

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting

January 15, 2004

2:00 p.m.

Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Martin, Mr. Stowe, Mrs. Spearman for Superintendent Tenenbaum, Representative Walker

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- II. **Approval of the Minutes of December 18:** The minutes of December 18 were approved as distributed.
- III. **Subcommittee Reports:**
 - A. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** Dr. Horne reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He outlined the process of the cyclical review of the social studies standards and the recommendations included in the report as distributed. There were several questions regarding common syllabi across all schools, the relationship of the standards to end-of-course tests, and the chronological focus of eighth and eleventh grade US history courses as it relates to the maturity of students. The EOC approved the recommendations.
 - B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Daniel drew members' attention to the materials at their desks: selected sections of the Governor's Executive Budget and a side-by-side comparing the EOC recommendations with those of the Governor.
 - C. **Parent and Community Involvement:** Mrs. Marlowe indicated the Subcommittee had not met.
 - D. **Public Awareness:** Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He thanked members for participating in the county meetings, noting that they should conclude the first week in February. He also announced that a summary document on the conversations would be available to members.
 - E. **Administration:** Mr. Staton indicated the Subcommittee had not met.
- IV. **Election of the Chairman:** Mr. Stowe nominated Mr. Staton for a second term as chairman; the EOC elected Mr. Staton.
- V. **Special Discussion:** School Readiness: Mrs. Susan DeVenney reviewed the goals and programs promoting school readiness. She outlined the current level and variety of service delivery, linked indicators to subsequent school performance and provided a brief view of the First Steps Blueprint.

VI. Report from a Key Constituency: Dr. Teresa Pope, President of the SC Alliance of Black School Educators, addressed the EOC and reviewed the organization's purposes and programs. A summary attachment was distributed.

VII. Having no other business, the EOC adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
February 19, 2004
2:00 p.m.
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Mr. Lightsey, Mrs. Marlowe, Representative Neal, Superintendent Tenenbaum, Representative Walker, Mr. Wilson

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Staton welcomed members and their guests to the meeting.

- II. **Minutes of the January 15 meeting:** The minutes of the meeting were approved as distributed.

- III. **Subcommittee Reports:**
 - A. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He outlined the review process for the High School Assessment Program, the recommendations to the State Department of Education and general concerns for students entering high school having scored below basic on the PACT. The Committee approved the recommendations to the State Department of Education.
Mr. Wilson also reported a request of the staff to conduct simulations for the inclusion of the graduation rate in the district rating.

 - B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Daniel asked Dr. Anderson to review the Second Year Formative Report on the Teacher Specialist on Site Program. Dr. Anderson briefly reviewed the report, noting issues for consideration. Mrs. Tenenbaum commented on the technical assistance recommendations adopted in December 2003, including the Teacher Advancement Program. Mrs. Marlowe asked for the ratings of the schools participating in the Teacher Advancement Program.

 - C. **Parent Involvement:** Mrs. Marlowe indicated that the Parent Involvement Subcommittee had met in conjunction with the Public Awareness.

- D. **Public Awareness:** Mr. Martin reported that the two subcommittees had reviewed the reports from the community meetings and that a publication is being developed so that the responses to the four questions can be communicated broadly.
- E. **Administration:** There was no report.
- IV. **General Discussion:** Senator Giese raised the issue of the high school graduation and/or completion rate. Representative Neal concurred that these rates are appalling and that SC had not come to grips with the economic crisis. Ultimately, we must make the decision to educate all children. Mrs. Hoag and Mr. Walker discussed issues of funding and results.
- V. **Report from a Key Constituency:** Mr. Ed McMullen and Dr. Danny Varat presented a report on school funding prepared for the SC Policy Council. Members asked several questions for clarification and understanding.
- VI. Having no other business, the EOC adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, March 18, 2004
2:00 PM
433 Blatt Bldg.

Members Present: Mr. Bob Staton, Mr. Alex Martin, Mr. Bob Daniel, Senator Mike Fair, Senator Robert Giese, Mrs. Susan Marlowe, Mr. George Martin, Representative Joseph Neal, Mrs. Molly Spearman for Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum, Mrs. Judy Williams, and Mr. Larry Wilson

I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**
The minutes of the February 19, 2004, meeting were approved as distributed.

