

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
January 17, 2002
2:00 PM
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mr. Barnet, Mr. Daniel, Dr. Everson, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Dr. Gummerson, Representative Harrell, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. McTeer, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Tenenbaum, Representative Townsend, Mr. Wilson

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He acknowledged the many contributions of Mr. Barnet during his tenure as chairman.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the December 20th meeting were approved as distributed.

III. **Special Presentations**

A. **Class Size Reduction Study:** Cathi Snyder, State Department of Education, presented the findings from a review of the literature and a retrospective study of performance in nine districts implementing the class size reduction measures. Mrs. Snyder indicated that the positive impact of class size reductions was strongest in grades K-2, particularly for those students in small (fifteen or fewer students) classes. The impact was lessened if students were only in small classes in grade two. She provided information to document the widespread implementation of small classes for students participating in the free-reduced price lunch program as well as for other groups of students. Members discussed the report with Mrs. Snyder.

B. **"Staying the Course":** Dr. Jim Watts, Vice President for State Services, Southern Regional Education Board, addressed the EOC. He outlined the Benchmarks study conducted annually by SREB and SC's progress over the last twenty years. He indicated that patterns of consistent attention to student achievement over time are yielding dramatic results in states such as North Carolina and Texas. He recommended that SC use North Carolina and Georgia for comparison studies, outlining similarities in demographics and economies.

IV. **Subcommittee Reports**

A. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He provided information on the Comment Period for the Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards Criteria for High Schools. He also outlined the report card review process and some of the issues that had been suggested.

Mr. Wilson presented the recommendations on the PACT-Science assessments and outlined the review process. He moved adoption. Mr. McTeer asked about the availability of national assessments. Mrs. Tenenbaum indicated the SDE would provide information when the agency responded to the recommendations. The motion passed. Mr. Wilson introduced Dr. Leah Bricker who outlined the Project 2061 review procedures used with the third and eighth grade assessments. Mr. Staton acknowledged the contributions of BellSouth to the process.

B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Staton drew members' attention to the comparison of the EOC budget recommendations to the Governor's recommendations included in the meeting packet.

- C. Parental Involvement: There was no report.
- D. Public Awareness: Mr. Smith reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He reviewed the media analysis of coverage during the week the report card was published. He also provided the final report on the survey of leaders. The report is to be distributed to a broad audience, including media during the next week.
- E. Staff and Administration: Mr. Barnet indicated the Subcommittee did not have a report. Mr. Staton referred the long-range plan back to the Subcommittee to explore the comments and next steps. Dr. Anderson drew members' attention to the report on study of school profile information in the meeting packet.

V. **Report from a Key Constituency**

Mr. Staton introduced Dr. Kenneth Gardner, Superintendent for Williamsburg County Schools. Dr. Gardner reviewed the district's efforts to improve student achievement. He introduced Mrs. Janice Gamble, Principal of CE Murray High School. She detailed the structured approach to curriculum implementation, professional development and assessment used in the schools. She explained ways in which the district is committed to achieving at high levels. Dr. Gardner reviewed the ratings of schools in the district. He responded to questions from EOC members. Mr. Staton expressed the appreciation of EOC members to Dr. Gardner and Mrs. Gamble for their presentation and their work in the public schools.

The EOC adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
March 21, 2002
2:00PM
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mr. Daniel, Dr. Everson, Senator Giese, Dr. Gummerson, Mrs. Marlowe, Senator Matthews, Mr. McTeer, Mrs. Thompson, Representative Townsend, Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Spearman for Superintendent Tenenbaum

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He acknowledged the presence of former EOC member, Henry Spann. The EOC noted that Mr. Martin had celebrated a landmark birthday.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the January 17th meeting were approved as distributed.

III. **Subcommittee Reports**

A. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee.

- (1) Report Card Issues and Recommendations - Mr. Wilson reviewed the Subcommittee report on changes to the annual school and district report card, including changes published on an addendum available at members' seats. Mrs. Thompson amended the language on the improvement incentive for historically underachieving groups of students. The changes, with Mrs. Thompson's amendment, were approved.
- (2) Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards Criteria for High Schools - The criteria were approved as distributed.
- (3) Recommendations on High School Science Course Standards - The recommendations were approved as distributed. The State Department of Education's response was attached and the standards are likely to be presented for full approval at the April EOC meeting. Rep. Townsend asked several questions about the relationships among these standards, the high school end-of-course assessments, and the PACT Science assessments.
- (4) Response to EOC Recommendations on the Science Assessments - The State Department of Education response was accepted. Dr. Anderson indicated that the EOC staff is working with the SDE staff and other SC educators to develop common criteria for future assessment evaluations.
- (5) Quality Counts Report - Mr. Wilson explained Dr. Anderson's review of the Quality Counts ratings and SC's progress on the issues.

