

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
February 11, 2013

Members Present: Mr. Robinson; Mr. Bowers; Senator Fair; Senator Hayes; Mrs. Hairfield; Dr. Merck; Rep. Neal; Rep. Smith; Mr. Warner; Mr. Whittemore; and Dr. Zais

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Robinson welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- II. Approval of the Minutes of the December 10, 2012 Meeting - The minutes were approved as distributed.
- III. Subcommittee Reports

The committee then turned to the Subcommittee reports.

A. Academic Standards and Assessments:

Dr. Merck updated the committee on the panel that will provide recommendations to the EOC on the cyclical review of the accountability system including an overview of the panel's meeting schedule.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms

In the absence of Mr. Drew, Mrs. Barton summarized the Governor's EIA budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2013-14 and the status of the budget in the House Ways and Means Committee. She also notified members that the EOC will present its budget and proviso recommendations to the K-12 Subcommittee of Senate Finance on March 6.

C. Public Awareness

First, Mrs. Hairfield reported on the public release of South Carolina's progress toward the 2020 Vision. A press conference was held at 11:00 a.m. in the State House lobby with Neil Robinson and Herb Johnson, Director of Community Relations at Michelin North America, providing comments. Representatives from Lexington One and Lexington Five school districts also participated. The event was well attended by all major media outlets in the midlands and across the state as the event was streamed live. Mrs. Hairfield focused on the four indicators and the state's progress toward meeting the objectives. Mr. Bowers asked if there were any common characteristics of the At-Risk schools. Sen. Fair responded that extreme poverty dominates in many of these schools whereas in other schools of comparable poverty strong leadership at the district level has promoted progress.

Then Mrs. Hairfield detailed the 2013 Annual Report which will be provided to the members of the General Assembly on March 1. Sen. Fair moved and Sen. Hayes seconded a motion to approve the report with staff given the ability to make cosmetic changes as needed.

The EOC then watched four videos, winners of the EOC's video contest among middle and high school students on innovation.

Finally Mr. Warner introduced to the committee a platform on Innoventure.com that can be used by public schools to present innovative ideas and connect resources and individuals to schools and classroom implementing innovative practices. Clemson University has a similar platform on the website. Next High School, which is in the process of developing a public school utilizing web-delivered instruction and project-based learning, is an example of an innovative school already on the website. Rep. Neal asked for clarification about the process an individual would go through to be on the website. The committee discussed working with New Carolina, the organization that is taking the lead in the innovation initiative, while offering our staff's expertise on innovative practices. Sen. Fair moved that the EOC be engaged in helping to engage educators in posting information on the website and to oversee the content. Senate Hayes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Discussion of Comprehensive Vision for Systemic Change in Reading

Mr. Robinson began the discussion noting the stagnant reading scores of our state in both PASS and NAEP. Mr. Warner recommended that the EOC staff contact David Bolton, a literacy expert for additional information. Mrs. Hairfield summarized the engagement of the deans of the colleges of higher education on this issue. She also voiced concern that all teachers need the additional training in literacy. She provided an example that when the state went to a certification for middle-school level teachers all existing teachers were grandfathered-in, a policy decision that did not improve instruction or build capacity. Mr. Bowers asked about the impact of universal four-old kindergarten on readiness assessments. Mr. Warner and Mr. Neal talked about the impact of poverty and family environment on many of our students' ability to develop vocabulary. Mr. Robinson stated that he would appoint a subcommittee to begin work in the next two weeks on proposals to be presented to the General Assembly for systemically improving reading in our schools. Members interested in serving would need to tell him or staff.

V. Adjournment

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
April 8, 2013

Members Present: Mr. Robinson; Mr. Bowers; Mr. Drew; Senator Fair; Senator Hayes; Mrs. Hairfield; Sen. Matthews; Dr. Merck; Rep. Neal; Rep. Patrick; Rep. Smith; Mr. Whittemore; and Dr. Zais

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Robinson welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He recognized and welcomed back to the EOC Senator John Matthews, the newest member of the EOC and the appointee of the Chairman of Senate Finance, Senator Hugh Leatherman.
- II. Approval of the Minutes of the February 11, 2013 Meeting - The minutes were approved as distributed.
- III. Special Guest – Dr. Dave Conley, of the Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC) at the University of Oregon was recognized. Earlier in the day Dr. Conley discussed with the cyclical accountability review panel whether or not students graduating from public schools in the United State are ready for college and careers. Dr. Conley summarized the work that EPIC has done at the state level with Texas in the creation of their college and career standards and with other states like Oregon and Maine. In addition, EPIC has worked in South Carolina to bring the faculty of high schools and the faculty of colleges together to improve course realignment and to make the transition to post-secondary education a smoother one. At the national level, Dr. Conley has worked with the College Board on the Advanced Placement course audits.

Mr. Robinson asked about his work with state accountability systems. Dr. Conley responded that state accountability systems with a variety of assessments including student self-reporting assessments seem to provide the most meaningful impact. Rep. Neal asked about the validation of data. Dr. Conley referred to his work in Maine working on course pathways and his work in Texas on the college and career readiness standards. Sen. Fair asked if a moratorium on assessments during the implementation of Common Core State Standards would be prudent and asked about computer adaptive testing. Dr. Conley responded that student learning progression is easier with computer adaptive testing. He also commented that, if, during a testing moratorium schools and school districts do not implement professional development or use alternative assessments to document student learning, then, a moratorium does not benefit the schools or students.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

The committee then turned to the Subcommittee reports.