III. **Subcommittee Reports**

A. **Academic Standards and Assessments**

Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He outlined and asked EOC approval for the following changes to the ratings criteria:

For high schools

- Beginning with the 2004 report card, HSAP is to be used in the measure of tenth grade passage of the exit exam with the values and impact shown on materials distributed in the meeting packet;
- For the 2004 report card, the absolute rating penalty for not testing 95 percent of students is suspended;
- For the 2004 report card, improvement ratings are to be calculated with comparisons of HSAP field test data to HSAP performance data;
- Consistent with statutes and provisos, effective with the 2005 report card the LIFE scholarship criterion is to be replaced with end-of-course test performance;
- (moved from long-range issues in the packet to action) Summer graduation is to be included in graduation rate;
- (moved from long-range issues in the packet to action) Transfers to adult education who fail to earn high school diplomas within 4 years (inclusive of summer school) after entering grade 9 are to be counted as non-graduates in the calculation of graduation rate for SC accountability purposes.

Long-range issues

- The EOC is to ask the General Assembly to provide for the permanent inclusion of graduation rates in both the high school and district ratings;

- The EOC staff is to conduct exploratory studies to determine the four-year and five-year graduation rates.

For primary (K-2) schools

- Delete teacher certification as a criterion in the rating of primary schools;
- Collect environmental data to be used in the rating of primary schools once every five years; however, schools which have made changes will have the opportunity to be re-evaluated upon their request;
- Initiate the use of environmental data in the ratings with the 2005 report card; schools may elect to use their data from the pilot (2004) year data in the subsequent rating;

The EOC adopted the recommendations.

Mr. Staton interrupted the agenda to hear Remarks from a Key Constituency. He introduced Mrs. Cindy Capers-Small and her students from CC Blaney Elementary School in Charleston. Senator Pinckney addressed the EOC, the students and other guests. He congratulated the school on its accomplishments and presented the school with a joint resolution. Representative Brown participated in the presentation.

Mrs. Marlowe introduced Mrs. Capers-Small. Mrs. Capers-Small outlined the school program and performance. The students recited their school pledge. Members asked a number of questions about the strategies used in the school. She was asked what she would change to increase achievement. She responded that the school, however successful, needs to increase parental involvement (i.e., relationships between parents and teachers and with students).

Mr. Staton returned to the agenda.

III. Subcommittee Reports (cont.)

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms

Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He informed the EOC of the schedule for program evaluations conducted by the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee is to focus on evaluations of the following programs: Gifted and Talented, External Review Teams, Homework Centers, School Improvement Council Assistance and Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement.

Mr. Daniel reviewed education funding for Fiscal Year 2005 as approved by the House of Representatives.

- C. Parental Involvement
Mrs. Marlowe asked Mr. Martin to report on a Joint Parental Involvement/Public Awareness Project. Mr. Martin outlined the three-year initiative to promote adult advocacy for students reading on grade level. The EOC approved the initiative.
- D. Public Awareness
Mr. Martin commented on the conclusion of the county-wide meetings and revisions to the masthead and design of EOC publications.
- E. Administration
There was no report.

The EOC adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
Friday, April 16, 2004
10:30 AM
201 Blatt Bldg.

Members Present/Participating (the meeting was held by conference call): Mr. Bob Staton, Mr. Alex Martin, Mrs. Traci Cooper, Mr. Bob Daniel, Senator Robert Giese, Mr. Bob Lightsey

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Staton welcomed participants and observers to the meeting. He explained that Dr. Nielsen was unavailable to participate and that he was going to appoint an ad hoc committee to meet with representatives of the Governor to learn about the proposal and how the system would work.

- II. **Question**
Mr. Staton indicated that Mr. Lightsey and Representative Neal, would join him on the ad hoc group. He indicated that other members could volunteer. He asked members to offer questions and/or issues that should be discussed the ad hoc group meeting. Those included the following:

Questions on H4908

1. If the legislation is enacted, will there be an accountability component? What is the curriculum the state is supporting? What are the testing requirements?
2. Should the students be subject to PACT?
3. What does "restore parental control" mean? How is that implemented?
4. Does it really assist students in poverty? Beyond theory, into practice. . .
5. How does the legislation define what is and what is not a school? Are there criteria for eligibility (e.g. accreditation, minimum program standards)? Should home schooling be defined in greater detail?
6. What are expectations for teacher quality? Do the teachers have to be "highly qualified"?
7. How does it work financially?
8. If more than ten percent transfer, does that take the sending district completely out of the state accountability system?
9. How do the students/schools interface with athletics, academic competitions, and co-curricular activities?
10. How do parents determine quality?
11. What is the fiscal impact ---on parents, schools and the state?
12. What is the long-term impact on state revenues?
13. How does this fit with No Child Left Behind?

