

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
February 14, 2011

Members present: Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Hairfield, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Senator Hayes, Mr. Martin, Dr. Merck, Rep. Neal, Rep. Owens, Mr. Stowe, Mrs. Taylor, Mr. Warner, Mr. Whittemore, Dr. Zais

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Robinson welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He introduced new EOC members: Rep. Owens, Mr. Warner, Mr. Whittemore, and Dr. Zais.
- II. Minutes of the Meeting: Upon the motion of Mr. Drew and second by Mr. Stowe, the minutes of December 13, 2010 were approved as submitted.
- III. Subcommittee Reports
 - A. Academic Standards & Assessments
Action Item: Modified Diploma Recommendations: Mr. Stowe presented on behalf of the Subcommittee. He reviewed the proposal and asked Dr. Anderson to provide background information including the costs of implementation. Mrs. Taylor spoke on behalf of the recommendations, indicating that the work has been “a long time coming.” The recommendations were adopted unanimously.
 - B. Education Improvement Act and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee
Information Item: Budget recommendations, including member survey - Mr. Drew reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He provided information on General Fund and EIA revenues as well as the status of EOC recommendations currently before the Ways and Means Subcommittee on K-12 Education and Special Schools. Senator Fair questioned the Clemson appropriation, citing tuition capacities at the colleges and universities. Members engaged in a discussion of the impact of state appropriations either directly to institutions or through scholarships. Mr. Warner pointed out that the scholarship programs had encouraged many of the best and brightest students to stay in South Carolina. Mr. Drew also reviewed the document indicating priorities among EIA programs as submitted by EOC members.
 - C. Public Awareness
Information Item: SC Literacy Champions Award
Mr. Robinson reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He introduced the winners of the 2010 Literacy Champions Award, the Community Partners in Learning Program, at the University of South Carolina. Mr. Bill Rogers, SC Press Association, presented the award. Dr. Tesha Tropp Laman, Dr. Chantelle Baker-Parnell, Dr. Karen Heid and Mr. Randall Clamp described the program for EOC members.

Information Item: Annual Report

Mr. Robinson drew members' attention to the draft annual report and asked Mrs. Yow to describe the process and respond to questions. Mrs. Yow indicated that the report is to be published on March 1. Members are asked to provide advice and amendments to Mrs. Yow.

IV. Special Reports

- A. Proposed Changes to School Funding: Mrs. Barton presented members with information on the House and Senate bills amending the Education Finance Act and utilizing work developed by the EOC. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work on these issues. Senator Fair and Senator Hayes complemented Mrs. Barton on the support she had provided to the discussions.
- B. Schools "on target" to meet the 2014 Reading Benchmark: Dr. Andrews presented an analysis of reading performance and the likelihood of schools meeting the 2014 benchmark if the current rate of progress is sustained. Data suggest that "doing the same" will not enable schools to reach the benchmark, particularly for historically low-performing groups of students. Members discussed the need to adapt practices substantially and to address the barriers to higher school achievement.

V. School and District Progress: How Change is Achieved

- A. Arcadia Elementary School, Spartanburg School District Six: Dr. Darryl Owings, Superintendent and Dr. Charles Bagwell, Principal showcased the school community, the culture of achievement and the accomplishments realized.
- B. Abbeville County Schools: Dr. Ivan Randolph Superintendent, and Mrs. Jean Smith, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, provided members with information on how a district administration inspires high levels of performance among schools.

Without further business, the EOC adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
April 11, 2011

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

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Robinson welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- II. Approval of the Minutes of February 14, 2011: The minutes of February 14, 2011 were approved as distributed.
- III. Special Remarks: Vision for SC Schools: Superintendent Zais addressed the EOC outlining his vision and priorities for SC schools. Dr. Zais emphasized the importance of students acquiring the skills, knowledge and attitudes to be successful and pointed out that our skills most often focus on knowledge, failing to address skills and attitudes. He recommends placing the student and their parents first in making decisions to improve the educational system. For the system to be successful, he recommends increasing choice among schools and programs, ensuring that each student has an excellent teacher in a school led by an excellent principal and precluding that any student is forced to attend a failing school. He suggests that the focus on funding should be aligned with the concept, "given the funding available how do we maximize student learning?" By attending to accountability, incentives and competition we can achieve the benefits he proposes. Dr. Zais affirmed the EOC focus on reading. Among other ideas he recommended:
 - Aligning the curriculum more with the world of work;
 - Changing teacher compensation from a credentials base to a performance base;
 - Structuring the system so that average people can achieve outstanding results;
 - Supporting teachers in classroom discipline; and
 - Expanding the authority of superintendents and principals to hire and fire teachers.

