

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
February 13, 2012

Members Present: Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Hairfield, Mr. Brown; Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Senator Hayes, Mr. Martin, Dr. Merck, Mrs. Taylor; Mr. Whittemore and Dr. Zais

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Robinson welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- II. Approval of the Minutes of December 12, 2011: The minutes of December 12, 2011 were approved as distributed.
- III. Key Constituencies:

Mrs. Betty Bagley, Superintendent of Anderson School District 5, and instructional leaders from her district provided an overview of the district's choice programs and actions taken to date to prepare for implementation of the Common Core State Standards in the curriculum and teaching. Participating in the presentation were Tripp Dukes, Assistant Superintendent of instruction; Amy Hawkins, Director of Middle and Secondary Education; and Cindy Martin, Director of Early Childhood and Elementary Education. Mrs. Bagley first described the choice options available to students in Anderson 5. Each school in the district has a professional development theme that serves as the vehicle to deliver curriculum. The district is operating with a curriculum blue print and a timeline for implementation of Common Core that begin in the fall of 2010 when district staff began to study the new state standards. Between January and March 2011, the district provided initial professional development for teachers. In March 2011 the district developed a plan for infusing the new standards into all curricula because of the emphasis on instructional text. In the summer of 2011, the district provided additional professional development in English language arts and mathematics and professional development focused on literacy in science and social studies. The professional development included principals and administrators. The professional development continued in the fall of 2011. Today the district is also examining information provided by other states to assist the district in "cross-walking" the prior ELA and mathematics standards with the new state standards to prepare for the bridge year, 2013-14.

The specific timeline adopted by Anderson 5 for implementation is as follows. For the current school year, 2011-12, Anderson 5 implemented the new standards in kindergarten, grade 3, and grades 6, 7 and 8. In 2012-13 the district will implement the standards in grades 1 and 4. In school year 2013-14, the standards will be implemented in grades 2 and 5. Questions still remain concerning the development of a fourth math class that must be operational by 2014-15, the first year of full implementation statewide.

Mr. Drew asked how transportation was handled with the choice options. Senator Fair asked for clarification between changes in the writing standards from an emphasis on narrative to persuasive writing. Mrs. Taylor emphasized the need for more collaboration across districts and more leadership at the state level in assisting districts with transition to the new standards. When asked about the costs that Anderson 5 has absorbed with the writing of curriculum, Mrs. Bagley estimated that since 2001 the district has expended approximately \$2.0 million. Dr. Zais applauded the entrepreneurship of

Anderson 5 and the choice program options as demonstrating innovation and transformation from the bottom up. Both Mrs. Hairfield and Mr. Martin asked questions about the inability of smaller districts without the infrastructure or human capital to provide their teachers with such professional development and curriculum options. Mrs. Bagley stated that the door is always open to other districts for support.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

The committee then turned to the Subcommittee reports.

- A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Dr. Merck noted that the cyclical review of the science standards is underway with the EOC staff in the process of forming three panels to review the standards. He also noted that the information report regarding the growth indices will be the basis for having simulations performed to determine if the criteria for determining the growth ratings should be amended for the 2012 school and district report cards.
- B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Drew called upon Mrs. Barton to give an update on the Fiscal Year 2012-13 EIA budget. Mrs. Barton notified the committee that many of the EOC's recommendations were included in Governor Haley's Executive Budget. She also communicated that the full Ways and Means Committee will complete its deliberations on the budget during the week of February 20.
- C. Public Awareness: Mrs. Hairfield reported that the subcommittee will pursue a public awareness campaign with the Clare Morris Agency to assist staff in promoting the 2020 Vision and in engaging stakeholders in actions to meet the goals of the 2020 Vision. Such action includes the new page on the EOC website designed with resources to help parents, educators and community/business leaders.