14. How are funds replaced for school districts?
15. What are the parameters to define scholarship-granting organizations? Could an individual establish his/her own?
16. What percent of South Carolinians own property...and would benefit from the property tax credit?
17. What is the overall impact on public education? What are the implications for struggling school districts?
18. What is the impact on the overall funding level for public education?
19. Would private schools remain private; would public education be public?
20. Are private schools private with public dollars supporting?

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, May 20, 2004
2:00 p.m. – 433 Blatt Building

Members present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Stowe, Mrs. Spearman for Superintendent Tenenbaum, Mrs. Williams

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- II. **Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of the March 18 and April 16 meetings were approved as distributed.
- III. **Remarks from a Key Constituency:** Dr. James R. Couch, Director of Career and Technology Education, provided information on two programs: Project Lead the Way and High Schools That Work. (Handouts of the power points are available). Project Lead the Way is a collaboration among BellSouth, the University of South Carolina, the State Department of Education and school districts to emphasize math and science in pre-engineering curricula. The projects assist teachers in the delivery of integrated instruction that addresses the pre-engineering concepts. The project includes culminating experiences in which students apply their learning. The Lego League competition is held for middle school teams. In this competition middle school student teams build a robot with Legos, defend their design to a panel of USC graduate students, and compete for honors. At the high school level, the robotics competition is the culminating experience. South Carolina is host to the southeastern region (15 states). Five South Carolina teams competed at the national level.

High Schools That Work (HSTW) is a school wide curricular approach advocated by the Southern Regional Education Board. The program emphasizes selection of more rigorous programs of study, linking the programs of study so that students “major” in an area and providing support for all students to achieve at high levels. Dr. Couch shared data on the performance of the 70 South Carolina high schools with HSTW programs and the 30 middle schools with pre-HSTW programs. The programs are to be expanded next year with a \$500,000 increase in state funding.

- IV. **Subcommittee Reports**
 - A. **Academic Standards and Assessments** - no report
 - B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Stowe reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He outlined the Conference Report to the General Appropriations bill and the funding of EAA and EIA programs as well as provisos.
 - C. **Parent and Community Involvement:** Mrs. Marlowe reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. She used a power point presentation to summarize the analysis of parent involvement data across the state.
 - D. **Public Awareness:** Mr. Martin deferred his report until the end of the meeting.

- E. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Putting Parents in Charge Act: Mr. Staton indicated that the ad hoc subcommittee had met once and heard from representatives of the Governor's office and the SC Policy Council. The Subcommittee is to meet again when a report from the SCSBA is ready.

On behalf of the Public Awareness Subcommittee Mr. Martin requested that the EOC go into Executive Session.

The EOC met in Executive Session.

The EOC returned from Executive Session. Mr. Martin moved that the EOC extend the contract with cnsq.llc for another year. The EOC approved the extension.

The EOC adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, June 17, 2004
2:00 PM
433 Blatt Bldg.

Members Present: Mr. Alex Martin, Mr. Bob Daniel, Senator Mike Fair, Mrs. Susan Marlowe, Representative Joe Neal, Mr. Harold Stowe, Mrs. Molly Spearman for Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum, Representative Bob Walker, and Mr. Larry Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Martin welcomed members and guests.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of May 20 were approved as distributed.

III. Closing the Gap

Mr. Martin introduced Mr. Potter. Mr. Potter detailed the report *The performance of historically underachieving groups of students in South Carolina Elementary and Middle Schools: A call to action*. This is the second annual report on closing the achievement gap and uses projections, based upon national performance, to gauge how South Carolina is achieving its 2010 goal.

Mr. Martin introduced three principals whose schools were recognized for accomplishments in closing the gap. The principals, Mrs. Stephanie Strous, Stono Park Elementary School; Mrs. Polly Elkins, East Elementary School; and Mrs. June Lominack, Dutch Fork Elementary School, described the elements of their school program that supported high achievement by all students. Among the common themes were highly structured insistent attention to teaching, affection and expectation for every student, collegial environment, and *good, old-fashioned* willingness to do the hard work.

