

MINUTES

State Board of Education

Policy and Legislative Committee Meeting

Date

January 13, 2016

Time

9:00 a.m.

Location

Rutledge Conference Center

1429 Senate Street

Columbia, SC 29201

Dr. Traci Young Cooper, Chair

***Cathy Hazelwood, Deputy Superintendent for Legal Affairs and
Staff Liaison to the Committee***

I. Welcome and Determination of Quorum

Chair Traci Young Cooper, Fifth Judicial Circuit, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was present. Chair Cooper welcomed everyone to the meeting and addressed the members present. Chair Cooper offered an extra good morning to Chair-Elect Brenan and “Chair-Elect-Elect Randolph.” State Board of Education (SBE) Policy & Legislative (P&L) Committee members attending were Michael Brenan, Chair-Elect, Governor’s Appointee; Dr. Ivan Randolph, Chair-Elect, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Dr. Samuel Alston, First Judicial Circuit; Dr. Sharon Wall, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; and Thomas Ewart, Twelfth Judicial Circuit.

Thomas Ewart, Twelfth Judicial Circuit, was absent.

Other SBE members in attendance were Jim Griffith, Second Judicial Circuit; Richard S. Kizer, Ninth Judicial Circuit; and Renee R. Hembree, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff in attendance were State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman; Noelle Redd, Minutes Taker; Cathy Hazelwood, Deputy Superintendent for Legal Affairs/Parliamentarian; Barbara A. Drayton, Staff Counsel, Division for Legal Affairs; Betsy Carpentier, Chief Operating Officer; Karla McLawhorn Hawkins, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Federal, State, and Community Resources; Roy Stehle, Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of

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Federal, State, and Community Resources; and Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal, State, and Community Resources.

II. Recognition of Visitors and News Media

The following visitors were present:

- Mr. Greg Hembree
- Dr. Greg Cantrell, Deputy Superintendent, Spartanburg County School District Six
- Kathy Maness, Executive Director, Palmetto State Teachers Association

III. Approval of Committee Minutes for December 9, 2015

Chair Cooper asked if there were any objections or amendments to the December 9, 2015, minutes. There being none, Chair Cooper asked for a motion.

Chair-Elect Brennan made the motion to approve the December 9, 2015, minutes. Dr. Alston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

IV. Approval of Committee Agenda for January 13, 2016

Chair Cooper asked if there were any objections or amendments to the January 13, 2016, agenda. There being none, Chair Cooper asked for a motion.

Dr. Wall made the motion to approve the January 13, 2016, agenda. Chair-Elect Brennan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

V. Public Comment Period

No one signed up for public comment.

VI. Board Item(s)

Prior to the start of the "For Approval" item, Chair Cooper took a moment to welcome and install Renee R. Hembree, as the new State Board member appointed to represent the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, which is comprised of the counties of Georgetown and Horry. Chair Cooper invited Ms. Hembree to say a few words.

Ms. Hembree greeted the members and said she passed her first test as a new member by learning how to turn on her microphone. Ms. Hembree stated that she lives in North Myrtle Beach and was excited to accept her appointment. She stated that she has been involved in

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public education for a very long time and is active with the county's schools. She appreciates the opportunity to the serve on the State Board and, until she becomes more comfortable in her role on the Board, she will "keep her mouth shut and her ears open for a while."

Chair Cooper stated that she looks forward to working with Ms. Hembree and our other new member, Mr. David Whittemore, Jr., who will be representing the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. Chair Cooper stated that Mr. Whittemore would be introduced at the 1:00 p.m. meeting.

Chair Cooper invited Ms. Hembree and her husband, along with Chair-Elect Brenan and State Superintendent Spearman, to join her at the podium. Both Chair Cooper and Superintendent Spearman swore in Ms. Hembree.

Chair Cooper stated that Ms. Hembree would get a chance to meet the rest of the Board members this afternoon and invited Ms. Hembree to remain during the completion of the Policy meeting.

FOR APPROVAL

- 01. Spartanburg County School District Six's Waiver Request of State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-62(I)(C) [R.43-62(I)(C)], Requirements for Additional Areas of Certification**—Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, State Accountability, Office of Federal and State Accountability, Division of Federal, State, and Community Resources

Ms. Prevatt presented Spartanburg County School District Six's waiver request of R.43-62(I)(C), Requirements for Additional Areas of Certification.

Chair-Elect Brenan made the motion to approve the waiver request. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wall. Motion carried, item passed. Item 01 will be added to the Consent Agenda.

VII. Consent Agenda

- 02. Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda**

Chair Cooper asked if there were any objections to the placement of Action Item 01 on the Consent Agenda. There being none, Chair Cooper asked for a motion.

Dr. Wall made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Dr. Alston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

VIII. Other Business

Chair Cooper invited Superintendent Spearman to speak to the Policy Committee.

Superintendent Spearman stated that she was in Phoenix, Arizona, to attend the National Championship game. She stated that she was sad South Carolina didn't bring the trophy back, and Mr. Griffith, being an Alabama fan, was glad we didn't bring the trophy back. She stated that she was proud of the young men who played. Superintendent Spearman stated that she did not know who saw the video, but, before the game, she appeared in a short video that included the young men on the Clemson team. A majority of those young men are the products of our South Carolina high schools, as well as high schools across this country, but it was a real tribute. Superintendent Spearman stated that while she had not seen the public relations campaign video by the National Association in final form, portions of the video taken during the game were of Alabama and Clemson football players thanking their teachers for the impact the teachers had on their lives, and it made her very proud. All of the teachers in the stands were asked to stand and be recognized: it was a really big tribute.

Superintendent Spearman thanked the Policy Committee for giving a favorable vote to the waiver request today. She stated that she is very interested in making sure that the SCDE's certification regulations make common sense, and today's waiver request was one of those where the teachers had been teaching successfully for a number of years. The SCDE's audit caught the fact that these teachers were not officially certified in grade one, but these teachers are very successful first-grade teachers. Superintendent Spearman appreciated the committee's support of the SCDE's recommendation for approval, and she stated that this is something the SCDE will continue to look at to make sure that, in a time when it is difficult to hire new teachers and retain good teachers, the agency's regulations uphold high quality, but at the same time prevent anything that keeps a great teacher from being in the right spot. Certainly, these teachers in Spartanburg 6, were in the right spot, their best spot for teaching first-grade. Superintendent Spearman again thanked the Policy Committee for their approval of the waiver request.

Superintendent Spearman also wanted to let the committee know that today was a very busy day in the state of South Carolina.

- The State's legislature was coming back in session;
- The Governor was announcing her budget request, which the SCDE has been working on very closely with the Governor. The Governor also included school district superintendents and will be meeting with them and Superintendent Spearman at 11:00 a.m. this morning;
- This afternoon at 2:00 p.m., which Superintendent Spearman noted would also be during the State Board meeting, the Governor and Superintendent Spearman will hold a press

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conference. Because of the support that the Governor has shown the SCDE in our requests this year, Superintendent Spearman will leave the SBE meeting to attend this press conference with the Governor. During this press conference, the Governor will unveil her education package for this year, which we endorse whole heartedly.

- This morning, the incoming Chair, Mr. Brennan, and Superintendent Spearman will speak to the Senate Education Committee meeting at 10:00 a.m. Chair Brennan and Superintendent Spearman will talk to the Senate Education Committee about the SCDE's budget request and the SCDE's recommendations about the Abbeville lawsuit.

Today is an exciting day for Superintendent Spearman, and she wanted to let the Policy Committee members know why they may or may not see her at today's full Board meeting. Superintendent Spearman stated that she would be happy to answer any questions. Superintendent Spearman also thanked Chair Cooper for working closely with her on the Safe Schools Task Force. Meetings have been held and Superintendent Spearman feels that we are getting close to a final report. Chair Cooper has been working closely with agency staff on reviewing the safe schools regulation; the discipline infractions on levels I, II, and III; things that both she and the chair thought needed to be reviewed; and changes needed to make the regulation fair for students, supportive of teachers, and in conflict with the sometimes different language that the law enforcement community abides by. Both think the SCDE will come out with a stronger system. Superintendent Spearman appreciates Chair Cooper's work with the task force. The Policy Committee will receive a regulation change when the 2016–17 legislative regulation session begins this June. There will also be other recommendations from the task force regarding the training of educators and resource officers and a definition of what a resource officer's role is to make sure that the SCDE is doing everything it can to support safety and security in the schools, to give our students a fair shake, and to support teachers so that the teachers know that the SCDE has their back. The SCDE wants to do everything they can to make sure that the teachers have the environment and the classrooms to teach.

Superintendent Spearman stated that today would be a very busy day, and January would be a very busy month for the great state of South Carolina. Superintendent Spearman thanked everyone and asked if there any questions?

There being no questions, Chair Cooper thanked Superintendent Spearman for speaking to them.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Cooper asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Chair-Elect Brennan made the motion. The motion was seconded by Dr. Alston. Motion carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:19 a.m.