

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, January 20, 2000
1:30PM
Room 221, Blatt Building**

Members Present: William Barnet, Rose Berry, James E. Bryan, William Gummerson, Robert W. Harrell, Alex Martin, Douglas McTeer, Nikki Setzler, Henry Spann, Robert Staton, Ronald Townsend, Larry Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He acknowledged the change in order of the meeting to accommodate two special speakers.

II. School Finance Issues in South Carolina

Dr. Evelyn Berry, Executive Director of the School Boards Association, introduced Dr. John Augenblick who discussed his work on school finance issues in South Carolina. Dr. Augenblick has studied the South Carolina school finance system over the last few years. He presented an analysis of EFA funding, including the shifting of costs to local revenue sources and erosion of the base student cost. Dr. Augenblick is conducting an analysis of the EAA to project the cost of funding the program

III. Economic Development in South Carolina

The Honorable Charles Way, Secretary of Commerce, introduced Ross Boyle who had conducted an analysis of economic development opportunities in South Carolina. Mr. Boyle summarized his work and provided insights supplementing his conclusions about the need for a radically changed level of student achievement through a more technology-oriented curriculum

IV. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of December 16 were approved with the following amendment: Mr. Spann recommended that the IEP Committee should determine accommodations—determine if the student should take the PACT or another assessment test.

V. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Subcommittee on Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson introduced Dr. Frank Brown, MarketSearch, to present the report on the focus groups held to understand the critical elements for the ratings to be linked to performance on the state's standards-based assessments. Mr. Wilson noted that the SDE had concluded incorporation of EOC recommendations in the science standards and that the social studies standards are under external review.
- B. Subcommittee on EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton outlined presentations of the budget recommendations to the Public Education Subcommittee of Ways and Means.
- C. Subcommittee on Parent Involvement: On behalf of the Subcommittee Mrs. Bockus presented the final recommendations, noting changes in the wording of the two recommendations which had been deferred at the December meeting.
- D. Subcommittee on Public Awareness: Mr. Martin summarized activities of the Subcommittee, noting the parental research project, the meeting with SC Broadcasters and the identification of issues upon which the EOC might comment.
- E. Subcommittee on Staff and Administration: Dr. Anderson summarized the recommendations included in the February 1 Report. Mr. Barnet informed the EOC of the membership of the Local Leadership Study Team.

VI. General Discussion

There was no new business.

The Committee adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Meeting
February 17, 2000
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. Henry Spann, Mr. Robert Staton, Mrs. Lynn Thompson, Rep. Ronald Townsend, Mr. Stefan Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Barnet welcomed members to the meeting. Senator Setzler spoke his appreciation to Mrs. Trisha Bockus and acknowledged her service to the EOC, the EIA-Select Committee, the State Department of Education and the SC education community. He also commented that Mr. Barnet had received the "Champions of Education" Award from the SC Schools Boards Association for his contributions to Pine Street Elementary School and the Spartanburg County districts.

II. Remarks from Mr. Emerson Gower

Emerson Gower, Chairman of the SC Chamber of Commerce Council for Excellence in Education, addressed the EOC. Mr. Gower addressed the involvement of the Chamber in several projects connecting business and education. He cited "Skills That Work", a 1998 project and the 1999 Report "Focus on Teacher Quality." The report included recommendations for teacher preparation, strengthening the standards for certification, increased pay for teachers. He endorsed classroom accountability through the implementation of ADEPT. Mr. Gower briefly described the trips to Texas and North Carolina in which some EOC members had participated. He also discussed the High Performance Partnerships, funded by a Gear-Up Grant.

III. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the January 20 meeting were approved as distributed.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Dr. Gummerson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He acknowledged the incorporation of EOC-recommendations in the science standards. He presented recommendations regarding the Social Studies Standards. The recommendations were approved for transmittal to the State Superintendent of Education.

- B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He indicated that the Subcommittee is conducting three (3) comprehensive evaluations of EIA programs as a part of its work.

The programs include the following: Child development programs for four-year-olds; Black history; and the Advanced Placement program.

