

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
February 11, 2008

Members present: Mr. Stowe, Mr. Martin, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Daniel, Mr. DeLoach, Mr. Drew, Sen. Fair, Mrs. Hairfield, Sen. Hayes, Rep. Neal, Supt. Rex, Mr. Robinson, Rep. Walker, Dr. Woodall

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Stowe welcomed members and their guests to the meeting.
- II. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the December 10 meeting were approved as distributed.
- III. Subcommittee Reports
 - A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. DeLoach reported on behalf of the subcommittee.
 - (1) Action: US History End-of-Course Examination. The subcommittee moved to defer approval of the US History End-of-Course Examination until the impact of support materials upon instruction and therefore the alignment of the test with student opportunity to learn in the 2007-2008 academic year can be evaluated. The motion was approved;
 - (2) Action: SC-Alternate Test. The subcommittee moved to approve the SC-Alternate Test based upon the technical review and responses from the SC Department of Education. The motion was approved;
 - (3) Information: Mr. DeLoach asked Dr. Anderson to review the evaluative studies of components of the accountability system that had been conducted in the last two years. Copies of the studies are accessible on the EOC website or by request;
 - (4) Information: Mr. DeLoach drew members' attention to copies of H4662 and a revised work plan that had been placed at their seats. He extended appreciation to all who had been involved in developing the recommendations for strengthening the accountability system—Superintendent Rex, Speaker Harrell, Rep. Walker, members of task forces and the staff of the two agencies. Supt. Rex asked that we all move with urgency, expressing concerns over a 2010 full administration of the new test instead of 2009. Rep. Walker indicated that the proposed legislation was strong, ensured continuous accountability and did not lower our standards. Mrs. Hairfield supported end-of-year testing in social studies and science and Mr. Martin indicated support for and use of the data to ensure that the measures are fair.
 - B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: There was no report.
 - C. Public Awareness: Mr. Brennan reported on behalf of the subcommittee:
 - (1) Action: SC Literacy Champions. Mr. Brennan outlined a partnership among the EOC, the PAIRS publishers and the press association to recognize postsecondary service learning efforts that boost student literacy. An awards program is to be developed, with funds raised from corporate South Carolina to support the award. Upon the subcommittee motion, the program was approved;

(2) Action: Be There. Mr. Brennan outlined a partnership among the SC School Boards Association, the Be There campaign organizers and the EOC. The media campaign emphasizes the practical, day-to-day, ways in which parents can engage and support their children's achievement. In 2008-2009 the program is to be piloted in four districts: Clarendon 1, Laurens 55, Jasper and Marlboro. Upon the subcommittee motion, the program was approved;

(3) Information: Web Search Capacity. Mrs. Yow presented the web search mechanism developed in partnership with SC Interactive.

IV. Administrative Issues

(1) Election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman. Mr. Martin assumed the chair and opened nominations for the Chairman. Mr. Robinson nominated Mr. Stowe; Mr. Daniel seconded. The nominations were closed. Having no other nominations; Mr. Stowe was elected. Senator Fair nominated Dr. Woodall for the vice chair. Rep. Walker seconded the motion. The nominations were closed; Having no other nominations, Dr. Woodall was elected;

(2) February 1 Report: Mr. Martin drew members' attention to the draft annual report at their desks. Members are asked to notify Mrs. Yow of the need for changes by Friday, February 15. The report is published and distributed to education and legislative audiences across South Carolina.

V. Report on the Evaluation of the Child Development Education Program Pilot: Mr. Potter reviewed the evaluation design and findings with members of the EOC and the audience. A number of questions were raised about the use of the DIAL as a screening instrument. Sen. Fair raised questions about facilities requirements. Sen. Hayes asked if S815 addressed the administrative issues fully. Dr. Anderson indicated the staff would review the bill to determine that and respond to his concern.

VI. Informational Report on the National Board Certification: Dr. Horne provided an update to the information presented to the EOC in August. There were discussions about the mixed results from achievement studies as well as the potential for recruiting and retaining teachers. NBPTS funds are used to meet the southeastern average teacher pay requirement. The EOC members asked for continuing information.