Mr. Martin presented certificates of recognition to principals from recognized schools.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments

Mr. Wilson presented on behalf of the Subcommittee. He outlined the High School Alternate Assessment and the review process for the assessment and the recommendations regarding continuing professional development in the use of the instrument. The Subcommittee felt the instrument is a strong tool for assessment and instruction planning. The State Department of Education accepted the recommendations of the Subcommittee; therefore, Mr. Wilson moved approval of the assessment.

Mr. Wilson discussed the South Carolina Readiness Assessment (SCRA) and the questions raised in the review process that could not be answered with the materials provided by the State Department of Education or had arisen during the process of development. He asked the EOC to approve a memorandum outlining questions to which the

State Department of Education should respond before making a decision.
The memorandum was approved

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms

Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He reviewed the final budget appropriations and detailed areas of particular interest to the accountability program.

Mr. Daniel reviewed the report on the use of the flexibility provision. The report is to be provided to members of the General Assembly in accordance with proviso directions.

C. Parental and Community Involvement

There was no report.

D. Public Awareness

There was no report.

E. Administration

Mr. Martin recognized Deborah Elmore and thanked her for her years of service to the Education Oversight Committee.

Having no other business, the Education Oversight Committee adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
July 15-16, 2004
Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina

Members present: Robert Staton, Alex Martin, Traci Young Cooper, Robert C. Daniel, Dennis Drew, Senator Mike Fair, Wallace Hall, Susan Marlowe, Representative Joe Neal, Harold C. Stowe, Molly Spearman for Superintendent Tenenbaum, Representative Robert Walker, Judy H. Williams, Larry Wilson

Thursday, July 15, 1:00 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the retreat.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the June 2004 meeting were approved as distributed.

Mr. Staton referred members to the annual objectives, located under Tab 6, and asked that they attend to the issues so that the South Carolina's progress could continue. He noted the summaries of work behind Tab 2 and asked if there were questions. Mrs. Marlowe asked about the implementation of alternative technical assistance programs; Mr. Stowe asked about the progress with respect to the long-range plan. Mr. Wilson recommended that the long-range plan be reviewed to arrange issues or actions in order of priority for achieving the 2010 goal. Mrs. Marlowe suggested that the achievement would be enhanced with a stronger partnership with higher education.

Graduation Rate: Dr. Horne began with a discussion of the requirements for a high school diploma and the variation among those requirements across the states. He discussed the number of units, specific units required and other requirements such as the attendance requirement employed in South Carolina. Discussants noted that Texas is defining two cut points on the high school exam—one for graduation from high school and one for college admission. Despite the earning of a high school diploma, the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education (SBTCE) reports that between 30 and 50 percent of students require at least one remedial course, primarily in mathematics. Questions were raised about the comparative teacher quality in states with higher graduation rates.

Mr. Potter detailed a number of methodologies for calculating the high school graduation rate and South Carolina's rank among states within each methodology. Mr. Stowe asked that the graduation rates be calculated historically to determine any patterns in the decline that might be identified within the calculation differences.

Dr. Eugene Bottoms, Senior Vice President of the Southern Regional Education Board, following a discussion of "when" the problem occurs, suggested that we should not assume that "right by grade eight" remedies the problem. We must address the circumstance of the high school as well.

Dr. Harry Miley, Dr. Randy Martin and Dr. David Cowen (representing Miley and Associates, the Moore School of Business at USC and

the Department of Geography, USC) presented national and statewide data identifying correlates of graduation rate nationally and within South Carolina. Their data also showcased the linkages between high school graduation and other successes or conditions in life. These data were mapped. Discussants questioned issues of poverty, grade level and asked for the names of districts who are achieving against the norm. There were also questions about students who would not be in the data sets (students in private sector, students who drop out, students who may transfer to other schools).

Dr. Bottoms, (power point distributed at the meeting) offered a multi-state view. He pointed out that a number of states are considering a system of choice high schools, particularly for career and technology, within the state (e.g., Massachusetts); Virginia and Oklahoma do not allow students to drop out until 18; Arkansas has a system of small high schools; Delaware has a strong program for students between grade eight and grade nine;; and Maine has developed a brochure about “what you ought to quit doing in high school.” He also shared examination alternatives used in other states so that students could meet the requirements through a matrix, rather than one test. He suggested that South Carolina pursue the use of teams of administrators and teachers in the leadership development program.