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
April 9, 2012

Members Present: Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Hairfield, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Senator Hayes, Mr. Martin, Dr. Merck, Rep. Neal; Rep. J. Roland Smith; Mrs. Taylor; Mr. Warner; Mr. Whittemore and Dr. Zais

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Robinson welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- II. Approval of the Minutes of February 13, 2012: The minutes of February 13, 2012 were approved as distributed.

Mr. Robinson called upon Mrs. Barton who informed the members that the South Carolina Geographic Alliance won first prize, the Arthur Robinson Award for Best Printed Map, for the map *Natural Hazards of South Carolina* and honorable mention in the same category for the map *Religious Diversity in South Carolina*. The Cartography and Geographic Information Society sponsored the international competition.

III. Key Constituencies

Presenting before the EOC were the following individuals from Communities In Schools: Jane Riley-Gambrell, Executive Director, the Charleston Area; Terry Linder, Executive Director, the Midlands; and Susie Smith, Executive Director, Greenville. With the mission of Communities In Schools (CIS) being “to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life, the presenters described the CIS Model of Integrated Student Supports and the future of the program in South Carolina. The individuals focused on the goal of reestablishing a South Carolina State Office that will actively support the capacity of local communities to build strong Communities In Schools organizations and provide statewide leadership through:

- Statewide partnerships and resources
- Marketing and advocacy and productive government relationships
- State network management and development
- Training and technical assistance
- Data collection, management and reporting

Senator Fair, Rep. Neal and Mrs. Taylor asked questions about how the state office would be created and funded and how many counties are currently not being served by CIS.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

The committee then turned to the Subcommittee reports.

- A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Dr. Merck summarized the recommendation of the Subcommittee to amend the growth value table beginning in

school year 2012-13 that is used in the calculation of the growth index. There being no discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

- B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Drew summarized the findings and recommendations of the Teacher Loan Report. The three recommendations in the report include: (1) changing the statutory definition of critical geographic need schools from schools with a poverty index of 70% or greater to a poverty index of 80% or greater; (2) the EOC considering including in its budget recommendations for FY2013-14 an increase in EIA appropriation for the program to provide funding for individuals who qualify for the program but are denied the loan due to insufficient funds; and (3) the creation of a policy board of governance or an existing state agency to be the central authority of the program to set goals, allocate funding, etc. There being no discussion, the report was approved unanimously.

Mr. Drew then summarized the key findings of a report summarizing the findings of the 2011 Parent Survey. The report includes two recommendations: (1) a review of the items on the teacher, parent and student survey, especially to look at using the student survey to measure teacher effectiveness; and (2) the EOC would work with schools to increase the number of parents who are African-American or Hispanic who complete and return the survey. Sen. Fair suggested that if the student surveys are amended then questions related to bullying should be included. There being no further discussion, the report was approved unanimously.

Mr. Drew then called upon Mrs. Barton to give an update on the Fiscal Year 2012-13 budget process. Mrs. Barton notified the committee that the bill is currently being considered in the Senate Finance Committee and is likely to be debated in the Senate during the week of May 15.

Mr. Drew then called upon Mr. Warner to discuss the Innovation Initiative motion. Mr. Warner described to the committee the rationale for moving to a system of education that is more personalized and empowers more creativity. He referred to the work of South Carolina ETV with the Criminal Justice Academy. Mr. Warner recommended that the motion pass so that the EOC could pilot innovation incubators that will look at the instruction and assessment of student learning. The motion as recommended by the Subcommittee was: The Education Oversight committee will undertake a project to explore innovative ways to transform the assessment and delivery of public education in South Carolina that will increase student academic achievement.

Mrs. Taylor commented that the proposal would resemble the educational concept, "flipping the classroom" that provides for more individualized instruction and achievement. Sen. Hayes asked Dr. Zais about his opinion. Dr. Zais agreed that master-based learning, more on-line content, and greater facilitation of learning is the future. Mr. Drew reiterated the importance of technology in the pilot projects.

