Members present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Rep. Cotty, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Iacovelli, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Stowe, Superintendent Tenenbaum, Rep. Walker, and Senator Williams

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

II. Approval of the Minutes
The minutes of the December 2005 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. Election of a Chairperson
Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the nominating committee. The committee proposed Harold Stowe for the office of chairman. Rep. Walker moved that the nominations be closed and that Mr. Stowe be elected by acclamation. The motion passed. Mr. Stowe assumed the chair.

IV. Subcommittee Reports
A. Academic Standards and Assessments:
   1. School Profile Information: Mr. Staton reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He outlined two changes to the report card profile: the elimination of the percentage of students tested off-level on elementary and middle school report cards and the inclusion of the foreign language program assessment on the high school report cards. The changes were approved as recommended by the subcommittee.
   2. Question regarding High School Students with IEPs: Mr. Martin raised questions about the inclusion of high school students with IEPs indicating they are not pursuing a diploma in the calculation of the longitudinal exit examination percentages and graduation rates. Dr. Anderson, Mr. Potter and Superintendent Tenenbaum provided information. Further information is to be provided after a review of federal reporting requirements.
   3. Primary School Ratings: Mr. Staton presented changes to the calculation of the primary school ratings. Members of the committee discussed the lack of results or outcome measures for the primary schools. Mr. Staton moved approval. The motion passed.
   4. High School Ratings: Mr. Staton presented changes to the calculation of ratings for high schools. Results on the end-of-course assessments are to replace the use of the LIFE scholarship. The motion to approve passed. Mr. Staton indicated two other recommendations regarding end-of-course assessments: the timing for inclusion of the U.S. history test scores and the timing for the inclusion of end-of-course assessments in the district rating. The members took no action.
   5. Career Technology Center Ratings: Mr. Staton presented information detailing the delay of changes to the ratings for career and technology centers until the Perkins (federal) changes were defined.
   6. AYP Performance and School Ratings: Mr. Staton drew members' attention to the information sheet on the linkage between AYP and school ratings.
7. Biology Standard B. 5: Mr. Staton presented a report from the subcommittee on the high school biology standard B.5. The subcommittee recommended (1) not approving the four indicators upon which action had been deferred and (2) communicating to members of the State Board of Education the concerns and at least one idea of how those concerns could be addressed in a revision (i.e., revise the standard statement to read “The student will demonstrate an understanding of biological evolution and the diversity of life by using data from a variety of scientific sources to investigate and critically analyze aspects of evolutionary theory.”). Members of the committee participated in a lengthy discussion. The motion to disapprove passed by a vote of 10-2.

8. Request of SDE: Mrs. Marlowe requested information about professional development on the standards. Dr. Anderson indicated she would work with SDE representatives to obtain the needed information.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Stowe reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He drew members’ attention to the Final Report of the Evaluation of the External Review Teams. He also outlined the differences between the EOC budget recommendations and Governor Sanford’s recommendations.

C. Parent Involvement: Mr. Hall indicated there was no report.

D. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin indicated there was no report.

V. Update on the Education and Economic Development Act
Dr. James Couch, SDE, provided members with a progress report on the implementation of the Education and Economic Development Act. Mr. Martin serves as the EOC representative on the advisory board.

VI. Report from a Key Constituency
Mrs. Helen Meyers outlined the role and functions of the Council on Economic Education, emphasizing the Council’s role in influencing curriculum and developing teachers.

VII. New Business
A. Annual Report: Mr. Stowe drew members’ attention to the draft annual report and asked for comments.

B. Legislation Pending: Dr. Anderson outlined several pending bills (testing, resolution on early childhood and district consolidation) and the progress of each.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.
Members present: Mr. Stowe, Mr. Martin, Mr. Daniel, Mr. DeLoach, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Senator Hayes, Mrs. Marlowe, Rep. Neal, Mr. Robinson, Superintendent Tenenbaum, Rep. Walker, Mrs. Williams

I. Welcome and Introductions
Mr. Stowe welcomed members and guests to the meeting, pointing out that today’s agenda incorporated special recognition for schools “closing the achievement gap.” Mr. Stowe announced that Mr. Tom DeLoach had been appointed to the EOC by Senator Courson. Mr. DeLoach serves as a representative of the business community.

II. Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of February 13, 2006: The minutes of the February 13, 2006 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. Recognition of Closing the Gap Schools
Mr. Potter outlined the analyses of 2005 PACT performance. 16 percent (138 or 863) of South Carolina elementary and middle schools have been identified as reducing the achievement gap for at least one historically underachieving student group. The study revealed little changed during the past year with the gaps for African-American students and between pay and free-reduced price lunch students. The largest gaps were observed on PACT science. Details can be found in the full report as distributed.

Dr. Stephen Ward, Principal, Rosewood Elementary (York District Three) shared a multimedia presentation about Rosewood Elementary, highlighting the International Baccalaureate-Primary program used to structure teaching and learning.

Dr. Cynthia Pridgen, Principal, Woodland Heights Elementary (Spartanburg District Six) outlined the practices in that school and the efforts to create a thirst for learning within every student so that all students score at high levels.

Members asked questions about costs of innovations and the use of integrated approaches to learning.

IV. Subcommittee Reports
A. Academic Standards and Assessments: There was no report.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He outlined the findings from the performance evaluation of the gifted and talented program (full report provided with the meeting materials). He also reviewed the status of appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2007, including a comparison with EOC recommendations.
C. Parent and Community Involvement: Mrs. Barton reported on behalf of the subcommittee. She outlined the responses to the 2005 parent surveys, indicating that participation level and attitudes are stable. She indicated that schools with smaller enrollments tended to have a higher response rate and that parents, particularly those in schools rated unsatisfactory, desired to be involved more than their work and family responsibilities allowed them to do so.

D. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He announced that the PAIRS after-school guide had won the South Carolina Public Relations Society of America award for documents. He also reminded members of their commitments to participate in community meetings. The training session is scheduled for June 12 at 10 a.m. prior to the EOC meeting.

E. Administration: There was no report.

V. Executive Session
Mr. Drew moved the EOC go into executive session to discuss a contractual matter.

The EOC returned from executive session. Sen. Fair moved that the contract for Chernoff-Newman be extended by one year. The motion was adopted.

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned at 3:35 p.m.
AGENDA

Monday, June 12, 2006
1:00 p.m.
Room 433, Blatt Building

I. Welcome and Introductions  Mr. Stowe

II. Approval of the Minutes of April 10, 2006  Mr. Stowe

III. Subcommittee Reports
A. Academic Standards and Assessments  Mr. Martin
   • Action: Approval of recommendations regarding the English
     language arts standards
   • Action: Approval of High School Biology Standards
B. EIA & Improvement Mechanisms  Mr. Daniel
   • Action: Report on the Use of Flexibility
   • Information: Fiscal Year General Appropriations Act
   • Information: First Year Profile: Alternative Technical Assistance Schools
   • Information: Interim Report: Study of Extended Learning Time
   • Information: Issues for Consideration in the Evaluation of Pre-Kindergarten
     Programs for Four-Year-Olds
   • Information: Issues for Consideration in the Study of Teacher Recruitment
     and Retention
C. Parental and Community Involvement  Mr. Hall
D. Public Awareness  Mr. Martin
   • Information: PAIRS NIE insert
   • Information: County Meeting Schedule
E. Administration  Mr. Stowe

IV. Draft Agenda: August Retreat  Mr. Stowe

V. General Discussion as requested

Adjournment

Special Notice: The EOC staff are holding a "new member orientation" on July 13 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. All EOC members, regardless of term of service, are welcome to attend. Please notify Jo Anne Anderson if you are attending.
Monday, August 14

Members Present: Mr. Stowe, Chairman; Mr. Martin, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Benedict; Mr. DeLoach; Mr. Daniel; Rep. Cotty; Mr. Drew; Sen. Fair; Sen. Hayes; Mr. Hall; Mrs. Marlowe; Mrs. Murphy; Mr. Robinson; Rep. Walker

Mr. Stowe welcomed members and guests to the EOC meeting. He introduced Dr. David Longshore, Superintendent, Orangeburg School District Three. Dr. Longshore addressed the committee and detailed the community the district serves, the opportunities and challenges before the school district. About 90 percent of the district students are eligible for free-reduced fee lunches. Dr. Longshore detailed the facilities development plan for the district and the incorporation of technology into its instruction. He offered a number of suggestions for increasing the teacher pool in rural, high-poverty or under-performing schools:

- Differentiated salary structures
- Poverty endorsement on the teaching certificate
- Granting 1.5 years retirement credit for every year taught in high poverty schools
- Tuition supplements to teacher salaries that can be used by the teacher or his/her child
- Tuition supplements for teachers whose students attend school in the district in which the teacher is employed
- Replacement income for teacher aides to complete certification

And with respect to schools generally, he recommended the following:

- Flexible funding streams at the district level
- Stable facilities funding
- Discontinuance of rating districts

Senator John Matthews welcomed members and guests and reminded them that education is the gateway from poverty to prosperity. Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter welcomed the EOC and asked them to examine the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) supplement and consider focusing it on the schools and districts in greatest need of teachers.