A. Academic Standards and Assessments:

Dr. Merck updated the committee on the panel that will provide recommendations to the EOC on the cyclical review of the accountability system including an overview of the panel's focus group meetings in Charleston, Columbia and Greenville during the week of April 8.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms

Mr. Drew updated the EOC on the EIA budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2031-14 as adopted by the House of Representatives. He noted that the House concurred with almost all of the EOC's budget and proviso recommendations with one exception, being instructional materials. Mrs. Barton noted that the objective of the House was to increase the base student cost of the Education Finance Act (EFA).

Mr. Drew then presented the evaluation of the Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP) that analyzed the PASS results for the first and second cohorts of students who participated in CDEPP. The Committee discussed the results which did not produce dramatic improvement in student learning, noting the 14 percent retention rate of the first CDEPP Cohort. When looking at prior evaluations provided by the EOC, the lack of instructional support in CDEPP classrooms apparently continues to be an issue. Rep. Smith asked Dr. Zais how he would address improving the number of effective teachers in the classrooms of South Carolina. Dr. Zais responded that teachers and principals should be held accountable for their results. Mr. Drew noted that if the General Assembly chooses to expand the CDEPP program, there may be an impact on the child care industry, and there may not be the educational improvement provided that focusing resources on children from birth through age three may have.

Mr. Drew summarized the evaluation of the Teacher Loan Program for 2011-12. He noted the decline in the number of applicants and the fact that there are still not enough appropriations to cover all eligible applicants. The Committee voted unanimously to adopt the report, which will then be forwarded to the members of the General Assembly.

C. Special Reading Subcommittee

Mrs. Hairfield reported that Senate Bill 516 was introduced in March. Sponsored by Sen. Peeler and co-sponsored by Senators Courson, Hayes, and Fair, the bill would implement a comprehensive and systemic approach to reading. Mr. Robinson publically thanked Senators Hayes and Fair for their support and Senator Peeler for his leadership. Mrs. Hairfield noted that the reading subcommittee reviewed S.516 at its March 18 meeting and is surveying districts to get their response. Dr. Zais appreciated the focus on literacy and the commitment to reading instruction. Mrs. Hairfield noted that the focus on requiring all teachers to get appropriate training in reading is critical to assisting students in learning to read and in reading for comprehension in content areas.

V. Adjournment

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
June 10, 2013

Members Present: Mr. Robinson; Mr. Bowers; Mr. Drew; Senator Hayes; Mr. Martin; Dr. Merck; Rep. Smith; Mr. Warner; Mr. Whittemore; and Dr. Zais

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Robinson welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- II. Approval of the Minutes of the April 8, 2013 Meeting. The minutes were approved as distributed.
- III. Key Constituencies

First, the chairman recognized Charles Bierbauer, Dean of the College of Mass Communications and Information Studies at the University of South Carolina to recognize the staff and work of Cockey's Reading Express. Dean Bierbauer noted in his time at the University the one program that has had the most meaningful impact on literacy has been Cockey's Reading Express. Dean Bierbauer then called upon Kim Jeffcoat, Executive Director of the South Carolina Center for Children's Books and Literacy to describe the literacy initiatives which include publishing children's literature that is focused on South Carolina or written by authors from South Carolina and distributing over 61,000 books. In collaboration with the School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina, the center is beginning a pilot program in Calhoun County for children ages three through five and their parents. In collaboration with the public schools, faith-based organizations and county library, a full continuum of services will be provided to children and their families including, but not limited to: speech and hearing screenings for children; medical and financial assistance to families; family nights at the public library where children will receive books. Data will be collected on the impact of literacy in the county, including data documenting summer reading loss declines.

Dr. Zais reiterated the importance of children being given the option of choosing their books. Mr. Robinson asked funding for the pilot program. Ms. Jeffcoat explained that Central Carolina Community Foundation is funding the pilot program. Rep. Smith asked a question to clarify who wrote the children's books.

Then the chairman recognized Julissa Germosen, Worldwide Business Development Manager for Microsoft Learning. Ms. Germosen described how Microsoft IT Academy is partnering with North Carolina, Florida and other states to increase the number of students earning certification in Microsoft technology. For example, in North Carolina last year 600 high schools offered the program with 50,000 students receiving the certification. Florida awarded 40,000 certifications. In Virginia, Louisiana and Washington, each stated had 10,000 certifications awarded. Georgia, Alabama and Arkansas had between 2,500 and 3000. Ms. Germosen noted that North Carolina is using the program as a means to leverage industry recruitment. If the program is implemented in South Carolina through a proviso in the state budget, there are currently 2,700 positions today that are seeking individuals with Microsoft skills.

Mr. Robinson asked about the cost of the program. According to Ms. Germosen to offer the program in every high school in the state would cost approximately \$330,000. Mr.

Bowers asked for clarification on how the program is implemented, either as a separate class or within existing courses. Ms. Germosen stated that in most states the program is imbedded across the content areas.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

The committee then turned to the Subcommittee reports.