Rep. Neal described one concept that could be included in the pilot. The proposal would eliminate traditional A through F grading and replace it with standards-based mastery so that the assessment would determine if students knew the standards. Mr. Robinson asked that the committee first adopt the motion and then work out the

concept and details at a later date. There being no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

C. Public Awareness: Mrs. Hairfield reported that the subcommittee does not have a report today but will meet in May.

IV. Other Business – Mr. Robinson recognized Mrs. Meka Bosket and Dr. Erica Bissell of the South Carolina Department of Education who gave an overview of the ESEA waiver and the implementation of the new South Carolina English language arts and mathematics standards. EOC members voiced concern that there are 83 different approaches to implementation being used. Dr. Zais stated that the Department of Education will help develop and facilitate district curriculums. Mrs. Taylor also suggested that the agency help facilitate discussion between districts on implementation.

Then Dr. Zais provided data relating per pupil spending in each school district with the poverty index and absolute rating of each school district. Dr. Zais commented that what is wrong with public education in South Carolina is not lack of money. He also stated that over the past fifteen years for every increase in 22 students, seven additional teachers and administrators have been employed. EOC members commented that teacher and administrator turnover are also factors that impact student achievement and per pupil funding.

Mr. Robinson asked if there was any additional information that needed to come before the Committee. Having no other business, the EOC adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
June 11, 2012

Members Present: Mr. Robinson; Mr. Drew; Senator Fair; Senator Hayes; Mr. Martin; Dr. Merck; Rep. Neal; Mrs. Taylor; Mr. Warner; Mr. Whittemore; and Dr. Zais

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Robinson welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- II. Approval of the Minutes of April 9, 2012: The minutes of April 9, 2012 were approved as distributed.

At the request of Mr. Warner, Senator Fair made a motion that, having voted on the prevailing side, the motion to approve the minutes be reconsidered. The motion to approve the minutes was reconsidered, and the minutes were amended to delete all references to an "education incubator." The minutes as amended were adopted.

- III. Key Constituencies

Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, representing the Innovation Steering Committee, addressed the Committee. She described the goal of the Innovation Steering Committee to be increasing the supply of high quality public school options for students. Regarding assessments, the objective is to measure those things which we value for all students, namely, knowledge, skills and disposition. She also provided an overview of the Committee's actions since January. Dr. Postlewait focused on: (1) explaining the cycle of innovation; (2) a review of eight non-traditional, promising learning models that result in significantly higher student success rates; and (3) five common elements among the eight models. Dr. Postlewait then turned over the presentation to the following two successful non-traditional models:

Anson New Tech High School in Wadesboro, North Carolina

The presenters were: (1) Jacki Martin, Associate Director of the Riley Institute at Furman University; (2) Chris Stinson, Principal of New Tech High School; (3) Blaine Maples a math teacher at the school; and (4) Casey McElroy, a student. The presenters documented that New Tech currently manages a national network of 86 New Tech schools serving more than 8,500 students. Fourteen new schools will open this fall, including two in South Carolina in Clarendon and Colleton Counties, both within seventy miles of the new Boeing facility.

The staff and student from Anson High School documented the school's implementation and successes over time. New Tech schools are standards-driven, often team taught, and rooted in Project-based learning. A culture of trust, respect and responsibility are the hallmarks of New Tech culture. At New Tech schools, students acquire a level of responsibility similar to what they would experience in a professional work environment. Working on projects and in teams, students are accountable to their peers, while taking individual responsibility to get work done. In this trusted, respectful environment, students decide how to allocate their time, team roles and how to collaborate. Smart use of technology supports innovative approaches to instruction and culture. All classrooms have a one-to-one computing ratio. With access to Web-enabled computers, every student becomes a self-directed learner who no longer needs to rely primarily on teachers or textbooks for knowledge and direction.