B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Staton reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He reviewed materials detailing the House-passed General Appropriations Bill and the funding for accountability programs

C. **Parental Involvement:** Mrs. Thompson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee.

- (1) Survey on Chamber of Commerce and School District Interactions - She detailed the survey administered to school district personnel and education directors in local chambers of commerce.

- (2) Family Friendly Workplace Awards - The EOC is to be a participating agency in the 2003 awards program as it was this year.
- (3) Parent Survey - The parent survey to provide schools and district data on parental perceptions of the school has been completed. The survey results are to be printed on the annual school and district report card as well as used to inform activities under the Parental Involvement in Their Children's Education Act.

D. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He reviewed the 2002 plan. The plan was approved by the EOC.

E. Staff and Administration: The Subcommittee had no report.

IV. **Special Report**

Dr. Gummerson reported on the results of the EOC/SBE Ad Hoc Subcommittee to review the accountability plans of the special schools. The report was accepted as written.

V. **General Discussion**

- A. Mr. Staton reminded members to reserve July 18 and 19 for the EOC retreat at Clemson.
- B. Mr. Staton thanked Rep. Townsend and other House members for their support of the governance legislation. He asked members for support as the Senate considers H4419 and H4421. He indicated that the Staff and Administration Subcommittee would follow legislation for the EOC.

VI. **Executive Session**

Mr. Martin moved that the EOC go into Executive Session to consider a contractual matter.

The EOC returned to open session.

Mr. Martin moved for approval of the third extension of the public awareness services contract with Chernoff/Silver and Associates. The contract extension was approved.

The EOC adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
April 18, 2002
2:00PM
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Daniel, Senator Giese, Dr. Gummerson, Mrs. Hoag, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Martin, Mr. Stowe, Superintendent Tenenbaum, Mrs. Thompson, Representative Townsend, Mr. Wilson.

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He introduced a new member, Harold Stowe, to those present. The Speaker of the House of Representatives has appointed Mr. Stowe. Mr. Staton announced that Harry Lightsey had been appointed by the President Pro Tempore to serve a term beginning July 1, 2002.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the March 21 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. **Subcommittee Reports**

A. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee recommended approval of the English Language Arts Standards, as revised and the High School Science Course Standards for Biology and Physical Science, as revised. The EOC voted approval.

Mr. Wilson did ask that the State Department of Education consider a common format for course standards, when appropriate to the grade level and content area. He also asked that educators examine ways to ensure consistent implementation across the districts.

B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Staton indicated that the Subcommittee had not met. He told the members that he had addressed the K-12 Subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee and that staff are monitoring the budget as it moves through the Senate.

C. **Parental Involvement:** Mrs. Thompson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. She indicated that the survey development had been concluded. A full report is to be presented at the May EOC meeting.

D. **Public Awareness:** Mr. Martin reported that the Subcommittee had not met. He reminded members that the composite photograph is under development and if they are submitting photos to do so as soon as possible. He also reminded members of the training for the chamber and civic club presentations.

E. **Staff and Administration:** Mr. Staton reported on behalf other Subcommittee. He drew members' attention to the legislative strategy placed at their desks. He recommended approval. The EOC approved the strategy. He reported on the status of the governance legislation.

Dr. Anderson reviewed the document (in member packets) discussing the increasing numbers of Hispanic students in SC schools.

IV. **Report from a Key Constituency - "Miles to Go"**

Dr. Anderson introduced Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Associate Director of the Commission on Higher Education. Dr. Woodfaulk thanked members for the opportunity to present the "Miles To Go" report. She introduced Mr. Steve Suits, Program Director, Southern Education Foundation.

Mr. Suits presented the findings from the Miles To Go study conducted in South Carolina which emphasize both the disparate opportunity and results achieved by minority and/or economically disadvantaged students. Members asked Mr. Suits a number of questions.

V. The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting

May 16, 2002

2:00 PM

Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mr. Daniel, Dr. Everson, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Dr. Gummerson, Mrs. Hoag, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. McTeer, Superintendent Tenenbaum, Mrs. Thompson, Representative Townsend, Mr. Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He announced that Senator Giese had appointed Mrs. Traci Young Cooper for a term beginning on July 1, 2002. He thanked Senator Giese for the appointment.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the April 18 meeting were approved.

III. Subcommittee Reports:

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson reported that the Subcommittee had not met.

B. EIA & Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton reported on the status of the General Appropriations Bill and funding for EAA initiatives.

C. Parental Involvement: Mrs. Thompson reported on behalf of the Parental Involvement Subcommittee. She reviewed the final report on the development of the parent survey. Mrs. Thompson offered three recommendations: as revenues improve, funds should be designated to support mailing of the survey; the EOC and SDE staff should work together on a format for reporting results; and the EOC should develop materials so that school personnel and parents can interpret the data and use them for school improvement.

D. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He described the community presentations and the involvement of EOC members in those presentations, the potential for a partnership with the SCSBA, and the announcement of the Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards on Monday.

E. Staff and Administration: Dr. Anderson reported on the status of the governance legislation, noting the actions of the Senate and House Education Committees on May 15.

IV. **Special Work Session:** Mr. Frank Holleman and Mrs. Ellen Still presented the critical components of the "No Child Left Behind" legislation. There was discussion of the implications of this legislation for SC. The discussion addressed potential definitions of Adequate Yearly Progress, adjustments to the report card and the implications for school and district practices.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
June 20, 2002
2:00PM
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mr. Daniel, Dr. Everson, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Dr. Gummerson, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. Smith, Mr. Stowe, Mrs. Thompson, Rep. Townsend, Mr. Wilson

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting. Mr. Staton thanked and presented recognitions to four EOC members whose terms have concluded: Mrs. Thompson, Dr. Everson, Mr. Smith and Rep. Townsend. Each spoke briefly.

Mr. Staton introduced Rep. Robert Walker who is to serve as Rep. Townsend's designee on the EOC and Mr. Harry Lightsey who is assuming the position held by Mr. Smith.

Mr. Staton announced that Senator Leatherman would be assuming the position held by Senator Matthews and that a public thank you for Senator Matthews would be accomplished when his schedule permitted him to attend.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the May 16 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. **Subcommittee Reports**

A. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee recommended approval of the PACT-Alternate Assessment with recommendations. Mr. Martin asked that the concerns over the paperwork requirements imposed by the assessment be conveyed to the State Department of Education and monitored through implementation. The assessment was approved.

Mr. Wilson shared the operating procedures for the adoption of new standards and the cyclical review that have been developed and approved jointly by the EOC and State Department of Education staffs.

B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Staton presented the first review of the Teacher Loan Program for approval. The review included several findings and recommendations. Mr. Wilson expressed concerns that there could be unintended but negative consequences to the state as the loan program encourages newly graduated teachers to go into the most critical areas since these areas need the most experienced teachers. The report was approved.

Mr. Staton reported on the appropriation of funds for accountability programs and services.

C. **Parental Involvement:** Mrs. Thompson reported that the Subcommittee had not met.

- D. Public Awareness: Mr. Smith reported on activities of the Public Awareness Subcommittee. He emphasized the importance of face-to-face communications and persistence in the communications strategies.
- E. Staff and Administration: Mr. Staton drew attention to the materials in the meeting packet on the governance proposals and the retreat.

IV. **Executive Director's Report**

Dr. Anderson drew attention to the work for the coming year as outlined in the meeting materials.

V. **Report From A Key Constituency**

Mr. Mac Arthur Goodwin, a longtime SC educator and current president of the National Art Education Association, spoke to the Committee, emphasizing the importance of arts education in a student's total development.

VI. **General Discussion**

Mr. Smith recognized and thanked Mrs. Elmore for her extraordinary work with the Public Awareness Subcommittee and the EOC.

- VII. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
August 15, 2002
2:00PM
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Dr. Gummerson, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Hoag, Senator Leatherman, Mr. Lightsey, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Stowe, Superintendent Tenenbaum, Representative Walker, and Mr. Wilson

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He amended the order of the meeting to ask Mrs. Carnes to report first.

II. **The High Performance Partnership**

Mrs. Edwina Carnes reported on behalf of the High Performance Partnerships. She outlined the purpose and focus of the program and celebrated the 101st partnership with a SC school.

III. **Consideration of the 2002-03 Objectives and Critical Actions**

Mr. Staton distributed the recommendations from the Staff and Administration Subcommittee. Members discussed the focused approach; several members raised questions about continuing responsibilities. Senator Fair proposed that Objective Three be amended to read: "Increase the level of parental, community and political engagement in and support of school improvement so that all children have the opportunity to achieve at the highest levels" (new language underlined). Dr. Gummerson seconded the motion. Members discussed the language. The motion passed.

The objectives were adopted as amended.

IV. **The SDE Teacher Advancement Program**

Supt. Tenenbaum introduced Todd White, Director of the Teacher Advancement Program for the SDE. Mr. White presented information on the program and its potential impact for SC schools. Members asked a number of questions and discussed the program's professional development and performance pay principles.

V. **Remarks from a Key Constituency**

Dr. Al Eads, incoming President of the National Association of Rural Educators, addressed the EOC and shared the issues affecting rural schools.

VI. **Progress in Community Meetings**

Mr. Martin shared the schedule for the community meetings and asked members to volunteer for open sessions.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
July 18-19, 2002
The Madren Center
Clemson, South Carolina

Members Present:

July 18: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Senator Fair, Dr. Gummerson, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Hoag, Senator Leatherman, Mr. Lightsey, Mrs. Marlowe, Senator Matthews, Mr. Stowe, Mrs. Tenenbaum, Rep. Walker, Mr. Wilson

July 19: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Senator Fair, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Hoag, Senator Leatherman, Mr. Lightsey, Mrs. Marlowe, Senator Matthews, Mr. Stowe, Mrs. Tenenbaum, Rep. Walker, Mr. Wilson

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting. New members were introduced. Mr. Staton outlined four objectives for the meeting: (1) the EOC members should come together as a team; (2) the EOC members should develop a deeper understanding of issues; (3) the EOC members should establish objectives for 2002-03; and (4) EOC members should renew their commitment to improving the achievement of SC's students and schools.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

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

III. **Subcommittee Reports**

Each subcommittee chair reviewed the work of the previous year as outlined in the summaries provided in retreat materials.

IV. **Discussion of the Long Range Plan and Selected Issues**

A. **Sufficient Funding:** Mrs. Barton reviewed the paper on sufficient funding included in the retreat materials. She reviewed the three models for which simulations had been developed and the results of the simulations. Members engaged in a lengthy discussion of revenue sources, the balance of state and local financial support, the need for highly qualified teachers in every classroom, the need to use deep solutions rather than gimmicks, strategies to compensate the very best teachers, teacher preparation and ways to accelerate the rate of improvement.

[The discussion extended through the afternoon and was interrupted to hear from three visiting administrators: Dr. John Tindal, Dr. Valerie Harrison and Dr. LaVerne Davis]

Dr. La Verne Davis, principal of St. Helena Elementary, demonstrated structure used at St. Helena Elementary Schools. She showcased instructional materials, weekly assessments, discipline strategies and motivational supports provided.

Dr. John Tindal, Superintendent of Clarendon District Two, addressed the view from the superintendency. He outlined major challenges including working with governing boards, having the human and financial capital, the need to recruit and retain teachers, the need for time for professional development, and

performance pay. He recommended long-term manpower planning to make certain we have teachers for every position each year. Dr. Valerie Harrison, Superintendent of Florence District Four, outlined processes for aligning the written, taught and tested curriculum including instructional supervision. She outlined use of the benchmark tests in Florence Four and the use of the data to promote immediate reteaching. She also indicated that her district used signing bonuses for new teachers.

[The meeting broke for dinner to resume on Friday morning.]

- B. Review of Technical Assistance Programs: Dr. Horne reviewed the materials on technical assistance programs in other states, outlining issues of access and state v. local control. He also raised the issue of work in borderline districts and sustaining improvement when state supplemental funding was no longer available.
- C. Pathways to Prosperity: Dr. Anderson outlined the report and the implementation study process. Three EOC members (Rep. Walker, Mr. Staton and Mr. Wilson) participate on the implementation teams. Members raised issues of the need for earlier interventions for students at risk, character education, the creation of another governing body, the additional time some students require and high expectations for all students.
- D. Assessment Program Update: Dr. Anderson provided information to members on the implementation of the assessments and two recommendations: changes in the content of the Exit Exam and changes in the cyclical review cycle. The EOC deferred a recommendation on the Exit Exam but endorsed a seven, rather than four, -year cyclical review cycle.

V. **Discussion of Collecting, Reporting and Using Data**

The discussion was deferred.

VI. **Development of Objectives for 2002-03**

Members worked through a process to determine objectives for the 2002-03 year. Discussion materials have been provided to the staff for development of draft objectives to be discussed at the August EOC meeting.

VII. **Adjournment**

Mr. Staton reviewed the meeting objectives and indicated he felt the EOC had accomplished its intent for the retreat. He thanked everyone for their cooperation and wished them safe travel home.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
September 19, 2002
2:00
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Mr. Hall, Representative Harrell, Mrs. Marlowe, Senator Matthews, Superintendent Tenenbaum, Representative Walker, Mr. Wilson

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Staton welcomed members and their guests to the meeting. He announced that the order of the meeting would be revised to begin with Item V: Notes on Collecting, Reporting and Using Data.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the August 15th meeting were approved as distributed.

III. **General Discussion**

Notes on Collecting, Reporting and Using Data. Mr. Potter presented information on the data warehouse efforts in SC and other states. He outlined multiple access, security features and the use of information by educators and parents. Mrs. Tenenbaum indicated that the presentation had been made to an Ad Hoc Committee examining the data requirements of No Child Left Behind and other legislation. There was discussion of costs and alternative revenue sources as well as linkages to other technology initiatives.

IV. **Subcommittee Reports**

A. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** The Subcommittee had no report. However, Mr. Wilson outlined issues related to the high school graduation rate and the change in graduation rates over the previous ten years. Superintendent Tenenbaum pointed out that when summer school and adult education graduations are added the rate rises. Members generally agreed that the rate, however calculated, was lower than SC needed to succeed in the marketplace.

B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** No report

C. **Parental Involvement:** No report

D. **Public Awareness:** Mr. Martin outlined recent activities (community presentations and workshops) and the billboard project.

E. **Administration:** Mr. Staton drew members' attention to the summary of No Child Left Behind and reminded them of the SDE-EOC work team beginning its efforts on September 26.

V. **Remarks from a Key Constituency**

Mr. Jim Reynolds and Mrs. Kaye Shaw from the Central Midlands Tech Prep Consortium presented. Mr. Reynolds outlined the work of the Consortium and similar groups in promoting higher graduation rates and successful entry into the workforce. He linked current activities and results to issues outlined in *Pathways to Prosperity*. He asked that the EOC consider including a "business and industry involvement" measure for the report card, encourage student participation in career education and highlight career and technology completers. Members asked a number of questions and discussed efforts to link high school students with career opportunities.

VI. The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
October 17, 2002
2:00PM
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Staton, Mrs. Young Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Dr. Gummerson, Ms. Hoag, Mr. Lightsey, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Stowe, Representative Walker and Mrs. Spearman for Superintendent Tenenbaum

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Staton welcomed members and others to the meeting.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of September 19 were approved as distributed.

III. **Subcommittee Reports**

A. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** Dr. Gummerson reviewed the report on the Algebra I end-of-course assessment. He indicated that there were concerns about the optional use of calculators, inclusion in the annual school and district ratings, and 8th grade testing. On behalf of the Subcommittee, he recommended that the committee take the recommendations from the Internal and External Review committees "that the Algebra I and Mathematics for Technologies II tests be approved for use this year." Mr. Walker suggested that the recommendations should require calculators be available to all students for the assessment and noted that the use of calculators is in the standards. The cost of calculators statewide is approximately \$2 million. Senator Giese raised questions about the performance of students enrolled in Mathematics for the Technologies courses. Mr. Walker moved to amend the recommendation to provide that "no later than fall 2003, calculators should be required for student use in the administration of the Algebra I/Mathematics for the Technologies II End of Course Test and that it is strongly encouraged that calculators be used if available for the administration of the test during the 2002-2003 school year." Senator Fair asked how the option use in this first year would affect school ratings. Dr. Anderson explained that tests are not included in the rating until the third administration. Mr. Walker reiterated his concerns about double-testing of 8th graders, the manner in which the end-of-course assessment is to be included in the rating, and inclusion of information about passage of high school credit courses in middle school on the high school report card. The amendment to Dr. Gummerson's motion passed. The motion to approve the test, as amended, passed.

B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Daniel reported that the Subcommittee was beginning its budget work on October 24.

C. **Parental Involvement:** No report

D. **Public Awareness:** Mr. Lightsey reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He indicated that the Subcommittee had approved the teacher survey and the billboards project. Workshops with media personnel had been successful and should be continued in future years.

