

MINUTES OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

State Board of Education

Tuesday, June 2nd, 2026 – 12:30 p.m.

849 Learning Lane

West Columbia, SC 29172

SBE Members in Attendance:

Chair David Mathis, *Second Judicial Circuit*

Chair-Elect Joyce Crimminger, *Sixth Judicial Circuit*

Donna Elmore, *First Judicial Circuit*

Virginia Catoe, *Fifth Judicial Circuit*

Dr. Joette Johnson, *Seventh Judicial Circuit*

David Trent, *Eighth Judicial Circuit*

Dr. Christian Hanley, *Ninth Judicial Circuit*

Anthony Vincent, *Tenth Judicial Circuit*

Tammie Shore, *Eleventh Judicial Circuit*

Richard Harrington, *Twelfth Judicial Circuit*

Dr. Cheryl Collier, *Thirteenth Judicial Circuit*

Cliff Warren, *Fourteenth Judicial Circuit*

Ken Richardson, *Fifteenth Judicial Circuit*

Joey Haney, *Sixteenth Judicial Circuit*

Ellen Weaver, *State Superintendent of Education*

SBE Members Absent:

Jacqueline Lynn, *Fourth Judicial Circuit*

Rita Allison, *Governor's Appointee*

- I. Executive Session:** The State Board of Education meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Chair Mathis.

The Board entered Executive Session at 12:31 p.m. on motion by Ken Richardson with a second by Chair-Elect Crimminger to receive legal advice regarding the State-of-Education Emergency Declaration of Marlboro County School District Pursuant to S.C. Code § 59-18-1640.

The Board re-entered Open Session at 1:28 p.m.

- II. Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance:** Chair-Elect Crimminger let the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Approval of State Board of Education Minutes for May 5, 2026:** The minutes of the regular board meeting for May 5, 2026, were approved by unanimous consent.
- IV. Approval of State Board of Education Agenda June 2, 2026:** The agenda was approved as presented by unanimous consent.

- V. Recognition of Visitors & News Media:** Chair Mathis welcomed members of the media and visitors.
- VI. State Board Chair Report:** Chair Mathis wanted to honor Alex Vora, SCDE IT Technician who recently passed over the weekend.
- VII. State Superintendent of Education Report:** Superintendent Weaver recognized the Original Six Foundation, who provides supplemental support to improve education in SC for every child, regardless of where they are from.

The 2026 Strong Men & Women in SC History essay contest, tied to the SC African American Calendar and sponsored by Dominion Energy, invited high school juniors and seniors to write about an African American from SC who positively impacted their educational journey. The winners, listed below, received an Apple MacBook and a \$1,000 award for their school:

Wilson Quarles, Upstate
Da'Mariona Harley, Savannah River Region
Pranavi Mancham- Midlands Region
Laila Slater, Pee Dee Region
Kashauna Abraham, Lowcountry Region

The SC Department of Education had the honor of hosting the 2026 Military Honor Cord Celebration at Fort Jackson, honoring high school seniors who had committed to pursuing into the military.

- VIII. Public Comment**
Patrick Kelly, PSTA

IX. State Board of Education Committees

- A. Policy & Legislative Committee Report (Not Meeting)**
- B. Education Professions Committee Report:** During the Educator Professions Committee Report, the following items were unanimously approved to be placed on the Consent Agenda:

FOR APPROVAL

1. New Alternative Route Program: Lexington School District Two—Jessica McLees, PhD, Education Associate, Office of Educator Services
2. *South Carolina Certification Assessment Program: Additional Testing Option for Physical Education*—Mary Hipp, Director, Office of Educator Services

FOR INFORMATION

No items.

C. Standards, Learning, & Accountability Committee Report: During the Standards, Learning, & Accountability Committee, the following items were unanimously approved to be placed on the Consent Agenda:

FOR APPROVAL

1. Charleston County School District requests an S.C. Code Ann. §59-19-350 School of Innovation Waiver for the Meeting Street Burns and Brentwood Schools—Christina Hall, Team Lead, Office of Federal and State Accountability

FOR INFORMATION

2. Selection of State Textbook Depository—Nicole Barker, Education Associate, Office of Instructional Materials
3. South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) Cyclical Review of the 2019 SC College- and Career-Ready Standards for Social Studies—Kristi Austin, PhD, Director, Office of Assessment & Standards

D. Instructional Materials Review Committee Report (Not Meeting)

E. Educator Licensure Committee Report: During the Educator Licensure Committee Report, Mr. Cliff Warren, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee took action on six cases which resulted in six orders of suspension.

F. Full Board Educator Licensure Committee Report: During the Full Board Educator Licensure Committee Report, Chair Mathis reported that the Committee took action on four cases resulting in one approval of initial certification, two denials for initial certification, and one Order of Permanent Revocation.

X. Consent Agenda: Chair Mathis requested a motion to approve all items presented to the State Board for approval by Committees. Chair Elect Crimminger made a motion, Tammie Shore seconded. The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

XI. South Carolina Board of Education Report

FOR APPROVAL

1. State-of-Education Emergency Declaration of Marlboro County School District Pursuant to S.C. Code § 59-18-1640 - Henry Gunter Esq., Deputy General Counsel

During the South Carolina Board of Education Report, Henry Gunter, Deputy General Counsel, provided background information regarding the State-of-Education Emergency Declaration of Marlboro County School District. Chair Mathis asked for a

motion to approve the state of emergency declaration of Marlboro County School District Pursuant to S.C. Code § 59-18-1640. Dr. Christian Hanley made a motion. Chair-Elect Crimminger seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

FOR INFORMATION

2. Jasper County School District: 2025-2026 School Year Overview and Update—Dr. Laura Hickson, Superintendent, Jasper County School District

- XII. Other Business:** There were no other items for business.
- XIII. Adjournment:** Ken Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cliff Warren seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.