

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
January 16, 2003
1:00PM
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Senator Giese, Dr. Gummerson, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. Lightsey, Senator Matthews, Mr. Stowe, Mrs. Spearman for Supt. Tenenbaum, Representative Walker, Mr. Wilson

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the December 5 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. **Special Report**

Report of the Study on District Organization: Dr. Miley, Dr. Kelly and Dr. Cowen presented the report on district organization. The report, financed in part by the SC Chamber of Commerce, was the result of a governance study recommendation.

Discussion: Members discussed the report. Mr. Lightsey commended the report as a document that should be used in almost every aspect of SC planning. He asked, "what is the single most important action we can take?" The consultants agreed that placing a quality teacher in every classroom--and keeping him/her there--is the most important action. Senator Matthews indicated that the report documents the "two states" of South Carolina and that the division is getting worse rather than better. He asked for suggestions on remedying the finance system. Dr. Cowen suggested that a poverty factor and a factor that considers density. Dr. Gummerson suggested that the next step should be a study of capacity and how that capacity relates to governance, choice, facilities and transportation. He suggested that comprehensive data on these are needed. Mr. Staton commented that the results of the study affirm the EOC's four objectives.

Mr. Staton indicated that the report has been sent out for comment. He thanked the consultants and commended the quality of their work.

Personal Comments

Senator Matthews thanked the EOC members for their commitment to the accountability system and the EOC's insistence that the system be supported with changes so that all children can achieve. He indicated that the EOC had "exceeded expectations." Mr. Staton thanked Senator Matthews for his service and indicated that the work always was enhanced by his contributions and energy.

IV. **Subcommittee Reports**

- A. **Academic Standards and Assessments**: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He outlined the recommendations and moved adoption. The recommendations were adopted and transmitted to the State Department of Education. Representative Walker asked that the staff provide a cost estimate on a diagnostic assessment system aligned with the SC content standards.
- B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms**: Mr. Daniel reported that the Subcommittee had discussed the priority studies for the next year.
- C. **Parental Involvement**: No report
- D. **Public Awareness**: No report; the Subcommittee is meeting after the EOC meeting.
- E. **Administration**: Mr. Stowe reported on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on *Steps to Prosperity*. He referenced the draft comments distributed to members earlier in the week. Representative Walker asked members to keep an open mind on alternative diplomas. The comments were approved and are to be transmitted to the State Superintendent, the State Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Herriott, chairman of the task force.

Dr. Horne reported on behalf of the staff. He reviewed a recent state ranking document and cited South Carolina's ranking of 36th among states in academic achievement.

Mr. Wilson discussed a memorandum on technical assistance included in the meeting packet. Senator Giese, Mr. Hall and Mr. Lightsey asked questions about the availability of strong teachers in these districts. Mrs. Spearman reiterated the need for quality teaching and SC's efforts in that regard. Members agreed that a staff working group should be formed among the staffs of the SDE, EOC and Governor.

V. **Update on No Child Left Behind**

Mrs. Ellen Still reported on behalf of the State Department of Education. She distributed charts detailing the calculation of adequate yearly progress and the difficulty of PACT relative to NAEP.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
February 20, 2003
2:00PM
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. Lightsey, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Stowe, Superintendent Tenenbaum, Mr. Wilson

Inactive Member: Mr. Hall

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He informed members that Wallace Hall is on active military duty. He congratulated Mrs. Cooper on the birth of her son.

II. **Minutes of the January 16 Meeting**

The minutes of the January 16 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. **Subcommittee Reports**

A. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He presented the data from the First Year Report on the Evaluation of the Child Development Program. The two-year study is now in the observation and interview stage. A final report is expected this summer. He shared the Subcommittee's concern that services for young children are dispersed across several agencies and there is opportunity for both gaps and overlaps.

Mr. Daniel presented the draft financial models. These models have been developed in response to questions raised at the July 2002 meeting. The models are to be made available for professional comment and refinement through May 2003 and developed further for the July 2003 meeting.

B. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He reviewed the proposal for the calculation of the high school ratings and the structure of the weightings. He also provided information on potential changes should the US Department of Education not support the formula proposed by South Carolina. The proposal was approved.

Mr. Wilson presented the recommendations on the calculation of the improvement rating. The recommendations were approved as presented.

