

## SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

### Minutes of the Meeting

February 8, 2021

**Members Present (in-person or remote):** Ellen Weaver, Chair; Rep. Terry Alexander; April Allen (remote); Rep. Neal Collins; Dr. Bob Couch, Rep. Raye Felder; Barbara Hairfield (remote); Sen. Kevin Johnson (remote); Sidney Locke (remote); Dr. Brian Newsome; Neil Robinson (remote); Jamie Shuster (remote); Patti Tate (remote); Ms. Melanie Barton and Dr. Scott Turner

**EOC Staff Present:** Dr. Kevin Andrews; Matthew Ferguson; Dr. Valerie Harrison; Hope Johnson-Jones; Dr. Rainey Knight; and Dana Yow.

**Guests Present:** Dr. David Mathis, SCDE; Dr. Lee D'Andrea; Dr. Christine DiStefano.

Ms. Weaver welcomed members and guests to the meeting. The minutes of the December 15, 2020, EOC meeting were approved and seconded. Ms. Weaver asked Mr. Robinson to present the report of the ASA and Public Awareness subcommittees. Mr. Robinson asked Mr. Ferguson to present the Cyclical Review Framework Report, which was also given to the subcommittee.

Following the presentation, Dr. Turner asked if there was discussion about what the size of the gap would be. Mr. Ferguson said the gaps have not yet been determined. Dr. Turner said he wished there was a way to capture more of the Profile of the SC Graduate into the accountability system; we are weak when we measure skills, along with life and career characteristics.

Mr. Hairfield asked where the SCDE is in addressing some of the skills in the profile. Dr. Mathis stated that Stephanie DiStasio and her team are completing a crosswalk of the Profile competencies with the social emotional competencies. The SCDE is ready to come out and print these since they get to the Profile of the Graduate. He described these crosswalks as personalized learning for all grades.

Ms. Hairfield spoke to Recommendation 5 which references data collection. There is a need for a systemic data collection system that would go all the way to postsecondary. Mr. Ferguson reminded Ms. Hairfield of the EIA recommendation for the National Data Student Clearinghouse.

Rep. Alexander asked a question about emphasizing the 5-year graduation rate and asked for more information about the high school credential program. Mr. Ferguson said that we had met with SCDE staff, but we would follow-up with them on the percentage of students who are in the program and who are expected to complete it.

Ms. Weaver stated that she likes that the Profile of the SC Graduate is very aspirational. The reality during COVID is that so many children can't learn basics. We need a bridge of identifying the students who are the furthest behind and move resources forward for those students. There needs to be a strong focus on closing the gaps in the interim.

Mr. Ferguson said we see gaps in remote learning but there was a lot of work that needed to be done prior to COVID. Too many students are not on the path to CCR.

Dr. Mathis talked about the Academic Recovery Plans districts will have to submit. Each will need to develop a plan for ELA and math. Districts will be provided with cut scores for moderate and mild remediation. They must develop strategies and goals for students in each of these areas. It will be a true actionable plan; this is part of what the SCDE is working with Education Analytics on.

Mr. Weaver called upon Dr. Couch to give an overview of the Education Governance Audit. Dr. Couch asked Mr. Ferguson to summarize the audit.

Rep. Alexander asked what would be done with the report. Mr. Ferguson said it was to inform the strategic planning process.

Dr. Christine DiStefano then presented the "Effects of Remote Learning in SC During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Influence on Educators, Students, and Families." The report looked at key stressors on students and teachers, and others across the state

Rep. Felder read a comment aloud from the report; she said the comment from an EL teacher summed up teacher sentiments. The children are very behind, despite the best efforts of teachers.

Rep. Alexander asked if we have done a survey of students. How do we manage what the students are feeling and what they are going through? Dr. DiStefano stated that was a great point and one we should look at. There is no time for children to interact with other kids; it is messing with their psyche.

Rep. Collins stated he is interested in moving forward, specifically the 2021-22 school year. Will there be an opportunity to see what will be coming forward? We should be prepared for what is going to happen as we go forward.

Dr. Couch stated that there is a social emotional toll on students. He sees ongoing mental health issues with students as we come out of this.

Dr. Newsome said he had hired a counselor to work with students. This survey will help us with what our students need. This is a tough time for kids, and the research helps us.

Dr. Mathis said the social emotional piece is huge. When we talk about engagement, what does it look like? Rally has a survey for students; Dr. Mathis said that that might be something Christine can use.

Dr. Lee D'Andrea presented the State Funded Full Day 4K Report.

Dr. Mathis said that the data piece is huge. We have a grant to collect the longitudinal data, to see which programs are getting the best results of all the programs birth to 5. Districts are asking for money to re-engage our youngest learners.

Dr. Lee D'Andrea then presented the eLearning Preliminary Report. She stated that we asked districts to do in weeks what we knew would take years to implement (from eLearning)

Ms. Weaver said she is very thankful for all the work that has been done.

Rep. Collins asked if we anticipate some districts to not be part of eLearning? Dr. D'Andrea said there will be a transition to the SCDE; districts will need to apply to determine their status.

She said there is a potential for some districts to not have eLearning capacity for 2021-22. Perhaps, they haven't learned how to use the LMS with fidelity. Student engagement focused delivery is important. There are still districts sending home paper packets

Mr. Ferguson stated that the EOC used an application and rubric for this process. We would recommend using the same rubric moving forward.

Dr. Turner stated that Greenville is already allowing families to choose virtual for next year. What does eLearning look like over long periods of time in a virtual environment?

Dr. D'Andrea pointed to issues with data quality since districts have discretion in coding hybrid and other options in PowerSchool. There needs to be some idea about what quality looks like in an eLearning environment.

Ms. Weaver inquired about the use of up to five days for eLearning; is this is a State Board of Education regulation?

Rep. Alexander stated he sees opportunities to do some things differently. For us to think we will go back to normalcy, is unreal. This is a golden opportunity to challenge everyone to do things differently, change how we do business for our kids. If we are going to maintain our mindset of where we were last year, we are doing a disservice to our students and teachers. He encouraged members to be serious about doing something different.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.