VII. Special Discussion: Performance Pay for Teachers: Dr. Rex introduced the topic of performance pay and its potential. Dr. Rex pointed out that education, as many other industries, is "chasing talent." He referenced three areas for change: making it easier to remove teachers who are not competent; paying a professional competitive livable wage; and tying incentives and rewards to performance. Mark Bounds, SCDE Deputy Superintendent, outlined the uses of the \$40 million federal grant. Jason Culbertson, Director of the Teacher Advancement Program (TAP) for the SCDE, outlined the TAP initiatives and impact. Dr. David O'Shields, Laurens School District 56, provided information on his experiences as a TAP principal and the positive impact of the program. Dr. Bounds ended the discussion with information on actions to recruit teachers to rural areas and to provide them housing.

Mr. Stowe suggested that the EOC and Superintendent Rex continue their discussions of performance pay and ways in which to enhance the teaching profession.

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
April 14, 2008

Members present: Dr. Woodall, Mr. Brenan, Rep. Cotty, Mr. Daniel, Mr. DeLoach, Sen. Fair, Mrs. Hairfield, Sen. Hayes, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Murphy, Supt. Rex, Mr. Robinson, Rep. Walker

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Dr. Woodall welcomed members and guests to the meeting. She indicated that Mr. Stowe was absent because he was out-of-state celebrating the birth of his first grandchild.
- II. Dr. Woodall indicated that Senator Matthews had a scheduling conflict and would not be attending Monday's meeting.
- III. Approval of the Minutes: Mrs. Hairfield asked that the minutes of February 11 be corrected to indicate that she spoke in favor of formative testing in social studies *and science* (item A.4.) The minutes were approved as corrected.
- IV. Recognition of Closing the Gap Schools
Results of Analyses: Mr. Potter addressed the members and guests detailing the methodology and results of the sixth analysis of closing the achievement gap. Although not used as a category for recognition, gender differences were reported for the first time generally and in relationship to the school ratings categories.

Comments from Recognized Principals: (1) Charles Middleton, Principal of Walhalla Middle School, addressed the EOC members and guests to discuss the progress the school has made in educating Hispanic young people. These include strong support from faculty and staff, integrated after-school programs, ZAP (zeroes are not permitted), and a Saturday school. Sheltered instruction is used in English language arts and mathematics and an inclusion special education model is used with Hispanic student with disabilities. All of these are supplemented with a summer program funded through state revenues and Title One. (2) Melvin Middleton, Assistant Principal at Sanders-Clyde Elementary School, talked about the impact of addressing student basic needs, particularly physiological. Every classroom has a refrigerator and a microwave so that no child goes hungry; the school has a washer and a dryer if students need clean clothes; community partnerships provide holiday and weekend food for families. The staff has worked to build trust with families so that the spirit of community permeates all they do. Small class sizes, formative testing and relentless actions to ensure student success characterize the school.

Recognition of Schools: Dr. Woodall and Dr. Rex presented certificates to school representatives in attendance.

The EOC stood at ease as principals and their supporters left to have photos taken on the State House steps.

- V, Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. DeLoach reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He addressed three action items from the subcommittee: (1) Graduation Rate Goals and Procedures: Mr. DeLoach asked Mr. Potter to review the recommendations from the Advisory Group on Graduation Rate Goals and Procedures. There were a number of questions regarding the inclusion of students with disabilities, the treatment of transfer documentation and continuous enrollment measures. Members asked about methodologies used in other states and expressed concerns over differences in high school graduation requirements. The goals and procedures were approved by a vote of 5-4; (2) English language arts content standards: Dr. Horne summarized the changes to the standards accomplished through field reviews and clarification of expectations. The members voted to approved the English language arts standards; (3) Career and Technology Center Ratings: Dr. Horne outlined changes in the ratings structure for career and technology centers, including use of career certification examinations and reentering the point values. The changes were approved as presented.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He indicated that materials on the state FY09 budget included in the mail-outs were no longer accurate as the revenue projections had declined and there are significant budget cuts in the current year as well as for the next fiscal year. He reviewed the report on technical assistance and the flattening of performance gains. Members discussed the technical assistance program including questions on which strategies are working, why funds are or are not spent, and the necessity for strong leaders who establish performance cultures.