A. Academic Standards and Assessments:

Dr. Merck reported that the Subcommittee recommends two revisions to the 2012-13 accountability manual regarding the Palmetto Gold and Silver Award program and the Growth rating calculations. He explained that the revisions are due to the impact of the revised Growth value table which was approved by the EOC in October of 2012. Mr. Bowers asked about future changes to the accountability that would focus on improving literacy. Mrs. Barton responded that those issues will be discussed by the EOC at its August retreat. There being no further debate, the changes were approved by the EOC unanimously.

Then Dr. Merck presented the report of the results of the 2012 parent survey. Mr. Bowers asked if the results were representative of the state geographically. The report was adopted.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms

Mr. Drew updated the EOC on the 2013-14 General Appropriation Act. As Mr. Drew noted, overwhelmingly the General Assembly adopted the EOC's funding and proviso recommendations for the Education Improvement Act. Mr. Drew asked Mrs. Barton to update the EOC on the legislature's expansion of the Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP) and implementation of nonprofit scholarship funding organizations.

Senator Hayes commented that the two initiatives, expansion of CDEPP and the reading legislation, are both on the Senate calendar and do reinforce the Senate's desire to improve early literacy.

C. Public Awareness

In the absence of Mrs. Hairfield, Dana Yow of the EOC staff informed the EOC of the Subcommittee's actions including a billboard campaign to increase the public's awareness of the importance of reading; an electronic signage campaign in May to thank teachers during Teacher Appreciation Month; the design of a brochure to be used to engage community partners in literacy; and the release of a joint EOC-SC Department of Education website dedicated to the 2013-14 Family Friendly Standards.

D. Special Reading Subcommittee

Mrs. Barton reported on the work of the subcommittee. She noted that two of its members and Mr. Drew attended a presentation by the Foundation for Excellence in

Education for legislators and guests invited by Rep. Patrick, an EOC member and chair of the K-12 Subcommittee of the House Education and Public Works Committee.

- V. The EOC then went into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a contractual matter.

The veil having been lifted, the EOC came out of Executive Session. Rep. Smith made a motion to offer a one-year contract to Mrs. Barton to continue serving as Executive Director in Fiscal Year 2013-14 under the same terms, conditions, and compensations as in the prior fiscal year. Sen. Hayes seconded the motion and the motion passed.

- VI. Adjournment
Having no other business, the EOC adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting

August 8, 2013
Clemson at the Falls
Greenville, South Carolina

Members Present: Mr. Robinson; Mr. Bowers; Mr. Drew; Sen. Fair; Sen. Hayes; Ms. Hairfield; Sen. Matthews; Dr. Merck; Rep. Patrick; Mr. Whittemore; Mr. Martin, and Mr. Warner

Guests Present: Mr. Jay W. Ragley, South Carolina Department of Education; Sarah Collins, EPIC; Dr. Joseph R. Pye, Dorchester 2 Superintendent; Dr. Sean Alford, Assistant Superintendent, Dorchester 2; Ms. Debi Gilliam, Director of Assessment, Dorchester 2; Ms. Sally Cauthen, Senate Education staff; Mr. Grant Gibson, Senate Finance staff; Ms. Emily Heatwole, House Ways and Means staff; Ms. Rachel Card, Governor's office staff; and Ms. Rachael Fulmer, Budget and Control Board staff

Staff Present: Ms. Barton; Dr. Andrews; Ms. Yow; and Ms. King

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Robinson welcomed members and guests to the retreat. He thanked Clemson University for their hospitality and their willingness to donate the space for the meeting. He rescinded the resolution concerning the Common Core Standards that was included in the packet, stating that the intent of the resolution had been misinterpreted. Sen. Fair asked that more time be given to discussions about the standards at a later date. Mr. Robinson reminded members and the audience that they had a number of important items on their agenda to deal with both days.
- II. The minutes of the meeting of June 10, 2013 were approved as submitted.
- III. Recap of the 2013 Legislative Session – Mr. Robinson asked Ms. Barton to provide the committee with a recap of the 2013 legislative session. Referring to the document provided to members in the packet, Ms. Barton told members that the focus of the CDEPP evaluation this year will focus on quality, not administration of the program. She pointed out that the General Assembly appropriated \$1.5 million for summer reading camps for the children who score Not Met 1 on PASS Reading and Research, and the camps will begin next summer. The committee discussed the growing percentage of students in poverty in SC schools. Mr. Ragley discussed details he noted at the federal level in regards to the program. These comments led to a broader discussion of federal funding in education. Mr. Ragley stated that 9-11% of money spent on education comes from federal dollars. Mr. Bowers noted his concerns about federal money as well as the potential mining of student data in Common Core. Mr. Ragley addressed Mr. Bowers' concerns, stating that no student names are reported on the federal government; all personal student data stay at the state level.
- IV. Cyclical Review of the State Accountability System – Ms. Barton provided a comprehensive overview of where the jobs are in today's economy and the credentials that students must have to get these jobs and others that have yet to be developed in the future. Although SC's high school graduation has steadily increased over the past few years, the three-year graduation rate for public two-year colleges is extremely low for students in South Carolina. Ms. Barton discussed the need to focus on the preparation of students in K-12, especially since the state currently spends \$21 million in remediation in two-year technical colleges. Committee members reiterated the need to define what it means for a student to be college- and career-ready, moving students from novice learners to expert cognitive strategists. Ms. Barton discussed the willingness of business members like Jim Reynolds to move swiftly on having these

conversations. Committee members also discussed groups that are actively having discussions about the future of education in SC, like Governor Haley and the SC Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Barton also presented members with performance data on NAEP, ACT, SAT, and AP, noting trends in the data. Other topics during the discussion included the gaps in performance on SAT. Mr. Warner discussed the gap between SC students scoring at the top levels of the SAT has historically been larger than other gaps, when compared with similarly-scored peers in other states. Ms. Barton said she was concerned since a gap was starting to emerge among the lower performing students as well. Based on earlier correspondence from Mr. Bowers, Ms. Barton discussed data from the 2013 Kids Count Profile. She noted the percentage of children in single-parent families has worsened; in 2011, 42% of children were in single-family homes. Sen. Matthews requested that staff provide him with details related to the academic achievement among students in single family homes.