Rose Brower, principal of Lake Marion High School (LMHS), welcomed members and guests and oriented them to the school and to the program.

General Population Survey

Mr. Stowe introduced Frank Brown, MarketSearch. Dr. Brown presented the results of the 2006 general population survey. The EOC intends to release the survey results in September. In general the survey identified positive shifts in resident perceptions of public education in South Carolina as well as support for ideas emphasizing non-traditional teaching and diversity. The EOC is to release the survey results in September. Dr. Brown’s power point is available from the EOC offices.
Goals for the Retreat
Mr. Stowe outlined goals for the retreat. He indicated that he hoped we could accomplish the following:

- Clear discussion of the 2010 goal and how to create urgency so that the progress is accelerated;
- Discussion of the graduation rate, its calculation and establishment of targets
- Creation of urgency to improve student performance
- Establishment of EOC objectives for 2006-2007

The 2010 Goal
Mr. Stowe asked members to discuss, within subcommittee groups, the 2010 goal and our progress to achieve that goal as well as its measurement and communication. After small and large group discussion, the EOC agreed that we should maintain a focus on the goal; however, the reporting should be simplified and structured to distinguish between those measures upon which there are national comparisons and those which there are not. The presentation should be far simpler (technical detail can be provided on the agency website). Dr. Anderson is to provide members with a draft one-page presentation of SC progress.

Graduation Rate
Mr. Potter reviewed the various calculations of graduation rate and SC’s rankings among the calculations with members. There were questions regarding the inclusion of home-school students, a five-year rate, and establishment of the 88.3 percent as the state target. Members asked for information on each of these as well as a comparison among South Carolina and ten states currently using the adopted NGA methodology.

Would You Support?
Members discussed a set of innovation proposals which included:

- School-community service centers
- Public school choice innovation schools
- Shared administrative services
- Compensation packages for teachers

The EOC went into recess for dinner to reconvene at 8:15 a.m. on Tuesday, August 15.

Tuesday, August 15
Members Present: Mr. Stowe, Chairman; Mr. Martin, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Benedict; Mr. DeLoach; Mr. Daniel; Rep. Cotty; Mr. Drew; Sen. Fair; Sen. Hayes; Mr. Hall; Mrs. Marlowe; Mr. Robinson; Rep. Walker

Mr. Robinson distributed a publication, Whatever It Takes, developed by the Charleston Education Network. The publication outlines a series of integrated reforms to move South Carolina’s student achievement forward.
School Funding
Mrs. Barton presented materials with information on the current allocations of state funds to districts and schools including the allocation methodology, information on the General Fund revenues for education and the school finance trends across the nation. Members discussed the Fordham Institute document, Fund the Child, as well as a number of issues including the role and cost of district administration and issues of money solving problems leading to a general agreement that money is necessary but not sufficient for high achievement. There was some discussion of teacher salaries and methods to entice teachers into particular responsibilities.

2006-2007 Objectives
Working in subcommittees, members developed proposals for annual objectives. The ideas are to be organized and structured by staff, then sent to members for reaction before September 1.

Business Meeting
The minutes of June 12 were approved as distributed.

Mr. DeLoach reported on behalf of the Academic Standards and Assessments Subcommittee. He summarized the recommendations regarding revisions to the mathematics content standards and asked for approval. The recommendations were approved as distributed.

Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee. He asked for approval of the 4K evaluation plan and presented members with information on the consultation with the State Department of Education and the Office of First Steps as outlined in the proviso. The evaluation plan was approved as presented.

Mr. Martin indicated that the Public Awareness Subcommittee did not have a report, but reminded members that there were vacancies on the community meeting schedule.

Mrs. Marlowe asked if there was interest in changing the meeting schedule; there was no consensus to change.

The EOC moved into Executive Session to consider a personnel matter.

The veil was lifted from Executive Session. Mr. Martin moved that Dr. Anderson’s compensation be increased in accordance with other state employees. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned.
Members present: Mr. Stowe, Mrs. Benedict, Rep. Cotty, Mr. Daniel, Mr. DeLoach, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Mr. Hall, Senator Hayes, Mrs. Murphy, Rep. Walker, and Senator Williams

I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Stowe announced a change in the agenda. Dr. Eldridge, Superintendent of Aiken County Schools, is unable to attend the meeting. In lieu of her presentation, Dr. Baron Holmes and others are to present a status report on middle grades certification requirements.

II. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the August 14-15 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. DeLoach indicated that the Academic Standards and Assessments Subcommittee had not met since the EOC’s August meeting. He did share a memorandum regarding the field review of the English language arts and mathematics content standards.

B. Education Improvement Act and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee:

(1) Teacher Loan Program: Mr. Daniel reviewed a series of findings regarding participation in the teacher loan program, the impact of scholarships and the governance structure. Members asked questions regarding the program to include the default rate, the county of origin of the applicants, the relationship to Teacher Cadet Program offerings and others. EOC members discussed amending the recommendations so that the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) served as the governing board for the program. The staff was asked to provide recommendations to the legislative education committees and appropriate legislative subcommittees on finance as soon as possible so that legislation could be prefiled. The report recommendations were approved with the modification of specifying CHE as the governing agency.

(2) EAA Technical Assistance: Mr. Daniel reported on a discussion among the Subcommittee members and representatives of the State Department of Education (SDE). Of the 254 schools rated Below Average or Unsatisfactory, 240 now have approved improvement plans. The schools generally have opted to use an improvement strategy different from the state-provided services. Comparisons between technical assistance personnel assignments in 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 reveal new patterns:

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<tr>
<td>Principal Specialists</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Principal Leaders</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Principal Mentors</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher Specialists</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum Specialists</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>District Instruction Fac.</td>
<td>45</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>287</td>
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Members raised questions regarding the criteria for approval of the school improvement plan, the SDE oversight of implementation at the school site and plans for interacting with the school. Questions were raised about the compensation provided to teacher specialists. 

(3) Mr. Daniel indicated that the Subcommittee had met that morning and received materials to inform its discussion and recommendations regarding the budget.

C. Public Awareness: Mrs. Benedict introduced Mrs. Yow, who reported on behalf of the subcommittee. She provided a status report on projects including the county tours, the Where Are We Now release, the release of the annual school and district report cards, revisions to the website, the PAIRS summit and the MarketSearch survey.

IV. Approval of the 2006-2007 Objectives

After discussion of the objectives, particularly Objective 2d. the following objectives were adopted for the 2006-2007 work year:

1. Continue the implementation of the Education Accountability Act of 1998 and fulfill other responsibilities assigned by the General Assembly, including those within the Teacher Quality Act, the Parental Involvement in Their Children’s Education Act, the Education and Economic Development Act and the early childhood development pilot program proviso and those made by special requests.

2. Provide analyses and recommendations to achieve the 2010 goal by increasing the return on investment in education through the following:
   a. Defining the role of district administration and identifying models that realize maximum effectiveness and efficiency;
   b. Defining a teacher compensation structure that recognizes differences in teacher qualifications, responsibilities and results;
   c. Identifying and defining costs of educating successful students who historically have underachieved (e.g., students from poverty, English language learners, minority students, struggling or non-readers, students with disabilities and students whose parents may not have completed high school;) and
   d. Advocating for public choice innovation schools.

3. Increase partnerships among those who invest in South Carolina’s schools by
   a. Continuing to receive broad input and continuing to communicate and implement the Common Ground commitment;
   b. Convening informal meetings among the Governor, the State Superintendent of Education, the leadership of the legislative education committees, the State Board of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, the South Carolina Technical College System and First Steps;
   c. Continuing to employ formal and informal advisory groups representing parents, educators and business and civic leaders; and
   d. Collaborating with informal education providers to encourage extended learning programs sponsored by civic, community and faith-based groups.
4. Increase the impact of communications to focus attention on achievement of the 2010 goal and heighten awareness of the value of educational achievement for all South Carolinians.

V. Report from a Key Constituency
Dr. Baron Holmes, Director of the Middle Grades Project; Dr. Phyllis Pendarvis, Director of the S. C. Middle Grades Association; and Dr. David Virtue and Dr. Fred Splitgerber, USC addressed the EOC on issues of middle grades certification and the shift to program approval rather than allowances for add-on certification. The issues are likely to surface next spring as schools attempt to implement the certification requirement for the 2007-2008 school year. The group requested and the EOC agreed to convene the involved agencies to determine if policy actions should be sustained or implemented to continue to improve the quality of middle grades instruction.

VI. Six Year Matched Student Performance
Mr. Potter presented data from the six-year matched student performance file, outlining patterns of achievement over time and the impact of retention on student performance. These data are to be presented to a number of educational groups and explored to determine if there should be changes in both policy and practice to accelerate student performance. Questions were raised about the impact of various grade organizations in schools.