C. Public Awareness: Mr. Brennan indicated there was no report.

VI. New Business/General Discussion: There was no new business

VII. Adjournment: Having no other business, the EOC adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting June 9, 2008

Members present: Dr. Woodall, Mr. Brenan, Rep. Cotty, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Drew, Sen. Fair, Mrs. Hairfield, Sen. Hayes, Mrs. Murphy, Supt. Rex, Mr. Robinson,

I. Welcome and Introductions: Dr. Woodall called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests.

II. Approval of the Minutes of April 14, 2008: The minutes of April 14 were approved as distributed.

III. Subcommittee Reports:

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Dr. Woodall reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. (1) Mr. Potter outlined the review process, the purpose and the proposed recommendations for the South Carolina Alternate Assessment (SC-Alt) in science. Members raised questions about the cognitive abilities of the students, their performance on the field test and the inclusion of their performance in the school and district ratings. The recommendations were approved as presented. (2) Dr. Horne explained the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) process for reviewing the mathematics content standards and comparing them to the recommendations from the United States Department of Education (USDE) national advisory panel on mathematics education. The intent of the extraordinary review is to make certain SC content standards are of the highest caliber and that instruction is supported and focused appropriately. (3) Dr. Anderson outlined the series of tasks required through revisions to the Education Accountability Act to include three themes engagement, efficiency and excellence. The detailed work plan is to be discussed at the August retreat.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. (1) Mr. Daniel reviewed the principles under which the Alternative Technical Assistance program was developed, the five participating schools and their progress over the last two years. (2) Mr. Daniel outlined the status of EIA and EAA budget recommendations and the ways in which the revenue reductions have impacted programs.

C. Public Awareness: Mr. Brenan reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. (1) Mrs. Barton summarized the analyses of the parent and teacher surveys outlining key concerns of parents and teachers. Parents express more concern and their satisfaction aligns with the social and physical environment of the school. Teachers are more concerned about home-school relations. Work schedules and transportation continue to be major barriers for parental involvement *at the school*. Satisfaction and school ratings decline in tandem with one another. (2) Mrs. Yow presented the report on Literacy Champions, outlining the processes for informing, evaluating and rewarding postsecondary service learning projects.

IV. Recognition of Outgoing Members: Dr. Anderson expressed gratitude to Mr. Robert Daniel who is concluding two terms on the EOC. He was presented a token of EOC appreciation.

V. Retreat Information: Dr. Anderson reminded members of the August 11-12 retreat to be held in Aiken.

Having no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
August 11-12, 2008

August 11, 2008

Members present: Mr. Stowe, Dr. Woodall, Ms. Bosket, Mr. Brenan, Rep. Cotty, Mr. Drew, Sen. Fair, Mrs. Hairfield, Sen. Hayes, Mrs. Hershey, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Murphy, Supt. Rex, Mr. Robinson, Rep. Walker, Mr. Willis

Guests present: Sally Cauthen, Sheila Gallagher, Emily Heatwole, Mellanie Jinnette, Helen Marini, Janice Poda, Sandy Smith, Ashlei Stevens, Ellen Still, Zeke Stokes, representatives of Rural Education Alliance

Staff present: Dr. Anderson, Mrs. Barton, Dr. Greene, Dr. Horne, Mr. Potter, Mrs. Yow

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Stowe called the meeting to order. He welcomed members and guests and began by asking each member, staff person and guest to introduce himself. Mr. Stowe reviewed the 2007-2008 objectives, noting accomplishments. He suggested a continuing need to address education issues through a K-20 systemic approach, questioned how we ensure that we are reaching a broader audience and called for urgency citing that the “unfortunate truth is that too many children do not receive an education sufficient for the twenty-first century.”
- II. Results of the survey on Teacher Preparation: Dr. Horne presented the results of the survey on teacher preparation. He noted that principals indicate first-year teachers are generally prepared; however, the first-year teachers are less prepared in areas of assessment, differentiating instruction and classroom management. Seventy-six (76) percent of the first-year teachers were prepared in traditional educational programs. There were no significant differences in the designation of first-year teachers when their general performance was analyzed with respect to the type of educational preparation. Principal comments indicated that first-year teachers were ill-prepared to teach reading. Dr. Rex noted that the criticisms are not new and that we should explore why these criticisms persist and that they have not been addressed either in teacher preparation programs or district induction programs. The results of the survey were discussed with members questioning confusing findings and seeking further analyses so that the findings could be understood fully, communicated with various stakeholder audiences and become the basis for action.
- III. Interim Reports
 - (A) Education and Economic Development Act (EEDA): Mr. Martin reported on progress with the Education and Economic Development Act. He serves as the EOC’s representative on the Coordinating Council. He used a comprehensive PowerPoint to outline the EEDA intent and progress, particularly on career cluster choices, development of the Individual Graduation Plan and the use of career development facilitators. Questions were raised about student choice and their ability to move from one cluster to another. Other questions were raised about the funding and the need for additional funds to lower the career facilitator to student ratio. Several members asked how the success of the EEDA is to be gauged.
 - (B) South Carolina Public Charter School District (SCPCSD): Mr. Brenan reported as he is the EOC’s [newly appointed] member on the SCPCSD board. Mr. Brenan provided a handout outlining the status of students in the system and the schools authorized. The SCPCSD has a new superintendent, Dr. Tim Daniels. Mr. Brenan’s first board meeting is August 14. Mr. Brenan shared findings from a report published by the Center for Education Reform that graded South Carolina a “C” for innovation with a rating of 24th in the nation. Senator Hayes asked about the demand for virtual schools.

