

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
Monday, February 12, 2007

Members Present: Mr. Stowe, Mr. Martin, Rep. Cotty, Mr. Daniel, Mr. DeLoach, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Senator Hayes, Mrs. Marlowe, Mrs. Murphy, Supt. Rex, Mr. Robinson, Rep. Walker, Senator Williams

I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Stowe welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He extended a particular welcome to Superintendent Rex who was attending his initial meeting as an EOC member.

II. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of December 11 were approved as distributed. Mr. Stowe asked the status of the follow-up actions regarding the U. S. History and Constitution end-of-course examination. Dr. Anderson explained that the EOC staff, working with the SDE staff, is surveying U. S. History teachers to gain understanding of the time and attention devoted to the various standards.

III. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. DeLoach reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He explained that he, Dr. Rex and staff from the two agencies had met informally to discuss the timing of the release of the report card and were scheduled to meet again. Any EOC member wishing to participate in the discussions is welcome to join in the conversations.

At Mr. DeLoach's request Dr. Anderson explained the process used by EOC and SDE staff to identify and suggest changes to the format of the annual school and district report cards. The process, underway since November, has incorporated reviews of statutes and regulations, conversations with a variety of constituencies and on-line surveys. The team anticipates bringing final recommendations to the EOC for consideration at its April meeting. Changes that can be implemented without impacting the printing contract are to be incorporated in the 2007 publication; other changes are to be implemented in 2008.

Dr. Horne provided information on the Career and Technology Center ratings. Changes to the CATE ratings have been delayed in anticipation of the development of assessments, as required by the Carl Perkins Vocational Education Act. Rep. Walker asked about the consistency of rigor required of CATE and other schools in the ratings process. Dr. Horne indicated that these reviews should identify inconsistencies in expectations.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He drew members' attention to the Interim Report on Implementation of the Child Development Education Program Pilot and the February 6 *At A Glance*. Members of the EOC discussed the quality of the data, the increased numbers of students served, marketing the program, non-participating districts and views on legislation under consideration.

Mr. Daniel also reported on commonalities and differences between the EOC budget recommendations and those recommended by Governor Sanford.

C. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He asked members to review the draft annual report and provide comments and changes to Dana Yow by February 20.

He reminded members that South Carolina had achieved the status of first in the nation in the January 2007 *Quality Counts*.

He indicated that the county tours had been completed and that a final report is to be available at the April EOC meeting.

Mr. Martin reported on the PAIRS progress.

D. Special Reports

1. Dr. Teri Siskind, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum and Standards, provided members with information on the implementation status of the Testing Task Force recommendations and Act 254 requirements.
2. Mr. Jason Culbertson and Dr. Allison Jacques, SDE Division of Teacher Quality, reported on implementation of the Teacher Advancement Program and the Teacher Incentive Fund grant.
3. Superintendent Rex provided members with a copy of the Rex Transition Team report and outlined key initiatives to “reform, improve and support” through the five components in the report. He also indicated a series of scheduled town meetings. He and EOC members agreed to have a substantive discussion of the report at its April meeting. Superintendent Rex also indicated he welcomed the opportunity to work with the EOC. Mrs. Marlowe asked how the transition team recommendations paralleled with the Common Ground report. Dr. Anderson indicated she would provide information to the Superintendent and develop a comparison document.

IV. General Discussion

Dr. Anderson requested the EOC change its June meeting from June 11 to June 13 so that the EOC could meet in conjunction with the State Board of Education to hear the report of the study on computer-based or computer-adaptive testing.

The EOC adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
April 9, 2007

Members present: Mr. Stowe, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Benedict, Mr. Brenan, Rep. Cotty, Mr. Daniel, Mr. DeLoach, Mr. Drew, Mrs. Murphy, Supt. Rex, Mr. Robinson, and Dr. Woodall

I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Stowe welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He introduced Michael Brenan as the Governor's designee on the EOC and Dr. Kristi Woodall, an educator appointed by Rep. Walker, Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee.

II. Approval of the Minutes of February 12: Mr. Stowe entertained a motion to approve the minutes as distributed; the minutes were approved.