- C. Parent Involvement: Mrs. Thompson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. She indicated that legislation had been introduced in the Senate by Senators Bryan and Setzler with 27 co-sponsors. Representative Townsend is to introduce legislation in the House. Mr. Barnet thanked Mrs. Thompson for her leadership and officially designated Stefan Wilson as the chair of the Parent Involvement Subcommittee.
- D. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin referred members to the written report and indicated that the SC Broadcasters' Association had agreed to focus on the EOC announcements.
- E. Staff and Administration: Dr. Anderson presented the DRAFT EOC Annual Report for approval. The report was approved with the inclusion of a statement about the Local Leadership study team.

Dr. Siskind presented a report on the relationship of potential report card data elements and PACT or Exit Exam performance. Rep. Townsend distributed copies of a letter to Mr. Barnet asking that the performance indicator for prime instructional time be reviewed to ensure that it does not discourage professional development. Mr. McTeer asked that the staff explore options for including the schools ratings of similar schools.

V. **Remarks from a Key Constituency**

Dr. Gary Melton, Clemson University, presented information and research on parent involvement. He highlighted critical factors including involvement of fathers, summer experiences and the need for schools to respond to the changing nature of families.

VI. **General Discussion**

There was no general discussion. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

The Committee adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Meeting
March 23, 2000
2:30PM
Room 433, Blatt Building**

Members Present: Mr. Barnet, Mrs. Berry, Senator Bryan, Dr. Gummerson, Representative Harrell, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. Martin, Senator Matthews, Mr. McTeer, Senator Setzler, Mr. Smith, Mr. Spann, Mr. Staton, Mrs. Thompson, Representative Townsend, Mr. L. Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He noted the agenda was substantial and asked everyone for his or her patience.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the February 17 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. Remarks from a Key Constituency

- A. Mr. William Schenck, Fleet Mortgage, appeared before the Committee to discuss the partnership between Fleet Mortgage and Florence District Four. He introduced members of the Fleet team and Mr. Monroe Friday, Chairman of the Florence Four Board and Dr. Paul Vivian, Superintendent. Within the partnership, Fleet is providing the following:
- Technical assistance in financial matters;
 - 70 mentors for students;
 - assistance in the implementation of benchmark testing;
 - Quarterly recognition.

He indicated that there is a major barrier produced by a "This too shall pass" attitude. He recommended increasing the number of teacher specialists, providing information systems and training to underperforming schools, and providing incentives for document teacher improvements.

- B. Mrs. Edwina Carnes, SC Chamber of Commerce, presented information on the High Performance Partnership Program. The program is funded by a GEAR-UP grant to the Commission on Higher Education. She described the variety of activities and the firms and schools involved. She commented on the following experiences:
- facilities;
 - Lack of administrative leadership;
 - Business frustration when schools do not follow through;
 - Pockets of hopelessness.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson presented the changes the SDE has made in the social studies standards and moved for approval. The Committee approved.

Mr. Wilson discussed the accountability manual. He discussed the details in the manual. He asked for comments. He indicated that the Subcommittee is continuing to work with members of the SBE and other groups.

Members discussed concerns with the time line for implementation. Mr. Wilson indicated that he had asked for a monthly time line, reporting on the status of tasks in the EAA.

Senator Matthews asked if teachers had an opportunity to prepare students and cautioned against skewing the results. There was discussion of the "this too shall pass" issues. Mrs. Thompson indicated that there are some individuals who would never be ready. Members agreed that the time line should be met and that efforts to identify needed resources should be undertaken.