Mrs. Taylor inquired as to whether children with disabilities are served in the program. Mr. Stinson responded yes. Mr. Neal asked about the recruitment of students into the program. Sen. Fair asked about the impact of Common Core on the program. Dr. Merck asked about the optimum size of a New Tech high school. Mr. Drew asked about the importance of leadership to successfully implement the program.

Early College High School in Horry County, South Carolina

The presenters were: (1) Joan Grimmett, Principal of the Early College High School and (2) Marilyn Fore, Senior VP, Academic Affairs and Provost at Horry-Georgetown Technical College. The presenters described that there are three Early College High Schools currently operating in Beaufort, Greenville and Horry Counties. The presenters described how the Horry County business and education community came together to implement the program. The initial goal was to improve the district's dropout rate. The program targeted students of color who were in the middle quartile academically and who would be first-generation college-going students. The presenters gave evidence of the impact of the program on the graduation and college-going rates of the students along with personal testimonies from students. Mr. Neal asked about the minimum academic qualifications.

Dr. Postlewait summed up the next steps for the Innovation Steering Committee, focusing on how to move models like these to large-scale implementation. Mr. Warner asked about the obstacles holding back the system. Dr. Postlewait noted that in her opinion the threat of change that comes with transforming the traditional learning environment and delivery system is probably the greatest impediment.

Mr. Warner and Rep. Neal then discussed the issue of where the greatest challenge in our educational system exists. Mr. Warner contended that getting the affluent, educated parents concerned about their children not performing as well as the top 10% of children in other states will help raise public awareness for all students. Rep. Neal argued that he worried most about the children at the other end, who typically end up in prison or with limited resources and need the attention first. Both concurred that inertia and ambivalence are the greatest obstacles to transforming the system for all children.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

The committee then turned to the Subcommittee reports.

A. Academic Standards and Assessments:

Dr. Merck summarized the findings and recommendations of the three panels that reviewed the current science standards. There being no discussion, the recommendation of the subcommittee to approve the report on the science standards was approved unanimously.

Dr. Merck then summarized the results of the three-year analysis of PASS achievement data. With respect to student achievement, differences in achievement by gender existed for Reading, but not for Mathematics. Students who receive free lunch achieve at substantially lower levels than do full-pay lunch students. Reduced lunch students achieve midway between these groups. The patterns of student achievement on PASS are similar to the patterns of student achievement on PACT. With respect to retention, the retention rate at each grade level is small,

approximately 1 percent of students. Compared to promoted students, larger percentages of retained students are Male, African-American, have a Disability, and participate in the federal school lunch program. And, based on the PASS data analyzed, academic benefits of retention for success at the next grade level were present from grade 3 to grade 4, but were minimal for all other grade transitions.

- B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:
Mr. Drew reviewed the status of the 2012-13 General Appropriation Bill, noting those items for which the EOC had made policy and budgetary recommendations
 - C. Public Awareness:
Due to Mrs. Hairfield being out of the country, Mrs. Barton reported for the subcommittee on the implementation of the 2020 Public Awareness Campaign. She noted the results of the Teacher Appreciation Week mailings and student contests.
 - V. Dr. Zais then presented how South Carolina might transform the current education model “from one that fails too many children and provides a mediocre education to many others to a more effective model that satisfies the aspirations and matches the abilities of all students.” The Superintendent focused on transforming the following elements: (1) standards, what is taught; (2) environment, where it is taught; (3) intensity, when it is taught; (4) curriculum, how it is taught; (5) instructors, who teaches it; (6) testing, how it is evaluated; and (7) control, how schools are governed.
 - VI. The EOC then went into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.
- The veil having been lifted, the EOC came out of Executive Session. Mr. Robinson announced that he would pursue finalizing a three-year contract for an individual to become Executive Director of the agency.
- VII. Mr. Robinson asked if there was any additional information that needed to come before the Committee. Having no other business, the EOC adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
August 13, 2012

Members Present: Mr. Robinson; Mr. Drew; Senator Fair; Senator Hayes; Mrs. Hairfield; Mr. Martin; Rep. Neal; Rep. Patrick; Mrs. Perry; Mrs. Taylor; Mr. Warner; and Mr. Whittemore. Mr. Jay W. Ragley attended for Dr. Zais.

Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Robinson welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Mission of the EOC

Mr. Robinson introduced Jon Peirce, Senior Fellow at the Institute of Public Service and Policy Research at the University of South Carolina, to engage the members in a conversation about the roles and responsibilities of the Education Oversight Committee. The discussion began with an overview of the legislatively mandated functions of the EOC and included several issues related to the current and future mission of the EOC: (1) the review and monitoring of accountability; (2) engagement of business, education and policymakers in open, non-political dialogue; and (3) recommending policies and programs to policymakers that would transform public education delivery system. Members voiced consensus that accountability should not happen in a vacuum but should be collaboration with the focus being on preparing students for careers and citizenship. The members concluded that as the EOC was created with specific functions that will be decided by the General Assembly and Governor. The members expressed a desire to continue the discussion at a later time.

Update on Development of New Assessments

Mr. Robinson introduced Elizabeth Jones, Director of the Office of Assessment at the South Carolina Department of Education. Ms. Jones provided an overview of South Carolina's involvement in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. South Carolina became one of 21 governing states in Smarter Balanced in June of 2012. The Consortium is developing assessments that will be aligned to the Common Core State Standards in English/language arts/literacy and mathematics in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11 and operational in school year 2014-15. The Consortium will develop formative tools, interim assessments and summative assessments. Formative assessments are projected to cost between seven and nine dollars. The summative assessments, which will be computer-adaptive, will be administered during a twelve-week window of testing at the end of the year. The summative assessments are intended to be used for accountability purposes, measuring student achievement and growth. The summative assessment is intended to measure student the knowledge and skills to be college and career ready.

Mr. Warner asked about critical thinking and other skills and dispositions like team-building. Ms. Jones responded that performance tasks are being designed for the summative task that will hopefully provide measures of such skills. Senator Fair asked for more explanation on computer adaptive tests in general. This summer item development began with pilot testing of items being done in February and March of 2013. Field testing will begin in early 2014. Questions were also raised about the costs of technology and bandwidth available in the districts. Ms. Jones responded that a survey is being conducted with information to be provided this fall on the costs of going to computer-delivery of assessments.

At noon the Committee broke for lunch and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Update on ESEA Waiver

Ms. Charmeka Bosket, Deputy Superintendent of the Office of School Effectiveness and Dr. Nancy Busbee, Deputy Superintendent for the Division of Accountability at the South Carolina Department of Education presented an update on the ESEA waiver that was approved by the U.S. Department of Education on July 19, 2012. Dr. Busbee provided an overview of the A to F letter grades assigned to schools and school districts. Ms. Bosket focused on the teacher evaluation system to be tested in 22 SIG schools in the current school year. Mr. Neal and Ms. Taylor asked for clarification about the evaluation system and how the system will be used after the Beta-testing.

Cyclical Review of Accountability System

Mrs. Barton reminded the EOC members that pursuant to Section 59-18-910, the EOC is required beginning 2013 to undertake a review of the entire accountability system. Mr. Drew suggested that the EOC set up a plan for how the accountability system will be reviewed. Ms. Barton asked for names of individuals who should participate in the broad-based stakeholder group. Sen. Hayes reaffirmed the importance of getting input from the field, especially from parents, teachers and school board members. Mr. Warner reiterated his belief that the entire public education delivery system has to be transformed including the governance of public education. Mr. Neal agreed that bold steps, a paradigm shift is needed. Ms. Perry reiterated the importance of educators sharing what initiatives are working in their schools. Sen. Fair suggested that the EOC include brain scientist Desmond Kelly from Greenville Memorial Hospital on the review.