III. Closing the Achievement Gap: Mr. Potter opened the session on closing the achievement gap. He indicated that the traditional technical studies to identify schools closing the achievement gap are available on the EOC website. He then introduced Dr. Diane Monrad, Director of the University of South Carolina Educational Policy Center (SCEPC). Dr. Monrad presented a summary of the research (distributed in the meeting materials) that documented the impact of school climate. She outlined statistical studies that indicate nine of the ten most powerful influences on school wide academic performance are school climate factors. These factors are identified from responses to the teacher, student and parent surveys. She called for exploration of the factors at the district level, discovery of patterns within demographic groups and a redesign of the school survey data report.

Mr. Potter introduced Mr. Johnny Calder, Principal of Forestbrook Elementary School in Horry County. Mr. Calder outlined the elements that define the instructional and support programs for students at the school. The school has been recognized by the EOC for five consecutive years. Mr. Calder's power point presentation has been distributed to members and is available from the EOC offices.

Mr. Potter introduced Mrs. Shailene Riginos, Principal of Liberty Elementary School in Pickens County. Mrs. Riginos outlined the instructional and support strategies used at Liberty Elementary School to attain high achievement levels and to be honored for five consecutive years. Her PowerPoint is also available from the EOC offices.

After members asked a number of questions of presenters, Mr. Stowe and Superintendent Rex awarded certificates to honorees and thanked them for their accomplishments. The EOC then recessed for a short period.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He informed the EOC of actions by the Ways and Means Committee and the House of Representatives on the budget recommendations.

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. DeLoach presented the subcommittee recommendations: (1) The Subcommittee recommended approval of the English language arts standards. Superintendent Rex asked for the standards

documents to be revised in accordance with a handout he distributed. The request included changing language regarding the use of the standards in design of assessments and elimination of Standard 7. Dr. Woodall asked for the inclusion of word lists as well as Greek and Latin roots of words. Dr. Siskind and Mrs. Jones responded on behalf of the State Department of Education (SDE). There was discussion of the appropriateness of including these within the standards document or within accompanying instructional resource documents. In response to questions, Dr. Anderson reviewed the authority of the EOC to approve or disapprove the standards documents only.

Mr. DeLoach moved approval of the standards with Rep. Cotty's amendment to specify that the EOC understood the standards and support documents are to be mailed simultaneously. The motion passed with one objection.

Discussion of the changes proposed by Supt. Rex followed. The members determined that it would be inappropriate for them to approve changes as proposed by the SDE, without action by the State Board of Education (SBE). The EOC members agreed that, following action by the SBE to include the changes, the staff would poll the membership to gain its approval.

- (2) The Subcommittee recommended approval of the Math Standards. The EOC approved.
- (3) The Subcommittee recommended changes to the format of the annual school and district report cards as distributed in the meeting materials. The EOC approved.

C. Public Awareness

On behalf of the Subcommittee Mr. Martin drew members' attention to the summary of the county tours and asked for approval of the summary to be distributed statewide. The EOC approved.

Mr. Martin moved the EOC go into executive session. The EOC went into Executive Session.

The EOC came out of Executive Session.

Mr. Martin moved that the contract for Chernoff-Newman and Associates be extended by one year. The EOC approved the motion.

V. Other Business

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
June 12, 2007
Buck Ridge Plantation, Neeses, South Carolina

10:00 a.m. SPECIAL SESSION

Members present: Alex Martin, Michael Brenan, Bill Cotty, Thomas DeLoach, Dennis Drew, Sen. Mike Fair, Sen. Wes Hayes, Buffy Murphy, Supt. Jim Rex, Neil Robinson, Kristi Woodall

Between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) participated in the State Board of Education (SBE) meeting to hear the report and recommendations on computer-based or computer-adaptive testing from Data Recognition Corporation (DRC). Members were provided a copy of the draft report; the final report is to be available on June 30, 2007.

LUNCH

EOC and SBE members continued with lunch and informal discussions

1:00 p.m. REGULAR MEETING

Members present: Alex Martin, Michael Brenan, Bill Cotty, Thomas DeLoach, Dennis Drew, Sen. Mike Fair, Sen. Wes Hayes, Buffy Murphy, Neil Robinson, Kristi Woodall

