

## SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting  
January 18, 2001  
2:00PM  
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Barnet, Mrs. Berry, Senator Bryan, Mr. Daniel, Dr. Everson, Dr. Gummerson, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. Martin, Senator Matthews, Mr. Staton, Supt. Tenenbaum, Mrs. Thompson, Rep. Townsend, Mr. Wilson

### I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting, including Mark Musick, Jim Watts and David Denton from the Southern Regional Education Board.

### II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of December 6 were approved as distributed.

### III. Subcommittee Reports

A. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He reviewed a comparison document detailing the EOC recommendations regarding EIA funds and the Governor's recommendations. He informed the Committee of the progress on three exploratory studies (Advanced Placement Programs, Four-Year-Old Child Development Programs and Act 135).

B. Parent Involvement: Mrs. Thompson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. She discussed the progress on business incentives recommendations and asked for Committee approval. The Committee deferred action until members had time to study the full report.

C. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the Subcommittee, indicating that the community meetings were in progress.

D. Staff and Administration: Mr. Barnet reported on behalf of the Staff and Administration Subcommittee. He detailed recommendations regarding the Local Leadership Quality and Engagement Report. Mrs. Tenenbaum asked that the Study Team recommendation on the state superintendent be amended to provide for elimination of the constitutional office through referendum in 2002. The Committee discussed its recommendation to the General Assembly and asked the Staff and Administration Subcommittee to bring a revised recommendation to the February meeting.

Mr. Barnet also drew attention to the Report from the Division of Accountability and asked members to confirm the meeting dates on their schedules.

E. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. Action on ratings criteria for Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School was withdrawn. The Subcommittee proposed using cohort analyses for the improvement ratings in schools enrolling students in grades kindergarten through grade three only. The Subcommittee also proposed a revised "school grade" to serve as the composite rating. Each was approved.

### IV. Discussion of Retention Policies

Supt. Tenenbaum introduced Dr. David Denton who presented a comprehensive research review on retention (materials were provided to members).

V. Remarks from a Key Constituency

Donna Lipscomb, Principal of Cannons Elementary School, presented information on the progress students in the school have made through extended day programs, an instructional focus on the standards and extensive work with parents.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

## SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting  
March 15, 2001  
2:00PM  
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. William Barnet, Mrs. Rosie Marie Berry, Mr. Robert C. Daniel, Dr. Barbara Everson, Sen. Mike Fair, Sen. Warren Giese, Dr. William Gummerson, Mrs. Susan Hoag, Mr. Alex Martin, Sen. John Matthews, Mr. Joel Smith, Mr. Robert Staton, Mrs. Lynn Thompson, Rep. Ronald Townsend, Mr. Larry Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He congratulated Dr. Gummerson on the designation of Northwestern High School as a Palmetto's Finest winner.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of February 22 were approved as distributed.

III. Remarks from a Key Constituency

Mr. Barnet introduced Dr. Ralph Cain, Superintendent, Kershaw County Schools. Dr. Cain presented information to the EOC on Kershaw County Schools efforts to be a "top ten" school district. He outlined the district's strategic efforts to be competitive nationally including actions such as a ten-year facilities plan, incentives for high performance, the utilization of an alternative school for students experiencing academic problems, instruction based on learning styles, and other initiatives. Members asked questions for additional detail.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments:

- (1) Ratings Criteria for John de la Howe School: The Subcommittee recommends adoption of the criteria;
- (2) Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards: The Subcommittee reviewed a preliminary report on the criteria for the Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards. Mr. Wilson summarized the technical issues and indicated that the Subcommittee would distribute the draft for public comment through April 20, 2001.
- (3) Recommendations regarding alternatives to retention: The Subcommittee presented the recommendations outlining a series of actions, including long-range actions. The Subcommittee recommended adoption of the Year 2001 activities (provisos detailing future studies and expansions of professional development programs). The only cost would be \$500,000 for expansion of the Reading Initiative to include kindergarten teachers. Mrs. Tenenbaum discussed the reading initiative. There were questions about the health issues and members noted the need for a response plan. Other discussion focused on Unsatisfactory Schools and the availability of alternative schools. Mr. Wilson noted the need and ideas for involvement of teacher preparation institutions. The recommendations for 2001 were adopted.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms

Mr. Staton reviewed the EIA budget as it has moved through the Ways and Means Committee and the House. Committee members discussed the limited funds available and the impact of revenue base reductions.

- C. Parent Involvement  
Mrs. Thompson addressed the report on Tax Credits as Business Incentives requested by the Parental Involvement in Their Children's Education Act. The Subcommittee recommended adoption. The EOC concurred.
  
- D. Public Awareness  
The Subcommittee did not have a formal report although Mr. Smith provided information on the meetings with representatives of the state and urban chambers and the SC Manufacturer's Alliance.
  
- E. Staff and Administration  
Mr. Barnet informed the members about presentations to the Senate Education Committee and the State Board of Education. He moved Rep. Townsend from the Parental Involvement Subcommittee to the Academic Standards and Assessments Subcommittee. He also informed members that a small plaque had been sent to former members.  
  
Dr. Anderson referred members to her written report.  
  
Mr. Barnet reminded members to send in their retreat forms.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting  
August 16, 2001  
2:00PM  
Blatt Bldg., Rm. 433

Members Present: Mr. Barnet, Mr. Martin, Mr. Daniel, Dr. Everson, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Dr. Gummerson, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. McTeer, Mr. Smith, Mr. Staton, Superintendent Tenenbaum, Mrs. Thompson, Representative Townsend

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting. Mr. Barnet recognized Mrs. Rosie Berry for her contributions to the EOC during her appointment from 1998-2001. He presented her with a plaque honoring her role and thanked her commitment to the work of the EOC and her continuing professional contributions as an educator. Mrs. Berry thanked Mr. Barnet and EOC members for their support and challenged everyone to continue working toward our common goals.
- II. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the July 19-20 meeting were approved as distributed.
- III. Subcommittee Reports:
  - A. Academic Standards and Assessments: The Subcommittee did not have a report.
  - B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He summarized the content and recommendations of the two reports below:
    - (1) The Teaching of African American History: Dr. Marvin Dulaney of the Avery Center on African-American History at the University of Charleston prepared this report for the EOC. The report included results of a survey of educators regarding the teaching of African-American history. Educators report that the content is taught, although there is a range of strategies including full infusion and emphasis only during February. The report outlined materials used in classrooms, including the state-developed publication. Preliminary discussions with students; however, indicated that student knowledge of African-American history and their impression of how it is taught differs from educator reports.

Mr. Staton indicated that the Subcommittee is concerned that there is not a clear statement of expectations for the program, results measures and strategies to measure those results. He also suggested that there needed to be a leadership commitment to the program from state levels through to the classroom.

Members discussed the report expressing concern for the quality of implementation and the need for a clear program focus. The Committee accepted the report and asked that it be transmitted to Supt. Tenenbaum for future collaborative work.
    - (2) The Advanced Placement Program: Dr. Paul Horne prepared the report on the Advanced Placement program required for all SC high schools. Data presented in the report detailed offerings, student participation and student success. State and local policies, including professional development opportunities, are reviewed in the report.

Members discussed the disparities in performance and the utilization of the program to promote rigor in the high school curriculum. Members reviewed the role of AP, International Baccalaureate, dual credit and the PACE program and their interrelationship. There was discussion of the role of guidance counselors

to encourage more students to enroll in the rigorous curriculum and urged members to address the racial/ethnic and gender gaps in both participation and performance. Dr. Gummerson emphasized the role of AP and International Baccalaureate programs in raising the culture of the high school. He recommended that we examine how students are enrolled and supported in the courses, urging early preparation for students so that they do succeed. He reminded members that college admissions officers are very interested in student enrollment in AP/IB and the most rigorous level of courses. He also stated the need for clear program objectives. Mrs. Thompson affirmed the potential of vertical program integration. Mr. Martin expressed concern that the three programs (AP, dual credit, and PACE) are competitive and strategies to reduce that competition are needed. The Committee accepted the report and asked that it be transmitted officially to Superintendent Tenenbaum for future collaborative work.

- C. Parental Involvement: Mrs. Thompson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. A contract is under review with the Institute for Families and Society to develop the parent survey for the report card.
- D. Public Awareness: Mr. Smith reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He reported that nearly 1000 individuals had attended either the business or educator communications workshops and that four additional sessions had been scheduled.

He reported that two ETV programs on accountability are to be broadcast. The first, "The Education Accountability Puzzle", features explanations of the accountability legislation. That program airs on Sunday, August 19 at 6:30 p.m. A second program focusing on the report card and change efforts in local districts airs October 7.

Mr. Smith summarized the morning meeting with legislators. Approximately 65 legislators attending the one-hour briefing. Mr. Barnet noted that one legislator suggested that South Carolina's goal should be to be in the top quarter of states, not merely the top half.

- E. Staff and Administration: Mr. Barnet reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He presented the changes in objectives for the 2001-2002 year. The Committee approved these.

Mr. Barnet reminded members of the September meeting in the Pee Dee region. He distributed an article by Phil Kirk, a leader in North Carolina's school reform efforts.

- IV. Report from a Key Constituency: Dr. Ronald Epps presented the change strategies Richland County School District One is following to increase the level of student achievement. He detailed the district approach to managing the change process. This approach includes four strategies: intensive and strategic staff development, the development of learning communities, leadership development, and utilization of pedagogy and best practices. The district also has incorporated an approach of targeted assistance to eighteen priority schools. The district also has a continuing relationship with the Education Trust Standards and Practice Project. He congratulated members on holding the mark on standards and accountability. He indicated that South Carolina is focused on the education of all children and challenged us to keep that premise first.
- V. General Discussion: Representative Townsend spoke about the recent STATE newspaper editorial regarding EOC membership. He reminded members and requested a correction from the newspaper on the appointment of African-American members to the EOC. He has appointed

two African-American members and acknowledged the importance of their contributions as well as those of other African-American members. Rep. Townsend also reported that, at the Superintendents Summer Conference, he was asked why the EOC membership did not include a superintendent. He pointed out that an attempt has been made to balance the membership. Those individuals who appoint EOC members as designees have an opportunity to appoint a superintendent; therefore, there is no automatic restriction of superintendents but there is not a designated seat. There are no designated seats for the members of a number of professional organizations and/or constituent groups.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

## SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting  
May 17, 2001  
2:00PM  
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Barnet, Mrs. Berry, Mrs. Everson, Senator Fair, Dr. Gummerson, Representative Harrell, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. Martin, Senator Matthews, Mr. McTeer, Mr. Smith, Mr. Staton, Representative Townsend, and Mr. Wilson.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of March 15 were approved as distributed.

III. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments:

- (1) High School Ratings Criteria: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He outlined the reasons for and changes in the calculation of high school ratings. The changes include the (a) addition of first-time passage rates for the BSAP Exit Examination, (b) weighting of each criterion, and (c) modifications to the values for levels of performance. Dr. Gummerson addressed the changes. The Subcommittee recommended adoption. The EOC approved the changes;
- (2) Palmetto Gold and Silver Award Criteria: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He outlined the proposed criteria for the Palmetto Gold and Silver Award Programs for schools enrolling students in grades 3-8. Mr. Staton commented on the low number of middle schools eligible for awards. The Subcommittee recommended adoption. The EOC approved the criteria;
- (3) Longitudinal PACT Analysis: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He provide statewide and district data demonstrating the number of students (using matched student data) in grades 4-7 that had scored Below Basic on one or both PACT tests for two years in a row. Members commented on the need for technical assistance funding to address the performance levels in many districts.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:

Mr. Staton reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He detailed changes to the Appropriations Bill from Senate Finance and again called for support of technical assistance, the Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards and color printing of the report card.