C. **Parental Involvement:** Mrs. Marlowe reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. She reviewed the detailed analysis of parental responses to the report card survey, noting that there was a strong opportunity to improve and extend parent-teacher-school relationships. She outlined the next steps to be used by the Subcommittee. These include focus groups with administrators on the skills and tools they need for data analysis and use of the data at their schools.

- D. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin introduced Dr. Frank Brown for the discussion of the teacher survey data. Dr. Brown addressed the committee, highlighting key issues. The report is published in the winter 2003 *Learning Matters*.
- E. Administration: Mr. Staton called members' attention to the February 1 report from the Division of Accountability.

IV. **Ad Hoc Committee on No Child Left Behind**

Mr. Lightsey complimented the SDE staff on their work in developing the preliminary submission. He reviewed the substantive issues and asked for approval. Superintendent Tenenbaum thanked the EOC for the thorough review and indicated she would respond to the issues at the March EOC meeting. The comments were approved.

V. **Remarks from a Key Constituency**

Dr. Cherry Daniel, Director of Adult and Community Education at the State Department of Education addressed the EOC. She outlined participation, accomplishments and challenges in the adult education programs.

VI. **General Discussion**

Mr. Staton announced that there would be a March EOC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
March 20, 2003
2:00PM
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Senator Giese, Dr. Gummerson, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. Lightsey, Mrs. Marlowe, Superintendent Tenenbaum, Representative Walker, and Mr. Wilson

Inactive Member: Mr. Hall

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting; he noted that the House of Representatives was in session; therefore, some members would not be able to attend.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the February 20 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. **Subcommittee Reports**

A. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. (1) The Subcommittee recommended the approval of the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Tests: Social Studies for Grades Three through Eight. EOC recommendations had been addressed by the State Department of Education and documentation provided. Mr. Wilson moved approval, the assessments were approved. (2) Changes to the Accountability Manual: Mr. Wilson outlined several changes to the Accountability Manual including penalties for not making adequate yearly progress for *all* students to be applied at the excellent and good levels in the absolute rating; addition of SACS accreditation status, board orientation and character education measures to the school profile, changes to the calculation for the GSAH, application of the continuing excellence to the improvement rating for special schools, and addition of information required by No Child Left Behind. Mr. Wilson moved approval; the changes were approved as presented.

Mr. Wilson also asked that the SDE pursue actions to ensure that the data on the report card were accurate; suggesting verification through the signatures of a faculty member and the Chairperson of the School Improvement Council.

He also indicated that the EOC staff would be matching actions in the long-range plan to report card data.

B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He detailed the status of education appropriations in the Ways and Means and the House passed budgets for Fiscal Year 2004. Senator Giese raised several questions about the base student cost. Mr. Wilson recommended that the staff prepare information on the costs of fully funding the base student cost in low property wealth districts.

C. **Parental Involvement:** Mrs. Marlowe reported on behalf of the subcommittee. She announced that the EOC and SDE had received recognition for the parent standards materials as one of the ten most notable state government documents for 2002.

D. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He presented the poster campaign and discussed other strategies to focus on teachers. Sample posters were displayed.

E. Administration: Mr. Staton had no report.

IV. **Response to EOC Comments on No Child Left Behind Proposal**

Superintendent Tenenbaum introduced Ellen Still who outlined changes to the proposal based upon the SDE meetings with representatives of the United States Department of Education.

V. **Remarks from a Key Constituency**

Mrs. Anne Poole, Principal of the Washington Center (Greenville County School District) introduced a video tape outlining challenges of the PACT-Alternate reporting when used with moderate to severely handicapped students. She requested the EOC and SDE (1) work together to make changes in the assessment's data collection mechanisms that ease the burden on teachers and increase utility in teaching; (2) ask the congressional delegation to address appropriate assessment in the reauthorization of IDEA; and (3) consider measures more linked with the IEP objectives and aligned with state standards that support instruction in functional skills as well.

Mrs. Hoag asked several questions. Mrs. Spearman (for Superintendent Tenenbaum) thanked Mrs. Poole for her suggestions and indicated that the SDE was willing to work with the educators to make the appropriate changes.

VI. **Executive Session**

Mr. Martin moved that the EOC go into executive session to consider a contractual matter.

VII. **Return to Open Session**

Mr. Martin moved that the EOC return to open session. Mr. Martin moved that the selection of the evaluation committee on the public awareness campaign proposals be approved. The motion passed.