- B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He asked for approval of an agreement with the Avery Institute at the College of Charleston to conduct a study of the teaching of black history. Two other studies are pending Advanced Placement and the Four-year-old program. The Avery agreement was approved.
- C. Public Awareness: Mr. Smith reported that the partnership with the SC Broadcasters' Association had been settled. He indicated that he would require an executive session to discuss the public awareness contract.
- D. Parental Involvement: On behalf of the subcommittee, Mrs. Thompson reported on the status of the parental involvement legislation in the Senate and the House. A subcommittee appointed by the Senate Education committee was reviewing and adjusting some of the language of the original proposed bill. No decisions had been made at that time. Mr. Barnet and Mr. Stefan Wilson co-authored a letter thanking those involved in the Senate and the House for co-sponsoring the introduction of the bills into those bodies. Mr. Wilson is working with the staff to continue the involvement of the Oversight Committee in the parental involvement arena and to insure that focus is maintained.
- E. Staff and Administration: No report

V. **General Discussion**

- A. Dr. Gummerson waived his time.
- B. Mr. Martin raised several questions regarding the testing of students with disabilities. Dr. Lindsay responded for the State Department of Education.

There was a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter.

The EOC rose from Executive Session.

Mr. Smith moved that the contract with Chernoff/Silver and Associates be extended by one year, in accordance with the provisions published in the original proposal. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50PM.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
May 18, 2000
2:00PM
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Barnet, Mrs. Berry, Senator Bryan, Dr. Gummerson, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. Martin, Mr. McTeer, Mr. Smith, Mr. Staton, Representative Townsend, Mr. L. Wilson, Mr. S. Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the March 23 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. Subcommittee Reports

A. Parent Involvement: Mr. S. Wilson reported on behalf of the Parent Involvement Subcommittee. He indicated the status of the parent involvement legislation, explained a time line that he and staff had prepared for Subcommittee consideration and announced a June 8 meeting of the Subcommittee;

B. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. L. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He reviewed the recommendations for the optional grade one and two PACT assessments and asked for approval of the report as distributed. The SDE should respond before the next meeting. He explained interest (raised during the Subcommittee) in the degree and extent of use of the tests. The staff is surveying districts. The Committee approved the report, including recommendations.

Mr. Wilson presented the accountability manual for approval. After discussion of the teacher attendance and professional development factors, the Committee accepted an amendment to provide that until the teacher contract year reaches 195 days, absences for professional development activities for which the district or school has paid a fee or stipend or a district or school administrator has given a teacher to attend may be excused as long as the activities are consistent with state-adopted standards for professional development. The Committee members endorsed continuing efforts to extend the teacher contract year.

The Committee accepted the Subcommittee's recommendation to increase rigor over time for the absolute rating. The Subcommittee recommended that the EOC pursue an active agenda that would identify inhibitors to achievement and strengthen the system. Among the ideas suggested were teacher development and quality, increasing time on task, equity funding, use of technology, parent involvement and consolidation of districts. Members suggested that schools should be given the power to be successful and that a group should be convened to meet and plan with a sense of urgency.

The manual was approved with the amendments to the teacher attendance and professional development factor and a notation that the rigor of the absolute rating would increase over time.

Rep. Townsend asked a number of questions regarding funding and the factor on funding displayed on the report card. He asked that a number of factors are researched and that local effort is given strong consideration. Mr. Wilson indicated the Subcommittee would look at these factors.

- C. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton indicated there was no report.
- D. Public Awareness: Mr. Smith distributed the time line and indicated that the Subcommittee had given final approval to the campaign. The launch is scheduled for July 11 and he hopes all members are participating.
- E. Staff and Administration: Mr. Barnet reminded members of the July retreat. He suggested that a major area of discussion is the retention requirement in the EAA. Another area is the plan suggested by the Academic Standards and Assessments Subcommittee.

Dr. Anderson waived any remarks in the interest of time.

IV. **Remarks from a Key Constituency**

Paul Amos, President of SC ETV, discussed the use of interactive technology to meet the critical teaching shortages in SC school districts. He also cited SC's advantages in wireless broadband communications.

V. **Special Presentation**

Drs. Gilbert Hunt and Lance Bedwell, Coastal Carolina University, presented the findings of their case studies of eight SC middle schools. Copies of the report were distributed to members, as were the Executive Summaries.