Mr. Warner asked Dr. Zais about changes in governance. Dr. Zais expressed concern about the pool from which board candidates are drawn. Dr. Merck asked if Dr. Zais supported TAP. Dr. Zais indicated that TAP is a partial solution. He plans on having a performance pay model ready for teacher, principal and superintendent input in the fall and, with adjustments, presentation to the General Assembly in December. Dr. Merck asked about year round education. Dr. Zais cited personal experience with a 45-15 schedule (i.e., 9 weeks of instruction, 3 weeks of intersession break) and concerns over summer learning losses. Mr. Warner asked what was the most important action the EOC could take to support Dr. Zais's vision. Dr. Zais asked the EOC to support the charter school bill before the Senate.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Stowe indicated there was no report from the subcommittee.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Drew reported on behalf of the subcommittee. (1) Information: FY12 Budget: Mr. Drew informed members of the adoption of EOC recommendations regarding allocating as many funds as possible to teacher salaries and the adoption of the reading systemic initiative proviso. He outlined other provisions adopted by the House of Representatives including increasing the base student cost, reallocating technical assistance funds and meeting the federal IDEA requirements. Dr. Merck asked about the base student cost in the House-passed bill. Senator Hayes indicated that the base student cost may be slightly different in the Senate in order to accommodate changes in the index of taxpaying ability; (2) Information: Funding Model 2010 Revision: At Mr. Drew's request Mrs. Barton explained the annual revisions to the funding model including inflationary adjustments and comparisons to current fund allocations. She drew members' attention to the increasing number of SC students who are English language learners and to cost-effectiveness studies by the Center for American Progress and the Texas Department of Public Instruction. Members asked questions about the level of funding spent on debt service (e.g., capital projects, bonds). Senator Hayes thanked Melanie Barton and the EOC staff for their work on the school finance legislation. Mr. Warner asked why if we are spending \$250,000 per classroom, we could not dedicate \$125,000 to teacher salaries as the recently showcased Equity Project school. (3) Action: Teacher Loan Report: At Mr. Drew's request Mrs. Barton reviewed the annual Teacher Loan Report documenting continued success of the program. There has been a considerable reduction in applicants generally this year (likely related to the reduction in teacher jobs) and particularly in the number of African-American graduates. Members asked about the proportion of the current teaching force who had participated in the teacher loan program. Mr. Robinson asked how the loan program opportunity is communicated to potential participants. The EOC approved the report and its recommendations.

C. Public Awareness: Mrs. Hairfield reported on behalf of the subcommittee. (1) Information: 2010 ratings: Mrs. Hairfield reviewed the discussion points (previously distributed) noting the changes related to adjustments in the ratings of 155 high schools and four districts. (2) Information: EOC Communications Plan: Mrs. Hairfield distributed a listing of activities completed as components of the EOC Public Awareness responsibilities and reviewed them for the members.

V. Key Constituency: SC Minds at Work

On behalf of the SC Chamber of Commerce, Chairman Jim Reynolds and Chernoff Newman Executive Lee Bussell presented information on the SCMinds@Work initiative. Mr. Reynolds pointed out a number of areas in which SC is highly ranked and the success of the Education and Economic Development Act (EEDA) in building SC's

workforce. They reported on national studies of SC performance and the perception of SC performance. In these studies, SC often was perceived as a low to moderate performer; however, with information those surveyed improved their perception of SC considerably. The SC Chamber of Commerce has a national campaign to provide information leading to more positive perceptions of SC.

Senator Fair commented on the success of articulation agreements and the dual credit programs promoted through the EEDA. Mr. Martin indicated that serving on the EEDA coordinating council was a highlight of the work he does. He shared a project in Greenville schools in which students are managing virtual enterprises. Mr. Drew pointed out the success of the charter schools associated with Greenville Technical College. Mr. Warner affirmed the need to celebrate progress but cautioned that we must be vigilant in how far we have to go. Senator Hayes thanked the SC Chamber of Commerce for its leadership with the EOC, the EEDA and now on the SCMinds@Work project.