- I. Mr. Martin called the meeting to order.
- II. Mr. Martin asked for approval of the minutes as distributed. The minutes were approved.
- III. Subcommittee Reports
 - A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. DeLoach reported on behalf of the subcommittee.
 - (1) Mr. DeLoach asked Mr. Potter to explain the action item on the use of end-of-course tests in school ratings. Mr. Potter reviewed the four recommendations addressing the use of end-of-course tests in middle school ratings, for courses taken in the virtual school, for courses taken as dual credit and for ninth grade only schools. The recommendations were approved as presented;
 - (2) On behalf of Mr. DeLoach, Dr. Horne explained the changes to the mathematics content standards as given first reading approval by the State Board of Education. These included changes to the multiplication facts to be learned at grade 3 and the use of decimal equivalents of common fractions. The standards were approved;
 - (3) Mr. DeLoach presented a status report on the English language arts (ELA) standards, with Dr. Horne responding to questions as appropriate. The State Department of Education is conducting a pilot of the ELA standards through the February 2008 and anticipates presenting standards to the SBE for first reading in March 2008. Members discussed ways in which to make their views known earlier and ways to enhance dialogue between the EOC and SBE within the process. Sen. Fair asked about the Administrative Procedures Act timelines and its alignment with the standards review process;
 - (4) Mr. DeLoach indicated that the subcommittee had reviewed the recommendations from the cyclical review of the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Tests and deferred action until a number of questions could be explored and the recommendations that may result from Supt. Rex' task forces heard.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Robinson reported on behalf of the subcommittee.

(1) Mr. Robinson outlined the proposal for a triennial evaluation plan and presented two recommendations (adoption of the plan and elimination of several reports currently required). The recommendations were approved as presented;

(2) Mr. Robinson drew members' attention to information on the FY2008 budget, as yet not concluded;

(3) Mr. Robinson presented the format by which information is to be collected and used in the development of the FY09 budget recommendations. The electronic format should reduce requirements on other agencies as well as provide consistent information;

(4) Mr. Robinson reviewed the report on the flexibility proviso, noting that only about 1 percent of state funds are transferred from one category to another.

C. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the subcommittee.

(1) He presented the detailed analysis of responses to the parent survey, noting general trends that persist over time;

(2) Mr. Martin outlined the FY08 communications plan and remarked on its consistency with the EOC's desire for greater impact.

(3) Mr. Martin introduced Trip DuBard, SBE member and president of The School Foundation (benefiting Florence One). Mr. DuBard outlined a fall event in which presidential candidates are asked to discuss their views on public education. He is requesting EOC endorsement and participation. Members deferred action and expressed that the activity may fall outside of the EOC mission but wished to convey their encouragement.

IV. Ad Hoc Committee on Computer-based, Computer Adaptive Testing. Mr. Martin asked for volunteers. Mr. Brennan and Mr. Robinson volunteered. Rep. Walker was nominated to serve with them on the ad hoc group. The group is to meet with the Advisory Panel and to offer recommendations at the August EOC meeting.

V. General Discussion: Members expressed that the joint meeting with the SBE had gone well and that the two groups should meet jointly at least once or twice a year.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting August 13-14, 2007

Monday, August 13, 2007

Members present: Mr. Stowe, Mr. Martin, Mr. Brenan, Rep. Cotty, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Drew, Sen. Fair, Sen. Hayes, Mrs. Murphy, Rep. Neal, Supt. Rex, Mr. Robinson, Rep. Walker, and Dr. Woodall

Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Stowe welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He outlined the purpose of the meeting as setting priorities for the coming year, encouraging engagement in the process of improvement and extending our commitment to strong schools. He asked Dr. Anderson to comment on several items. Dr. Anderson informed members of the progress on the Public Choice Innovation Schools, the contract with Louisiana State University on the ratings methodology, the addition of Katrina Greene to the EOC staff and the publication of the Back to School newspaper insert.

I. Improving Quality Data: Mrs. Elizabeth Carpentier, Deputy Superintendent from the State Department of Education outlined efforts undertaken by the SDE in the last twelve months to improve the accuracy of data submitted by schools and districts and published by the SDE. These efforts include implementation of the Student Unique Numbering System (SUNDS), the Longitudinal Data System and increased training for those who enter and utilize the data at the local district and school level. Mrs. Carpentier indicated the SUNS system included students in the 4K as well as K-12 programs and was 98.2 percent implemented. EOC members asked about implementation of SUNS in adult education so that the graduation rate could be captured. Dr. Janet Rose and Ms. Elainna Rickenbacker, Charleston County School District, presented two aspects of the Charleston process: the ARAS system for predicting students with difficulties and the processes by which data are verified routinely and errors corrected.