(C) Charter School Advisory Committee: Mr. Drew, the EOC appointed member, outlined the status of charter schools approved through the current practice, including locally and statewide district boards. He provided a handout and offered commentary on the process. In FY08 the Committee reviewed approximately 22 applications and found 13 in compliance. Currently 58 charter schools are operating with a potential increase of 13 in the fall 2008. Members expressed concerns with the performance of students.

(D) CDEPP: Mr. Potter reviewed the report included in the retreat packet. The annual report, noting student progress and relationship to the variables identified for study by the General Assembly, is to be published in January.

IV. Recommendations from the Technology Working Group: Dr. Horne outlined the purpose of the TechThink Working Group which was appointed at EOC request to develop a plan for ensuring that schools and students had access to adequate technology for instruction. Ellen Still, a consultant to the project, outlined the recommendations comparing them to the current status of technology in SC schools. Questions were raised about student access to inappropriate material, the status of technology in instruction in other states, the types of devices considered and the utilization of e-rate funds and/or other non-appropriated funds for implementation.

V. School Funding

(A) Report on the Use of Flexibility: Mrs. Barton reported on the use of flexibility. She outlined a series of questions raised from the data. The flexibility provisos are overwhelmingly being used to transfer funds from the Reduce Class Size program. Is it the legislative intent that the flexibility provisos may be utilized to erode a statewide goal of reducing class size in grades one through three? Second, utilization of the flexibility provisos is not increasing the percentage of per pupil expenditures for instruction across districts. This trend is likely problematic for long-term educational achievement in the state especially given the national debate and efforts in education finance to reallocate more resources to the classroom. And finally, districts that are rural with declining enrollments and high concentrations of poverty tend to utilize the flexibility provisos more consistently than those which are not. Based on utilization patterns, these smaller districts want financial flexibility in transferring funds between accounts but at what cost to statewide education goals.

(B) EOC Principles on Revisions to School Funding: Dr. Anderson reviewed EOC engagement in school funding discussions over the last several years and the reports and recommendations of other groups. She explained the involvement of Mrs. Barton and herself in an informal school funding working group that had met over the summer. She provided members with a set of principles that they should consider adopting to communicate their values and recommendations regarding school funding. Members questioned how these would be used and how much enacting the principles would cost. Members asked for some revisions and consideration for adoption at its October meeting.

VI. Palmetto Priority Schools

(A) Purpose and Progress: Dr. Rex outlined efforts to work with the 16 schools designated as Palmetto Priority Schools. The 16 schools, located in 8 districts, have an average poverty rate of 93 percent. Supt Rex outlined his strategy: (1) to provide liaisons to each of the principals and schools to achieve a competent and consistent administration; (2) to develop partnerships with colleges and universities and the Governor's Schools; (3) to provide vehicles through which key leaders in the schools and districts would collaborate with one another on a continuing basis; and (4) to implement a drop-out reduction initiative. He indicated that the SCDE team was very concerned about climate in the schools and that this is a critical area of the EOC's evolutions.

(B) First Impressions: Dr. Greene reviewed the EOC role in providing a continuing evaluation of the impact of the Palmetto Priority Schools Project on performance in the 16 schools. She outlined revisions to the evaluation plan which resulted from work with the SCDE leadership and visits to the schools. Dr. Greene provided summary comments on the schools noting that, for the most part, the facilities are sound. She indicated the high turnover rate among principals; eight of the 16 have new principals for the 2008-2009 school year; one school had five principals in 2007-2008. The results of the working climate study are to be discussed with principals at each school during the fall and reported in the January 2009 Year One report. The Year One report is to include a description of the intervention, climate results, school profile information and performance reports on the 2008-2009 school year.