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned at 3:35 p.m.
Members present: Mr. Stowe, Mr. Martin, Rep. Cotty, Mr. DeLoach, Senator Fair, Mr. Hall, Senator Hayes, Mrs. Murphy, Rep. Neal Mr. Robinson, Rep. Walker, Senator Williams

I. Welcome and Introductions  Mr. Stowe called the meeting to order. He outlined objectives for the morning session and welcomed visitors. Each member and visitor was asked to introduce him/herself.

II. The 2010 Goal: Where Are We Now  Mr. Martin presented a detailed report on South Carolina’s progress to the 2010 goal, emphasizing national measures on which South Carolina was in the “five fastest improving states” and the national ranking for National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) tests, college admission tests and Advanced Placement Program participation and performance. Achievement gap data incorporated performance on the PACT.

EOC members and guests heard from three colleagues: Dr. Ron Ingle, President of Coastal Carolina University emphasized the joint responsibilities of higher education for the performance in the kindergarten through grade twelve system; Ron Rhames, Chief Financial Officer at Midlands Technical College discussed the middle college initiatives and the intent of this program to serve students historically underserved in traditional programs; and Beth Wright, Superintendent in Florence School District Three, discussed the needs of today’s students, the range of school district responsibilities and efforts to recruit and retain teachers in rural South Carolina.

Members and guests discussed a number of matters focusing on the struggle for good graduation rate data, the need to attract and retain teachers and the interrelationships among the challenges.

Members and guests receded for lunch. The EOC reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

III. Approval of the Minutes of October 9, 2006. The minutes were approved as distributed.

IV. Subcommittee Reports
A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. DeLoach reported on behalf of the subcommittee:
(1) He informed the members of the conclusion of the field review of the English language arts and mathematics standards and the general considerations for change. The English language arts standards are scheduled for first reading by the State Board of Education in December, then EOC consideration in February. The mathematics standards are scheduled for first reading approval by the State Board of Education in January and EOC consideration in February.
(2) Mr. DeLoach reported on the consideration of the end-of-course test for United States History and Constitution. The test meets the technical requirements for item construction and details. The subcommittee is concerned about the potential gap between the standards as written and tested and the standards as taught. The
subcommittee recommended deferring approval until teachers could be surveyed and the subcommittee could understand why initial performance is very low. The EOC approval the subcommittee recommendation.

(3) Mr. DeLoach presented the criteria for selection of formative assessments (as amended in the subcommittee) and recommended approval. The EOC voted to approve the criteria.

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

(1) The Report on the Study of Extended Learning Time (ELT) was presented for information. Neil Naftzger and Chloe Hutchinson presented a summary of the study conducted by Learning Point Associates. General recommendations include the following: Invest in mechanisms to help district officials and building administrative staff become more familiar with ELT best practices, especially those concerning engaging programming; Consider supporting the implementation of ELT self-assessment tools to help programs become familiar with quality criteria, evaluate how well their program meshes with these criteria and consider what changes are warranted; Adopt training and technical assistance efforts designed to help ELT staff understand how to adopt practices likely to result in positive developmental settings; Provide technical assistance around engaging parents and community partners in meaningful ways to guide and facilitate ELT program improvement; and Consider adopting policies that link different ELT funding streams in more intentional ways to cultivate the positive attributes associated with hybrid-funded programs.

(2) Retraining Grant Report: Mr. Robinson outlined the experiences in the retraining grant program this year. Every school reported; however, the evaluation process identified that a number of schools had not used their planning funds because the schools were not notified of the availability. The State Department of Education (SDE) has changed its notification strategies to ensure that schools are aware of the planning grants. The recommendations are forwarded to the State Board of Education.

(3) Teacher Recruitment and Retention Research Plan: Mr. Robinson outlined the study of Teacher Recruitment and Retention. The Task Force is to meet in January and a report, with recommendations, is anticipated for December.

(4) Update to Funding Model: Mr. Robinson outlined the changes to the EOC funding model to incorporate three tiers of funding: a general weight for each student and add-on weights to address either compensatory or programmatic issues.

(5) Homework Centers: Mr. Robinson drew members’ attention to the report on homework centers provided by the State Department of Education.

(6) EIA and EAA Budget Recommendations: Mr. Robinson presented the EIA Subcommittees recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2008 budget. Senator Fair, at the request of Rep. Cotty, amended the recommendation to provide an additional $50,000 for CERRA to cover salary increases. The amendment to the subcommittee report passed; the amended budget recommendations passed.

C. Public Awareness  On behalf of the subcommittee Mr. Martin noted that there was no report beyond the report presented earlier in the day.

V. General Discussion  There being none, the EOC adjourned.