VI. New Business

- A. Senator Fair asked that the EOC hear from teachers who wish adjustments in the ratings based upon the student demographic factors. Mr. Robinson indicated this might fit best in the retreat agenda;
- B. Mr. Warner asked about value added measures in teacher compensation. He also thanked Dr. Anderson for the response to his questions regarding barriers to higher achievement;
- C. Senator Hayes addressed EOC members explaining the Rule 24 decisions regarding the EOC suspension proviso. He indicated that clear communications need to be directed to the (not-yet-appointed) members of the budget conference committee.

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
June 13, 2011

Members present: Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Hairfield, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Senator Hayes, Mr. Martin, Dr. Merck, Rep. Neal, Rep. Smith, Mr. Stowe, Mr. Warner, Rep. Whitmire, and Superintendent Zais

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Robinson welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He began the meeting by thanking Dr. Anderson for her service and introducing Mrs. Denise Holland from Harvest Hope Food Bank. Mrs. Holland outlined the food and nutritional needs of families in South Carolina and Harvest Hope's response. She expressed appreciation for the donation from current EOC staff and members as well as former EOC chairmen in honor of Dr. Anderson's retirement. Mr. Robinson presented the donations and Dr. Anderson expressed her appreciation to the EOC members and reminded everyone of the work ahead to ensure that all of South Carolina's young people have the education to ensure their right of self-determination.
- II. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes were approved as distributed.
- III. Subcommittee Reports
 - A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Stowe reported on behalf of the subcommittee. Recommendation to approve the social studies academic content standards: The subcommittee recommended approval. Senator Fair seconded the motion and then requested discussion of the end-of-course tests scores prior to action on the standards. Mr. Stowe asked Dr. Andrews to summarize the report on end-of-course test scores, with particular attention to the scores on the US History. Members discussed the revisions to the standards, asking if the amount of content to be taught had actually been reduced. Questions were raised about teacher-developed and delivered curriculum, the cognitive demand of the standards. Ms. Bosket responded on behalf of the SC Department of Education with examples of how the content had been reduced. She was asked to provide a "side-by-side" of the old and new standards. She also indicated that there would be revisions to the end-of-course test in US History to align with the new content standards. Senator Fair asked if the standards for the US History course should be returned for additional work. Mr. Drew indicated that we would never have perfect standards and called the question. Rep. Neal seconded the call. The EOC members voted in favor of calling the question (one negative vote). Mr. Robinson then stated the motion to approve the content standards was before the EOC. The EOC approved the standards unanimously.
 - (B) EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee: Mr. Drew reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He asked Mrs. Barton to present the information.
 - (1) Status of FY12 Budget: Mrs. Barton informed members that the General Appropriation bill is before the conference committee. With increased revenues and deliberate actions each body had increased revenues for schools. The reading initiative is in both the House and Senate versions of the bill as are increased funds for charter schools and EFA dollars to students with disabilities. The versions differ on the use of new revenues for schools or unemployment tax reductions, the utilization of the EFA structure or straight weighted pupil unit allocations, study of the Common Core, the allocation of lottery funds and technical assistance. The versions also differ on placement of the EOC.