Mr. Daryl Brown, principal at Carvers’ Bay High School, suggested that the diploma is the number one force to keep students in high school. He discussed a challenge that he faces with parents who recognize the importance of a diploma for their children yet who work two or three jobs and do not know how to motivate their children to succeed. He is concerned particularly with the percentage of minority students in special education and the battle with parents, particularly since a special education placement can increase Medicaid allotments. He supported a matrix approach to high school testing.

Dr. James Hudgins, executive director of the State Board for Comprehensive and Technical Education, stated that SBTCE colleges enroll about 35 percent of South Carolina high school graduates. He indicated that the diploma did *Not* equal college-level work, did not mean that students are prepared to work, did not mean that the student was in demand from business and industry and did not mean that the student had the motivation to succeed. He stated that a strong high school diploma was the difference between success and failure in the new economy. It ought to mean readiness for college –general education, work ethic, values and readiness to benefit from on the job training. It ought to be the ability to do college-level work, literacy, and valuing of lifelong learning. It ought to mean a working knowledge of the basic economic principles of our society. He recommended a speech by Lester Thoreau of MIT on education and economic development. Thoreau argues that the education model we use is out-of-date—“we have the best 25 percent of the workforce and the worst 75 percent.” He recommended that South Carolina address articulation agreements across levels, provide quality options for college preparation, address the ineffectiveness of the senior year, determine how best to use the separate career technology centers and determine what the role of the technical colleges is.

Mr. Reynolds, president of Total Comfort Systems, discussed competency, effectiveness and efficiency. He indicated that school boards need to have vision and that the State Department of Education needed to be visionary and to act boldly and that South Carolina’s failure to act boldly left us without plans of what happens after five years. He said the dropout rate should be the rallying cry. He proposed mandatory parent training in grade nine and a focus on adult education (Dr.

Hudgins said the “undereducated adult is South Carolina’s number one problem.”) Mr. Reynolds suggested involving young people in solving the dropout problems and also indicated that we must connect young people to careers.

Mr. Staton asked members for questions and/or issues upon which we needed to follow up:

- Agreement on the calculation of graduation rates with a methodology that does not penalize students or schools for those who graduate in five or six years;
- Information on programs that increase student efficacy and develop their value systems;
- Interventions and encouragements for students in middle school;
- Strategies to identify student difficulties earlier, relentless remediation, and intentional remediation;
- Details on the collateral damage of under education;
- EOC action to develop the collective will to change;
- Emphasis on the linkages between educational achievement and economic development;
- Support for and involvement of parents as students transition from one school level to another;
- Pursuit of the Pathways objectives

Mrs. Spearman commented on the work the State Department of Education staff and Superintendent Tenenbaum had completed in the areas under discussion.

The EOC recessed for dinner.

Friday, July 16

The EOC went into Executive Session at 8:00 a.m. The EOC returned from Executive Session.

The EOC approved an extension of the contract for the Executive Director.

The EOC elected Alex Martin as vice-chairman by acclamation.

Mr. Staton asked members wishing to change subcommittees to inform Dr. Anderson. Members discussed the meeting structure and scheduling. Some suggested that the EOC should meet less frequently but for an extended time period. There was discussion of the merits of meeting on a day other than Thursday. Members noted that attendance at subcommittee meetings was difficult because it necessitated two full days when travel is added to meeting time.

Reading: Mr. Potter began with a profile of performance on assessments over time, noting the difference in mathematics, reading and writing achievements. Members discussed a variety of reasons why reading performance has not improved at the same rate as the other two content areas.

Dr. Anderson presented material on the funding of reading instruction and the alignment of state policies.