VIII. **Adjournment**

The EOC adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
May 15, 2003
2:00PM
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Dr. Gummerson, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. Lightsey, Mrs. Marlowe, Representative Walker, and Mr. Wilson

Members Excused: Mr. Hall (military duty), Senators Fair, Giese and Leatherman (Senate in session)

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He announced that the Senate was in session, debating the General Appropriations Act, and that representatives of the Senate could not attend.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the March 20th meeting were approved as distributed.

III. **Subcommittee Reports**

A. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** The subcommittee had no report.

B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He indicated that the Senate had not concluded its work on the General Appropriations bill; therefore, Fiscal Year 2004 funding for education is not final. He outlined several differences between the House-passed bill and the Senate Finance Committee proposal before the Senate.

C. **Parental Involvement:** Mrs. Marlowe reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. She announced the Family Friendly Employer awards. Mrs. Hoag represented the EOC at the banquet and ceremony and indicated that the awards were well-received.

D. **Public Awareness:** On behalf of the Subcommittee Mr. Martin introduced individuals involved in the pilot project in McCormick County. Jon Abercrombie and Sarah Campbell spoke on behalf of the Study Circle Resource Center; Dr. Lloyd Hunter spoke on behalf of the McCormick County Schools; and Jim Palmer spoke on behalf of the McCormick community. Extensions of the project are to be discussed by the Subcommittee at its 4:00 p.m. meeting.

E. **Administration:** Mr. Staton asked if there were amendments to the Retreat agenda.

IV. **Remarks from a Key Constituency**

Mrs. Jan McCarthy, President of the SCEA and Denise Hopkins, Director of Research, presented an examination of school funding in South Carolina conducted by the NEA/SCEA. The model identified values and incorporated them to project the funds needed to achieve equity across all districts. EOC members asked a number of questions and discussed aspects of the report.

V. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
August 21, 2003

Members present: Mr. Staton, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. Lightsey, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. George Martin, Mrs. Spearman for Supt. Tenenbaum, Rep. Walker, Mrs. Williams, and Mr. Wilson

I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

II. **Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of the June 19th and July 17-18th meetings were approved with one amendment. Item seven on page five of the July minutes is amended to read: "We should not recommend things that don't work. . ."

III. **Subcommittee Reports:**

A. **Academic Standards and Assessments Subcommittee:** Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He summarized the discussion on the State Department of Education decision to scale back the testing program and the issues to be discussed at a future meeting with SDE personnel. He shared a letter from Representative Harrell with EOC members. Dr. Lindsay and Mrs. Spearman, representing the SDE, commented on the concerns.

B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee:** Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He distributed the assumptions that are to be used in the construction of the school finance model. He outlined the budget review process and schedule for the development of EIA recommendations.

Mr. Daniel introduced Drs. William Brown and Ellen Potter to provide the second interim report on the evaluation of the EIA-Child Development Program for Four-Year Olds. The authors reviewed the report and provided the EOC with several recommendations. Those recommendations follow:

- Disseminate clear criteria for what constitutes at risk status for children and families;
- Establish methods in EIA-funded preschools that promote recruitment and enrollment of all children who are at the greatest risk for school readiness difficulties;
- As funds become available or as flexible use of funds is permitted, allocate future EIA funding to serve children who are at risk, or to enroll children who are at risk in full-day programs, or both;
- South Carolina should establish an interagency task force composed of public and private stakeholders in early childhood services to review implementation issues and make recommendations to address those issues; and
- South Carolina should establish a statewide, interagency professional development system for preschool personnel that will identify professional needs and implement and evaluate professional development activities to meet those needs, especially in the areas of
 1. literacy and numeracy
 2. working with families
 3. developmentally appropriate practices for children
 4. positive child guidance strategies
 5. assessment of children's learning

The report was accepted as information and referred to the EIA Subcommittee for review during its budget deliberations.

- C. Parent and Community Involvement: Mrs. Marlowe reported on behalf of the Subcommittee, indicating that the Subcommittee is meeting in September to review the focus group report.
- D. Public Awareness: Mr. Lightsey reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He asked the EOC to approve a partnership with DonorsChoose and to solicit funding for the SC operation. The motion was approved. Mr. Lightsey reviewed the county presentation information and asked approval. The motion was approved. He reminded EOC members that they should provide Mrs. Elmore with the dates they can attend the meetings.
- E. Administration: Mr. Staton presented the objectives and critical actions for 2003-2004 arising from the July discussions. The objectives and critical actions were adopted.

Dr. Anderson reviewed the issues and recommendations on the school report card. The recommendations were approved.