II. Child Development Education Pilot: Mr. David Potter and Mrs. Melanie Barton, EOC staff, presented the interim report on the Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP). The interim report outlined the enrollments, administrative issues and start up challenges for the first year. A number of changes are to be implemented in the second year of the pilot, including the expansion to six more districts, attention to students with disabilities and/or non-English speaking students, and revisions to administrative procedures. The January 2008 report should include enrollments for the 2007-2008 year, student assessment information and teacher information. Members raised questions or commented on the grants for equipment and materials, the need for statewide implementation and the relationship of DSS licensure to program approval. At least one member suggested the program would be strengthened by wrap-around services and others asked if the process by which private providers are recruited is sufficiently robust.

III. Making and Sustaining Improvements: Dr. Frank Brown, MarketSearch, presented the report on executive interviews with superintendents in districts receiving technical assistance. He identified teacher recruitment and retention, the balance of autonomy and intervention and the costs of sustaining a strategy after state funds are removed as areas of continuing concern. Superintendents also discussed the challenge of meeting the moving targets under NCLB and the EAA ratings.

Dr. Rainey Knight, Darlington County Schools, and Dr. John Kirby, Dillon School District Three, talked with members about the changes and improvements in the districts in which they are superintendents. Dr. Knight pointed out that progress has been much slower than she ever anticipated; she focuses on creating conditions in which teachers can teach well. Dr. Kirby pointed out the need for strong building level teams, emphasis on technology literacy and the challenges of

student performance in the middle schools. Each questioned the capacity of PACT to identify and report student performance at the middle grades. They expressed strong feelings that teacher retention is more important than teacher recruitment. The superintendents expressed concern that the academic plans are not working well. Dr. Kirby talked about the need for a strong statewide vision and the role of the governor in creating and communicating that vision. When asked about teacher retention, Dr. Knight described the Darlington salary structure but indicated that a supportive administration and a teaching culture were as important as money. Dr. Kirby described the need for teacher housing and his district's efforts to repay loans, help with living expenses, adding merit pay and providing incentives for attendance.

IV. Task Force on Teacher Recruitment/Retention: Dr. Paul Horne, EOC staff, updated members on the work of the task force which is to be reported to the full committee in October. The task force has examined data systems, engagement of teacher preparation institutions and total compensation (more than salary) packages. Members asked for more information on the Georgia higher education goals for teacher preparation.

V. US History End-of-Course Test: Mr. Potter distributed materials on the US History End of Course Test and described the lack of alignment among the course as written, the course as taught and the course as tested. Responses to the teacher survey were shared. The EOC staff is sharing the information with the members of the Instructional Roundtable on August 16 and is to bring recommendations to the Academic Standards and Assessments Subcommittee in September.

Tuesday, August 14, 2007

Members present: Mr. Stowe, Mr. Martin, Mr. Brenan, Rep. Cotty, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Drew, Sen. Fair, Sen. Hayes, Rep. Neal, Mr. Robinson, Rep. Walker, and Dr. Woodall

I. Executive Session-Personnel Matter: Mr. Stowe called for an Executive Session. Following the lifting of the veil, Mr. Martin moved that Dr. Anderson's contract be extended for a period of three years under the terms discussed. The members approved the extension.

II. Community Engagement-Mayor's Coalition to Prevent Juvenile Crime: Mayor Frank Willis (Florence) and Jim Shaw, Florence School District One, presented information on the community effort that has reduced gang activity and juvenile crime and increased school performance. The effort has brought together public and private groups to focus on these issues and build a comprehensive response to the needs. The Mayor and Coalition members are available to meet with local community leaders and officials around the state and explain how they have built the coalition and how it is successful.

III. Consensus Statements on Testing: Mr. Brenan drew members' attention to the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Computer Based/Computer Adaptive testing. Members agreed with the recommendations regarding infrastructure development. After much discussion, members agreed with the Ad Hoc group and recommended that a statement of direction and coordination across school districts is necessary, with a strong focus on instruction. They requested that their concerns be developed into recommendations to the General Assembly.

IV. Distribution of NBPTS Teachers: Mrs. Barton presented a model for increasing the number of NBPTS teachers in rural South Carolina. Members questioned the purpose of NBPTS certification, performance linkages to student achievement, and concerns with rising financial commitment to the program. Prior to any decisions, the members indicated the need for information on the assignments of those receiving the state supplement and their retention in the profession. Rep. Cotty suggested that any action would require three years' notices and that perhaps the current

supplement should be divided into three components (certification, classroom assignment and working in a high poverty district). Members asked that this information and other alternatives be developed over the 2007-2008 year.

V. Priorities and Objectives for 2007-2008: Mr. Stowe asked that all business members serve on the Public Awareness Subcommittee and that Mr. Brenan serve as chair of that subcommittee.

Rep. Neal asked that the EOC's community involvement initiative expand to include building coalitions and/or providing information about initiatives such as the Mayor's Coalition in Florence to communities across South Carolina. Some questioned the capacity and role of the EOC in this effort. There was discussion of the EEDA regional education coalitions and their responsibility in this area as well as work conducted by the After School Alliance. Rep. Neal emphasized the responsibility of the EOC to use its bully pulpit to communicate the importance of these initiatives. Sen. Fair recommended this project be given to the Public Awareness Subcommittee to determine the capacity and costs of this effort.

In setting priorities for 2007-2008, the EOC asked that objectives be structured around the NBPTS questions, the computer infrastructure needed in schools, community collaborations, performance in the middle grades and early education. Several members asked that Judge Cooper's order be reviewed and that we examine the impact of current improvement efforts on the lowest performing 8-10 districts, including a community appraisal. Mr. Stowe emphasized the need to set a substantive goal for graduation rate and to continue to support the innovation initiatives. Other members suggested that we need to talk with deans of colleges of education and with principals about the mismatch between the teacher graduate and the classroom so that the problem can be defined clearly.

Dr. Anderson brought up concerns about the increase in rigor and the need for EOC clarity. Members indicated the importance of staying with the 2010 goal, but expressed strong concern about polarizations and the inability of groups with differing views to discuss alternatives. After discussion of the link between the NCLB Adequate Yearly Progress designation and the state ratings, Rep. Cotty moved to sever the linkage. The motion passed.

Dr. Anderson is to provide draft objectives for consideration at the October meeting.

The Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
October 8, 2007

Members present: Mr. Stowe, Mr. Brenan, Rep. Cotty, Mr. Daniel, Mr. DeLoach, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Mrs. Hairfield, Senator Hayes, Rep. Neal, Mr. Robinson, Rep. Walker

I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Stowe welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He introduced Mrs. Barbara Hairfield, an educator appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Dr. Katrina Greene, a new EOC staff person.

Rep. Walker requested a moment to thank EOC members and staff for their words of encouragement and support during his surgery and recovery.

Mr. Stowe announced the schedule for the December 10 meeting: 11:00 a.m.-Business Meeting; 1:00 p.m. – Where Are We Now luncheon. Both events are scheduled for the Clarion Townhouse.

II. Minutes of June 12 and August 13-14. Upon Mr. Robinson's motion and Mr. Daniel's second, the minutes of the June 12 and August 13-14 meeting were approved.

III. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. DeLoach reported on behalf of the subcommittee. Because there was not a quorum at the subcommittee meeting, Mr. DeLoach brought two matters without recommendation before the EOC.

(1) Mr. Potter outlined the issues related to the U. S. History and the Constitution end-of-course assessment. Members discussed the potential impact of student motivation, teacher response rates to the survey, instructional supports needed and the breadth and depth of material to be taught. Following discussion, Mr. DeLoach moved approval of the recommendations; Rep. Walker seconded and the motion passed.

(2) Mr. Potter outlined the issues regarding the SC Alternate Assessment. Members discussed the use of the scores in the district rating and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) designation. After discussion, Mr. DeLoach moved approval of the recommendations. The motion passed.

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

(1) Mr. Daniel provided information on the meeting of the subcommittee with Dr. Gary Henry, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Dr. Henry, an advisor on the development and evaluation of the Child Development Education Program Pilot (CDEPP), discussed experiences with programs serving four year olds in Georgia, North Carolina and California. He outlined a series of research findings including those on heterogeneity of classrooms, teacher credentials and anticipated outcomes of the program.

(2) Mr. Daniel reviewed the current report on the Teacher Loan Program. Members questioned the strategies to encourage males and African-American students to participate in the program and if students had been denied loans because of appropriation limitations.

(3) Mr. Daniel reviewed the report of the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Task Force. Members discussed the recommendations, particularly the recommendation for mentoring and/or induction programs. Mr. Mark Bounds, Deputy Superintendent at the State Department of Education, responded to questions regarding the budget request for mentoring, including the unavailability of data to project the return on investment.

- C. Public Awareness: Mr. Brenan reported on behalf of the Public Awareness Subcommittee.

Mr. Brenan reviewed progress of the PAIRS program and the subcommittee's interest in developing a program to provide incentives for college students to work in the schools.

IV. General Discussion

Mr. Stowe drew members' attention to the draft objectives. Members asked questions about the project with Louisiana State University to examine the ratings methodologies, using multiple calculations and also comparing progress on South Carolina tests and the Measures of Academic Progress. Rep. Cotty asked about EOC attention to the issues of the equity lawsuit and how we are focusing on the schools in which students are not succeeding. He urged attention to approaches that would increase student performance and school achievement.

Mr. DeLoach asked that members pay attention to concerns of the statewide charter school district and indicated that the district may be seeking legislative changes to its legislation to ensure that adequate funding is available.

Mrs. Hairfield asked how the objectives are used to guide EOC work. Dr. Anderson explained the agency plan and agreed to mail members a copy of the work plan.

Members agreed to add an objective at the December meeting to make certain this attention is evident. Mr. Robinson moved approval of the objectives (with the caveat that a fifth objective is to be drafted for December action). The motion was seconded and passed.

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
December 10, 2007

Members present: Mr. Stowe, Mr. Martin, Mr. Brennan, Rep. Cotty, Mr. Daniel, Mr. DeLoach, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Mrs. Hairfield, Senator Hayes, Superintendent Rex, Mr. Robinson, Rep. Walker, Dr. Woodall

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Stowe welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He asked that EOC members sit at the reserved seat at each table for the luncheon and facilitate conversations among table occupants.

II. Minutes of the October 8, 2007 meeting

The minutes were approved as distributed.

III. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments

There was no report.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms

Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the subcommittee.

4. Action: FY2008-2009 EIA and EAA Budget Recommendations: Mr. Daniel outlined the discussion and recommendations regarding the distribution of available revenues, noting changes in projections from the current to the subsequent fiscal years. He also drew members' attention to the provisos related to the funding recommendations.

Senator Fair raised questions about the roll-up of funds to focus on reading, asking that attention to efforts with families not be compromised.

A number of members questioned the utility of the national board certification supplement. Mr. Daniel responded that the subcommittee had considered several options, including sun setting the program. Some asked for a definitive study on the relationship between performance and the certification. Others suggested that similar questions could be raised about the higher salary levels for individuals holding masters or doctoral degrees. Mr. Daniel indicated that the subcommittee had recommended funds to CERRA for a study of achievement and certification. Dr. Sawyer spoke on behalf of CERRA and expressed concerns that the agency could not provide the data in a timely fashion. Members suggested that we talk with Dr. Traci Young Cooper who conducted her doctoral research in this area. Rep. Cotty raised three issues: (1) does the certification have value; (2) should we continue the supplement as teachers renew the ten-year certificate; and (3) on what schedule should the state discontinue a ten-year commitment?

The members expressed concerns about the supplement, its impact on compensation for all students and agreed to support the continuation for another year. The staff is to provide detailed information in January which would examine the relationship of the certification to school ratings.

With respect to technical assistance, members expressed concern over the decline in school performance and the likelihood of improvement. One member asked if the system of technical assistance funding rewarded failure.

Mr. Robinson proposed language to expand the proviso requesting information on students with disabilities to include the qualifications of their teachers. This was adopted.

Funding for the Public Choice Innovation Schools was increased by \$1 million in anticipation of greater engagement in the program.

The subcommittee recommendations were approved by a 9-4 vote.

1. Information: Update on the Funding Model

Mr. Daniel reviewed the annual update to the funding model noting the similarity of projections of a base student costs using four classifications of districts.

2. Information: Report on the Retraining Grant Program

Mr. Daniel drew members' attention to the report included in their packet. He reminded them that this is the last separate report on the program as the program has been absorbed within the broader technical assistance program and is to be evaluated within evaluations of professional development and/or technical assistance generally.

3. Information: Research Design for the Palmetto Priority Schools Project

Mr. Daniel reviewed the design. Members expressed support for the deeper study of issues impacting school performance.

C. Public Awareness

There was no report.

IV. Fifth EOC Objective

Mr. Stowe outlined the fifth objective for the year to focus on urgency for change and innovation. The objective was adopted without objection.

Mr. Stowe asked Dr. Anderson to provide an update on the Public Choice Innovation Schools. She indicated that five full awards and one partial award would be announced at the December 12 State Board of Education meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m. Members attended the "Where Are We Now" luncheon following the meeting.