South Carolina Reading Achievement Systemic Initiative

Dr. Baron Holmes gave an overview of progress being made in states where systemic reading initiatives have been implemented. Using the report from the South Carolina Reading Achievement Systemic Initiative and other data available from Alabama and Florida, Dr. Holmes talked about a framework for developing systemic policy changes that would improve reading/literacy in South Carolina. The chairman appointed Barbara Hairfield to lead a group who will work with Dr. Holmes on recommending policies to improve reading/literacy in South Carolina using existing research and evidence from other states.

Participation on Other Governing Bodies

Mr. Drew updated the EOC on the work of the Charter School Advisory Committee. Mr. Drew reported that there are 57 charter schools. There were 15 applications made this year of which two were withdrawn and 8 met the requirements of the law. Mr. Drew noted that he questions whether the Advisory Committee is actually needed any longer. Mr. Warner updated the members on the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. The School is focusing on helping children in poverty receive the same benefits of the school through an expanded outreach program.

EOC Roles and Responsibilities

Mr. Robinson asked the staff to take the information discussed at the retreat and come back to the full EOC in October with draft objectives for 2012-13.

Approval of the Minutes of June 11, 2012: The minutes of June 11, 2012 were approved as distributed.

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
October 8, 2012

Members Present: Mr. Robinson; Mr. Bowers; Mr. Drew; Senator Fair; Senator Hayes; Mrs. Hairfield; Mr. Martin; Dr. Merck; Rep. Neal; Rep. Patrick; Rep. Smith; Mr. Warner; Mr. Whittemore; and Dr. Zais

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Robinson welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He introduced the newest member of the EOC, Mr. Phillip Bowers, who is the Speaker's business appointee to the EOC, filling the unexpired term of Mr. Terry Brown.
- II. Approval of the Minutes of the August 8, 2012 Meeting - Mr. Drew noted an error in the minutes regarding the number of charter schools operating in the state. Mr. Warner also asked that the minutes be amended regarding the discussion on the ability of the new consortium assessments to reflect concern that the assessments may not be able to assess skills and dispositions. The minutes as amended were approved.
- III. Key Constituencies - Catalytic Leadership Initiative
The chairman introduced the Catalytic Leadership Initiative, a group of individuals from across the spectrum (education, business, and community leaders) who have as their mission "to improve the quality of life of children of color and children of poverty within the state of South Carolina by creating, facilitating and maintaining catalytic connections and a strategic work plan which transcends political, geographical, organizational and generational boundaries." Specifically the group has targeted four key areas: education; health care; poverty and juvenile justice. The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus is a partner of the initiative. The chairman then called upon Rep. Neal to introduce his fellow Initiative members who were in attendance.

Speaking for the Catalytic Leadership Initiative, Dr. Ronald Epps, former superintendent of Richland School District One described the collaborations that are working to establishing strategic connections and partnerships that focus on symbiotic interdependence of social programs and identifying strategic initiatives in the four areas to address - education, health, poverty and criminal justice.

Mr. Warner noted that diversity even exists in Greenville County. Dr. Epps responded that all schools have diversity but the same pedagogy of teaching is good for all. Dr. Merck asked about the impact of the Common Core State Standards on graduation rates. Dr. Epps responded that rigor has become more meaningful than ever with professional development being the key.

Rep. Neal followed up by talking about the importance of having community involvement, motivating parents and the community, to address the negative impact of poverty on children. The community has to play a role for positive changes to occur for children.

Rep. Smith asked how the state can get parents, whose children attend failing schools, to become involved. Dr. Epps concurred and noted that the Catalytic Leadership Initiative is now reaching out to the faith-based community to engage parents.

Subcommittee Reports

The committee then turned to the Subcommittee reports.