- IV. Report from a Key Constituency: Rep. Walker introduced Jim Thompson and Craig Hilton from the national Beta Club. Mr. Hilton presented information on an online teacher resource system. The Beta Club is seeking a SC partnership and funding to complete the system as well as pilot the system in 15 school districts.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
June 19, 2003
2:00 PM
Room 101, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Mrs. Hoag, Mrs. Marlowe, Pastor Williams, Mr. Stowe, Rep. Walker

Member Excused: Wally Hall, military duty

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Staton welcomed members and the guests to the meeting. He introduced the Reverend Judy Williams who serving as the Governor's designee.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Staton pointed out an error on the agenda referring to the March 20, rather than May 15 meeting. The minutes of the May 15 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. **Special Discussion: Closing the Achievement Gap**

- A. Mr. Potter presented an overview of the study, "The Performance of Historically Underachieving Groups of Students in South Carolina: Small Steps Forward."
- B. Mr. Johnny Calder, Principal at Forestbrook Elementary School, Mrs. Linda Graham, Principal at Pate Elementary School, and Mrs. Beverly Romansky, Principal at Pendleton Elementary addressed the EOC describing the practices and expectations in his school. The principals explained the approaches used in the schools. Among the consistent themes are the following: strong leadership; planning; accountability; community and parental involvement; data informed decisions; professional development and a focus on individual students.

IV. **Subcommittee Reports**

- A. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** No report
- B. **EIA & Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He detailed the Fiscal Year 2004 General Appropriations Act with specific attention to funding for technical assistance and accountability programs.

- C. Parental Involvement: No report
 - D. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He indicated that a number of districts have expressed a willingness to explore *Study Circles* and that the teacher appreciation materials would be arriving in school districts by June 28.
 - E. Administration: Mr. Staton reminded members of the July 17-18 retreat.
- V. **Remarks from a Key Constituency**
Dr. Carolyn Randolph, President of the National Science Teachers Association addressed the EOC on issues of science education.
- VI. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
July 17-18

Members present:

- July 17-Mr. Staton, Mr. A. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Drew, Sen. Fair, Mr. G. Martin, Rep. Harrell, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. Lightsey, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Stowe, Supt. Tenenbaum, Rep. Walker, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Wilson
- July 18- Mr. Staton, Mr. A. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Drew, Sen. Fair, Mr. G. Martin, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. Lightsey, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Stowe, Rep. Walker, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Wilson

Guests present:

- July 17-Governor Sanford, Rep. Sheheen, Sen. Setzler, Rep. Townsend, Mr. Barnet, Mr. McTeer, Mrs. Berry, Dr. Everson, Dr. Gummerson, Mr. Smith, Mr. Fields

Staff present:

- July 17-18-Dr. Anderson, Mrs. Barton, Mrs. Elmore, Dr. Horne, Mr. Potter, Mrs. Allison, Mrs. Heinsohn, Ms. Bartlett, Mr. Hancock
- July 17 only-Mrs. Nichols, Mr. Willis, Mr. Bell
- July 18 only-Mrs. Spearman

Observers present:

- July 17- Mrs. Townsend, Mr. Price, Mr. Cahoun, Mr. Halligan, Mrs. McGinnis, Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Landrum
- July 18-Mr. Price, Mr. Halligan, Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Landrum

Thursday

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He asked new members to introduce themselves to the group. He then asked others present to introduce themselves.

Mr. Staton outlined four objectives for the two-day meeting: (1) deepen our understanding of the achievement challenge; (2) understand the issues impacting on school finance; (3) establish plans for 2003-04; and (4) cement working relationships.

II. School Performance: Correlates and Questions

Mr. Potter presented summary data on the performance of schools over time and student performance matched across three years. Members noted the need to link changes in student performance to programs and teacher performance and discussed the need for unique student and teacher identifiers that could enable research at a more granular level.

III. The Relationship Between Income and Achievement

Dr. Miley presented data examining each of the EOC-chosen measures to determine achievement of the 2010 goal. There was discussion of the need to move on each measure as well as caution in interpreting rankings. The Miley data also documented the interrelationship between achievement and personal income.