- (2) Analysis of the Parent Surveys: Mrs. Barton reviewed the findings of the 2010 parent surveys noting generally the positive correlation between parent surveys and school ratings. She outlined areas of concern, including response rates generally, parent knowledge of student behavior and treatment and the reception (by the school) of ideas and suggestions from parents.
 - (3) CDEPP Evaluation: Dr. Bill Brown, USC, outlined the work following CDEPP participants through the third grade. Using a probability sample, the USC team has been able to follow a group of students from four years through grade three (the current placement of the first cohort). The team is constructing two comparison groups: students in other publicly-funded pre-school programs and students with no pre-school experiences. The first report of the follow-up study should be available this fall.
- (C) Public Awareness Subcommittee: Mrs. Hairfield reported on behalf of the subcommittee. She noted that the Director of Communications position had been advertised and applications were to be accepted through June 14. She also indicated that the Family Friendly standards had been revised and posted on the EOC website. The 2011-2012 Accountability Manual is at the printer's for publication and delivery to schools. It is to be posted on the website as well. Finally she outlined the opportunity for the EOC to participate in the *SCMinds@Work* partnership, using private funds.
- IV. General Business: Mr. Robinson announced the appointment of Mrs. Melanie Barton as Interim Executive Director. He expressed appreciation for her leadership and the Committee's anticipation of good things to come.
- V. New Business:
- (1) Race to the Top: Mr. Robinson indicated that he had been contacted by several individuals regarding South Carolina's decision not to compete in this round of Race to the Top grants. He drew members' attention to an article distributed at their desks. Superintendent Zais distributed an opinion piece he had published in three major newspapers in South Carolina. Essentially, South Carolina would be eligible only for \$10-20 million apportioned across 4 years. The funds would be limited to a "scaled-back" version of programs initially proposed in the Race to the Top application submitted by Dr. Rex. Those funds would amount to about \$1.25 per pupil per year. Dr. Zais indicated that the state's resources would be better focused on the tasks of greatest priority. Rep. Neal asked if the Supt. was recommending freeing schools of all federal requirements. Supt. Zais indicated that he was not advocating that; however, he wanted to create circumstances in which there were fewer directives and greater local control.
 - (2) Leadership: Mr. Warner raised the issues of test-based accountability and asked if there were ways in which we could examine the impact of governance and leadership. Senator Hayes asked about the 'closing the gap' schools and their leaders. The Superintendent affirmed his belief in the quality of leadership as the critical factor. A number of members asked questions or commented on the leadership training available and if that training had an impact. Superintendent Zais suggested that the SCDE should present information on the leadership training the agency provides. Rep. Neal asked for structural recommendations and suggested that the EOC should sponsor a leadership academy focusing on the specific skills needed to lead in a school. Mr. Drew discussed the differences in the qualities of leaders versus the certification requirements. Rep. Neal asked that the focus also address working in high poverty circumstances.
- VI. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
August 8, 2011

Members present: Mr. Robinson, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Senator Hayes, Mr. Martin, Mr. Merck, Rep. Smith, Mrs. Taylor, Mr. Warner, Rep. Whitmire, and Mr. Whittemore

Invited Guests: Ms. Bosket, Mrs. Cauthen, Mrs. Marini, Mr. Bounds, Dr. Knight, Dr. Booker, Dr. Padilla, Dr. Allan, Dr. Klar, and Dr. Watson

EOC Staff: Dr. Andrews, Mrs. Barton, Ms. King and Ms. Graham

I. Welcome and Introductions:

Mr. Robinson welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He asked public attendees to introduce themselves. Mr. Robinson reminded the EOC that the objectives of the retreat are to continue efforts to improve reading proficiency of all students in South Carolina and to gather information and expertise to improve the number of effective instructional leaders in our districts and schools.

Mr. Robinson asked for approval of the minutes of June 13. Mr. Drew made a motion to approve the minutes as distributed; Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Mr. Robinson recognized Mrs. Barton who provided the members with information on her background and experience. She then informed the members of the information contained in the retreat packet.

II. Reporting Facts and Measuring Change

Information: Report on PASS Reading, 2009 and 2010

Dr. Andrews discussed the results of a study that compared the PASS reading and Research of students who took the PASS Reading and Research test as third graders in 2009 and as fourth graders in 2010. For the matched sample of 51,773 students, changes in student performance were determined based on the PASS levels of student achievement -- Exemplary 2, Exemplary 1, Met, Not Met 2 and Not Met 1. The results showed that the mean difference between students' 2009 performance and 2010 performance for the matched sample was a decline of 0.24. Furthermore, while 51.1 percent of students had no change in their performance, 16.0 percent of students increased their performance by one or two levels while 32.1 percent declined by one or two levels.

Student achievement changes were *disaggregated* by several factors: (1) by students identified as gifted and talented; (2) by students with non-speech disabilities; (3) by the socioeconomic status of students as measured by the federal school lunch program; (4) by racial/ethnic identity of students; (5) by the mobility of students between schools in the same district and across districts; (6) by the absolute rating of the school that the students attended; and (7) by the improvement rating of the school attended by the child. The disaggregated results showed that similar declines in student performance occurred across all levels. The largest decline occurred with non-speech disabled students who had a -0.33 decline in performance.

Mr. Warner wanted to know if ethnicity or poverty had a greater statistical impact on student achievement. Mrs. Taylor reiterated her concern with the achievement of disabled students.

