. Smith, Mr. Spann, Mr. Staton, Mrs. Thompson, Representative Townsend, Mr. Wilson

- I. Call to Order
Mr. Barnet called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. on July 15.
- II. Actions
 - A. The minutes of the June 17, 1999, meeting were approved.
 - B. Mr. Staton presented the criteria for the external review teams. The criteria were approved as presented by the Subcommittee on the EIA and Improvement Mechanisms.
- III. General Discussion
The members participated in the general discussion of the Committee's responsibilities and actions during its initial year and discussed future plans. Items discussed include those shown on page two of the "Bridge" document that is attached.
- IV. The meeting adjourned at noon on July 16.
- III.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes
September 24, 1999
10:00 a.m.
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present

Mr. Barnet, Mrs. Berry, Dr. Gummerson, Mr. Martin, Senator Matthews, Mr. McTeer, Mr. Spann, Mr. Staton, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. L. Wilson, Mr. S. Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Anderson introduced two staff persons, Mrs. Paulette Geiger and Mrs. Shellie Allen. Mr. Barnet introduced a new committee member, Mr. Stefan Wilson. Rep. Townsend appoints Mr. Wilson as a business representative.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the July 15-16 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. L. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He reviewed a list of technical issues that the Subcommittee wishes referred to the General Assembly for enabling language. The Committee approved.

Mr. Wilson detailed the time line and process for establishing the absolute ratings. This process begins on September 7 with the Subcommittee.

Mr. Wilson urged the State Department and all involved in the production of the report card to proceed with their work in a timely manner to ensure that the report card can be issued in November 2001.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He provided status information on the review of the EIA programs including the preliminary general recommendations. These were presented for information.

C. Parent Involvement Subcommittee: Mrs. Thompson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. The Task Force is developing its report for presentation to the Subcommittee on October 18 and the Education Oversight Committee on October 21.

D. Public Awareness Subcommittee: Dr. Anderson reported that the video is in production. A "rough cut" screening is to be part of the Subcommittee's October 6 agenda.

E. Staff and Administration Subcommittee: Mr. Barnet described the sequence of events regarding the Baldrige/National Alliance of Business pilot project. The Subcommittee had determined that there should be a cross-group team to examine the criteria and determine its applicability to South Carolina's educational reform effort.

Dr. Anderson summarized the work of the cost-benefit analysis project and the recommendations. The Committee concurred with the three overriding themes: teaching quality, time on task and efficient use of technology. Mr. L. Wilson asked that the recommendations be distributed and that the EOC included them in its legislative package.

IV. **Remarks from a Key Constituency**

Two successful principals, Dr. Rick Starr from Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School and Dr. Diane James from Carver Elementary School, detailed their work and successes at those schools.

V. **General Discussion**

- A. The "Bridge" document: Mr. Barnet reviewed reactions to the Bridge document and asked that alternative wording be recommended on three issues: teacher or educator training; the goals; and the seventh EOC objective, specifically the use of the term "task forces".

- B. The Ad Hoc Committee to Study School Choice/Open Enrollment: Mr. Barnet asked if the EOC members felt the Committee should take a stand on the issues. The Committee asked that Mr. Barnet address the Ad Hoc Committee and indicate that the EOC felt the discussion and any actions on choice would weaken public education. The Committee further said that the issues are disruptive and distracting us from acting on the goals already established and that the effort is divisive at a time when we need to be coming together.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
October 21, 1999

Members Present: Willam Barnet, Rosie Marie Berry, James Bryan, William Gummerson, Robert W. Harrell, Jr., Alex Martin, Douglas McTeer, Nikki Setzler, Joel Smith, Henry Spann, Robert Staton, Lynn Thompson, Larry Wilson

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He acknowledged guests who had been invited for the presentation of the Parent Involvement Task Force.

II. **Approval of the Minutes of September 24, 1999**

The Committee approved the minutes of September 24 as distributed.

III. **Special Report**

Mrs. Thompson introduced the members of the Parent Involvement Task Force and thanked them for their work over the past ten months.

Robert Zeurcher, Max Melton, Kappy Hubbard, Josie Gaston and Wendell Price presented the Task Force report. The Report incorporated recommendations under five broad categories (attached). The recommendations incorporate actions necessary to implement the vision of "a renewed commitment to partnerships among family, school and community that support parental responsibility for our children's health, well-being and accelerated learning."

The research and findings of the Task Force confirm that SC cannot have the successful school transformation without parent involvement. The Task Force recommended actions addressing the diversity of situations, the need for systemic change and portability of programs.

Members of the Committee asked a number of questions.

Mr. Barnet asked that each Subcommittee review the recommendations relevant to its work and provide a report to the Subcommittee on Parent Involvement. He requested that the Subcommittee consolidate a report and recommendation for action to the Committee.

He expressed his appreciation to the Task Force and Mrs. Bockus for her support of the Task Force.

IV. **Other Business**

The Committee reviewed proposed changes in wording to the "Bridge" document. The Committee accepted the changes shown below (new language underlined).

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of states nationally. To achieve this goal we must become one of the five fastest improving systems in the country.

The meeting adjourned. The November EOC meeting is scheduled for November 18.

Attachment: Summary Recommendation

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
November 18, 1999

Members Present: Mr. Barnet, Mrs. Berry, Senator Bryan, Mr. Martin, Mr. McTeer, Senator Setzler, Mr. Smith, Mr. Staton, Mrs. Thompson, Representative Townsend

I. **Welcome**

Mr. Barnet welcomed members to the meeting. He expressed his and the Committee's wishes for Mr. Larry Wilson's continuing recovery.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of October 21 were approved as distributed.

III. **Subcommittee Reports**

- A. **Subcommittee on Academic Standards and Assessments:** Dr. Anderson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee adopted the interim recommendations distributed with the meeting materials.
- B. **Subcommittee on the EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Staton distributed a final report on the EIA budget. He explained the changes in the revenue projection and allocation of funds within the proportionate scheme proposed. The amendment to approve was modified to provide authority for Mr. Staton and staff to prepare materials and related provisos and to transmit the materials to the Governor and legislative leadership. The motion was approved. Mr. Staton indicated the Subcommittee intended to focus intensely on a selected group of the programs next year. This would facilitate deeper understanding of the issues and the programs.
- C. **Subcommittee on Parent Involvement:** Mrs. Thompson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. She indicated that the Parent Involvement Task Force recommendations had been distributed to superintendents, education leaders and representatives of organizations for comment. The Subcommittee would have a final report at the December meeting.
- D. **Subcommittee on Public Awareness:** Mr. Smith reported on the November 16 roundtable and discussion of future public awareness efforts. He also shared the discussion of the parent Involvement Task Force recommendations.
- E. **Subcommittee on Staff and Administration:** (1) Dr. Anderson provided the Committee with a management plan for the work of the Committee organized around the seven EOC objectives. Dr. Siskind presented a methodology for monitoring and evaluating achievement of the EOC 2010 goal. The members of the Committee asked a number of questions for clarification and agreed that the methodology was sound. (2) Mr. Barnet presented the calendar for the next six months and asked members to schedule their time to be present. (3) Mr. Barnet presented the proposed work schedule for the study team on local leadership quality and engagement. He also recommended that this group complete its work before the study team on resources begins its work. The Committee approved the plan. The Staff and Administration Subcommittee is responsible for this work.

Mr. Barnet informed members that the EOC would appear before the House Committee on Education and Public Works on December 8 and before the Senate Education Committee on January 19. He asked members to schedule these dates. Full information is to be sent later.

IV. **Other Business**

Representative Townsend reported on the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to Study School Choice/ Open Enrollment and the time line for recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45PM.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, December 16, 1999
2:00PM
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. William Barnet, Sen. James Bryan, Dr. William Gummerson, Ms. Susan Hoag, Mr. Alex Martin, Mr. Douglas McTeer, Sen. Nikki Setzler, Mr. Joel Smith, Mr. Henry Spann, Mr. Robert Staton, Ms. Lynn Thompson, Rep. Ronald Townsend, Mr. Larry Wilson and Mr. Stefan Wilson

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting, noting the return of Mr. Larry Wilson after surgery. Mr. Barnet announced a modification of the agenda to permit Senator Setzler to discuss the report of the Middle Grades Task Force before the presentation of subcommittee reports.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of November 18, 1999 were approved as distributed.

III. **Remarks from a Key Constituency**

The Middle Grades Task Force: Senator Setzler, chairperson of the Middle Grades Task Force, presented the preliminary report of the task force. The Governor had presented the report of the task force to the public earlier in the day. Senator Setzler emphasized that the majority of task force members are practitioners. Among the highlighted recommendations are the following:

1. Reduction in the student to counselor ratio;
2. Reduction in the student to teacher ratio;
3. Establishment of middle grades certification;
4. Five additional contract days for teachers;
5. Professional development for all middle grades personnel;
6. A focus on the middle grades within the State Dept. of Education;
7. The creation of a home-school liaison within each district; and
8. A Summer 2000 Middle Grades Summit.

IV. **Subcommittee Reports**

- A. **Subcommittee on Academic Standards and Assessments:** Mr. Wilson reported that the Subcommittee had not met during December, but that the technical work was proceeding. He also reported on the work of the Commission on Teacher Quality. The Commission is endorsing a longer teacher work year (five additional days) as well as strong emphasis on professional development. Other issues are to be addressed in 2000.
- B. **Subcommittee on the EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Staton reported on the presentation of the budget recommendations to the K-12 Subcommittee of Ways and Means.
- C. **Subcommittee on Parent Involvement:** Mrs. Thompson presented materials detailing responses from the education community to the Task Force recommendations and the modifications recommended by the Subcommittee (change requirements for teacher certification to contract renewal and change implementation of incentives to exploration of incentives for businesses.) Dr. Gummerson raised concerns with Recommendations 2.1 and 4.2. After discussion, the EOC voted to refer those recommendations to the Subcommittee for further study and to forward the other recommendations to the General Assembly.
- D. **Subcommittee on Public Awareness:** Mr. Smith reported on contributions to the fund and the distribution of the video. He also outlined work with the broadcasters and a research project with parents.

- E. Subcommittee on the Staff and Administration: Mr. Barnet reported on the beginning of the study team on local leadership quality and engagement. Dr. Anderson summarized her report that was included in the meeting packet.

IV. General Discussion

- A. Issue regarding students with disabilities: Mr. Spann presented remarks to the Committee regarding the testing of student with disabilities and the inclusion of their performance in the school and district ratings. Mr. Spann recommended that the IEP Committee should determine accommodations; that the State should provide funding for accommodations; that the range of accommodations should not e limited and that off-level test performance should not be included in the school or district rating. After lengthy discussion, the EOC referred the matter to the Academic Standards and Assessments Subcommittee and asked that other groups be involved in the discussion and decisions.
- B. Mr. Townsend reminded members that the General Assembly was beginning its work again in January.
- C. Mr. Barnet briefly described the meeting between members of the SC Chamber of Commerce and Texas education groups/leaders.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30PM.