C. Parental Involvement:

Mrs. Barton reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. She outlined the RFP for the survey and status of the procurement issue as well as plans to publish compacted standards for parents.

D. Public Awareness:

Mr. Smith thanked members and staff for their participation in the county workshops and announced details for the educator and business workshops over the summer.

E. Staff and Administration:

Dr. Anderson outlined the scope and parameters of the study on district organization. Members discussed the costs of the study and the potential methods to accomplish the task.

Dr. Anderson is going to work with the Materials Management Office to explore contractual alternatives.

Mr. Barnet informed members of the status of the long-range planning initiative and distributed the evaluation criteria and a profile of SC on each of the criteria.

Mr. Barnet reminded members of the June 21 meeting and the July 19-20 retreat.

IV. Remarks from a Key Constituency

Mrs. Dru James, Dr. John Kinlaw, Mrs. Pat Ross and Mrs. Dottie Kinlaw presented information about the achievement-testing program in Greenwood 50. Materials were provided to members in advance.

V. Working with Low-Performing Schools

Superintendent Tenenbaum presented information on the technical assistance initiatives the State Department of Education is using with low-performing schools. The three-tiered system provides resources according to the depth of the school needs.

VI. Contractual Matter

Upon motion of Mr. Smith, the EOC went into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter.

Upon motion of Mr. Smith, the EOC returned to open session. Mr. Smith moved that the contract with Chernoff/Silver and Associates be extended one year. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The Committee approved.

VII. The Committee adjourned to meet again on June 21.

## SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Meeting  
June 21, 2001  
2:00PM  
Room 433, Blatt Building**

Members Present: Mr. William Barnet, Mr. Robert C. Daniel, Mrs. Susan Hoag, Mr. Alex Martin, Mr. Doug McTeer, Mr. Joel Smith, Mr. Larry Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of May 17 were approved as distributed.

III. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments:

(1) Recommendations from the cyclical review of the English/Language Arts Curriculum Standards: Mr. Wilson summarized the recommendations regarding the results of the cyclical review of the ELA standards. The Committee unanimously adopted the recommendations.

(2) Information on the inclusion of foreign language information on the report card: Mr. Wilson reported that representatives from the SC Foreign Language Teachers Association had presented a proposal to the Subcommittee regarding the inclusion of information on foreign language instruction on the report cards. Staff from the Education Oversight Committee and the State Department of Education will work with the group to determine how such information can be included on future report cards.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms

The EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee has not met since the May 17 full Committee meeting and did not submit a report.

C. Parent Involvement

Ms. Melanie Barton reported for Mrs. Thompson that the Subcommittee had reviewed the curriculum standards designed for parents to be printed for distribution. Each school district will receive three copies of the pamphlets and a CD containing the pamphlet documents for printing and distribution. The standards will also be placed on the EOC web site. Ms. Barton also reported that there were no satisfactory proposals in response to the request for proposals to develop the parent surveys for the report cards and for gauging parent satisfaction with home-school relations. Staff are currently exploring other avenues for developing the surveys.

D. Public Awareness

Mr. Smith reported on the plans for ETV programs in August and October promoting public awareness and understanding of the report cards and the school ratings. He also described the progress of the report card Tool Kit summer workshops for educators and business leaders and reviewed the contents of the Tool Kits.

E. Staff and Administration

Mr. Barnet reviewed the agenda for the retreat July 19-20 and reminded members that there would be a two-hour orientation for new Committee members on Thursday morning, July 19.

IV. Remarks from a Key Constituency

Mr. Barnet introduced Mr. Charles V. Noyes, II and Ms. Martha Watkins, representing the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce Education Committee. They presented the chamber's *Benchmark Study of Sumter County School Districts 2 and 17*. The study was part of the chamber's visioning and planning process. It compiled comparative statistics on student performance, teachers, school finance, and demographics for demographically similar school districts and for school districts in the midlands region. The report is being disseminated to business, governmental, educational, and community leaders in Sumter County to inform and motivate interest in the county's educational needs. Mr. Barnet applauded the group for their initiative. Members asked questions for additional details on reactions by the community to the report and on the factors involved in the successful completion of the project.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

## SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting  
July 19-20, 2001  
Clemson University

### Thursday, July 19, 2001

Members Present: Mr. Barnet, Mr. Daniel, Dr. Everson, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Dr. Gummerson, Rep. Harrell, Mrs. Hoag, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Martin, Senator Matthews, Mr. McTeer, Mr. Staton, Supt. Tenenbaum, Mrs. Thompson, Rep. Townsend, Mr. Wilson

Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Barnet welcomed members and the press to the meeting. He introduced Mrs. Susan Marlowe, a new EOC member. He acknowledged Mr. Staton's retirement from Colonial Life and his receipt of the Order of the Palmetto from Governor Hodges.

Minutes of June 21, 2001: The minutes of the June 21 meeting were approved as distributed.

Subcommittee Reports: Each Subcommittee Chairperson presented an overview of the Subcommittee's work during 2000-2001. During the discussions emphasis was placed on requiring and providing more evidence to support decisions. Supt. Tenenbaum suggested that a small group develop common recommendations prior to the public presentations of budget requests. There was considerable discussion of funding issues and the need to build support at local levels for the 2010 goal, emphasizing its relationship to individual economic benefit. The members supported a meeting with legislators to brief them on report card issues prior to their release. A date between August 13 and September 7 was proposed.

Long-range Plan: Dr. Anderson presented an overview of the long-range plan. Members focused on the need to engage all South Carolinians in support of the goal and to emphasize local commitment and individual benefit. To gain public support for greater investments in education, members suggested that educators and advocates must demonstrate accomplishments. There were general expressions that the educational system must demonstrate improvement before we can expect taxpayers to support increases in millage or taxes. The EOC requested information on nations with high poverty that are moving ahead in educational results and the impact of parental involvement.

Superintendents' Panel: Mr. Charles Gadsden, Superintendent of Georgetown County Schools, addressed the EOC. He explained how his district is restructuring to meet the 2010 goal. These include reassigning some responsibilities, providing more detailed information for teachers, parents and students on how to meet the standards and extending learning time. The district has consolidated several schools and built new facilities.

Mr. Ray Geddings, Superintendent of Lexington School District Three, presented information on the 2010 goals. He expressed confidence in the state's ability to achieve significant gains on most of the evaluation measures but had concerns about some measures. He suggested that the nine areas for action were "on target" and emphasized changes in governance, funding, teacher supply and adult education.

Dr. William Harner, Superintendent of Greenville County Schools, presented materials about the district's effort to be first in the Southeast by 2005. He detailed instructional programs and

initiatives. He also discussed some funding challenges and referenced a letter to the General Assembly from Herman Gaither.

The EOC recessed for dinner and the evening at 6:00 p.m.

### **Friday, July 20, 2001**

Members Present: Mr. Barnet, Mr. Daniel, Dr. Everson, Senator Giese, Dr. Gummerson, Rep. Harrell, Mrs. Hoag, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Martin, Senator Matthews, Mr. McTeer, Mr. Staton, Supt. Tenenbaum, Mrs. Thompson, Rep. Townsend, Mr. Wilson

Executive Session: The EOC went into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter.

#### Open Session

EOC Structure: The EOC discussed the need for the 2002 appointments to increase racial/ethnic and geographic diversity among the committee membership. Alex Martin was elected vice-chairman by acclamation. Mr. Wilson was appointed as the EOC ex-officio member to the board of the Governor's Schools for the Arts and Humanities.