IV. School Finance

Mr. Fields facilitated the discussion among current and former EOC members, legislators and Governor Sanford. Gov. Sanford began with the principle that no student should be held captive to geography. Participants discussed the models included in retreat materials. Among the issues raised were the following:

- How should SC account for local contributions? Are local contributions part of the state revenue base or are they limited to the community generating the funds?
- What is the state responsibility in meeting the obligations to the students of SC?
- Are we funding a minimally adequate education or to meet the individual needs of all students?
- What is the cost of adequately prepared and effective teachers?
- If the fundamental mission is to prepare a workforce, what are the services needed and how does SC provide those services equitably?
- Is it adequacy or equity? Are the inequities growing?
- Is the problem the number of dollars or how those dollars are used?
- What is the balance between state and local responsibility and control?
- How do H4410 and H4411 address these issues?
- What do we need to ensure good teachers in every classroom and effective leaders in every school?
- What safeguards should be included in a public education funding system that relies totally on sales tax revenues?
- At what level (4K, 5K, etc.) should early childhood education be funded?
- Who has the ability to solve the problem?

The members discussed spending patterns including the principle that spending more or less does not equal results, but spending too little in very poor areas is a problem. Members asked about the development of a model that begins with teaching and adds what is needed to achieve improved academic results for all students regardless of where they live.

There followed a discussion of the incentives needed to attract and retain quality teachers. Members discussed the need for supportive administrators; calendar

options to support other interests, including family; meaningful professional development; substitute teacher training and other factors in addition to salary. Members suggested that a compendium of incentives be identified.

Supt. Tenenbaum detailed the Progress Energy (formerly CP&L) Executive Institute in partnership with the Center for Creative Leadership.

There was discussion of how we move our schools forward to meet the 2010 goal.

Friday

V. Reactions to the Thursday Discussion

Members discussed the need to move beyond conversation about the problem into action. Mr. Lightsey pointed out that SC may be good at incremental change but that dramatic, even transformational change is needed. Rep. Walker and others discussed citizen dissatisfaction with property taxes and that equitable meant creating circumstances in which students had equal opportunity to achieve. Mrs. Marlowe discussed the challenges to the system to educate all children; children who struggle in school need extra support but the system also must serve students who can achieve at the highest levels. There was general agreement that there would not be an infusion of large amounts of money and that the committee needed to identify programs and initiatives which will have the greatest impact on achievement and which will allow SC to reach its 2010 goal.

Members discussed teacher compensation and recognition programs including the Teacher Assistance Program, the NBPTS, and performance-linked compensation systems. Some questioned how we build leadership and if we should permit principals to make the compensation decisions.

The staff was questioned about historic test performance. Testing histories are to be researched.

There was some discussion of the need to extend eligibility or hours of early childhood programs and how to integrate the programs across agencies.

Members agreed that we needed to focus on credible data systems to enhance decisions and "bottom up" school financing policies; that is, determining what is needed and funding that. The staff was asked to build several models from that premise. Mr. Daniel urged the EOC to focus on two issues: the achievement gap and funding problems.

The staff discussed the proposal to build a data model that is linked to classroom practices and policies.

VI. Objectives and Critical Actions

Members discussed areas for objectives and critical actions and asked the staff to digest the comments summarized below and develop statements for the August meeting:

1. Finance

Define adequate funding needed to achieve the state's goal including a provision for poverty. Work with staff of House and Senate subcommittees to build model and complete by Jan 1 or sooner if possible and accurate.

Determine if certain things in requirements in statute are unnecessary. Build a model assuming no funding increases – redistribute existing allocation based on priorities.

Determine what it will take to retain and attract quality teachers for every classroom – establish a statewide teacher salary schedule.

Use factors instead of only dollars. More flexibility at the local level and concern with shift of burden from state to local for funding (example, benefits)

Question raised about whether to put out a dollar figure to advocate (base student cost)

Concern about total elimination of property taxes as source of revenue for schools (sales tax revenue declines and ability to use as tax deduction) be sure objectives can be met for the long-term of the system for operations

Develop different scenarios giving pros and cons of each (concern there is not enough data to accomplish this)

Broadcast message that lottery money is going to scholarships (higher education)

2. Database

Need student and teacher identifier to utilize data system more efficiently (expedite for use this year so next year's retreat can include factors that correlate to high student achievement)

3. Leadership

Professional development for school leaders that can be modeled statewide and ensure salaries are at levels needed to retain top leaders.

4. Eliminate Achievement Gap

Implement a task force to study factors that cause gaps and strategies to motivate elimination of the gap.