Dr. Jill Lewis, Board of Directors of the International Reading Association (IRA), presented the recommendations of the IRA as well as its position statement on reading coaches. She detailed through a series of steps the areas for policy development and implementation (handout included in materials). Mr. Stowe asked her advice, if funding is fixed, how we should restructure our spending. She indicated that, rather than “double-up” on kindergarten through third grade, we should invest resources at the middle grades and in high school. She also indicated that it is not just a funding issue, but one of curriculum and the will to change instruction. Mrs. Marlowe asked if skills in teaching reading are embedded in the National Board certification process. Dr. Lewis indicated they are not. She outlined the requirements in states that are reading-specific. Rep. Walker asked if there are courses that should be required and how states should build these skills into teacher certification. Dr. Lewis indicated the emphasis is not just on the first course and experience but the entire teacher preparatory curriculum.

Dr. Janice Poda, Division of Teacher Quality, State Department of Education, outlined South Carolina’s approach to teacher preparation for reading including programmatic approval and the constraints within the undergraduate program. She shared materials from the colleges and other states on the approaches used to introduce future teachers to the concepts of teaching reading (handouts provided). She also shared the specific requirements for add-on certifications or endorsements in reading and provided a series of recommendations.

PAIRS: Mr. Stowe shared information on the EOC public awareness project and outlined the commitments needed from EOC members. Rachel Silver and Rick Silver presented information related to the image and program development. Mr. Wilson questioned areas in which the program might overlap with the Chamber of Commerce’s High Performance Partnership Program. Dr. Lewis offered information on the Verizon project in New Jersey.

S90: Dr. Anderson presented information on the status of S90, a bill addressing school board development and ad hoc members.

Charter School Advisory Committee: Mr. Stowe informed EOC members of his experiences. Rep. Walker asked that the discussion be deferred until another meeting when more time was available.

Objectives for 2004-2005: Mr. Staton asked members to identify critical issues for the coming year. These are to be developed into objectives prior to the August meeting. These included the following:

- Determine how current funding for professional development could be used to address reading issues across the grades
- Review the long-range plan thoroughly, prioritize and weight the recommendations and direct our time and energy toward those actions
- Shine a light on the graduation rate and address the tactical issues such as the calculation, special education and the utilization of teacher and principal specialists v. local capacity development
- Conduct additional work on the connection between K-12 and higher education
- Conduct research or identify efficacy development systems
- Extend parental involvement and community outreach activities
- Emphasize administrator training in reading instruction

- Explore the SREB ideas on high school completion and career preparation
- Focus on grades 4-8
- Explore the team concept in leadership development
- Prepare schools and communities to deal with the increase in rigor for the report card
- Review Title 59 and determine what can be eliminated, revised and retained
- Prepare for the court decision regarding public education funding
- Address issues of seat time v. competency
- Involve students in the dropout solution
- Connect with higher education
- Address, through professional development, the needs of the middle school
- Determine if a middle track is needed in the high school
- Determine the rationale for the graduation requirements
- Explore how reading can be given greater weight in teacher preparation and evaluation
- Develop another presentation for the community on the economic impact of young people earning a high school diploma
- Pursue improvements in school governance
- Develop articulation agreements and connections with higher education
- Explore incentives and disincentives in the placement of students in special education
- Exploring options to the seat time requirements

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
August 19, 2004

Members present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Marlowe, Representative Neal, Mrs. Spearman for Superintendent Tenenbaum, Representative Walker, Mrs. Williams and Mr. Wilson.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- II. **Minutes of the July meeting:** The minutes of the July meeting were approved as distributed.
- III. **Subcommittee Reports**
 - A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He directed members' attention to a corrected version of the materials (dated August 19). He outlined the expectation to establish values for the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS) for inclusion in the primary school ratings. He indicated that the subcommittee agreed to propose only the values for the 2005 report card and to ask that staff to conduct studies on the inclusion of third grade academic performance for students enrolled in the primary schools the prior year. The recommendation was adopted.
 - B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Daniel reminded members that the EOC, working with the State Department of Education, had adopted recommendations and supported provisos in the General Appropriations Act to permit the use of alternative technical assistance strategies in schools rated unsatisfactory or below average. He introduced Dr. Horne who outlined the progress toward the development of the criteria for the alternative technical assistance. The criteria are to be presented to the EOC for approval at the October 11 meeting. Dr. Horne addressed the EOC and provided information.
 - C. Parent and Community Involvement: Mr. Hall explained the EOC involvement in and support of the Family Friendly Workplace Awards Program. He introduced Susan Lill, Vice President of AERIE engineering who explained her company's efforts. He then introduced Joe Bouknight, Senior Vice President of SCANA, who outlined the company's efforts.