Ms. Collins from EPIC presented information about the process that EPIC used to engage stakeholder groups in the cyclical review process. The main goals of the system (i.e., True North), identified by the stakeholder groups and cyclical review group, were literacy & numeracy and higher order thinking skills. Each of the groups looked at accountability systems of different states and identified what was important in an accountability system. Overall, the process revealed that stakeholders agreed that the goal is to create a 21st century accountability system that measures whether all students are prepared to enter college and careers of the 21st century; federal and state accountability systems should be consistent; and further discussion is needed on particulars. Committee members agreed we must formulate a definition of college and career readiness in SC as well as what is essential for students to learn.

Ms. Barton followed-up with a discussion of a framework developed by staff using the recommendations of the cyclical review group and stakeholder groups. The system uses measures of knowledge, opportunities, skills, and future success. Opportunity measures, as presented, would be part of local accountability and reported to school district school boards. The committee discussed the framework, citing the need for local accountability. Rep. Patrick stated that local accountability was not systemic because it had not been mandated to be systemic. Sen. Matthews discussed the unintended consequences of accountability and how we must do something to address the needs of teachers in poor districts. There is currently nothing to incentivize principals and teachers to go to districts in poor areas or those that are not performing well. Mr. Warner discussed the need to build the capacity of teachers and empower them. Mr. Merck stated that the committee needs to determine what success is; what do we value in an education system. Ms. Hairfield stated that educators are looking for more formative assessments that can drive instruction.

Ms. Barton noted that the EOC was invited to attend a joint meeting with the Cyclical Review panel on September 16, from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. to discuss and reach consensus on issues related to amending the state's accountability system.

- V. Alternative Assessments Update / Standards and Assessments Update – The committee considered alternative assessment proposals brought forward to them as a result of Proviso 1A.62.

Dorchester School District 2 – Their proposal uses ACT Aspire in grades 3-8 as well as ACT and ACT WorkKeys in Grade 11. Superintendent Joe Pye and Dr. Sean Alford answered questions from members about the proposal. Mr. Ragley expressed pessimism that the USDE would approve the waiver granting Dorchester 2 the flexibility

they seek. If approved, Mr. Ragley believes the district may have to double-test students. The proposal was unanimously approved.

Saluda County Schools – The proposal involves using district-created performance assessments and MAP in grades 3-8 as well as PLAN in 10th grade, EXPLORE and WorkKeys in 11th grade. Lexington One School District wants to partner with Saluda. The committee stated they wanted to hear from the district in person before making a decision. The request was deferred.

Spartanburg 1 – The proposed pilot involves two high schools in the district: Chapman High School and Landrum High School. Each school proposes using an alternative assessments developed by ACT in grades 8-12 and they have asked to receive an alternative school report card instead of a traditional school report card. The proposal for both schools was unanimously approved.

Spartanburg 6 – This proposal was for Dorman High School. Dorman would keep the state report card but would pilot EXPLORE, PLAN, and ACT for grades 9-12. The proposal was unanimously approved.

The discussion of alternative assessments led to a discussion about assessments related to Common Core State Standards. Mr. Ragley urged the EOC to make a decision about an assessment tied to the standards. He stated that Dr. Zais would be interested in an ACT-developed assessment in lieu of Smarter Balanced if the ACT assessment proved to have more value. Mr. Ragley stated that the cost of administering the Smarter Balanced assessment in 100% of districts without HSAP would be \$19 million. However, the SCDE estimates only 71% of districts are prepared for online test administration. Members of the committee questioned and discussed aspects of the Smarter Balanced assessment, ACT, and a state-produced test. Members of the committee concluded that they needed additional information to make a decision about the assessment.

- VI. Leadership – Ms. Barton reported to the committee about a survey recently administered to Teach For America corps members. Based on the results of the survey, many corps members would be interested in staying in education if they were provided with alternative paths to leadership. Mr. Ragley stated a state board regulation exists to provide alternative pathways to principalship. The current regulation requires a master's degree. EOC staff was asked to talk to the state board about revising the requirements for alternative pathways to principalship to allow corps members increased leadership opportunities.

Regarding school board leadership, Ms. Barton discussed a growing concern over the lack of ongoing professional development required preparation for school board members. State law requires training for incoming board members, but there is no requirement for continuing education. Mr. Ragley stated that the Department of Education had put together a training module but it was rejected by the State Board of Education. EOC members asked staff to work on developing options that would require school board members to receive continuing education.