Mrs. Hairfield questioned the strategic plan for addressing the needs in these schools. She asked the purpose of the partnerships. Others asked about the anger expressed by some faculties. Dr. Rex indicated that the differences among the schools made it difficult to address a specific plan. Noting the lack of stability among the principalship, Mr. Martin asked for the resolution of this issue. Eight of the 16 schools have first-year principals this fall. Mrs. Hershey asked how community energy could be captured as a part of the improvement process

The EOC recessed for dinner and the evening.

August 12, 2008

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

Guests present: Sally Cauthen, Sheila Gallagher, Emily Heatwole, Tom Hudson, Helen Marini, Janice Poda, Sandy Smith, Ashlei Stevens

Staff present: Dr. Anderson, Mrs. Barton, Dr. Greene, Dr. Horne, Mr. Potter, Mrs. Yow

VII. Implementation of Revisions to the Education Accountability Act

Dr. Anderson reviewed the website, the public engagement strategy, the members of advisory boards and the time lines for approving new assessments and implementing the changes in public reporting. Members asked a number of questions including how problems and timing may present challenges.

VIII. 2020 Goal and Underpinnings for EAA Decisions

Mrs. Yow presented a comprehensive view of changes in student achievement over time, as it relates to progress toward the 2010 goal.

Members asked questions regarding the NAEP improvement prior to 2003 and why that improvement has not been sustained over time. Staff members suggested a variety of factors including the impact of a new assessment, NCLB, budget reductions in FY03 and focus of professional development funds. Graduation data and their accuracy were discussed.

Members broke into three small groups to discuss the questions: How has the accountability system focused elementary-secondary education. . .how can we increase focus, impact and accomplishment? What is the level of performance necessary for success in 2020? How can the student performance standards and the ratings be structured to reach that level of performance?

- IX. Subcommittee Assignments and Structure for 2008-2009
Mr. Stowe amended the subcommittee assignments detailed in the retreat materials to note the following: shifting Mrs. Hairfield from EIA to ASA and that he is serving as a temporary chair for Public Awareness with the intent of appointing a permanent chair in the late fall.
- X. Actions to increase EOC effectiveness: Senator Hayes outlined the level of interactions elected officials need from engaged constituents and appointees and outlined a series of steps. Rep. Cotty suggested that members and staff visit each legislative delegation offering local data and the impact of student achievement on broader educational issues. Rep. Neal suggested a focused EOC legislative agenda in all areas, not just budget areas. Rep. Walker warned that the EOC should fulfill its legislative function and avoid ego involvement and Senator Fair reiterated the responsibility of EOC members to stay in contact with their legislative delegation. Dr. Anderson is to send a reminder and information to be included in letters to the local delegation. Supt. Rex indicated that the State Board of Education needs to do this as well.
- XI. Objectives and Critical Issues for 2008-2009
Members discussed objectives in four areas including increasing impact in each. The four areas include the following: implementation of Act 282 of 2008 (changes to the accountability system); increasing student reading proficiency; identifying resources to integrate technology into instruction, and increasing the urgency and effectiveness of efforts to improve the educational system for the students now enrolled and those to come.
- Dr. Anderson is to draft specific objectives and send them to the EOC members for reaction and amendment.
- XII. Action Items
- (A) SC Alternate-Science: Response from SCDE: Mr. Potter reviewed the reaction from the SCDE and recommended that SC-Alternate Test-Science be approved for grades 3-8 beginning in 2010 and that approval of a high school science measure should follow development and review of the high school assessment in biology.
- (B) Report Card Format: Dr. Anderson reviewed the process by which changes to the report card consistent with Act 282 were developed and the schedule for implementation. The format was approved as included in the EOC retreat materials.
- (C) Minutes of June 9, 2008: The minutes of the June 9 meeting were approved as distributed.