D. Public Awareness: There was no report.

E. Administration: Mr. Staton drew members' attention to the materials in the packet. The members agreed to the proposed meeting schedule; thereby, changing EOC meetings to the second Monday in even-numbered months. Members agreed to the subcommittee assignments.

Members then discussed the objectives for the 2005-2006 year and agreed to delete the item referring to the court decision and substitute actions to update the funding model proposed in December 2003.

IV. Remarks from Key Constituencies

Mrs. Donna Windham reported to the EOC on the continuing success of the High Performance Partnerships. She provided materials detailing the progress made across the funding cycle and indicated that additional funds are in the application stage.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting Monday, October 11, 2004

Members Present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Mr. Hall, Mr. Lightsey, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Stowe, Mrs. Spearman for Superintendent Tenenbaum, Representative Walker, Mrs. Williams and Mr. Wilson

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- II. **Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of the August 19 meeting were approved as distributed.
- III. **Substantive Discussion:** College Board Programs and Services - How to improve South Carolina' Performance

Mr. Staton introduced Dr. Leroy Fails, Vice President of the College Board, to discuss College Board programs and services that promote higher achievement. He discussed the approaches used in other states, namely Arkansas and Florida, and the progress made in those states. He outlined the ways in which the PSAT scores can be used to predict and encourage enrollment in the advanced placement program. He also outlined how these programs and adherence to the recommended courses led to higher performance. Members asked a series of questions ranging from the use of advanced placement to teacher training to parent and student use of score reports. Dr. Fails outlined a series of services available at no cost to schools or the state.

IV. **Subcommittee Reports**

A. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He reviewed the recommendations and discussion regarding the inclusion of PACT science and social studies courses in the school and district ratings. He outlined the proposal to include a phase-in of weightings in the absolute ratings and an immediate inclusion in the improvement ratings. When fully implemented with the 2007 report card, performance on science and social studies assessments is to be weighted at 20 percent each for elementary grades and at 25 percent each for middle grades. The recommendations were adopted as presented.

B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Stowe reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He outlined the process by which the

subcommittee would review budget requests and develop its recommendations for consideration at the December EOC meeting.

Mr. Stowe asked Dr. Horne to review the findings and recommendations regarding the Teacher Loan Program. Mr. Stowe asked for approval of the recommendations and a request of the staff to provide further information on the amount that a student can borrow and its relationship to tuition costs.

Mr. Stowe asked Dr. Horne to review the findings of the review of school use of retraining grant funds. Dr. Horne detailed the response rate for the current year (275 of 276 schools), the use of the funds and the persistent challenges including administrative turnover. This interim report is used for the approval of extensions of grants; the final report with academic progress noted is to be provided in December.

C. **Parent and Community Involvement:** Mr. Hall presented on behalf of the Subcommittee. He outlined the program review discussed at the subcommittee meeting.

D. **Public Awareness:** Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He indicated that the subcommittee is working on the reading project and is soliciting membership in the advisory board. He also introduced members to Mrs. Dana Yow, the Director of Communications. He drew members' attention to the performance trends published on the EOC website.

E. **Administration:** Mr. Staton drew members' attention to the information on the testing task force. The task force is to provide recommendations to the EOC in February 2005.

V. **Alternative Technical Assistance:** Mr. Staton asked Dr. Horne to present the criteria for the alternative technical assistance. Dr. Horne shared the final document. He was asked what the cut score will be; Dr. Horne indicated at least 40 of 60 points. The criteria were approved as distributed (the distributed criteria incorporated one wording change from the mailed copy).

VI. **Other Business:**

- (1) Mr. Staton informed members that he and others are working on a plan for revision of the long-range plan;
- (2) Mr. Walker questioned Mrs. Spearman about the ADEPT data provided to the members. He expressed concerns over the number of non-respondents and the percentage of teachers under informal evaluation. Mrs. Spearman is going to provide further detail; and

- (3) Senator Fair expressed concerns regarding changes in the state NCLB accountability plan. He is concerned because funds are withheld from schools because of under-identification of real problems and that the changes were made in a unilateral fashion. Mr. Staton indicated the EOC would take his concerns under advisement.

There being no other business, the EOC adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting Monday, December 13, 2004

Members Present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Stowe, Representative Walker, and Mr. Wilson

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting and announced that the 2004 edition of Where Are We Now had been released to the press and public that morning.
- II. **Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of the October 2004 meeting were approved as distributed.
- IV. **Subcommittee Reports**
 - A. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He reported that the Subcommittee had reviewed the report on the new South Carolina Social Studies Academic Standards. Based on feedback from the Geographic Alliance, the Subcommittee requested that the State Department of Education address the omission of geography in the standards for grades seven and nine. The new standards were approved with the indicated revisions.

Mr. Wilson next presented the Subcommittee recommendations regarding the report on the review of the South Carolina Science Academic Standards. The Subcommittee recommended adoption of the report as written with the addition that the revised standards include instruction on the development of new energy sources. The recommendations were adopted as presented.

Mr. Wilson presented the Subcommittee recommendations regarding the approval of the South Carolina Readiness Assessment (SCRA) to 1) approve the use of the SCRA assessment process for Kindergarten and first grade; 2) improve the reliability and interpretability of the SCRA results for instructional and achievement improvement purposes; 3) as specified in the EAA, ensure that SCRA results should not be reported for accountability purposes; and 4) find an assessment procedure which can be used to identify and assist second grade students who are not ready for the performance expectations in grade three. Mr. Wilson also indicated that the Subcommittee had requested that the State Department of Education conduct a study of the correlation of student readiness and performance on the grade 3 PACT tests. After discussion, the Subcommittee recommendations were approved.

Mr. Wilson also presented the Subcommittee recommendation that high school graduation rate be added to the calculation of school district report card ratings. The Subcommittee proposed that the addition of the high school graduation rate to the ratings system would provide a performance measure of the entire school district's preparation and support of students to earn their diplomas. Following discussion, the recommendation was adopted.

- B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He presented the Subcommittee's EFA, EIA, and EAA budget and proviso recommendations for Fiscal Year 2005-2006, which included a \$172.9 million increase in total funding for schools and school districts. The recommendations were

adopted after discussion. Ms. Barton also presented an update on the funding model as proposed by the EOC in December 2003.

C. **Parent and Community Involvement:** Mr. Hall reported that the Subcommittee had not met because of scheduling difficulties.

D. **Public Awareness:** Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the subcommittee. Mr. Martin explained that the PAIRS project is a collaborative initiative intended to marshal efforts supporting children's literacy across the entire state. Mr. Stowe presented the calendar for the PAIRS project. The rollout of the PAIRS project is scheduled for February 17, 2005. Mr. Stowe asked EOC members to identify reading programs in their area which involve adults providing reading assistance to children for inclusion in the PAIRS project.

E. **Administration:** There was no report.

V. **Remarks from Key Constituencies:** Dr. Karen Woodward, Superintendent of Lexington School District One and Dr. Anne Elam, Director of Secondary Education for Lexington School District One, presented the implementation of career clusters in their school district. The goals of their program are to keep students enrolled in high school and to graduate more students. Each secondary student develops an Individualized Graduation Plan based on his or her career interests. Students and counselors identify courses and course sequences from the district curriculum frameworks to accomplish one of 34 major interest areas. An assessment procedure in the seventh and eighth grades is used to help students identify their career interests.

VI. **Other Business:**

(1) Mr. Potter provided an update on the study of high school data quality and the graduation rate. This study is being conducted with the assistance of the Data Quality Advisory Committee. The student records for ninth grade students attending six high schools in South Carolina during the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 school years were analyzed over the five-year period until Summer 2004 to identify those who graduated from high school or left the school before graduation. While there are problems with the accurate collection of data for the electronic databases currently in use in school districts, the system was found to be adequate for collecting the needed data to monitor students' progress through the school system. Approximately 53% of the students enrolled in the ninth grade in 1999-2000 in the schools studied graduated from their high school with a diploma at the end of the five years studied. The graduation or enrollment status of approximately one-fourth of the students could not be determined from the available data. Further analyses of the data collected for this study will be conducted.

(2) Mr. Walker expressed his concerns about the delay in issuing school and district report cards and asked how the State Department of Education can prevent this from happening again in the future. He also expressed his concerns that the state testing program tests are not available in Spanish translation to assess students who have recently immigrated to the United States. The numbers of students whose first language is Spanish are increasing rapidly in communities in South Carolina.

There being no other business, the EOC adjourned.