Ms. Bosket concurred with Mr. Warner about the importance of creating cultures of innovation to promote the spread of best practices and innovation in schools.

Information: Report on District and School Leadership

Mrs. Barton summarized national and regional initiatives aimed at increasing the number of instructional leaders in public schools. She discussed the work of The Wallace Foundation and its support of efforts by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) in the states of Alabama and Tennessee. She also discussed the work of the Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement at the University of Georgia, the Broad Superintendents Academy, and the Virginia School Turnaround Specialist Program at the University of Virginia. The common themes were: (1) a transition from the role of the superintendent or principal from one of administrative leader to instructional leader; (2) the importance of higher education in such reform efforts; and (3) the role of public and private financial support for such initiatives.

Members discussed the importance of strong leaders and the need to cultivate environments of innovation. Mr. Warner reiterated his concern that there are governance issues that impede or restrain leaders from cultivating environments of innovation.

III. Promoting Progress

Current Programs provided by the South Carolina Department of Education

Mr. Mark Bounds, Deputy Superintendent of the Division of School Effectiveness at the South Carolina State Department of Education described the eight programs and initiatives underway to provide support, mentoring and professional development to principals in South Carolina – the Foundations in School Leadership program; the Assistant Principal Program for Leadership Excellence; the Developing Aspiring Principals Program; the Principal Induction Program/Principal Assessment Program; the School Leadership Executive Institute; the Institute for District Administrators; and the Tapping Executive Educators Program. Since Fiscal Year 2000-02, these programs have served 2,879 individuals. He described the model as being based upon the model used in the military, a continuum of services based upon levels of achievement and training.

The new leadership initiatives underway at the agency are: alternative principal certification; tiered principal certification; and the Program for Assisting, Developing and Evaluating Principal Performance (PADEPP). Mr. Bounds noted that the Department is still concerned with the distribution of educators in rural school districts and the need to relieve principals of non-instructional duties. The agency is also looking at initiatives to assist leaders in non-traditional settings including charter schools and Montessori schools. Currently the agency is looking at the development of a transformation leaders academy and implementation of an alternative certification program. Next year the agency will develop the SAMS Program that will train individuals in school administrative functions. Individuals who complete the SAMS program will then be able to be hired by principals to be responsible for many of the non-instructional responsibilities of a principal.

The members asked about the number of employees in the office who provide the services. Currently there are four individuals with plans to hire two additional staff. Mr. Bounds did say that this office meets three or four times annually with institutions of higher education.

Mr. Warner noted how one community in North Carolina merged the mission of the school with a mission to revitalize the community by creating a farmer's market. Framing the mission of the school helped engage the community as well as provide hands-on learning opportunities for students.

The EOC recessed for lunch at noon.

Discussion with Two Superintendents

Dr. Rainey Knight, superintendent of the Darlington County School District and Dr. Russell Booker, superintendent of the Spartanburg 7 School District shared their insight into leading two very different districts. They noted their challenges and successes.

Dr. Knight noted that she hired the best teachers she could find for the classroom and principals who used good judgment. Student performance was the focus of all decisions made. Her very stable and patient board of trustees also was supportive of her instructional changes. Dr. Knight noted that “there are no excuses;” she is in the business of teaching children. She meets four times per year with principals. Accountability is a key component.

Dr. Booker commented that he is leading his district through a transformation. He has instituted a system whereby parents have choice in several programs including Montessori, International Baccalaureate (IB), arts-infused, and STEM schools. He has led efforts to close two schools in two years. He pursued and obtained grant funding to open an early learning center providing services from birth to age 5. The district hopes to get NAEYC accreditation. He also led the effort to institute a 9th grade academy this year to improve the district’s graduation rate.

Mr. Robinson asked if there were any governance issues restricting the performance of their districts. Dr. Booker commented that he is concerned that there is no longer a dialogue with the South Carolina Department of Education. Dr. Knight gave examples of decisions made by the agency that directly impact schools and their budgets but which were made without input from the superintendents.

Mr. Warner asked what type of accountability structures would better hold schools accountable. Dr. Booker recommended a system focused on growth. Dr. Knight agreed but noted that such a system should be aligned to the report card.

When asked if there was one thing that they would change about public education, both said that they would change the perception of public education. Dr. Booker shared with the EOC a document that the superintendents had drafted as a guide for public education. Both noted that they appreciated the efforts of the State Chamber in its SC Minds at Work campaign.

