

# **SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

## **Full Committee Meeting**

Minutes of the Meeting

April 17, 2023

**Members Present (in-person or remote):** Dr. Russell Booker, Barbara Hairfield, Dr. Brian Newsome, April Allen, Dr. Bob Couch, Neil Robinson, Melanie Barton, Sen. Ross Turner, Sen. Dwight Loftis, Rep. Terry Alexander, Sen. Kevin Johnson, Rep. Bill Hager (remote), Rep. Neal Collins (remote), and Dr. Patti Tate (remote)

**EOC Staff Present:** Riley Dixon, Gabrielle Fulton, Hope Johnson-Jones, Dr. Rainey Knight, Dr. Matthew Lavery, Dr. Jenny May, and Dana Yow

**Guest(s) Present:** Greg Blatt, Matthew Ferguson

Ms. Allen called the meeting to order, and Mr. Robinson welcomed Greg Blatt from Coaches for Character. Mr. Blatt provided information on Coaches for Character, a program that gives awards to middle and high schoolers for academic effort, character, overcoming odds, and community service. Ms. Allen let members know that Coaches for Character's presentation would be distributed following the meeting. Mr. Blatt thanked the committee for allowing him to present. Ms. Hairfield noted that much of the news from these high schools is negative and thanked Mr. Blatt for highlighting the positive impact that students have had. Dr. Russell Booker thanked Mr. Blatt.

Next, Ms. Hairfield provided a summary of the previous Academic Standards and Assessments and Public Awareness Subcommittee Meetings, highlighting the 2023 annual report and the South Carolina 4K report. For a full summary, view the ASA meeting packet and minutes. Ms. Hairfield opened the floor for questions. Ms. Barton highlighted the need for collaboration between 4K, 5K, and grades 1 and 2 so that students can be prepared. Mr. Ferguson noted that three districts are not participating in CERDEP and that SCDE is working to remove those barriers towards CERDEP participation. Dr. May noted the EOC's plans to study 4K underutilization to examine why families may not take advantage of publicly funded 4K opportunities. Mr. Ferguson noted that the KRA does not

allow for examination of domain-level skills individually. Ms. Barton and Dr. Booker noted the importance of the years prior to 4K.

Ms. Hairfield provided an addendum to the Alternative Instruction report presented to the full committee in December, noting that the addendum shows the number and percentage of students in SBAVRL.

Dr. Lavery provided an overview of the EOC's plans to release a public dashboard on education. Ms. Fulton then provided a preview of the EOC's current dashboards in progress highlighting Kindergarten Readiness, SC READY results in comparison to per pupil expenditure, and a review of SC National Student Clearinghouse results. Dr. Couch asked if there is a way to view career center performance in these dashboards. Ms. Yow noted that staff would look into this in the future, with the difficulty laying in accessing career center performance outside of their home high schools. Members unanimously voted to accept the ASA subcommittee report.

Ms. Yow provided members with information pertaining to the annual EOC retreat, to be held in Charleston in August. With that, the meeting adjourned.