5. Professional Development
Examine the quality of what is being offered and determine if it is working
6. Technical Assistance
Evaluate system for technical assistance for implementation inequities and continuity (long-term) and fairness (example should not tolerate unsatisfactory schools in wealthy districts)
Systemic change needed within schools receiving technical assistance
7. Relationship Building w/General Assembly
Advocacy needed to remain credible with General Assembly
We should recommend things that don't work and when we recommend things to do, we should have facts/data to back up reasons for doing so.
"EOC must become the Alan Greenspan and EF Hutton of Public Education."
8. Reevaluation of State Assessment
Evaluate cost and effectiveness of open-ended questions – what is the benefit versus less expensive multiple choice
Return time for results
Teacher use of data for classroom practices
9. Advocacy w/Statewide communities
Continue to get EOC into the public as influencer and take advocacy issues to the public
Important to seek teacher input in decision-making

Mr. Staton reiterated the retreat objectives and asked members for final comments. Members agreed that the EOC should have additional "retreat-like" meetings to facilitate deeper discussions.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, September 18, 2003

Members present: Mr. Staton, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Rep. Harrell, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. G. Martin, Mr. Stowe, Superintendent Tenenbaum, Rep. Walker, and Mr. Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

II. Special Agenda Item: Mr. Staton asked that the agenda be amended for a report from the Academic Standards and Assessment Subcommittee. Mr. Wilson outlined conversations between representatives of the State Department of Education and the EOC. He presented the statement below which was adopted by the membership:

The Education Oversight Committee (EOC) and the State Department of Education are committed to the principles of accountability outlined in the Education Accountability Act (EAA) of 1998. We believe that any changes to the principles and programs of South Carolina's education accountability system should be made after full deliberation and debate by the members of the General Assembly.

We are sensitive to the demands that the accountability system makes upon our educators, students and communities and encourage solutions to administrative challenges so that we maintain South Carolina's focus on the highest levels of student and school achievement.

We will work together to develop alternative testing schedules that recognize the importance of the four academic content areas (English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies), prepare our students and schools for the rigor of *No Child Left Behind* requirements and maintain South Carolina's education improvement efforts.

III. Special Report: Dr. Paul Krohne outlined efforts from the SC School Boards Association, the SC Association of School Superintendents and a working group of school business officers to develop a model of school funding that would be an alternative to the present system and to the system outlined in H4410 and H4411. Dr. Chester Floyd, president of the SC Association of School Superintendents addressed the EOC on the importance of the model. Mr. Bob Davis outlined the model and provided handouts. Members questioned Mr. Davis, Dr. Floyd and Dr. Krohne about aspects of the plan, utilization of the new funds, and balance among revenue sources.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Academic Standards and Assessments: (reported as item II in the minutes)
- B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He reviewed two evaluations conducted by EOC staff: the second annual evaluation of the Teacher Loan Program and the evaluation of the Applied Curriculum Program. Recommendations within each report were adopted. There was discussion about the relationship of the applied curriculum program to the *High Schools That Work* projects and efforts to increase the graduation rate.
- C. Parental Involvement: Mrs. Marlowe reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. She reviewed the report from focus groups on the use of the parent survey and outlined

actions the Subcommittee is pursuing to reformat the results in a more user-friendly fashion and to develop tools that aided principals and school communities in the use of the data.

- D. Public Awareness: Mr. Staton indicated that six county meetings had been conducted and drew members' attention to the schedule enclosed in the meeting materials.
 - E. Administration: Mr. Staton had no report.
- V. Report from a Key Constituency: Michele Brinn and Allison Cunningham, representing the Carolina First Center at the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, presented information on the Baldrige project in schools. They provided explanatory materials on the process generally and examples of how the Baldrige principles are used in schools. Members asked a number of questions and completed Ms. Brinn and Ms. Cunningham on the project.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
November 20, 2003
2:00 PM
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Robert Staton, Alex Martin, Traci Young Cooper, Dennis Drew, Senator Mike Fair, Senator Warren Giese, Senator Hugh Leatherman, Harry Lightsey, Susan Marlowe, George Martin, Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum, Representative Bob Walker, Judy Williams, and Larry Wilson

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- II. **Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of September 18 were approved as distributed.
- III. **Subcommittee Reports**
 - A. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** Mr. Wilson reported that the Subcommittee had not met.
 - B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mrs. Marlowe reported on behalf of the Subcommittee on three items: (1) Development of EIA Budget Recommendations: The Subcommittee reviewed the statutes to determine the requirements of the EAA and subsequent amendments to the code of laws. A model of "fully funding" the EAA was shared with EOC members. Questions were posed about the capacity of the state to employ 612 teacher specialists, the proviso that would send excess funds to the EFA, the programs not funded because they are not linked to the statute; and the need for carry-forwards; (2) Proposed Regulation on Flexibility: Mr. Suber, SDE, explained the regulation and the related guidelines. The proposal was approved; (3) Annual Recommendations on the Retraining Grants: Mrs. Marlowe reviewed the report and recommendations. The recommendations were approved as presented.
 - C. **Parent and Community Involvement:** Mrs. Marlowe reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. She reviewed the program report and offered recommendations. The report and recommendations were approved as presented.
 - D. **Public Awareness:** Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He asked members to serve as presenters at community meetings; he reminded members that the 2003 release of the *Where Are We Now* is scheduled for December 4; and he called members' attention to the website presentations of "Teachers Are Our Heroes."

- E. **Administration:** Mr. Staton reported that the Administration Committee is working on the technical assistance regulations.

Dr. Anderson outlined the agenda and guests for the December 18 meeting. Rep. Walker asked if the proposals would provide alternatives on the weightings and the base student cost. Dr. Anderson responded that the proposals would provide some options.

- IV. **Report from a Key Constituency:** Mrs. Christine Fisher reported on the Arts in the Basic Curriculum Program. She detailed the program's inception in 1987, services, and evaluation.

- V. The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
December 18, 2003
10:00 AM
Room 221, Blatt Bldg.

Members Present: Mr. Staton, Mr. A. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. Lightsey, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Martin, Mr. Stowe, Superintendent Tenenbaum, Rep. Walker, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Wilson

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He indicated that Council on Excellence in Education (SC Chamber of Commerce), Representative Lourie and Representative Townsend were meeting with the EOC during the morning portion of the agenda for the discussion of school finance.
- II. **Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of November 20, 2003, were approved as distributed.
- III. **Discussion of the Funding Model:** Mr. Staton reminded members and guests of the EOC's interest in funding instruction to achieve the 2010 goals and the questions that arose during the July 2003 retreat. Dr. Anderson presented information on the model developed by the EOC staff using a review of the statutory and regulatory requirements and the student achievement profile. EOC members and others asked a number of questions and discussed issues raised in the model.

The meeting was recessed for lunch.

IV. **Subcommittee Reports**

- A. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee.
 - (1) Recommendations to the State Department of Education Concerning the End-of-Course Assessments: Reports of the studies conducted on the end-of-course assessments in Physical Science, Biology, and English I were reviewed as well as the recommendations. Representatives of the State Department of Education had accepted the recommendations prior to the meeting; therefore, the EOC approved the assessments for implementation;
 - (2) Recommendations to the General Assembly Regarding the Use of NAEP instead of a norm-referenced test: The EOC discussed a request from the State Department of Education to recommend an amendment

to the Education Accountability Act to delete the requirement to administer a norm-referenced test to a sample of students in three grades annually. Information from the norm-referenced test would be replaced with information from the National Assessment of Educational Progress. The motion was approved.

(3) Mr. Wilson shared information on the per pupil expenditures of schools at various ratings levels and the changes in expenditures across the three years.

- B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Stowe reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He outlined the recommendations regarding funding of technical assistance and other EIA programs. He proposed an amendment to the proviso addressing funding for teacher specialists to permit unallocated funds to go directly to the teacher salary supplement. Members discussed the impact on programs, particularly the funding of teacher specialists and professional development on the standards. After lengthy discussion the EOC amended the proposed proviso to provide that \$6 million would be provided for professional development on the standards and the remaining teacher specialist funds would be used for that program or “alternate research-based technical assistance strategies approved by the EOC.” Mrs. Marlowe, on behalf of the Parent and Community Involvement Subcommittee, requested a proviso to provide that family literacy funds could be used only in districts implementing comprehensive programs. The members discussed the nature of comprehensive programs. The budget recommendations, as amended, were approved.
- C. **Parent and Community Involvement:** The Subcommittee had no report.
- D. **Public Awareness:** Mr. Alex Martin reported on behalf of the Subcommittee.
- E. **Administration Subcommittee:** Mr. Staton indicated that the Subcommittee had not met but was presenting the eight recommendations to enhance the technical assistance program. Dr. Anderson reviewed the recommendations. The EOC approved the recommendations.

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned at 2:15 p.m.