Discussion with Institutions of Higher Learning

From Clemson University Dr. Mike Padilla, Director of the Eugene T. Moore School of Education and Associate Dean of Educational Collaborations, and Dr. Hans Klar, assistant professor in Education Leadership began the discussion. Dr. Padilla noted that the role of higher education is changing. Universities must be responsible for education change and provide research, evaluation and expertise as needed. Higher Education also has a responsibility to school district to provide staff and curriculum development to assist schools. Dr. Padilla noted that the Clemson University is ready and able to collaborate. In addition Dr. Larry Allen, Dean of the College of Health, Education and Human Development at Clemson University reflected on the significant changes that have occurred in higher education.

Dr. Klar then presented the preliminary findings of a study, SC Successful School Principals’ Project. This project is one of other endeavors in the United States as well as in sixteen other countries. Using data files from the release of the 2009 annual school report cards, researchers at Clemson used a multiple linear regression to identify schools doing significantly better when

compared to their counterparts. The schools were above 70% poverty index. Upon identifying the schools, the researcher followed up with school visits, interviews and surveys of principals, parents, teachers, assistant principals, community liaisons and even high school students. Based on the core leadership practices, the researchers found:

- An unrelenting belief that their students could learn;
- A system of goals and rewards;
- Strong yet positive accountability of teachers and students;
- Orderly clean schools with happy students;
- Individualized professional development opportunities for teachers;
- A “no excuses” style of leadership;
- A focus on issues helped leverage change such as implementation of a single gender program;
- A culture of collaboration;
- Community involvement;
- Focus on finding the right teachers for the classroom; and
- Instructional resources aligned with standards.

Dr. Lemuel Watson, Dean of the College of Education at the University of South Carolina discussed the importance of higher education in public education. He noted that teaching, research and service provided by higher education should be provided. He noted that a P-20 initiative is needed to connect data to instruction so that all children in South Carolina achieve. He emphasized the importance of the state having an innovative, creative, data system. Dr. Watson discussed current initiatives in Illinois. Before becoming principals in Illinois teachers must exhibit leadership potential. A person cannot self-select into a leadership program. Also they must participate in a year-long residency paid for by the state. Education is an applied field; field experience for principals is important.

Both Dr. Padilla and Dr. Watson mentioned the importance of value-added achievement because institutions must determine if their graduates are effective teachers and leaders. Collaboration and dialogue are needed between K-12 and higher education. Mrs. Taylor concurred that more partners are needed in education reform and improvement.

IV. Participation on Other Governing Bodies

- A. Information: Education and Economic Development Act - Mr. Martin reported that the Coordinating Council has been given one additional year to operate and continues to move forward in implementing the EEDA.
- B. Information: Statewide Charter School District – Mr. Drew had to leave the retreat at 3:10 p.m. Mrs. Barton reported for Mr. Drew that there are 44 charter schools operating this year in South Carolina with an enrollment of 15,967. With the reorganization of the Department of Education there are changes in personnel and administration of charter schools.
- C. South Carolina Public Charter School District -- Mr. Robinson indicated that Mr. Martin is the EOC’s nominee for the position on the SCPCSD board. This nomination and others are pending before Governor Haley.
- D. Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities – Mr. Robinson noted that Mr. Warner is being appointed to the board of directors of the Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities, taking the position vacated by Dr. Jo Anne Anderson.
- E. South Carolina Reading Achievement Systemic Initiative. -- Mr. Robinson announced that he is appointing Ann Marie Taylor to the reading panel.

V. EOC Roles and Responsibilities

- A. Action: Objectives for 2011-2012 – Mr. Robinson asked Mrs. Barton to draft the objectives, taking into consideration the discussions of the August 8 meeting and asking EOC members to provide input. The objectives will be discussed, amended and then approved by the full committee at its October meeting.

- B. The committee went into Executive Session to consider a personnel issue.

The veil was lifted from Executive Session. Mr. Robinson noted that the committee will discuss the hiring of a permanent Executive Director at a later date.

The meeting adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
December 12, 2011

Members Present: Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Hairfield, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Mr. Martin; Dr. Merck, Rep. Patrick via conference call; Rep. Smith, Mrs. Taylor; Mr. Warner, and Mr. Whittemore

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Robinson welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- II. Approval of the Minutes of October 10, 2011: The minutes of October 10, 2011 were approved as distributed.
- III. Key Constituencies:

Dr. Tom Peters, Executive Director of South Carolina's Coalition for Mathematics and Science provided an overview of the history of the science and math hubs in South Carolina and discussed the new focus of the Coalition on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education. Since 1993, Dr. Peters noted that the science and math hubs focused on instructional improvement; leadership development; and interventions in underperforming schools. This year the Boeing Company has decided to invest \$750,000 over a three-year period to assist ten schools in integrating strategies to improve reading of informational text in the content areas of math and science. The results of the work in these ten schools will provide research and strategies to implement other structural changes in curriculum and learning. Other manufacturers, including BMW, Michelin and 3M, already support the work of the Coalition. Dr. Peters also discussed efforts underway in other states, including North Carolina, that has issued a comprehensive plan to integrate STEM education throughout South Carolina.

Mr. Warner asked for clarification about the budget for the Center. Dr. Peters responded that the center currently charges fees for services with contracts of approximately \$455,000 in the current year. Mrs. Hairfield noted that the hubs have been instrumental in coaching teachers over the years and asked how many districts are using their services. Dr. Peters projects that 25 districts are using the expertise of the center. Mrs. Taylor asked for research on the effectiveness of the program. Dr. Peters responded that he has contacted Carnegie Mellon University that has a comparable program. The research is limited to implementation research at the current time. However, the Boeing project will allow the center to substantiate the effectiveness of the STEMS on reading and writing. Dr. Peters noted that the Greenville County School District has asked for assistance in implementing the Common Core State Standards in mathematics. Senator Fair raised concerns that Greenville is spending money on Common Core when legislation is pending before the General Assembly to stop the implementation of Common Core.

Mr. Smith asked when the South Carolina Department of Education terminated funding for the math and science centers. Dr. Peters responded that it was June 6 of the previous fiscal year. Mr. Smith raised concerns that the EOC and potentially the General Assembly would be asked to support funding of an initiative that the State Superintendent of Education has not supported.

Ms. Meka Bosket, Deputy Superintended of Policy and Research at the South Carolina Department of Education, was recognized to address the issue of why the Department of Education has chosen not to renew its contractual agreement with the math and science centers. Ms. Bosket said that the agency could not determine the impact of the program or justify the investment. She also noted that other private vendors would be available to assist districts and schools with implementing the Common Core State Standards. Mr. Robinson asked Ms. Bosket how the funds that had been allocated to the math and science centers in the current year were being expended. Ms. Bosket responded that the funds were used for other professional development efforts. Senator Fair followed with questions of Ms. Bosket concerning the implementation of Common Core, expressly the cost of the assessment. Dr. Merck asked if the agency had considered using WorkKeys rather than HSAP. Ms. Bosket responded that Dr. Zais supports WorkKeys but that there are other programs including those being developed by ACT and SAT that might also be used.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

The committee then turned to the Subcommittee reports. Mr. Robinson noted that Rep. Andy Patrick, the newest member of the EOC appointed by Rep. Owens as his appointee from the House Education and Public Works Committee was participating in the meeting by conference call.

- A. Academic Standards and Assessments: There was no report from the subcommittee.
- B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Drew reported on the EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee's budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2012-13. Mr. Drew summarized the recommendations of the EIA subcommittee to:

Adopt the current year's EIA appropriation base as the base appropriation for all EIA programs in Fiscal Year 2012-13

Continue consolidation of EIA line items as noted which will reduce the number of EIA-funded programs to 42, down from 71 in Fiscal Year 2008-09.

Reduce EIA appropriation to the Department of Disabilities & Special Needs (DDSN) for teacher salaries of \$150,000 is the amount requested by the agency to conform to reductions in the number of instructional personnel.

Funding of New Initiatives including:

Teach For America South Carolina – EIA funding of \$2.0 million to increase the number of top college graduates and professionals teaching in public schools in low-income communities, with high annual teacher turnover rates, and consistently low student achievement. To date, private funds alone have brought 31 Teach For America corps members to the school districts of Clarendon 2, Darlington, Florence 1, Orangeburg 3 and Orangeburg 5. The recommendation is to expand the program with both state and private funds. The goal is to have an additional 75 corps members teaching in South Carolina in 2012-13.

S²TEM Centers SC (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) – To support existing and future companies with a trained workforce, the EOC proposes

investing \$1,750,000 to transform the five regional math and science centers and the South Carolina Coalition for Mathematics and Science at Clemson University into an entity for innovation, research and implementation in STEM education. The coalition would establish a formalized STEM education infrastructure plan funded with both public and private funds.

Education Infrastructure and Innovation Initiative – The EOC recommends an appropriation of \$32,500,000 in a new initiative that would first, develop a five-year plan to address technology needs and to promote innovation in education. Up to 15 percent of the EIA appropriation would be used to develop the plan with the balance of funds in the program carried forward into the subsequent fiscal year to begin implementation of the plan. The plan would determine infrastructure needs of public schools, including charter schools, and technical colleges; determine 21st century curriculum, instruction, assessments and accountability needs that will promote improved learning through innovation; and determine professional development needs of teachers and administrators.

Mr. Warner asked why the consolidation of line items is needed. Mr. Drew responded that it gives districts more flexibility and requires less time and effort in allocating the funds. Mr. Warner raised questions about the recommendation to fund S²TEM Centers SC. Mr. Fair reiterated his concern about districts spending funds for Common Core implementation and moved that the question be divided. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The committee voted to divide the issue.

The Committee took up first the consolidation of line item appropriations for programs for disabilities. Mr. Warner moved and Mr. Smith seconded the recommendation to consolidate the line items into Aid to Districts. There being no discussion, the recommendation was adopted unanimously.

The Committee then took up the consolidation of line item appropriations for teacher salaries and fringe benefits. Senator Fair moved and Mr. Warner seconded the recommendation to consolidate these line items. There being no discussion, the recommendation was adopted unanimously.

The Committee then took up the recommendation to appropriate \$2.0 million for Teach For America South Carolina. Mrs. Taylor asked about the program and was advised that the EOC had received a presentation in October on the program's goals and expansion efforts. There being no further discussion, the recommendation was adopted unanimously.

The Committee then took up the recommendation to appropriate \$1,750,000 in EIA funds to S²TEM Centers SC at Clemson University. Mrs. Hairfield moved and Mrs. Taylor seconded the recommendation. Mr. Warner advised that the Center should be prepared next year to justify the value of its services. Mr. Robinson concurred that no program receiving EIA funds in Fiscal Year 2012-13 should consider the funding automatic. Mr. Smith expressed his concern with starting new programs in the EIA when teachers have not received pay increases in several years. There being no further discussion, the recommendation was adopted with Mr. Smith and Senator Fair voting no.

The Committee then took up the subcommittee recommendation that \$32.5 million be appropriated to the Education Infrastructure and Innovation Initiative. Mr. Smith moved and Mr. Martin seconded the recommendation. Ms. Taylor asked if the Subcommittee had considered the recommendations of the Reading Panel. Ms. Taylor was informed

by staff that the recommendations of the panel were not finalized and had not been available to the subcommittee to be considered. Mr. Warner asked questions about the use of the funds to promote innovation through technology. Mr. Drew concurred and stated that the vision and plan should include innovation and asked that the recommendation be amended to reflect the goal of innovation. There being no further discussion, the recommendation was adopted.

C. Public Awareness: Mr. Robinson called upon Mrs. Hairfield to give an update on the Public Awareness Subcommittee. Mrs. Hairfield noted that a communications plan had been provided to the staff and would be discussed by the Public Awareness Subcommittee at its January meeting. The communications plan focuses on notifying the general public, parents, educators, legislators and business leaders of the 2020 Vision and our state's progress toward the Vision.

V. Nominating Committee

Mr. Robinson called upon Mr. Drew to discuss the recommendations of the Nominating Committee. Mr. Drew noted that the Nominating Committee consisted of himself, Mr. Martin and Senator Hayes. The Committee recommended to the EOC that Mr. Robinson and Mrs. Hairfield be nominated for chairman and vice chairman of the EOC again for a two-year term. Sen. Fair moved that the nominations be closed and Mr. Robinson be elected Chairman of the EOC and Mrs. Hairfield Vice Chairman of the EOC for another two-year term. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Warner asked the chair, staff and EOC members to respond to a letter that he had emailed in the fall. Mr. Robinson noted that he would discuss the issues raised by Mr. Warner in subsequent emails.

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned.