

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
March 9, 2015

Members in Attendance: David Whittemore (Chair); Dr. Danny Merck (Vice-Chair); Anne Bull; Dr. Bob Couch; Sen. Mike Fair; Rep. Raye Felder; Barbara Hairfield; Sen. Wes Hayes; Rep. Dwight Loftis; Deb Marks; Sen. John Matthews; and Patti Tate

EOC Members Participating Via Conference Call: Neil Robinson

EOC Staff Present: Dr. Kevin Andrews; Mrs. Melanie Barton; Ms. Paulette Geiger; Dr. Rainey Knight; Ms. Bunnie Ward; and Ms. Dana Yow.

Mr. Whittemore called the meeting to order and thanked South Carolina ETV for live streaming the meeting. He also welcomed Rep. Raye Felder who is the new representative of the House Education and Public Works Committee and Rep. Dwight Loftis, the House Ways and Means Committee designee, to the EOC.

The minutes of March 9, 2015 meeting were approved as distributed.

Dr. Merck reported on behalf of the Academic Standards and Assessment Subcommittee. The Subcommittee recommended that the new South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards in English language arts and mathematics be adopted along with the addendum. Dr. Merck noted that the Subcommittee took public comments on the proposed standards at its March 2, 2015 meeting. In addition the staff provided information and answered questions at both the March 2 meeting and at an informational meeting held prior to the full EOC's meeting. Dr. Merck noted that the question of developmental appropriateness of the standards in the early grades had been a concern. He asked EOC members to allow the staff to show a video that describes the difference between the appropriateness of standards and the appropriateness of curriculum and instruction. The EOC members watched the film.

Dr. Merck informed the EOC that all public two and four-year colleges and universities have endorsed the standards as being college and career ready. Dr. Merck expressed his belief that the standards raise expectations for students and teachers and are developmentally appropriate for children.

Sen. Fair expressed his gratitude for the South Carolina educators, parents, business, and community leaders who worked under a very tight timeframe to produce these standards. As he noted, the standards represent the best work of our citizens and reflect the values of our state.

Ms. Marks then expressed her opposition to the standards and asked that her remarks be made part of the committee's public record. With no opposition, the remarks are included as Appendix A of these minutes. She thanked the General Assembly for passing Act 200 in 20140 but based upon the opinion of national experts, she could not support the standards due to the fact that they are developmentally inappropriate for young children and are a rewrite of Common Core. She suggested that the standards be sent back for a rewriting and be debated further the public.

Sen. Hayes asked for clarification on the Department of Education's newest ESEA waiver process and the timeline. Mrs. Barton responded that the ESEA waiver application must be submitted prior to March 31 and that further delay in approving new standards would jeopardize

the ability of the Department of Education and the EOC to comply with implementing the new standards in school year 2015-16.

Sen. Hayes recommended approval of the standards along with a recommendation that the cyclical review occur at any point as needed prior to the seven year mandatory timeline. Rep. Loftis expressed his support of Sen. Hayes' recommendation, noting that changed in technology will likely necessitate that the standards be reviewed at least every five years.

Sen. Fair then shared with the Committee information that he had received from a pediatric neurologist in Greenville who had reviewed the standards in the early grades. Sen. Fair concluded that we have to trust our educators. Sen. Fair moved to adopt the Subcommittee's recommendations along with the importance of revising the standards at any point needed prior to the seven years. Sen. Matthews second the motion. The motion was adopted 11 to 1 with Ms. Marks asking to be recorded as voting no.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Attachment