The EOC adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
October 13, 2008

Members present: Mr. Stowe, Dr. Woodall, Ms. Bosket, Mr. Brenan, Rep. Cotty, Mr. Drew, Sen. Fair, Mrs. Hairfield, Sen. Hayes, Mrs. Hershey, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Murphy, Supt. Rex, Mr. Robinson, Rep. Walker, and Mr. Willis

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Stowe welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- II. Approval of the Minutes of the August 11 & 12, 2008 meeting. Upon motion of Mr. Martin, the minutes were approved as distributed.
- III. Subcommittee Reports
 - A. Academic Standards and Assessments
Mr. Robinson reported on behalf of the subcommittee: (1) US History End-of-Course Assessment - The subcommittee recommended approval of the US History End of Course Assessment as developed and field tested by the SC Department of Education (SCDE). Mr. Robinson summarized subcommittee discussions regarding the passage rate, the availability of instructional support materials and the use of the scores in calculating student course grades. The recommendation of the subcommittee was adopted.

Dr. Darrell Johnson, Superintendent, Orangeburg Consolidated School District Four, rose and addressed the EOC. He indicated that the US History course should be a two-year course and that he was unaware of the subcommittee discussions and decision to approve. EOC members posed several questions. Mr. Robinson called the point of order in that the EOC was discussing an item upon which action had been taken.

(2) National Advisory Committee Meeting: Mr. Robinson informed EOC members that the National Advisory Committee (NAC) had met in September and that the actions to implement Act 282 of 2008 were proceeding in accordance with the time lines discussed at the August EOC meeting.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms

Mr. Brenan reported on behalf of the subcommittee.

(1) Teacher Loan Program - He indicated that the subcommittee had experienced low member attendance and deferred action on the Teacher Loan Program report and recommendations.

(2) Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Process - He outlined and asked Mrs. Barton to provide further detail the process by which the subcommittee is to review the program reports and prepare recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2010 budget. Mr. Brenan noted the financial crisis in which the state, national and world find themselves. He indicated that we should use this crisis to focus on the opportunities for positive change and to examine closely actions and programs to determine the strongest return on investment. He urged all "not to cut into the muscle of instructing students." Rep. Cotty recommended that the EOC provide statements to the legislative leadership outlining previous recommendations regarding programs and suggesting reductions in the areas upon which there is agreement. Supt. Rex asked Mr. Brenan what banking had learned from the current situation from which we could learn. Mr.

Brenan indicated he could not speak for all banking but could address the BB & T policies which have enabled that bank to remain productive in the recent environment. He pointed out that the bank had “stuck to what it did best” and had avoided operating on either greed or fear. Mr. Willis reminded members that crises provide opportunities to innovate. Rep. Walker raised concerns about the depth of cuts, citing the decline in EIA revenues from the July 2007 appropriation level of \$690 million. There was discussion of various alternatives to address the revenue shortfalls. Dr. Anderson summarized the meetings with the Governor and indicated she would provide a letter with recommendations to the legislative leadership (first to be reviewed by EOC members).

C. Public Awareness: Mr. Brenan reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He outlined the mail out for the Literacy Champions Award and indicated that the Carolina Community Foundation was sponsoring the award. He also indicated he had spoken with the independent college presidents and was encouraged by their interest.

- IV. Objectives 2008-2009 - Mr. Stowe asked for adoption of the 2008-2009 objectives. After making slight changes and upon Sen. Hayes motion, the objectives were adopted.
- V. School Finance: Mr. Stowe asked for the adoption of the School Finance Principles. Members discussed the principles and made slight changes. Rep. Cotty emphasized the responsibilities of the EOC to recommend changes, particularly in these difficult times.
Upon motion of Mr. Brenan, the principles were adopted.
- VI. Special Report: Dr. Siskind presented a report on the Impact of Technical Assistance on Persistently Underperforming Schools. The comprehensive report (available upon request) showcased changes in student performance, variations in school and district indices and related ratings, and current status. In general, the schools persistently rated Below Average have demonstrated the strongest gains and schools persistently rated Unsatisfactory have made the least gains. Questions were raised about the utilization of funds, particularly for parent involvement. Supt. Rex pointed out the difficulty of improving student performance when the young people and the schools that serve them face complex and interlocking challenges. He reminded us all that we are people of good will trying to solve problems that have remained critical over generations.