- VII. Roundtable Discussion – Mr. Warner led a discussion focused on creating a new education system that prepares students for 21st century reality. He referred to a conversation with Virginia Aldridge, the founder of the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. Ms. Aldridge said it was her job to "build them [teachers] a stage to take them [students] to the mountaintop." Warner stressed that building a profession of teachers is the most important thing we can do. We must allow them to take ownership in their profession and own the outcomes. He stated that we currently spend \$9.7 billion on public education. Of that money, the state spends \$3.6 billion on teachers. He

suggested a shift in some of the moneys for education toward teachers, the money in school funding should follow the child, and that we should consider further consolidation of school districts, “flattening the overhead.”

Mr. Robinson stated that we must continue to look at consolidating school districts. Mr. Drew asked if we might have too many standards. Mr. Patrick stated that he felt like we must look at the classroom as the unit of change and rebuild the system including the financial, governance structure and accountability system, from the focus of the classroom. Leadership and innovation are key factors. Mr. Martin asked the question: when were public schools not broken? Ms. Hairfield pointed out that educators become frustrated because they are a profession that doesn't make the rules for themselves. Key points for further exploration that came out of the discussion included:

- Teacher salaries
- Leadership
- Culture / attitudes toward learning
- Training of teachers
- Curriculum/standards
- Teacher empowerment
- Finance
- Organizational structure
- Classroom or school as the unit of change
- Alternatives to school schedules (i.e., year-round schools, 8 AM-5PM schools)
- Early literacy and child development

The committee discussed legislation about the elimination of an elected superintendent and declined to take a position on this legislation.

There being no further business for the day, the Committee adjourned for the day. The Committee publicized its intent to have a reception at 6:30 at High Cotton, followed by dinner.

August 9, 2013

Members Present: Mr. Robinson; Mr. Bowers; Mr. Drew; Sen. Fair; Sen. Hayes; Ms. Hairfield; Sen. Matthews; Rep. Neal; Rep. Patrick; Rep. Smith; Mr. Whittemore; Mr. Martin, and Mr. Warner

Guests Present: Rep. Philip Owens; Ms. Sally Cauthen, Senate Education staff; Mr. Grant Gibson, Senate Finance staff; Ms. Emily Heatwole, House Ways and Means staff; Ms. Rachel Card, Governor's office staff; and Ms. Rachael Fulmer, Budget and Control Board staff

Staff Present: Ms. Barton; Dr. Andrews; Ms. Yow; and Ms. King

Mr. Robinson welcomed members and staff back for the morning meeting. He recognized a special visitor, Rep. Owens, chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee.

Mr. Robinson also asked staff to invite appropriate representatives to come and speak about ACT, the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and any other testing officials on September 9, from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. in Columbia. Additionally, Mr. Bowers asked staff to gather information on the costs of a state assessment if one were developed. He noted that Florida is considering developing their own state test to assess Common Core State Standards in grades 3 through 8.

VIII. Update from Special Reading Subcommittee – Ms. Hairfield updated the committee on activities related to reading. Dr. Rainey Knight, former Superintendent of Darlington County Schools, is working with the EOC and instructional leaders from around the state

on developing a model district reading plan. Additionally, Dr. Tony Johnson is working with post-secondary education on the teacher preparation components of the reading legislation and the University of SC children's Law Center is working on early literacy research.

IX. Participation on other Governing Bodies

The Statewide Charter School District nomination of Alex Martin is pending.

Dennis Drew reported on the Charter School Advisory Committee. He stated the board needs more board members; there is often a struggle to get a quorum.

Mr. Warner continues to serve on the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities Board.

Ms. Barton will represent the EOC on the K-12 Technology Committee. She explained a little bit about the committee and told them the committee meets monthly in Columbia.

Mr. Robinson stated that the committee was waiting until a new educator representative was appointed to the EOC before addressing the pending nomination to the SC Teacher Loan Advisory Committee. Ms. Anne Marie Taylor has resigned from the EOC.

X. Goals and Objectives – Mr. Bowers discussed the need for a P-20 initiative based on the previous day's conversations. Based on the advice of Ms. Hairfield, the committee decided to focus on literacy as its P-20 focus. Other topics discussed included focusing on literacy with teenage mothers as well as low-literate adults; unique partnership opportunities like Nurse Family Partnership; alternative paths to education leadership opportunities; putting good teachers in poor rural districts; the accountability of teacher preparation programs; and the correlation of Common Core State Standards and college-entrance exams. Revisions to the goals and objectives for 2013-2014 were discussed and staff was asked to present the committee with a revised copy in October.

XI. Adjournment

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
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September 9, 2013

Members Present: Mr. Robinson; Mr. Bowers; Mr. Drew; Sen. Fair; Sen. Hayes; Ms. Hairfield; Rep. Smith; Sen. Matthews; Dr. Merck; Rep. Neal; Mr. Whittemore; Mr. Martin, Mr. Warner; and Dr. Zais.

State Board of Education Members Present: David Blackmon; Barry Bolen; Mike Brennan; Traci Young Cooper; and Dru James.

Staff Present: Ms. Barton; Dr. Andrews; Ms. Geiger and Ms. Yow

Welcome and Introductions – Mr. Robinson welcomed the members of the State Board of Education and public to the informational meeting, an update on the status of assessments.

Dr. Zais asked to be recognized to make a short statement. Dr. Zais reiterated his non-support of the Common Core State Standards. He recommended that the state adopt one system of accountability and that the assessment chosen for the one system of accountability be the best test for the lowest price.

Sen. Fair regretted that the forum would not address the Common Core State Standards. He did advise the EOC and State Board to look at actions taken in Oklahoma, Alabama and Michigan to delay implementation of Common Core or to withdraw from the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC).

Mr. Robinson recognized the moderator for the meeting, Dr. Gene Wilhoit, Director of the National Center for Innovation in Education at the University of Kentucky, former director of the Council of Chief State School Officers and former commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education. Dr. Wilhoit summarized the history of standards and assessments. He noted that no state has yet to align its assessment or accountability system to student expectations. Currently, there is cautious optimism in the country as all states are being reflective and aligning their assessment system to the needs of the key stakeholders: postsecondary education and business. For the first time, businesses and higher education are discussing skills like persistence that students must have to succeed. He noted that all new assessments will have to be aligned with new technology. He cautioned South Carolina to be very thoughtful and deliberative as it considers five options for a state assessment system: (1) state-developed test; (2) Smarter Balanced or PARCC; (3) contract with ACT or other non-profit vendors; (4) review outside vendors; or (5) adopt a hybrid system of assessments. He reiterated that districts should focus in 2013-14 on building the infrastructure needed regardless of which assessment is chosen. The infrastructure should include: university-support system; new teaching and learning materials; and technology. In 2014-15 the accountability system will follow with phases of implementation.

Dr. Wilhoit advised the state to consider a system of assessments:

- Summative is only part of the system;
- Interim assessments;
- Guides for teachers;
- Retake options;
- Ways to measure extremes on either end of the achievement spectrum;
- Digital library resources;
- Technology
- Testing Time

- Costs
- Scoring process
- Timeliness of scoring process
- Information to districts and state
- Validity and reliability for student results

Mr. Robinson then recognized Dr. David Gupta, Vice President and Matt Lisk, Executive Director at the College Board who discussed the current assessments used in South Carolina including the SAT, PSAT, and Advanced Placement (AP) test program. Currently, SAT has established 1550 on all three portions of the SAT as the benchmark for college and career readiness. Research indicates that students scoring a 1550 have a 65% likelihood of a B- in the first year of college. The presenters noted that the SAT, PSAT and NMSQT will be redesigned.

The new SAT will be more rigorous and include skills required in the Common Core State Standards. In the near future, the College Board is going to develop data and support tools for students in grades 6 through 11 to help with instructional framework and performance tasks. Questions were raised about how College Board chooses schools to field test the changes and how College Board will improve upon math and science with STEM being such an emphasis. Currently, the College Board is not designing an assessment to measure Common Core State Standards in grades 3 through 8.

Mr. Robinson then recognized Paul Weeks, Vice President for Career and College Readiness at ACT, Inc. Mr. Weeks discussed ACT's Aspire assessment program in English language arts, mathematics, science and writing for students in grades 3 through 8. Aspire will measure college and career readiness and is aligned to Common Core. The test will also be a predictor of college and career readiness. The test will be available in the spring of 2014. States that enter into a contract for the full battery of tests before the end of calendar 2013 will be charged a discount fee of \$11.70 per student. Currently 27 states use Explore, PLAN and ACT. Thirteen states give ACT to all 11th graders. Questions were asked concerning: (1) ability to use the battery of tests for teacher evaluation; (2) turn-around time for test results; (3) importance of preserving creativity in the classrooms; and (4) availability and importance of interim and formative assessments for classroom teachers.

Then Mr. Robinson recognized Elizabeth Jones, Director of Assessment at the South Carolina Department of Education. Ms. Jones presented an overview of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium including the amount of time that students would spend taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment in ELA and mathematics and the costs of the assessment. Questions were raised regarding the costs of technology and infrastructure at the district level to administer the test; the window of testing; the possibility of formative assessments being developed in the future; and the paper and pencil administration option which is available for three years.

Dr. Wilhoit then concluded by making several observations. South Carolina should be clear on the outcome or expectations of the summative assessment. If the expectation is that all students are college and career ready, South Carolina must define what that means for its students and citizens.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
September 16, 2013

Members Present: Mr. Robinson; Mr. Bowers; Mr. Drew; Sen. Fair; Sen. Hayes; Ms. Hairfield; Rep. Smith; Sen. Matthews; Dr. Merck; Mr. Whittemore; Mr. Martin, and Dr. Zais.

Panel Members Present: Cynthia Ambrose; Mike Brennan; Jennifer Coleman; Jim Delisle; Jim Dunn; Glenda Morrison-Fair; Jan Hammond; Chuck Middleton; Darryl Owings; Jim Reynolds; Janet Rose; Phil Waddell; Gary West; Leila Williams; Carol Wilson.

Note: Dr. Zais serves on both the EOC and the Panel

Staff Present: Ms. Barton; Dr. Andrews; Ms. Geiger and Ms. Yow

Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Robinson welcomed members and guests to the joint meeting of the cyclical accountability review panel and the EOC. He thanked the members of the panel for their work.

Discussion – The EOC and panel then reviewed a draft accountability framework and draft working document. Those in attendance discussed such issues as: (1) the role of testing in instruction and learning; (2) the importance of authentic assessments in early childhood education and in primary schools; (3) the challenges of implementing and using extended performance tasks or competency-based learning in an accountability system; and (4) the importance of having a state accountability that complements or mirrors a federal accountability system.