A. Academic Standards and Assessments:

Dr. Merck was recognized. First, regarding the Palmetto Gold and Silver Reward Program, Dr. Merck presented the following subcommittee recommendations along with a rationale for each:

Recommendation 1: The criteria used to evaluate Palmetto Gold and Silver Award winners based on the release of the 2012 state report cards should be amended accordingly. Regarding schools with steady growth, only schools that have a growth rating of Good or better for two consecutive years would receive a Palmetto Silver award. Schools that have a growth index of Average or better for three years would not be eligible for a Palmetto Silver Award.

Recommendation 2: The Accountability Division of the EOC will analyze the results of the 2012 state report cards and propose alternative criteria for the Palmetto Gold and Silver Award Program to the Academic Standards and Assessment Subcommittee for the 2013 state report card release. Significant changes to the Palmetto Gold and Silver criteria should be consistent with the implementation of the new value table and indices for determining growth ratings for the 2013 state report card ratings.

Dr. Zais asked for clarification if the subcommittee had recommended a specific model based on the May report. Mrs. Barton replied that the subcommittee had not endorsed one of the models but would analyze the results of the 2012 state report cards and the change to the growth index to make additional recommendations for *the subsequent Palmetto Gold and Silver recognitions.

The committee then unanimously adopted both recommendations.

Then, Dr. Merck presented the initial comments of the subcommittee regarding the composition of cyclical review of the accountability system. Mr. Warner noted that the existing accountability system is not adequate and should promote innovation as was recommended by the EOC in the innovation proviso that was vetoed. Rep. Neal concurred that accountability must be broader than the acquisition of knowledge.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms

Mr. Drew was recognized. He stated that the EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee will begin its budget deliberations on October 22.

C. Public Awareness

Mrs. Hairfield called upon Dana Yow of the EOC staff to review the public awareness campaign for 2012-13 as well as to reflect upon the actions taken last year. Ms. Yow focused on changes to the plan which include: (1) targeting business community; (2)

considering outdoor advertising; (3) expanding social media; (4) conducting a video contest focused on innovation for middle and high school students; (5) updating Family Friendly Standards; and (6) engaging public in cyclical review of the accountability system.

V. EOC Objectives for FY2012-13

The committee then reviewed the draft EOC objectives for 2012-13. Mr. Warner emphasized that the objectives do not adequately address the need to create urgency around improving public education. Mr. Drew noted that the objectives are specific goals that must be accomplished for the year. Mr. Warner pressed the members that the EOC must be bold, dramatic recommendations this year that raise the public awareness that progress and innovation need to occur; otherwise, the EOC is another example of fragmented governance. Mr. Warner suggested that the EOC needs to be the catalyst for transforming public education and can do so with bold recommendations.

Rep. Neal shared Mr. Warner's frustration and the need for innovation and transformation. Innovation must come from everyone – engage communities to move forward. Mr. Drew concurred with the sense of urgency and suggested that the cyclical review and public awareness campaign may be the avenues to raise these issues. Sen. Hayes reflected that the EOC's reputation as being an independent body that provides accurate information and is courageous to report the hard numbers and to report on how South Carolina is doing is vital. Rep. Smith concurred that the EOC's input is important to legislators.

The discussion then turned to governance issues. Dr. Zais noted that more autonomy at the local level is needed and more accountability for student performance. Dr. Zais affirmed that teacher and principal evaluations should hold teachers and principals accountable for student performance. Rep. Neal noted that more than one approach is needed to address failing schools. Engaging parents, communities as well as engaging all resources, not just educational services, are important.

VI. Adjournment

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
December 10, 2012

Members Present: Mr. Robinson; Mr. Bowers; Mr. Drew; Senator Fair; Senator Hayes; Mrs. Hairfield; Mr. Martin; Rep. Patrick; Rep. Smith; Mrs. Taylor; Mr. Whittemore; and Dr. Zais

Mr. Warner participated via conference call.

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Robinson welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- II. Approval of the Minutes of the October 8, 2012 Meeting - The minutes were approved as distributed.
- III. Subcommittee Reports

The committee then turned to the Subcommittee reports.