After thanking Dr. Siskind, Mr. Stowe asked if there was other business. Hearing none, the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting December 8, 2008

Members present: Mr. Stowe, Dr. Woodall, Ms. Bosket, Mr. Brenan, Mr. Cotty, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Mrs. Hairfield, Senator Hayes, Mrs. Hershey, Mr. Martin, Superintendent Rex, Mr. Robinson, Rep. Owens, and Mr. Willis

I. The Education Oversight Committee hosted a web-streamed broadcast at 1:00 p.m. During this broadcast the *Where Are We Now: Report on Achievement of the 2010 Goal* was presented by Dr. Woodall. Discussants included Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director, Commission on Higher Education, Mr. Otis Rawl, President and CEO of the SC Chamber of Commerce and Dr. Thomas White, Superintendent, Spartanburg School District Seven.

The EOC convened at 2:00 p.m. in the Bank of America Room at SC ETV.

II. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Stowe welcomed members and guests. He introduced Representative Phil Owens who is the newly elected Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee.

III. Approval of the Minutes of October 13, 2008: Mr. Stowe accepted a motion to approve the minutes of October 13 as distributed. The motion passed.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Robinson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He outlined the process by which the criteria for the Palmetto Gold and Silver programs have been revised, including simulations of three models to determine impact. The Subcommittee members are recommending the model which places the awards for general performance and closing the gap on equal footing. These are most consistent with the statute and draw attention to both aspects of the performance improvement goals. Supt. Rex asked if the methodology for comparing graduation rates is based upon the NGA compact calculation. Mr. Potter responded yes. The motion to approve the criteria passed.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Brenan reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. Mr. Brenan outlined the dramatic and difficult economic challenges before the Subcommittee. He detailed the process by which the Subcommittee had received input beginning with the program information provided in October, three subcommittee meetings and open testimony at each meeting.

(1) Information: Update of the EOC Funding Model: Prior to representing the EIA budget recommendations Mr. Brenan asked Mrs. Barton to outline changes in the EOC funding model. These changes were outlined and the resulting projected base student cost under the model established at \$5800.

(2) Action: Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget Recommendations: Mr. Brenan and Mrs. Barton led EOC members through the packet of materials including the 11 summary recommendations, the line item detail and the associated provisos. Senator Hayes asked that administrative funds be increased for CERRA indicating the current levels imposed a hardship for that agency. Senator Hayes requested restoration of the \$1.3 million in arts curricular grants. Members discussed each of these. Mr. Robinson suggested that the EOC offer advice to the General Assembly that if funds are available, the arts curricula grants should be restored. Dr. Anderson, with input from Ken May (Deputy Director of the SC Arts

Commission) explained how the funds are used. Mr. Martin pointed out the use of these funds in districts and the devastating impact of these cuts.

Members expressed dismay over the depth of the cuts but felt confident that restructuring would enable some programs to find new ways to achieve their goals.

The subcommittee motion to adopt the \$574 million spending proposal, with the modification that the arts curricular grants should be funded if revenues were available. Ms. Bosket asked if other programs should be placed in the same status. Mrs. Hershey indicated that if more revenues were available she would recommend reviewing all programs. There was some discussion of the final CERRA proviso wording; staff is to develop appropriate language.

The motion passed.

(3) Action: Approval of the Report on the Teacher Loan Program. The annual report on the Teacher Loan Program required by the Teacher Quality Act of 2000 included information on similar programs in other states and a statistical update on the program on data provided in previous years. None of the programs in the other states is exactly like the South Carolina program; some states require longer service periods to obtain forgiveness for the loan; others provide a lump sum payment to the loan provider for each year a qualifying teacher serves, up to a certain amount; still others restrict the loan program to college juniors and seniors and graduate students who are enrolled in teacher preparation programs; and still other states require community service or origination fees as part of their programs. Statistically, the data on the South Carolina Teacher Loan Program was similar to data in previous reports. Recommendations for the program included: (1) the establishment of a policy governance board to handle marketing and issues dealing with the administration of the program and (2) the elimination of the minimum SAT score as a separate requirement to receive a loan; instead an applicant would need to have the minimum SAT score or finish in the top 40 percent of their high school class. The second recommendation is an attempt to increase the number of applications for loans from males and African Americans. After discussion, the recommendations were approved.

C. Public Awareness: Mr. Stowe reported on behalf of the Public Awareness Subcommittee. He drew members' attention to the PAIRS status report and to the EOC communications plan in the packet. Mrs. Yow provided information on the SC Literacy Champions project.

With no other business, the EOC adjourned.