VI. **Discussion of the GI Forum Suit in Texas**

Dr. Gummerson reviewed the GI Forum suit and compared its issues with the Debra P. V. Turlington suit in Florida. He identified both procedural and substantive concerns. He discussed parallel infrastructure needs in South Carolina and emphasized the importance of teachers having time to learn the standard so that they can teach the students well.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
June 15, 2000
2:00PM
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Barnet, Mrs. Berry, Senator Bryan, Dr. Gummerson, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. Martin, Senator Matthews, Mr. McTeer, Mr. Smith, Mr. Spann, Mrs. Thompson, Representative Townsend, Mr. L. Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He introduced Mrs. Melanie Barton. Mrs. Barton is working with the EIA program budgets.

II. Minutes of the May 18 Meeting

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

III. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Parent Involvement: Mrs. Thompson reported on behalf of the Parent Involvement Subcommittee. She shared the work plan for the Subcommittee and indicated that the Subcommittee had received a research report from Dr. Frank Brown.
- B. Public Awareness: Mr. Smith reported on behalf of the Public Awareness Subcommittee. He reminded members that the press conference and release of the first announcements is scheduled for July 11.

IV. Reports from Key Constituencies:

The Committee heard reports from representatives of four education associations: Dr. Patricia Burns, SCASA; Mrs. Jackie Hicks, SCEA; Dr. Elizabeth Gressette; PSTA; and Dr. Evelyn Berry, SCSBA. Copies of their remarks are on file in the Committee offices.

V. General Discussion

Mr. Barnet reminded members of the EOC Retreat on July 27 and 28 at the Madren Conference Center at Clemson University.

Mr. Spann thanked the members of the Academic Standards and Assessments Subcommittee for their changes to the formula for teacher attendance.

Senator Matthews asked for a summary of the professional association recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

South Carolina Education Oversight Committee

Minutes of the Meeting

July 27-28, 2000

Members Present: Mr. Barnet, Mrs. Berry, Senator Bryan, Representative Harrell, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. McTeer, Mr. Martin, Senator Matthews, Mr. Spann, Mr. Staton, Mrs. Thompson

Welcome and Introduction

Mr. Barnet welcomed members to the Madren Conference Center at Clemson University. He thanked them for dedicating two days to discussion and planning. He announced the resignation of Stefan Wilson from the Committee. Mr. Wilson has been transferred to Colorado.

Mr. Barnet outlined the work of the meeting, including definition of critical short and long-term factors for success and establishment of goals for the next twelve months.

Minutes of June 17

The minutes of June 17 were approved as distributed.

Subcommittee Reports and Discussion of the Ratings

Each subcommittee outlined the critical activities and issues of the past year. There was considerable discussion on the need to maintain energy on the issues of parent involvement, expansion of communication efforts, focused EIA spending, and the development of school and district ratings.

The Committee reviewed technical proposals regarding the ratings.

Presentation by Dr. John Augenblick

Dr. Evelyn Berry, Mrs. Ellen Henderson and Dr. John Augenblick met with the Committee to discuss a finance model for the teaching of standards and results at a specified level.

[The Committee adjourned for the evening]

Executive Session

The Committee went into Executive Session for discussion of a personnel matter. At the conclusion of the discussion, the committee voted to end Executive Session.

Ratings Discussion with Educators

The Committee authorized staff to discuss the following with the education community:

- Appropriate weighting of content disciplines
- Two sets of definitions for each rating criteria
- Restrictions on the percentage of students who score in Below Basic
- The incremental rigor proposal

Definition of priority objectives for 2000-2001

The Committee identified two legislative issues:

- Development of state and local capacity to respond to and assist schools identified as Unsatisfactory;
- Consideration of the performance of student demographic groups in the absolute rating.

The Committee identified the following objectives for 2000-2001:

1. Continue the implementation of the Education Accountability Act, in accordance with the time line outlined in the 1998 legislation;
2. Persuade others to work toward our shared vision, including the promotion of a common agenda with the Governor and State Superintendent and developing strong relationships with the minority community;
3. Implement a proactive public relations effort and provide information on all EAA issues through education and engagement;
4. Support the proper and adequate intervention measures and resources to meet the goals of the accountability system, including providing information on the current or proposed approaches and advocating funding;
5. Recommend changes in EIA or EAA funding for intervention strategies, including Act 135 programs, to ensure maximum impact;
6. Determine long-term data needs and support information systems to inform decisions from the Statehouse to the classroom; and
7. Affirm our commitment to quality teaching of the standards in every classroom through provision of professional development and adequate instructional resources.

The meeting adjourned at noon on July 28.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
August 17, 2000
2:00PM
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Barnet, Dr. Everson, Dr. Gummerson, Representative Harrell, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. Martin, Senator Matthews, Mr. McTeer, Mr. Staton, Mrs. Thompson, Representative Townsend, Mr. Wilson, Mrs. Tenenbaum

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He announced the resignations of Henry Spann and Stefan Wilson. He announced Representative Townsend's appointment of Dr. Barbara Everson as an educator representative. He also introduced State Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum who accepted the EOC's invitation to serve as a non-voting participant.

Mr. Barnet introduced Debbie Elmore, the Communications Specialist and Dr. Paul Horne, Director of Curriculum and Program Reviews.

Mr. Barnet appointed Dr. Everson to the EIA and Improvement Mechanisms and the Public Awareness Subcommittees. He asked Mrs. Thompson to serve as interim chairperson of the Parent Involvement Subcommittee.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of July 27-28 were approved as distributed.

III. Election of Officers

Mr. Staton moved the reelection of Mr. Barnet as Chairman and Mrs. Berry as vice-chairman. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson reported on the models under simulation for the absolute and improvement ratings and the work of task forces on alternate criteria for schools without PACT scores.
- B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton recommended approval of the six categories for the EIA budget realignment process. The categories are acceptable to both the EOC and the State Department of Education. The motion carried.
Mr. Staton outlined the budget recommendation process for Fall 2000 and plans for the evaluation of Act 135 expenditures.
- C. Parent Involvement: Mrs. Thompson reported that the subcommittee did not meet in July.
- D. Public Awareness: Mrs. Thompson commented on the positive feed back she is receiving about the campaign.
- E. Staff and Administration: Mr. Barnet indicated the subcommittee did not have a report.

V. Report from a Key Constituency

Mr. Barnet introduced Mr. J. T. McLawhorn, President, Columbia Urban League. Mr. McLawhorn addressed the EOC about the report, The State of Black South Carolina, its purpose and the range of issues addressed. He introduced Dr. Tina Marshall-Bradley, author of the chapter on the miseducation of African-American students. Dr. Marshall-Bradley

detailed the study and the basis for the recommendations. She commended the entire text to the EOC, particularly those recommendations for change.

Members asked Mr. McLawhorn and Dr. Marshall-Bradley about the work and the potential for continuing deliberation and dialogue. Mr. McLawhorn recommended a continuing series of discussions. Dr. Marshall-Bradley and Dr. Anderson are to coordinate a schedule for dialogue.

VI. Discussion of a Contractual Matter

Mrs. Tenenbaum addressed the EOC about the structure of the PACT tests and the schedule for scoring student tests. The contract with Data Recognition Corporation was discussed in detail. Mrs. Tenenbaum, her staff and members of the EOC discussed options available to have the test scored earlier and scores made available to schools. DRC anticipates providing 2000 PACT data by October 2000 and 2001 PACT data by July 31, 2001.

Mrs. Tenenbaum introduced Barbara Teusink who gave a status report on the implementation of new student information software and the data warehouse project. The student information system should be functional in all districts within three years. The data warehouse standards should be adopted by October and the Department staff would begin loading data by December.

Dr. David Burnett reported to the EOC on the status of the trial run for the report card. He indicated that the activities are on schedule and the SDE does not anticipate any delay in the report card as long as test scores are received by the end of July 2001.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting

September 28, 2000

9:00AM

Room 207, Gressette Building

Members Present: Mr. Barnet, Mrs. Berry, Dr. Gummerson, Representative Harrell, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. Martin, Senator Matthews, Mr. McTeer, Senator Setzler, Dr. Everson, Mr. Staton, Representative Townsend, Mr. Wilson

Mr. Barnet introduced Governor Hodges. The Governor discussed EnVision, his plan for South Carolina. Following discussion of the plan, the Governor and members of the EOC discussed a number of education issues.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
September 21, 2000
2:00PM
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Barnet, Mrs. Berry, Dr. Everson, Dr. Gummerson, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. Martin, Senator Matthews, Mr. Smith, Mr. Staton, Mrs. Thompson, Representative Townsend, Mr. Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He noted that Mrs. Molly Spearman was attending on behalf of Superintendent Tenenbaum.

II. Approval of the Minutes

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

III. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee.
 - (1) The report and recommendations on the Mathematics Content Standards was approved as recommended by the Subcommittee;
 - (2) The Subcommittee informed the full committee of the response from the State Department of Education regarding the recommendations on PACT 1 and 2. The Department concurred with the recommendations;
 - (3) The Subcommittee recommended that the PACT 1 and 2 Optional Tests be removed from the statewide testing program. After considerable discussion the recommendation was adopted, with Rep. Townsend abstaining. Rep. Townsend suggested that the EOC meet with the House Education and Public Works Committee to explain fully the rationale;
 - (4) The report on the alignment studies of the Terra Nova was received as information. The report is to be distributed to all superintendents.
 - (5) Mr. Wilson indicated that the Subcommittee had begun explorations of the Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards criteria and is examining the schedule for the development of end-of-course tests.
- B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He indicated that the Subcommittee had reviewed the SDE guidelines for academic plans and requested minor revisions.
- C. Parent Involvement: Mrs. Thompson reported that the Parent Involvement Subcommittee had not met. Senator Matthews asked about the parenting programs sponsored under First Steps and the degree of integration with EOC and SDE efforts. The staff is to request information from First Steps.
- D. Public Awareness: Mr. Smith reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He indicated that the Subcommittee is exploring concepts for Phase 2 of the ad campaign and strategies for the town meetings.
- E. Staff and Administration: Mr. Barnet reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. (1) The FY 2002 budget request was adopted; (2) The December meeting has been changed to December 6; and (3) the September 28 meeting with the Governor was announced. Dr. Anderson introduced new staff persons and shared her report as well as "Rural Matters", a report from the Rural and Community Trust.

V. General Discussion

The Committee members discussed the need for a long-range planning initiative to sequence issues and develop priorities. After considerable discussion, EOC members agreed that the long-range planning effort was appropriate and that the Governor and the State Superintendent of Education should be invited to collaborate. The Chairman was asked to initiate the meetings.

VI. The Committee adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
October 19, 2000
2:00 PM
433, Blatt Building

Members present: Mrs. Berry, Mr. Daniel, Dr. Everson, Dr. Gummerson, Representative Harrell, Mr. Martin, Mr. Staton, Superintendent Tenenbaum, Mrs. Thompson, Representative Townsend, Mr. Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mrs. Berry welcomed members and guests to the meeting. She introduced Robert C. Daniel, a business appointee, who is serving the remainder of the term held by Stefan Wilson.

II. Approval of the Minutes of September 21 and 28

The minute of September 21 and 28 were approved as distributed.

III. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He summarized a meeting held with SDE staff regarding the testing programs.

He cited continued delays in the receipt of workable 2000 PACT data tapes and offered a revised schedule for the establishment of ratings.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He presented the amended guidelines (distributed at the meeting) and noted changes that had been made at the Subcommittee's requests. The guidelines were approved as distributed at the meeting.

He described the Subcommittee' budget review processes and indicated that final recommendations would be available at the December meeting.

C. Parent Involvement: Mrs. Thompson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. The Parent Involvement Subcommittee has not met since the last EOC meeting.

D. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the Public Awareness Subcommittee. He explained the Subcommittee's analysis of the progression of the campaign. The first community meeting is to be held on December 4 in Sumter; he hopes all EOC members can participate. The Sumter event includes a testing of the two formats.

E. Staff and Administration: The EOC Accountability Report to the Budget and Control Board was presented for comment by Dr. Anderson.

IV. Report of the Local Leadership Quality and Engagement Study Team

Don Herriott introduced the members of the Local Leadership Quality and Engagement Study Team. He thanked the EOC for the opportunity to work on the issue. He introduced the importance of the topic and the need for changes in South Carolina's

educational governance system. Mrs. Evelyn Berry presented the initial seven recommendations; Mr. Paul Livingston presented the remaining seven recommendations.

EOC members thanked the Team for its work. A number of questions regarding the implementation of the recommendations were posed.

Mrs. Berry thanked the Team and referred the report to the Staff and Administration Subcommittee. She noted that the report had been posted on the EOC website and that 400 copies had been distributed. The EOC is asking for comments and reactions by November 24.

V. General Discussion

- A. Long-range Planning Initiative: Mrs. Berry drew members' attention to a memorandum from Mr. Barnet that had been included in their packets.
- B. 2001 Schedule: Mrs. Berry asked members to reserve the dates and times for meetings in 2001 as provided in the meeting materials.
- C. The State Education Budget: Mrs. Tenenbaum presented her recommendations for technical assistance to schools rated unsatisfactory and the overall recommendations for education funding. Members of the Committee requested information about particular programs, especially the Milkin Teacher Assistance Program and career and technology education. There was discussion of the limited revenue growth and the need to support schools rated unsatisfactory.

VI. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
November 16, 2000
2:00PM
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: William Barnet, Rosie Berry, James Bryan, Barbara Everson, William Gummerson, Alex Martin, Douglas McTeer, John Matthews, Nikki Setzler, Molly Spearman for Supt. Tenenbaum, Robert Staton, Larry Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

II. Approval of the Minutes of October 19

The minutes of October 19 were approved as distributed.

III. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He indicated that the ratings proposal would be published on November 17 with a public hearing scheduled for November 28. He indicated that the EOC must support vigorously the provision of technical assistance to schools rated Unsatisfactory and that special funds should be allocated for schools rated Below Average.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He indicated that the Subcommittee has examined program expenditure patterns and reports from EIA programs. A budget proposal to include technical assistance for schools rated Unsatisfactory is to be completed for EOC consideration at the December 6 meeting.

C. Parent Involvement: Dr. Anderson indicated that a staff group was working on the recommendations for incentives for businesses.

Senator Matthews asked staff to determine if there were differences in the EOC approach and that discussed by the Middle Grades Task Force.

D. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He indicated that the Subcommittee is developing final plans for the community meetings and that the initial two meetings testing two different formats are scheduled for December 4. He asked all members to attend. He indicated that the Subcommittee is interested in increasing the impact of the ad campaign and expanding the billboard utilization.

Senator Matthews indicated that he was quite concerned about comments from educators that suggest they want to leave large numbers or groups of students out of the accountability system.

E. Staff and Administration: Mr. Barnet called members' attention to the list of participants for the long-range planning committee.

Dr. Anderson provided information on the comparison of school performance from 1999 to 2000 PACT administrations.

Senator Matthews expressed concern that we have information on the effectiveness of the technical assistance model. There was discussion of the successes of the Teacher Specialist program. Senator Setzler reminded members that we must provide assistance to underachieving students regardless of the district in which they are enrolled. Mr. Staton pointed out the limitations on revenues and that South Carolina has tough decisions ahead.

Mr. McTeer indicated that he would share the Statement on High Stakes Testing promulgated by the American Educational Research Association.

IV. Remarks from A Key Constituency: First Steps

Dr. Baron Holmes discussed the purposes and methodologies of the First Steps program with members of the EOC. He outlined the "village democracy" approach to the program and the structure of the program evaluation.

V. Report on the Evaluation of Professional Development Programs

Dr. Bruce Haslam, Policy Studies Associates, Washington, D. C., presented the results of an 18-month evaluation of professional development programs. The evaluation is in compliance with §59-18-1930. The full report is to be provided to EOC members in December. [The PowerPoint presentation and recommendations are on file in the EOC offices].

Members of the EOC discussed the report. Issues of general concern included the failure to provide for follow-up activities, the general lack of understanding about the requirements of the state-adopted professional development standards and the need for schedules that accommodate teacher practice and feedback. Teachers reported a need for comprehensive work in the areas of assessment.

Mr. Martin indicated that one challenge is ensuring that local educators feel ownership of the state standards. He indicated that some educators are following a "wait and see" attitude. Mrs. Spearman pointed out the work the SDE is doing in this area, but also indicated the report offered good advice.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
December 6, 2000
2:00PM
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Barnet, Mrs. Berry, Senator Bryan, Dr. Everson, Dr. Gummerson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McTeer, Senator Matthews, Senator Setzler, Mr. Smith, Mr. Staton, Superintendent Tenenbaum, Mrs. Thompson, Representative Townsend, Mr. Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting, noting the critical nature of the work before the Committee at this meeting. He called attention to materials at the desk, including correspondence on the proposed ratings criteria.

II. Approval of the Minutes of November 16

The minutes of November 16 as distributed at the meeting were approved.

III. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. Through a detailed presentation he outlined the work implementing the accountability system to date and the processes by which the ratings proposal were developed. He summarized the public hearing. He recommended approval of the ratings proposal with three amendments and another recommendation regarding retention. The recommendations for amendments are the following:

1. Alter the phase-in of rigor to provide the same criteria for 2001, 2002 and 2003 and escalating thereafter as outlined in the document;
2. Develop a composite rating that reflects both the absolute performance and the improvement performance; and
3. Should funding not be appropriated for technical assistance, schools earning absolute ratings of Below Average or Unsatisfactory would have that rating designated as "Delayed".

The fourth recommendation dealt with retention. Mr. Wilson explained that the Subcommittee is contacting researchers in the field of grade repetition to gain advice on effective interventions, including but not limited to mandatory after school and summer programs and a transition grade experience. A detailed report is to be provided to the EOC in January or February.

EOC members discussed the report in detail. Members asked for greater detail on the statistical methodology, with particular attention to increased sensitivity to improvement gains and the treatment of students with disabilities tested out-of-level in the absolute rating. There was extended discussion of the need for resources to provide technical assistance and the time necessary for change.

The members of the Committee approved the ratings criteria with the three amendments proposed by the Subcommittee.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He outlined the process of EIA budget review and the information studied by members of the Subcommittee. He indicated the Subcommittee is recommending inflationary increases in programs serving students directly, re-alignment of programs by moving some within the EIA funding and others to alternate revenue sources and a greater focus on schools identified as Below Average or Unsatisfactory.

He indicated that the review process was extensive and identified a number of programs for non-EIA funding or reduction in the requested increases. These included programs that were unable to define their progress, programs targeted toward a very small population, not educational programs, programs that are a core educational service that should be funded within the Education Finance Act or other revenue streams.

He outlined changes in the provisos to support the Subcommittee's recommendations.

The members of the Committee approved the funding and proviso recommendations as proposed by the Subcommittee.

C. Parent Involvement: Mrs. Thompson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. A staff group is identifying recommendations for business incentives. Senator Matthews asked that the Middle Grades Task Force recommendations on parenting be reviewed.

D. Public Awareness: Mr. Smith reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He indicated that a number of EOC members and staff had tested two formats for community meetings earlier in the week. The Public Awareness Subcommittee is scheduled to meet immediately following the meeting.

E. Staff and Administration: Mr. Barnet reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. The EOC confirmed the legislative recommendations.

Mr. Barnet summarized the work of the long-range planning group.

Dr. Anderson outlined the plan for evaluating the impact of the methodology in the ratings.

IV. Remarks from a Key Constituency

Due to the lateness of the hour, Mr. Barnet deferred the report until the January meeting.

V. General Discussion

Mr. Townsend invited the EOC to meet with the House Education Committee at a January meeting.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.