A. Academic Standards and Assessments:

Dr. Merck had an emergency at his high school this morning and could not attend. Mrs. Barton updated the committee concerning the release of the 2012 state district and school report cards. She pointed out the analysis on student performance that was published by the EOC and the information provided to all members of the General Assembly.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms

Mr. Drew was recognized. He notified the committee that the EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee had finalized its budget and proviso recommendations for Fiscal Year 2013-14 during a meeting held at 10:00 a.m. on December 10. The recommendations center around four key funding principles:

1. Public funds for education will be allocated based on the needs of students with the ultimate goal being that all children are prepared for success in a career or in postsecondary education.
2. Educators will be empowered to allocate resources at the school and classroom levels to best meet the academic needs of individual students. Such flexibility will allow teachers to provide innovative strategies and interventions to prepare all students for success in a career or in postsecondary education.
3. Schools and school districts will be held accountable for the results, which will be based on student performance and the ability of each student to succeed in a career or postsecondary education.

4. Consolidation of line item appropriations assists in the simplification of the public education funding system and in the targeting of resources to students.

Mrs. Hairfield asked a question about STEM. Mrs. Taylor asked why the subcommittee recommended an increase for Teach For America but not an increase for the Teaching Fellows program. Senator Fair and Mr. Drew discussed the importance of technology and the changing role of ETV in public schools.

Mr. Bowers made a motion that the subcommittee recommendation be amended to reduce the funding for Teach For America from \$1.0 million to \$500,000 and to increase the appropriation for the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA) by \$500,000. Senator Fair seconded the motion. Mr. Josh Bell, Executive Director of Teach For America, SC, and Ms. Jane Turner, Executive Director of CERRA, both addressed the EOC, reiterating that the two organizations work together and not against one another in attracting and recruiting individuals into classrooms throughout South Carolina.

Rep. Patrick asked for unanimous consent to amend the motion of Mr. Bowers to increase the appropriation to CERRA by \$500,000 and to reduce the increase for the SC Teacher Loan Program funding by \$500,000. Both Mr. Bowers and Senator Fair concurred with the amended motion. The motion was adopted.

C. Public Awareness

Mrs. Hairfield reported that the Public Awareness Subcommittee continues to expand the EOC's message using several new initiatives: (1) a video conference contest for middle and high school students to create a two-minute video on innovation. The EOC received over 80 entries. (2) an occasional publication called "Tips for Educator Engagement" that is receiving significant online hits and interest from classroom educators throughout the state. Dana Yow then expounded on other initiatives: (1) Mr. Robinson has written and submitted an op-ed focusing on the success of high-poverty, high-performing schools and districts; (2) the executive director was on a panel at the SC School Boards Association where 385 school board members and superintendents were in attendance; (3) the EOC is working with the South Carolina Department of Education on revisions to the Family Friendly Standards which will include a new website for instant access to some of the web-based features; and (5) the EOC is collaborating with the SC State Library and county libraries throughout the state on initiatives to assist libraries in knowing how to assist struggling readers who visit the library.

IV. Policy Discussion - 2013 Legislative Session

The committee then reviewed a document that included five policy areas and prior and future EOC positions on: innovation; governance; reading; technology; and accountability.

Mr. Warner reiterated that the EOC can be a leader in designing a new K-12 public education system that truly changes teaching and learning. Mr. Robinson concurred that it is time to “reinvent the box” and not to “stay in the box.” Mr. Bowers commented on governance and the antiquated and fragmented system of governance at the state level. Senator Hayes asked that the EOC probably needs to look at the size of local districts and the issues related to cost-effective management of schools. The issue of improving reading is one that impacts all students in the state as does technology. As Mr. Warner noted, the lack of broad-band access is a problem in many urban areas of Greenville. He reiterated that a clear focus on improving education through access to online courses and instructional materials is critical.

The committee asked that the staff present at a subsequent meeting on these and other policy issues.

V. Adjournment

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned.