

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
February 14, 2005

Members present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Marlowe, Representative Neal, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Stowe, Superintendent Tenenbaum, Representative Walker, Mrs. Williams

I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He announced the appointment of Senator Wes Hayes to the EOC as the designee of the Chairman, Senate Education Committee. He also introduced Neil Robinson, newly appointed as a business member by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Members introduced themselves to Mr. Robinson.

II. Approval of the Minutes of December 13, 2004 The minutes of the December 13, 2004 meetings were approved as distributed.

III. Report of the Task Force on Testing
Dr. Lynn Harrill reported on behalf of the Task Force on Testing organized by the State Department of Education (SDE) and the EOC. Dr. Harrill introduced the Task Force subcommittee chairpersons, Dr. Debbie Hamm, Dr. Judy Newman, and Dr. Jim Ray. He then introduced Ray Fleming, a citizen member of the Task Force.

Mr. Fleming addressed the EOC, outlining his interests in the improvement in South Carolina's schools and participation on the task force. He explained how he worked with teachers in four schools to ensure that their concerns were represented in the discussion and his endorsement of the recommendations.

Dr. Harrell discussed the work of the task force and explained each of the task force recommendations.

Members asked questions of Dr. Harrill and other Task Force representatives. Questions addressed (1) the recommendation to sample students within grade levels in science and social studies and if there would be sufficient information to address student needs; (2) the use of the term "computer-adaptive" and "MAP;" (3) the HSAP exemption; (4) the differentiated assessment model; and (5) the utility of formative assessments.

Superintendent Tenenbaum addressed the EOC and the leadership of the Task Force. She expressed her appreciation for the work and concurrence with the sentiments of the recommendations. She indicated that the SDE requires time to examine the recommendations to determine the time and resources needed for implementation. She indicated that some statutory changes would be required and that some aspects would require review by the US Department of Education. She indicated the SDE would provide a written response. Among those areas of particular importance she indicated the following:

- Agreement with the maintenance of the state developed or state adapted assessments
- Agreement with the implementation of formative assessments
- Agreement with the long-term shift to computerized testing

- Agreement to provide more information on the standards and assessments
- Information on SDE work to improve classroom assessments and agreement with the need to continue
- Agreement with the curriculum experts meeting annually.
- Agreement with the elimination of PACT-grades one and two
- Examination of the elimination of constructed response items

The EOC members discussed appropriate actions. Senator Fair moved that the report be forwarded to the General Assembly without comment. After discussion he withdrew his motion. Members discussed areas of legislative action, areas for further discussion, the degree to which teacher concerns were met, and the need for the SDE to develop implementation time lines and costs.

Mr. Walker asked that reference to a specific commercial test be removed from page three of the report and that the sentence following be deleted as well since it seemed to limit formative assessments to computer adaptive. There is not an intent to preclude criterion-referenced.

The EOC approved the report and asked that it be forwarded to the General Assembly with a notation that the SDE required time for review and comment and that the EOC would continue to study the assessment issues.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Hall reported on behalf of the subcommittee. The subcommittee, and subsequently the EOC approved the following:

1. Approval of changes to the high school ratings to incorporate the following:

Recommendation 1, Part A. Do not change the current high school rating criteria in 2005-2006. Keep the LIFE Scholarship criterion at 20% and do not use the End of Course results as one of the criteria for rating high schools in 2005-2006. However, begin using End of Course test results for high school ratings in lieu of LIFE Scholarship eligibility criteria in 2006-2007. It is the intention of the Committee that the End of Course test results used for the high school ratings beginning in 2006-2007 should include the results from all students enrolled in the high school who take an End of Course test(s) during the school year on which the rating is based. In addition, the End of Course test results for students attending grade 9 for the first time (or grade 10 in a high school having a grades 10-12 organization) who took the End of Course test(s) in middle school (grades 7-8) or junior high school (grade 9) should be included in the calculation of the high school rating for the high school.

Recommendation 1, Part B. Report the End of Course test results on the high school and district report cards beginning in 2005-2006. End of Course test results should be reported as the percentage of students scoring 70 or above by subject or by across subjects and reported on the report cards, to be determined in consultation with the State Department of Education.

Recommendation 1, Part C. Revise the school district rating by adding End of Course test results as an additional criterion in 2005-2006. Simulations of the data will need to

be run to determine how the End of Course test results will be included in the district rating calculations.

Members asked that the high school graduation rate continue to be a source of study and for understanding why the percentage of schools rated Good or Excellent is so high in comparison to the graduation rate.

2. The EOC approved the Subcommittee recommendation to delay changes to the primary school rating, but to convene an advisory group to examine the performance of the current criteria and determine criteria that can discriminate more readily among schools.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the subcommittee. Mr. Daniel outlined the reports on the Teacher Specialist on Site Program, the Retraining Grant Program and a comparison of the EOC-recommended budget with the Governor's recommendations.

C. Parent and Community Involvement: Mr. Hall reported on behalf of the subcommittee. The subcommittee had heard from the parent and family literacy program coordinators and was provided detail on the joint planning process that the EOC had supported.

D. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the subcommittee. PAIRS is to be launched on February 15. Members are asked to identify a minimum of five programs in their area to be approached as affiliates.

E. Administration: Mr. Staton reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He drew members' attention to *Common Ground* and indicated that the concept paper has been presented to a number of individuals and groups. Plans for the event are continuing. He also drew members' attention to the draft Annual Report that is to be published on March 1.

V. Special Report: Teacher Working Conditions
Dr. Janice Poda, Deputy Superintendent, SDE and Ms. Ann Byrd, Executive Director, CERRA reported on the survey of teacher working conditions. The survey, administered in the fall, received responses from 15,000 teachers and elicited their opinions about working conditions and compared responses to performance. The three principal findings are the following:

- Teachers working conditions are significant predictors of student achievement and teacher retention
- Teachers are generally satisfied with their working conditions. . .although they are least satisfied with what they argue is most important to student learning
- Teachers, regardless of their background and experience, view working conditions similarly.

Dr. Poda and Ms. Byrd outlined tools that are available to administrators to enhance their understanding of the survey results and to improve teacher working conditions.

Adjournment: At 4:00 p.m. the EOC adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
April 11, 2005

Members present: Robert Staton, Alex Martin, Traci Young Cooper, Dennis Drew, Senator Mike Fair, Wallace Hall, Susan Marlowe, Representative Joe Neal, Neil Robinson, Harold Stowe, Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum, Representative Robert Walker, Judy Williams, Larry Wilson

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

II. Approval of the Minutes The minutes of February 14, 2005, were approved as distributed.

III. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the subcommittee. Three clarifying amendments to the high school ratings calculation were adopted in the form distributed with the meeting materials.

Mr. Wilson informed the EOC of several studies the staff is undertaking including the five-year match, a study of stability within the advanced score range and its impact on the ratings calculation and studies of persistent performance at the same level (i.e., students scoring Below Basic for multiple years and schools rated at the same level for multiple years).

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Mr. Staton asked Mr. Stowe to report for the EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee. Mr. Stowe outlined the Senate Finance Committee (SFC) actions on the state budget, noting that there were only minor changes to the House-passed budget. The Education Finance Act (EFA) base student cost is funded at \$2,290 with the SFC restoring the local effort requirement. Programs in the Education Improvement Act (EIA) were funded at the same level as passed by the House; many Education Accountability Act (EAA) programs were funded from the EIA revenues, rather than the lottery revenues. All but one EOC recommended proviso was adopted.

Superintendent Tenenbaum indicated that the State Department of Education (SDE) is requesting an amendment to the proviso focusing on the alternative technical assistance and asked for EOC support. A school district has contacted the Superintendent indicating that \$300,000 is insufficient to support the Teacher Advancement Program (TAP). There were a number of questions, particularly about the impact of eliminating a cap on the funding level. No action was taken.

Mr. Stowe provided information on the request for proposals for a study of extended learning time.

C. Parental and Community Involvement Mr. Hall reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He outlined the subcommittee discussion of the parental survey administered each spring. He noted that the Subcommittee is interested in the response rate, ways to increase the rate and differences among school levels. He raised concerns about the level of satisfaction with home and school relations and the ways in which the SDE would incorporate the findings into the training it provides.

D. Public Awareness Mr. Martin asked Mr. Stowe to provide the PAIRS update. Mr. Stowe outlined the launch held in February and the initial efforts to identify affiliates and provide resources. The Advisory Board and staff are working toward a number of partnerships in support of the PAIRS mission. Mr. Martin noted the continued support of the publishers and EOC appreciation for that.

E. Administration Dr. Anderson provided an update on the *Common Ground* process.

Superintendent Tenenbaum distributed materials and asked Dr. Siskind to inform the EOC of SDE actions with regard to the Testing Task Force recommendations. Dr. Siskind reviewed those, dividing the recommendations among four categories: ongoing changes; changes requiring legislative action; changes contingent upon funding; and changes requiring further psychometric study.

Members raised questions about the savings projected and the reallocation of funds toward changes. Questions were raised about actions that should be taking place across several years. Mr. Wilson expressed his concerns about the use of sampling within the science and social studies assessments. Mr. Walker questioned SDE support for the recommendations and the need for information that outlines the implementation or indicates why the recommendation could not be implemented.

IV. Report on Technical Assistance Dr. Suber, SDE, introduced representatives of two schools: Karen Bryant from Fairfield Primary and Kenneth Mance from Scotts Branch High School.

Ms. Bryant outlined the process of involving curriculum and teacher specialists in the ongoing improvement of instructional programs and the importance of sustained assistance over time. She was asked about the involvement of parents, efforts to continue the instructional practices after the technical assistance personnel left the school. Mr. Wilson indicated his support for multi-year technical assistance to ensure that a “roller coaster” did not occur in either student performance or school ratings.

Mr. Mance introduced the technical assistance team at Scott’s Branch High School. These included Doris Baskett, Alice Brewington, Bonnie Disney and Paulette Hipps. He detailed the school’s performance before technical assistance, the strategies introduced (both academic and motivational) and the results evidence in student performance. Members raised questions about morale, student motivation and community expectations.

Mr. Staton thanked the presenters and Dr. Suber for their work and for the presentation.

The EOC, upon the motion of Mr. Martin, went into Executive Session.

The EOC returned to open session.

Mr. Martin moved and the EOC concurred that the contract with Chernoff Newman and Associates be extended for another year.

The EOC adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting Monday, June 13, 2005

Members Present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mr. Daniel, Senator Fair, Senator Hayes, Representative Neal, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Stowe, Superintendent Tenenbaum, Representative Walker, Mr. Wilson

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He explained the order of activities, beginning with the recognition of elementary and middle schools for progress toward closing the achievement gap.
- II. **Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of the April 11 meeting were approved as distributed.
- III. **Special Report:**
 - A. Recognition of Schools: Mr. Staton expressed respect and admiration for the schools recognized in the achievement gap study. He then presented certificates to each of the principals present.
 - B. Analysis of the Data: Mr. Potter reviewed the report with the members of the EOC and their guests. The study outlines the urgency of closing the gap, the actions taken at the policy and practice levels to support high achievement for all students and the standard of performance met by target groups in the recognized schools.
 - C. Remarks from Principals:
 - (1) Mrs. Peggie Grant, Principal of Brown's Ferry Elementary School in Georgetown County, addressed the EOC and guests. She outlined very deliberate and relentless actions to establish partnerships with parents and the community. She detailed the use of school and non-school time in support of high achievement and the challenges before her school. Members asked a number of questions regarding those partnerships.
 - (2) Dr. Lee Rawl, Principal at Belton-Honea Path Elementary School in Anderson County School District Two, addressed the EOC and guests. He organized his school's approach into seven components: quality teachers and staff; an atmosphere that supports risk-taking and protects teachers from non-teaching tasks; an atmosphere supportive of parental and community involvement; an atmosphere that respects *students right to learn, teachers right to teach and does not allow anyone to interfere with these rights*; effective use of time on task; a progressive educational philosophy that emphasizes success on the content standards and Dewey's focus on the whole child; and a culture of caring.
- IV. **Subcommittee Reports**
 - A. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. (1) He outlined changes to the district ratings calculation that incorporate the end-of-course assessments and weight four-year graduation higher. The changes were approved as presented. (2) Mr. Wilson then reported a subcommittee recommendation to revert to the previous methodology for primary schools since the use of ECERS has been excluded. An advisory group on primary school ratings is to be convened in

the fall to explore other criteria that may be linked more readily to academic performance. The recommendation was adopted.

(3) Mr. Wilson then informed the EOC of the status of the review process on the science standards and that the EOC should anticipate final recommendations in October. Senator Fair raised a number of questions regarding comments on the standards incorporating the teaching of evolution.

Superintendent Tenenbaum distributed two articles in which the rigor of South Carolina's performance standards is discussed. She expressed concerns that the implementation regulations and/or guidelines for No Child Left Behind now preclude the use of off-level tests for students with disabilities. She asked the EOC to review the practice of lowering ratings for schools rated Excellent or Good that do not meet the AYP objective for all students. She is concerned that schools are penalized by the federal requirements regarding students with disabilities or those with limited English proficiency.

Senator Hayes suggested that the EOC consider writing the congressional delegation to express the continuing concerns regarding comparisons among states whose standards differ significantly in rigor.

Mr. Wilson emphasized that the EOC is requiring evidence of student transfer in the calculation of the graduation rate. The presumption of enrollment in another program skews our understanding and may lead to ineffectual actions.

- B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He provided information on four items: (1) The Fiscal Year 2006 budget provides over \$400 million new dollars for public education, primarily through full funding of the Education Finance Act and rising revenues in the Education Improvement Act revenues. Almost all of EOC recommendations were adopted; (2) The contract for the review of the external review team has been established with Hezel and Associates; (3) The annual report on the use of budgetary flexibility was reviewed; and (4) The first report of the review of the gifted and talented program was presented. This report raised questions and concerns about the availability of endorsement-training for teachers, the inclusion of minorities, access to arts programs and the performance of students in the program.
- C. **Parental and Community Involvement:** There was no report.
- D. **Public Awareness:** Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He outlined the PAIRS partnerships and the public announcement on Thursday, June 16 of the Allen partnership.
- E. **Administration:** Dr. Anderson reminded members of the August meeting to be held at Coastal Carolina University, drew their attention to a memorandum at their seats on legislative changes in EOC activities and to an update on the Common Ground planning process.

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
August 8-9, 2005

Monday, August 8

Members present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Rep. Cotty, Mr. Drew, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Stowe, Rep. Walker, Senator Fair, Senator Hayes, and Mrs. Williams

Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Staton called the meeting to order and introduced Dr. Ron Ingle, President of Coastal Carolina University. Dr. Ingle welcomed members and guests to the campus and outlined the University's vision for the future with particular emphasis on the University's responsibility to students and educators working in schools along the I-95 corridor.

Mr. Staton introduced Dr. Gil Hunt, Dean of the Spadoni College of Education at Coastal Carolina.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the June 13 meeting were approved as distributed.

Middle Grades Profile: Dr. Horne presented the profile of students in the middle grades, outlining issues documented in the draft materials distributed to members prior to the meeting. He focused on changes in student's physical, social and emotional development and how these manifest themselves in the contexts of home, peer and school relationships. He provided information on the organization of schools and school performance for middle schools.

Members questioned Dr. Horne about the nature of the achievement gaps in other states, the pupil-teacher ratios, teacher preparation and placement and instructional methods.

Dr. Horne introduced Dr. William Sullivan, Richland County School District Two and Dr. Baron Holmes, S. C. Budget and Control Board. Dr. Sullivan discussed the growing disconnect between the culture of schools and students, particularly those students in high poverty settings. He attributed differences to economic status of students. He explained the need for psychological, as well as physical, safety so that the students can explore, engage in challenging activities and continue their development. He is concerned that too many students are not engaged with their families, with their peers or with their schools. These are the students that we seem to lose in the system.

Dr. Holmes expressed concerns that schools are not changing the ways in which students are taught, confirming Dr. Sullivan's comments about engagement. He reviewed the data and progress through the Carnegie Middle Grades project and recommended an instructional revolution.

Members questioned the two speakers about strategies and solutions. Dr. Holmes suggested that we need to address teacher compensation, create a Peace Corps-type cadre of educators to work in the most challenging settings. Dr. Sullivan indicated that we need to find ways to deepen relationships between students and teachers around interesting content.

High School Interviews: Mr. Staton introduced Dr. Frank Brown, *MarketSearch*. Dr. Brown had conducted a series of interviews with at-risk students, high school dropouts, and adult education students to understand why the reasons that traditional school programs failed them. The interviews were quite revealing and summary documents were included in meeting materials.

Interestingly, students are interested in completing their schooling and acknowledged their responsibility for the gap between aspiration and completion.

High School Redesign Commission: Ms. Cindy McIntee (SERVE) and Dr. Nancy Sargent (SDE) presented materials on the purpose, membership and work of the High School Redesign Commission. The Commission, established by Superintendent Tenenbaum, is focusing on structural and programmatic changes to address concerns with rigor and relevance of the curriculum and relationships between students and caring adults. The Commission is to report at the end of the calendar year.

Tuesday, August 9

Members present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Rep. Cotty, Mr. Drew, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Stowe, Rep. Walker, Senator Fair, Senator Hayes, and Mrs. Williams

Personnel Matter: The EOC convened and entered Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

The EOC returned from Executive Session. Mr. Martin moved that Dr. Anderson's salary be increased by 4 percent, the increase made for all state employees. The motion passed.

Science Standards: Senator Fair outlined concerns with the high school biology standards and his intent to address the State Board of Education. He indicated that his interest is not to impose a belief system but to ensure that the controversy over evolution and intelligent design is addressed in a fair manner. The EOC is to consider approval of the standards at its October meeting.

Five Year Longitudinal Data: Mr. Potter reviewed the five-year matched student data of students tested in grade 3 in 2000 through [expected] grade 7 in 2004. The presentation explored issues of mobility, retention, and performance. Members are interested in these as well as the identification of districts and/or schools who are maintaining high performance. As in the discussions regarding middle and high school performance, members raised questions about teacher pre- and in-service.

EOC Mission:

Members discussed the following questions:

- Is the EOC fulfilling its mission?
- What are the EOC's responsibilities to the system?
- What are member responsibilities to the EOC mission?
- How does the EOC relate to other public bodies?
- What are the implications of the mission in the current environment?

Objectives for 2005-2006:

EOC members identified a number of objectives for 2005-2006 and asked the staff to craft language and propose priorities. The objectives are to be reviewed for action at the October 2005 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 .p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
October 10, 2005

Members present: Mr. Robert Staton, Mr. Alex Martin, Mrs. Traci Young Cooper, Rep. Bill Cotty, Mr. Robert Daniel, Mr. Dennis Drew, Senator Mike Fair, Mr. Wallace Hall, Senator Robert W. Hayes, Mrs. Karen Iacovelli, Mrs. Susan Marlowe, Mr. Neil Robinson, Mr. Harold Stowe, Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum, Rev. Judy Williams, and Senator Kent Williams

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- II. **Minutes of August 8-9:** The minutes of the August 8-9 meeting were approved as distributed.
- III. **Subcommittee Reports**
 - A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Staton reported on behalf of the subcommittee. The subcommittee recommended approval of the science content standards (as approved on first reading by the State Board of Education [SBE]); however, Mr. Staton drew members' attention to a revision to the biology standards proposed by Superintendent Tenenbaum (copies of the proposed wording had been faxed to members prior to the meeting). Members discussed the appropriateness of a variety of EOC actions including adopting the subcommittee recommendation and sending a request to the SBE to consider Superintendent Tenenbaum's proposal. Members also discussed the impact of delaying approval until the proposed wording changed had been addressed by the SBE. There was discussion of severing the biology standards from the other standards; that is, approving all standards except for high school biology. Senator Fair moved to adjourn debate on the standards. The motion passed.
 - B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He provided information on three pending evaluative studies: the contract for the extended learning time study; the strategy for the evaluation of the alternative technical assistance program and the second (academic progress) phase of the gifted and talented program evaluation. He detailed the findings of the annual study of the teacher loan program. Members asked several questions about the teacher loan program including its primary agency for policy and the increases in funding for the fiscal year 2006.
 - C. Parental and Community Involvement: There was no report.
 - D. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He outlined the communications plan provided to members in the meeting packet. Upon his motion, the plan was approved. He reminded members that approval had implied a commitment to participate in the county meetings. Mr. Martin also reminded members of the PAIRS summit to be held on Saturday, October 15.

IV. 2005-2006 Objectives: Mr. Staton asked for approval of the 2005-2006 objectives as distributed in the meeting packet. The objectives were approved.

V. Special Report: Five Year Matched Student Data: Mr. Potter provided information on the matched data set. The EOC staff has matched student records across five years beginning with 2000 and extending through 2004. The matched data set may be unique among states and we should be cautious in interpreting the findings. Generally, Mr. Potter emphasized stronger performance over time in mathematics than English language arts, the poor latter grade performance of students who had been retained and gaps that emerge in comparisons of pay and free/reduced lunch program participants and between white and African American students. The EOC then heard from four discussants:

- a) Mrs. Cindy Saylor, Deputy Superintendent of Education - Mrs. Saylor discussed the data and how it can be used to direct future actions. She reminded members about the change in the content standards over time through the cyclical review processes (new math in 2000 and new English language arts in 2002) as well as the rigor of the standards. She noted the progress in moving students initially scoring Below Basic to higher performance levels. Of particular interest is the SDE work with curriculum calibration. The state summary reports indicate a dramatic slip in classroom student work to levels below grade level (in mathematics from 93 percent on grade level in grade 1 to 41 percent on grade level in grade 8 and in English language arts from 95 percent on grade level in grade 1 to 55 percent on grade level in grade eight). She recommended increasing support for teachers, continued improvements in communicating the content standards and reviewing and analyzing critically student work and teacher assignments.
- b) Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, Superintendent, Horry County Schools - Dr. Postlewait provided information on the structured approach employed in Horry County Schools beginning with the belief systems and translating those beliefs into a system of data-driven performance. A copy of the PowerPoint was made available to members. She addressed areas in which the state could help the school district meet the challenge of high achievement for all including ten actions (1) Limit and clarify the standards; (2) Develop writing rubrics that are much more specific; (3) Train teachers to score student work in all areas; (4) Teach and test grammar usage; (5) Revise the middle school curriculum –using the Advanced Placement curriculum as the target; (6) Design eighth and tenth grade assessments to provide information linked to the technical college entrance requirements; (7) Research and develop materials, methods, and funding that are most effective with students from poverty and with gifted students; (8) Revise the testing program; (9) Award course credit for proficiency not time; and (10) Center accountability around academic growth not status.
- c) Dr. Edgar Taylor, Superintendent, Laurens School District 55 - Dr. Taylor presented materials and information regarding the approach in his district with particular attention to the Montessori approach and the deeply embedded balanced literacy model. He detailed district commitments to quality early childhood programs and to writing across the curriculum.

- d) Dr. William Brown, Brown Star Consulting - Dr. Brown discussed the data from a technical perspective. He outlined the changes in performance noting minimal improvements in mathematics and no improvements in English language arts. He indicated that the processes for setting performance standards and initial results supported the quality of the standard-setting process. He reminded us that we are chasing a moving target—not only are students asked to master the next grade but to perform at higher levels. Dr. Brown discussed changes in the curriculum, student physiological changes, increases in outside distractions and peer group influences. He recommends examinations of instruction—Is there alignment among the written, taught and tested curriculum? Are students able to apply what they have learned in the testing environment? How has instruction changed? Is the education system (policies, process, and approach) aligned with the expectations we hold for our students?

Members asked a number of questions of discussants and complimented each on their work.

- VI. General Discussion:** Mr. Staton reminded members that his term as chairman expired in December. He has asked Mr. Stowe to coordinate the nomination for a new chairman.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
December 12, 2005

Members present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Rep. Cotty, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Drew, Sen. Fair, Mr. Hall, Sen. Hayes, Mrs. Iacovelli, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Stowe, Supt. Tenenbaum, Rep. Walker, Mrs. Williams, Sen. Williams

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the October 10 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. Special Presentation

Craig Melvin, News Anchor for WIS-TV in Columbia, introduced a series of new stories detailing a *school swap* by two students. A student from Richland Northeast High School and a student from Estill High School swapped places for four days. The news stories showcased differences in technology resources, community capacity, student diversity, and student motivation. Members asked a number of questions about the students' experiences and the impact of the stories. Mr. Melvin asked members questions about how they exercised their responsibilities and if they were surprised at the differences between the two schools.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Staton indicated that the approval of the revised science content standards was in the status of adjourned debate. Mr. Daniel moved and the EOC approved reopening the debate on the science content standards. Mr. Robinson moved approval of the standards as submitted by the State Department of Education. The motion was seconded. Senator Fair called members' attention to an email he had sent outlining concerns with four indicators under the high school biology course standard 5. He expressed continuing concerns with indicators B5.2, B5.4, B5.5 and B5.7 and asked the staff to convene a fair and balanced panel to review the indicators and report to the EOC in February. Superintendent Tenenbaum emphasized the details of the cyclical review process and the attempts the SDE had made to resolve the differences between Senator Fair's proposal and the standards as proposed.

Senator Fair requested that the motion to approve be amended to approve all of the content standards with the exception of the four indicators. The motion was seconded. Rep. Cotty moved to table the motion. The tabling motion failed to pass.

Senator Fair explained that he was seeking advice and would abide by that advice. Mr. Robinson indicated that the push for more analysis was a reasonable approach.

Mr. Drew called for the question. The motion to amend the main motion by approving the kindergarten through grade twelve science content standards with the exception of the four indicators within one high school biology standards (i.e., B5.2.

B5.4. B5.5 and B5.7) and seeking advice on those four indicators passed. The EOC then voted on the main motion. The motion passed.

Rep. Walker then moved that the four indicators be referred back to the Academic Standards Subcommittee; the motion was seconded and approved. Mr. Walker asked that the advisory meeting be held as soon as possible.

Supt. Tenenbaum stated that she did not vote because, as an ex officio member, she does not vote on the EOC matters.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee: Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee.

1. Preliminary Report on the External Review Team Evaluation: Dr. Paula Szula Dominguez and Dr. Craig Nichols presented preliminary findings from the review of the external review. The report was very favorable, indicating that SC's process builds upon the strongest practices nationally. The full report is to be available in January 2006.
2. 2004-2005 Retraining Grant Assistance Program: Mr. Daniel drew members' attention to the report included in meeting materials. Within the report is documentation on the use of retraining grant funds by schools and the persistent challenges of teacher and administrator turnover.
3. Update on Funding Model: Mr. Daniel reviewed the 2003 funding model and outlined changes which had incorporated the physical education legislation, the Education and Economic Development Act, southeastern average salaries and a 28 percent fringe benefits factor.
4. FY2007 Budget Recommendations: Mr. Daniel presented the EIA & Improvement Mechanisms proposals for EIA and EAA funding. The proposals were adopted as presented.

C. Parental and Community Involvement: Mr. Hall indicated there was no report.

D. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin indicated there was no report.

V. Special Policy and /or Legislative Issues

1. Update on Testing Task Force Recommendations: Dr. Anderson provided members with information and a copy of the draft legislation to implement the recommendations of the Testing task Force.
2. Update on Property Tax Initiatives: Dr. Anderson provided members with information on the two ad hoc committees examining property tax policies.
3. 2006 Legislative Session: A list of pending legislation was distributed to members.
4. Request for Endorsement of the EEDA: Mr. Staton outlined the request for endorsement. Members determined that they would like to have an update before the EOC acted to endorse a particular act.

VI. Election of a Chairman

Mr. Staton indicated that the nomination and/or selection process had been questioned and that he was appointing a nominating committee to be chaired by Mr. Martin with Senator Hayes, Rep. Walker and Mrs. Cooper serving.

VII. General Discussion

Mrs. Iacovelli stated that she voted against the budget recommendations because of her concerns that the educational system is failing to meet its purpose and that stricter accountability and more choices are necessary rather than continued investments.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.