Contractual Matter: The EOC approved a three-year extension of Dr. Anderson's contract with a market adjustment to her compensation.

Meeting Locations: Plans for the EOC to meet in school districts were discussed.

Task Force on Workforce Development: Mr. McTeer questioned the alignment between the accountability system and emerging recommendations from the Task Force on Workforce Development. Supt. Tenenbaum described the general recommendations. Dr. Anderson indicated that the EOC staff is obtaining copies of Workkeys, a student workforce assessment, for study. Concerns and endorsements were expressed about the employability diploma. Senator Matthews asked that the new initiatives be coordinated so that the state's focus on high levels of achievement is clear.

Long-range Plan: The interrelationship among the initiatives was discussed. Mr. Wilson suggested that the extension of teacher contracts be phased in, with first priority to schools rated unsatisfactory, then below average, etc. Supt. Tenenbaum expressed confidence in the teacher specialist programs. There was discussion about district organization and consolidation, local fiscal effort, teacher compensation as it relates to supply, and fiscal authority. Mr. Daniel and others emphasized the need to examine consolidation of districts but to provide evidence to support any recommendations. The EOC considered a motion to adopt the plan as a working document. Adoption should not be interpreted as approval of any particular recommendation. The staff is asked to examine district organization and changes to either structure or funding necessary to achieve our goals. Senator Matthews expressed his belief that the EOC must make the difficult decisions, addressing the needs of the entire state. Providing incentives for district consolidations was mentioned as a strategy. Members agreed that the implementation of the EAA needs to remain the first priority. The plan is to be used to identify points of concern, research alternatives, resolve differences and build a base of support.

A roll call was held on the motion to adopt the plan as a working document. Senator Fair and Mr. Smith were absent, Rep. Townsend abstained, and other members voted approval.

#### Local Leadership Quality Recommendations

Dr. Anderson reviewed the recommendations, the draft legislation and questions regarding the drafts. The EOC discussed the recommendations, asked that the drafts be changed to reflect their concerns.

The EOC asked the staff to examine consolidation, determining economies of scale, geographic considerations and synergies that could be achieved to improve the results.

#### 2001-2002 Objectives

The EOC reviewed the 2000-2001 objectives and recommended changes to reflect broader legislative support of the accountability initiatives, studies of school district size and cooperation, local effort and tax-paying ability, advancement of the governance proposals, development of broad supports for education, and the P-16 concept. The objectives are to be revised and presented at the August meeting.

Rep. Harrell asked that task forces present their recommendations to the EOC so that we have a coordinated improvement effort. Others mentioned the need for incentives to involve higher education institutions.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting  
September 20, 2001  
2:00PM  
Pee Dee Education Center  
Florence, SC

Members Present: Mr. William Barnet, Mr. Alex Martin, Mr. Robert Daniel, Mr. Warren Giese, Dr. William Gummerson, Mrs. Susan Marlowe, Mr. Doug McTeer, Mr. Joel Smith, Mr. Robert Staton, Mr. Larry Wilson

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He asked that the meeting begin with a moment of silence in honor of those who lost their lives on September 11 and those who grieve for them.
- II. Approval of the Minutes: The August 16 Meeting: The minutes of the August 16 meeting were approved as distributed.
- III. Subcommittee Reports:
  - A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He reviewed the calculation of the high school ratings and the Subcommittee's recommendation to use the tenth grade "test-takers" file for the years 2001 and 2002. The Committee members discussed the issues in detail. The State Department of Education personnel had indicated that recalculation of the ratings would require an additional month, delaying distribution of the report cards until the first week in December. The Committee approved the change, noting that it was not agreeing to delays of the report card beyond one month.

Mr. Wilson also provided information to the Committee about changes to the English Language Arts standards that are now out for field review.
  - B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton reported that the Subcommittee had not met.
  - C. Parental Involvement: Mrs. Barton reported for Mrs. Thompson. The EOC is working with a number of state agencies on the Family Friendly Workplace Award criteria and presentation. The award is to be sponsored by the Governor and the SC Chamber of Commerce and is to be given in late winter.
  - D. Public Awareness: Mr. Smith reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee is considering a survey of community leaders to follow up on the 1999 APPLE survey and determine the degree of support for local and statewide initiatives. He also reminded members of the October 7 ETV program and the October workshops sponsored by the SC Press Association and the SC Broadcasters Association.
  - E. Staff and Administration: Mr. Barnet reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He presented the draft legislation for action. The Committee members discussed whether they wished the legislation presented as one package or separate bills. Committee members voted to approve the drafts and promote it as a package, recognizing that individual legislators would act in accordance with their roles.

Mr. Barnet presented the proposal to work with Miley and Associates on the district organization study. Members approved the proposal and the consulting firm. Mr. Barnet also presented the meeting schedule for the remainder of 2001 and 2002, noting the combination of the November and December meetings.

- IV. Task Force on Workforce Development: Mr. Don Herriott, Chairman of the Governor's Task Force on Workforce Development, discussed the role of the Task Force, the workforce issues before South Carolina and the preliminary recommendations.
- V. Report from a Key Constituency: Dr. Thomas Truitt, Executive Director of the Pee Dee Regional Education Center, thanked the Committee members for visiting the Center and meeting with the regional superintendents. He addressed three overriding issues: support for changes in educational governance; the commitment of the Pee Dee leadership to do "what is best for students" in the area of district organization; the need for a constitutional amendment to ensure that all children have access to a quality education.

Mr. Barnet thanked our hosts and the members for a beneficial day in the Pee Dee. The meeting adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
Minutes of the Meeting  
Thursday, October 18, 2001

Members Present: Mr. Martin, Mr. Daniel, Mrs. Everson, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Dr. Gummerson, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. McTeer, Mrs. Spearman (for Supt. Tenenbaum), Mr. Staton, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Martin welcomed members and guests to the Committee meeting. He noted that Mrs. Spearman was representing Mrs. Tenenbaum. Mr. Martin reminded members that the EOC is not meeting in November; the next meeting is December 6.

II. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of September 20 were approved as distributed.

Special Announcement: Mr. Martin announced that the EOC had received a \$50,000 grant from the SC Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Education Council to conduct a study of the relationship between district organization, student achievement and fiscal efficiencies. This is the study recommended by the Local Leadership Quality and Engagement Study Team and adopted by the EOC with the governance recommendations.

III. Subcommittee Reports:

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He indicated the Subcommittee has not met in the last month but is involved in the review of assessments and examination of economic indicators.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: On behalf of the Subcommittee, Mr. Staton presented the revised Academic Plan Guidelines for approval. The EOC voted approval. He also indicated that the Subcommittee is involved in the development of budget recommendations.

C. Parental Involvement: Mrs. Thompson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee, noting that the Subcommittee had met with representatives of the Institute for Families and Society on the parent survey. She also reviewed the Family Friendly Workplace Award that is to be given by the Governor and the State Chamber with support from a number of entities including the EOC. Mrs. Thompson drew members' attention to the Parent Guides that have been distributed to schools, districts, libraries, colleges, and other organizations across the state.

D. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin reported for the Subcommittee. He summarized the four workshops sponsored by the SC Press Association and the SC Broadcasters Association and conducted by EOC staff. A survey is under administration to participants in EOC workshops this year.

E. Staff and Administration: Dr. Anderson drew members' attention to the draft of the Long-Range Plan at their desks. Nearly 1500 are being distributed for comment.

