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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
December 11, 2020

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1. State Board of Education Statement Regarding Dr. Eric Thomas

**MINUTES OF THE
CALLED STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

Atlanta, Georgia
Scott Sweeney, Chairman

December 11, 2020
Richard Woods, Superintendent

CALL TO ORDER

The State Board of Education convened at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 11, 2020, via conference call. Chairman Scott Sweeney called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES

State Board of Education:

Mr. Mike Long	Mr. Scott Sweeney	Mr. Scott Johnson
Dr. Butch Mosely	Mr. Mike Royal	Mr. Trey Allen
Ms. Lisa Kinnemore	Mr. Jason Downey	Ms. Lynn Nabors
Mr. Kenneth Mason	Ms. Lee Anne Cowart	Ms. Phenna Petty

Others participating via teleconference: Mr. Richard Woods, Mr. Matt Jones, Ms. Stacey Suber-Drake, Ms. Tiffany Taylor, Mr. Brian Webb and Ms. Susan Haynes.

ACTION ITEM

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ITEMS

1. **State Board of Education Statement Regarding Dr. Eric Thomas.** Upon motion by Mr. Mike Royal and a second from Ms. Lisa Kinnemore, the State Board of Education unanimously approved the proposed statement regarding Dr. Eric Thomas and to provide a copy of the statement to the Georgia Office of Inspector General; and to attach the statement to the January 2020 Georgia Department of Education audit report that examined the operations of the Chief Turnaround Office for production along with the audit in and response to any open records request for the audit to the State Board of Education. (Appendix 1)

ADJOURNMENT

At 3:08 p.m., by motion of Mr. Jason Downey and a second from Mr. Kenneth Mason, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Caputo
Recording Secretary



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"

Georgia Department of Education
Item for State Board of Education Approval
– Other –

Item Name

State Board of Education Statement regarding Dr. Eric Thomas

Recommendation – Action Item

The State Board of Education recommends approval of the following actions: (1) approve the proposed statement regarding Dr. Eric Thomas; (2) provide a copy of the statement to the Georgia Office of Inspector General; and (3) attach the statement to the January 2020 Georgia Department of Education audit report that examined the operations of the Chief Turnaround Office for production along with the audit in and response to any open records request for the audit to the State Board of Education.

Supports the Following Education Goal or Goals in the Agency Strategic Plan

- Ongoing Operations

Summary

Proposed Statement:

On January 15, 2020, the State Superintendent submitted an internal audit report of the Chief Turnaround Office to the State Board of Education. Dr. Thomas was the Chief Turnaround Officer at the relevant time of this audit. The Board, to which Dr. Thomas reported directly, thoroughly reviewed the audit report and Dr. Thomas' February 13, 2020 response to the audit report. After such review, the Board took no disciplinary action, and now considers the matter closed.

The Board thanks Dr. Thomas for his professionalism during this matter and his passion and commitment to Georgia's students, families, and communities.

Under Dr. Thomas' leadership, through his departure at the end of the 2019-2020 school year, the Chief Turnaround Office positively impacted schools and districts. Furthermore, as intended by the legislation, innovations piloted in the Turnaround Office have the potential to impact school improvement efforts statewide.