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
October 14, 2013

Members Present: Mr. Robinson; Mr. Bowers; Sen. Fair; Ms. Hairfield; Rep. Smith; Sen. Matthews; Dr. Merck; Rep. Patrick; Mr. Warner; Mr. Whittemore; and Dr. Zais.

Staff Present: Ms. Barton; Dr. Andrews; Ms. Geiger; and Ms. Yow

I. The minutes of the following meetings were approved as submitted: August 8-9; September 9 and September 16.

II. Key Constituency

Mr. Robinson recognized Pamela Lackey, President of AT&T South Carolina and co-chair of *TransformSC* and Jim Reynolds, CEO of Total Comfort Solutions and a member of *TransformSC*. Ms. Lackey presented an overview of the *TransformSC* initiative, focusing on the goal of the initiative to improve the educational outcomes of students, especially those students who do not graduate from high school or who graduate and still need remediation upon entering postsecondary institutions. Ms. Lackey explained why business is engaged in this effort – increasing difficulty in finding qualified applicants and finding employees who can be trained and retrained. With 65 percent of all jobs requiring postsecondary education or training by the year 2020, the outdated system of public education delivery must be transformed. Ms. Lackey described the results of a parent survey that 74 percent of parents of children in grades 6 through 12 believe that South Carolina should rethink how public education works. Also 68 percent of parents believe that teachers teach to the test while only 50 percent of parents believe that struggling students get the instructional help they need. There are currently 35 schools in 19 districts participating in *TransformSC*. Ms. Lackey noted that in addition to knowledge, learners need to exhibit creativity, integrity, self-direction and a strong work ethic.

EOC members engaged Ms. Lackey and Mr. Reynolds in a discussion that focused on the following: (1) how to determine what flexibility is needed by districts to innovate; (2) what is the role of instructional materials and assessments; (3) how will we know the initiatives are successful; and (4) how to expand the initiative to more districts. Mr. Reynolds focused on the importance of having more students graduating and more students graduating who are college and career ready. The members also discussed the transformation that must occur in the classroom with teachers able to personalize learning to all students, especially at the high school level.

III. Subcommittee Reports

The Committee then turned to the Subcommittee reports.

A. Academic Standards and Assessments:

Dr. Merck summarized the results of a study that determined the relationship between third grade reading performance and eventual graduation in South Carolina using PACT 2000 English language arts (ELA) scores of third graders. The results for South Carolina mirrored the national research in that students who scored at

Below Basic 1 on the 2000 PACT ELA test were less likely to be able to be identified as still being enrolled in public schools in South Carolina and were less likely to graduate than all other students. There was a statistically significant relationship between 3rd grade PACT ELA scores in 2000 and the likelihood that the student graduated in 2009 or 2010.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee

In the absence of Mr. Drew, Mrs. Barton notified that Committee that EIA-funded programs and entities as well as programs seeking EIA funds will have an opportunity on November 12 to present before the subcommittee. The final budget and proviso recommendations will be forwarded to the Committee in December.

C. Public Awareness Subcommittee

Ms. Hairfield reported that the subcommittee has not met since the last meeting.

D. Special Reading Subcommittee

In response to the report on third grade reading, Ms. Hairfield noted that the proposed reading legislation is focused on improving pre- and in-service training of teachers, on progress monitoring of struggling students, and on reading proficiency from early literacy through high school. Ms. Hairfield informed the Committee that EOC staff members, Dr. Rainey Knight and Ms. Yow will be traveling to Florida later in October to meet with individuals at the Just Read Office! and at the Florida Center for Reading Research at Florida State University and to tour schools in Tallahassee.

V. 2013-14 EOC Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives of the Committee for the current fiscal year were approved as distributed.

VI. New Business

Mr. Robinson called upon Mr. Warner to present his proposal for amending the state's education accountability system. The proposal highlighted systemic problems with the current system and demonstrated that transformation of public education must be based on treating teachers as professionals and empowering education entrepreneurs to develop alternative measures and metrics to personalize learning for students and to develop critical thinkers for the 21st century. The Committee discussed the proposal and its incorporation into the cyclical review of the accountability system report that the EOC will consider at its December meeting.

VII. Adjournment

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
December 9, 2013

Members in Attendance: Mr. Neil Robinson (Chair); Mrs. Barbara Hairfield (Vice-Chair); Mr. Phillip Bowers; Mr. Dennis Drew; Sen. Mike Fair; Sen. Wes Hayes; Mr. Alex Martin; Sen. John Matthews; Dr. Danny Merck; Rep. Joe Neal; Rep. Andy Patrick; Ms. Patti Tate; Mr. John Warner; Dr. Mick Zais.

EOC Staff Present: Dr. Kevin Andrews; Mrs. Melanie Barton; Ms. Paulette Geiger; and Ms. Dana Yow

Mr. Robinson called the meeting to order. He recognized the newest member of the EOC, Ms. Patti Tate, a former South Carolina Teacher of the Year and currently an English language arts and social studies program coordinator at Northwestern High School in Rock Hill. Senator Courson, chairman of the Senate Education Committee, appointed Ms. Tate to the EOC to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Ann Marie Taylor.

- I. The minutes of the October 14, 2013 meeting were approved as submitted.
- II. Key Constituency

Mr. Robinson recognized Elizabeth Reidenbach, Director, of the Department of Instructional Support at the Charleston County School District and Dr. Lisa Herring, Chief Academic Officer for CCSD to discuss the district's initiative to improve primary and middle grades literacy of all students, which began in school year 2010-11. The literacy initiative is part of the Charleston County School District's Strategic Plan, *Charleston Achieving Excellence: Vision 2016*. The goals of Vision 2016 are to close the achievement gap, elevate student achievement overall, and raise the graduation rate.

Regarding reading, Vision 2016 has as its goal that 98% of all third graders will be reading on grade level. To improve literacy, the district requires individualized intervention for students reading below grade level and establishes conditions for promotion. Each year, the Superintendent reports to the local board on the number and percentage of students reading below grade level in grades 3 through 8. The district must also show that each student reading below grade level receives evidenced-based, interventions. For students scoring above the 25th percentile, the district provides balanced literacy instruction, systemic phonics instruction and Tier 1, intervention. For struggling readers, those scoring below the 25th percentile, the district provides balanced literacy instruction, systemic phonics instruction and Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions. Regular progress monitoring is provided for each student.

Regarding resources, the district has employed 62 Master Teachers working with first graders and 17 master reading teachers at the middle grades, working with those students who are reading at the lowest levels. Associate reading teachers work 170-days and are not certified teachers but have college degrees. Tier 3 interventions are in the primary grades with Reading Recovery and Wilson Foundations. For middle grades, Rewards in Language program is used. Literacy teams are a critical component of the system. There are 5 literacy specialists, 4 in elementary schools and 1 in middle schools. The cost of the initiative is \$7.5 million paid out of general operating funds,

which equates to \$2,500 per student in elementary schools and \$2,000 per middle school students. Based on the 2013 PASS results, 545 of all third graders scored Met or Exemplary. The district has decreased the number of students requiring Tier 3 interventions. The district noted the importance of professional development for teachers since all teachers need to be teachers of reading.

Mr. Drew, Sen. Matthews, Rep. Neal and Dr. Zais asked questions about the information data system needed to monitor students and the initial results that show a decline in Tier 3 interventions.

III. Subcommittee Reports

The Committee then turned to the Subcommittee reports.

A. Academic Standards and Assessments:

Dr. Merck presented the subcommittee's recommendation that the science standards be referred back to the Department of Education and State Board of Education to give teachers and science coordinators more time to provide input on the standards and to consider the components of the Next Generation Science Standards that should be included in the standards. Dr. Merck described the public comment period that the subcommittee had to review the process and the standards.

Senator Fair argued that the proviso in the state budget that prevents the state from adopting Next Generation Science Standards is intended to prevent the adoption of the standards. Ms. Hairfield expressed her concern that, when creating academic standards, the state of South Carolina should look at the best information available to make our standards even better.

Mr. Bowers made a motion to amend the Subcommittee recommendation by eliminating the second recommendation that the Department in collaboration with science coordinators and science teachers, consider the Next Generation Science Standards and determine what, if any, changes should be made to the South Carolina Academic Standards and Performance Indicators for Science prior to the next meeting of the Academic Standards and Assessment on January 27, 2014. Sen. Fair seconded the motion. Rep. Neal expressed his view that the proviso was intended so as not to adopt Next Generation in totum but that the content of the Next Generation Science Standards should at least be reviewed.

The motion passed with Ms. Hairfield, Sen. Matthews and Rep. Neal requesting to be recorded as voting no.

Mr. Bowers made a second motion that the recommendation be amended to require more public input and comments, especially from parents. After further discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

Mrs. Hairfield made a motion to amend the Subcommittee recommendation so that all references to "critically analyze" be changed to "analyze" in the science standards. Mr. Drew seconded the motion.

Sen. Fair spoke against the motion, noting that the issues of evolution and global warming are critical issues in the standards. Dr. Zais agreed noting that these two issues in science require students to think even more critically.

The subcommittee voted on Ms. Hairfield's motion. The vote was 7-7. The chair broke the tie, voting No. The motion failed.

The EOC then adopted the subcommittee recommendation as amended. The science standards were sent back to the South Carolina Department of Education and the State Board of Education with eight specific recommendations for clarifying and condensing several standards.

Dr. Merck then summarized the recommendations and findings of the yearlong review of the state's accountability system by stakeholders and a review panel.

Mr. Warner expressed his opinion that the report does not adequately support systemic changes. He noted that teachers need to be treated as professionals. The key finding should be that public education is inadequate for students to have the knowledge, skills and opportunity to succeed.

After extensive discussion, Sen. Hayes made a motion that the report be referred back to the Subcommittee with Mr. Warner's and others recommendations to be included.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee:

Mr. Drew summarized the subcommittee's budget and proviso recommendations for Fiscal Year 2014-15. Rep. Neal proposed an amendment to the subcommittee report to allow up to \$525,000 in technology funds to be used for music instruction. The proviso was adopted. Mr. Bowers and Rep. Smith asked for clarification on the proviso.

Due to the late hour, Mr. Robinson asked that the update on the P-20 Initiative to Improve Reading performance be delayed until the next meeting.

Mr. Robinson then appointed a committee of Sen. Hayes, Rep. Patrick and Mr. Martin, to recommend a new chair and vice chair of the EOC to be considered at the beginning of the February 10, 2014 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.