Dr. Anderson introduced Dr. Harry Miley. Dr. Miley and Dr. Randy Martin discussed the study, "The Relationship Between Fiscal

Autonomy, Property Taxes and Student Performance Among South Carolina's School Districts." Members discussed the findings of the report, especially the relationship between empowerment and accountability. Mr. Wilson suggested that fiscal autonomy should be considered within the package of other recommendations (e.g., elected boards, training, restructured responsibilities, etc.). Senator Giese asked if there was a relationship between the impaired districts and fiscal authority. Dr. Miley indicated that this was not in the scope of the study.

- IV. Report from a Key Constituency: Dr. Leonard McIntyre presented on behalf of the State Department of Education. He outlined in detail the tiered system of technical assistance. There was discussion about the need to sustain the supports in low wealth districts even after performance levels rise. There was discussion of the support for schools rated Below Average. In response to discussion about the distribution of scarce resources to districts with minimal tax effort, Mr. McTeer asked if there was the will to change the distribution of funds.

The Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

**SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**December 20, 2001**  
**2:00 PM**  
**Room 433, Blatt Building**

**Members Present:** Mr. Barnet, Mr. Martin, Mr. Daniel Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Dr. Gummerson, Mrs. Hoag, Mrs. Marlowe, Senator Matthews, Mr. McTeer, Mr. Smith, Mr. Staton, Mrs. Tenenbaum, Mrs. Thompson, Representative Townsend, Mr. Wilson

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting and thanked them for making a special effort during the holiday season.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the October 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting were approved as distributed.

III. **Subcommittee Reports**

Mr. Barnet asked that the EIA report be presented first.

- A. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Staton reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He detailed the responsibilities of the EOC regarding budget recommendations, the process used by the Subcommittee and the establishment of two priorities. The priorities are technical assistance for schools rated Unsatisfactory and Below Average on the absolute performance measure and quality teaching. The Subcommittee report recommended increasing technical assistance funding by \$23.3 million, funding teacher salaries at the Southeastern average and increasing funds to pay the incentives for teachers earning National Board of Professional Teaching Standards certification. The report included a proviso regarding minimum district tax effort. The EOC members discussed the proposal at length, particularly the proviso on local effort. Mrs. Tenenbaum outlined the impact of budget reductions on schools and the use of technical assistance funds. Mr. Barnet proposed dividing the question to isolate the local effort proviso from the rest of the report. Members accepted that proposal. Rep. Townsend moved that the EOC adjourn debate on the report and reconsider it in January. The motion was defeated. The EOC approved the Subcommittee recommendations on allocation of funds and provisos other than the local effort proviso. The EOC approved the local effort proviso.
- B. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** Mr. Wilson shared information on the performance of states on multiple achievement measures. He pointed out the similarities of demographics and education expenditures among Kentucky, Oklahoma, Texas and South Carolina but the differences in achievement. He also shared a listing of districts by poverty index and performance.
- C. **Parental Involvement:** Mrs. Thompson reported that the pilot survey was administered in December. Results and the refinement of the final survey should be available in winter 2002.

- D. Public Awareness: Mr. Smith deferred the report on media coverage and the report card. He shared preliminary results of the leader survey and indicated a fuller report would be available in January.
- E. Staff and Administration: Dr. Anderson outlined the review process for the report card.

Mr. Barnet opened the floor for nominations for chairman. Mr. Smith nominated Mr. Staton; Mr. Wilson seconded the nomination. Repot Townsend moved that Mr. Staton be elected by acclamation; Senator Matthews seconded. The EOC elected Mr. Staton chairman be acclamation.

IV. **Report from a Key Constituency**

Mr. Barnet introduced Mr. Len Bornemann from the Greenwood Area Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Bornemann presented a very brief outline of the community's use of the HOSTS program. He indicated that the Chamber now has 1451 mentors in elementary schools every week helping 325 children learn to read. This is part of the Chamber's coordinated effort to (1) have every child on grade level by grade four; (2) reduce the dropout rate and (3) create a competitive workforce.

V. **Report on the Class Size Study**

The report was deferred to the January meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.