- E. Administration: Mr. Staton presented a menu of initiatives for discussion. The menu was developed in response to Objective 1 to ensure that there is a highly qualified teacher in every classroom and administrator in every school. The members of the EOC reviewed each item, asked questions and offered suggestions for refinement. The members discussed the utilization of local effort in the designation of school districts for various options. There was considerable discussion about the methodology for calculation, the need to address the hard questions about opportunity, and recognition of low taxpaying ability districts. Mrs. Cooper asked that Pro-Teen be added to the Teacher Cadet recommendation. Mrs. Marlowe suggested that more funds are needed in the performance contracts pilot. Mrs. Marlowe asked about support for para professionals and instructional assistants so that they could become certified. Mrs. Spearman reminded members of the SC State University program managed by Dr. Cheeseboro. These and other comments are to be discussed as the EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee develops budget recommendations.

Dr. Anderson reviewed data on students scoring at the proficient level. Sen. Giese discussed the continuing achievement gap between white and African-American students and urged immediate action. Senator Matthews stated that we must continue to disaggregate the data and not shy away from the challenges.

IV. **Report on the Retraining Grants**

Dr. Horne reported on the annual evaluation of retraining grants. The report, which goes to the State Board of Education, included recommendations to exclude schools that over a period of years have provided no effectiveness data from future funding. Members discussed if this was a fair recommendation.

V. **Report from a Key Constituency**

Dr. Tom Parks and Mr. Jeff David, Clemson University, presented program data on the "Call Me Mister" program. Three program participants spoke to the EOC, outlining their desire to teach and the importance of the program in their professional preparation.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting December 16, 2002

Members present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mr. Daniel, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Dr. Gummerson, Mr. Hall, Mts. Hoag, Mr. Lightsey, Mrs. Marlowe, Senator Matthews, Mr. Stowe, Mrs. Spearman for Superintendent Tenenbaum, Representative Walker, Mr. Wilson

- I. Welcome and Introductions Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- II. Approval of the Minutes The minutes of the October 17 meeting were approved as distributed.
- III. Subcommittee Reports
 - A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He reviewed the State Department of Education response to the request for changes to the PACT-Grades 3-8 science assessments. On behalf of the Subcommittee, he recommended approval. Senator Giese questioned why only one form of the test was available. Mrs. Marlowe asked about the sequence of testing. After discussion, the test was approved.

Mr. Wilson informed the EOC members of data analyses he had asked of the staff and indicated that these would be shared with the EOC members in the January meeting packet.
 - B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He reviewed the recommendations for EIA funding, corrected the amount for principal specialists and moved approval. Senator Matthews questioned if sufficient resources were available to sustain gains in the schools receiving technical assistance. Rep. Walker indicated that some portion of lottery funds should be used in support of strong K-12 schools. Senator Fair commented on the need for debate among legislators about priorities for the lottery revenues. Senator Matthews indicated there needed to be a balance among the purposes for EIA and General Fund programs. The budget recommendations were approved as submitted by the Subcommittee.

Mr. Daniel reported on the proviso-required study on teacher specialists. The EOC and SDE had been asked to determine if incentives would increase the availability of teacher specialists in rural communities. The report outlined barriers and indicated that the degree of community rurality is not the most common barrier. Rep. Walker expressed concern that teachers were not leaving their home districts or communities to become specialists. The report was approved for submission to the Senate and House education committees.

Mr. Daniel reported on the First Year Formative Review of the Teacher Specialist Program. The review is intended to inform subsequent years of implementation. The program is popular and there are signs that in some schools progress is being made. It is too early to make a value judgment on the program. The evaluation study is a three-year review.
 - C. Parental Involvement: Mrs. Marlowe reported on behalf of the subcommittee. The Parental Involvement Subcommittee is meeting in January to be analyzing the

parent survey data and to determine strategies through which the data can be more useful to school and district administrators.

D. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He pointed out the *Parent Guide* at member's desks and indicated that the EOC is receiving orders for copies from the schools. The next Public Awareness Subcommittee meeting is January 16 at 4:00 p.m.

E. Administration: Dr. Anderson drew members' attention to the two reports from school districts. Mr. Staton appointed an ad hoc group to examine *Steps to Prosperity* and develop EOC position statements on the issues.

IV. Report from a Key Constituency: Dr. Karen Woodward spoke on behalf of the Superintendent's Ad Hoc Committee on Technology. She outlined the ten recommendations and the need for those actions. She responded to several questions from members including the relationship to the statewide technology initiative, the privacy of student information and the need to develop a comprehensive cost estimate for the ten recommendations.

IV. Mr. Staton wished everyone a grand holiday season and safe travel.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.