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October 21, 2015

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

**Atlanta, Georgia  
Helen O. Rice, Board Chair**

**October 21, 2015  
Richard Woods, Superintendent**

**Call to Order**

The State Board of Education convened on Wednesday, October 21, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. in the Satilla Ballroom at The Westin Jekyll Island, 110 Ocean Way, Brunswick, Georgia, for a called State Board meeting to take action on official business.

**Roll Call**

Helen Rice, Chair	Mr. Kenneth Mason	Mr. Trey Allen
Mike Royal, Vice Chair	Ms. Barbara Hampton	Mr. Scott Johnson
Mr. W.T. Henry	Mr. Kevin Boyd	Dr. Mary Sue Murray
Ms. Lisa Kinnemore	Mr. Brian Burdette	Mr. Larry Winter
Mr. Mike Long		

**Others present:** Ms. Jennifer Hackemeyer and Mr. Maurice King.

**Present via conference call:** Ms. Jennifer Colangelo and Mr. K.P. Reddy.

**Public Hearing**

Mr. Maurice King, legal counsel for the Dooly County Board of Education (Dooly County BOE) was given time to speak to the Order from the State Board of Education on the Requirements of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-73. Mr. King outlined in his brief regarding the suspension hearing of the Dooly County BOE, that based on evidence in the AdvancedEd report, the statute did not apply for a suspension hearing. Mr. King asked that the State Board consider dismissing the Consent and Order for a hearing.

**ACTION ITEMS**

*(Please note that the items in their entirety, with backup material and attachments in Appendix 1, can be found on the State Board of Education's E-Board website, October 21, 2015 Called State Board Meeting.)*

At 1:15 p.m., by motion of Mr. Mike Royal and a second by Mr. W.T. Henry, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a legal matter.

At 1:35 p.m., by motion of Mr. Mike Royal and a second by Mr. Brian Burdette, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to exit Executive Session.

## AGENDA

By motion of Ms. Lisa Kinnemore and a second by Mr. Mike Royal, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to approve the agenda.

## OTHER ITEMS

1. Order from the State Board of Education on the Requirements of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-73 regarding the Dooly County Board of Education suspension hearing. Upon motion from Mr. Mike Royal and a second from Mr. W. T. Henry, the Board unanimously approved the Order on the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-73. The motion was unanimously approved by those present. (Appendix 2)

Mr. Royal commented that the criteria of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-73 has been met and is evidenced in the AdvancedEd report. Mr. Larry Winter commented that after listening to the evidence and based on the report, the State Board must move forward with the suspension hearing in support of the children/students of Dooly County.

## COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the Executive Session meeting are located in Appendix 1.

## ADJOURNMENT

At 1:50 p.m., by motion of Ms. Larry Winter and a second by Mr. W.T. Henry, an affirmative vote was given to adjourn.

## NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING

The next State Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 5, 2015.



**State Board of Education  
Executive Session Minutes  
October 21, 2015  
1:15 p.m.**

**Attendees**

Ms. Helen Rice, Chair	Mr. Kenneth Mason	Mr. Trey Allen
Ms. Lisa Kinnemore	Mr. Kevin Boyd	Dr. Mary Sue Murray
Mr. Mike Royal	Ms. Barbara Hampton	Mr. Larry Winter
Mr. Mike Long	Mr. Brian Burdette (via conference call)	Ms. Jennifer Colangelo (via conference call)
Mr. W. T. Henry	Mr. Scott Johnson	Mr. K.P. Reddy (via conference call)

**Agenda**

1. **Order from the State Board of Education on the Requirements of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-73.** The attorney for the Dooly County Board of Education (Dooly County BOE) has outlined in his brief regarding the suspension hearing of the Dooly County BOE, that the basis of the AdvancedEd report, the statute did not apply for a suspension hearing. The State Board members discussed the issue on whether the criteria of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-73 have been met mandating that the State Board of Education hold a hearing on the issues outlined in the AdvancedEd report. The Board members concurred that based on the evidence in the AdvancedEd report, the statute applies.

**Adjournment**

The Executive Session adjourned at 1:35 a.m.

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE: \***  
**SUSPENSION OF THE BOARD \***  
**MEMBERS OF THE DOOLY COUNTY \***  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION \***

**ORDER FROM THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**ON THE REQUIREMENTS OF O.C.G.A. § 20-2-73**

The Georgia State Board of Education (“State Board”), having considered briefs from the Dooly County Board of Education (“Local Board”) and the Georgia Department of Education (“DOE”) on the issue of whether the criteria of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-73 have been met mandating that State Board to hold a hearing on the issue of whether to recommend to the Governor that he suspend all eligible members of the local board, hereby makes the following findings and conclusions:

**FINDINGS**

1.

The Dooly County School System (“School System”) is governed by the Local Board. The School System is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (“SACS”). SACS is an accreditation agency as defined in O.C.G.A. § 20-3-519(6)(A)(i). The School System is also accredited by the Georgia Accrediting Commission, also an accreditation agency as defined in O.C.G.A. § 20-3-519(6)(A)(i).

2.

On August 10, 2015, the State School Superintendent was notified that the School System was placed “Under Review” by SACS and Advance Education (“AdvancED”) (hereinafter collectively referred to as “SACS”). The letter to the State School Superintendent stated that “the school system is facing challenges related to Governance and Leadership.” An “on-site Accreditation Progress Review” is scheduled for April 15, 2016.

3.

Specifically, the SACS report noted the following issues with regard to governance:

Most importantly, the system is facing a challenge of governance and leadership which impacts the culture of the system, creates instability due to frequent instances of change, and results in poor lines of communication within the system and with the broader system of stakeholders. . . . Complaints came from staff and community members beginning in February 2014, and allegations were made that there was micromanaging on the part of board members.

Community members perceive that board members run for office as ‘single persons with single item agendas,’ and they state that there is no place for this on a school board. One community member described the board as being ‘over active’ and not understanding the chain of command.

(Pages 34-35.)

4.

SACS currently uses an “Index of Education” (“IEQ”) to “score” a school system in three areas: “1) the impact of teaching and learning on student performance; 2) the capacity of leadership to guide the institution toward the achievement of its vision and strategic priorities; and 3) use of resources to support and optimize learning.” The overall scores and the scores for each domain range from 100 to 400. “Accredited” and “Accredited Under Review” are the two accreditation statuses that are awarded to a school or local school system based on the results of the IEQ score.

3.

The letter from SACS to the State School Superintendent states that “the school system is facing challenges related to Governance and Leadership.” The School System’s lowest IEQ scores occurred in the domain of “Leadership Capacity.” The School System earned the lowest individual scores possible in the specific standards and indicators that related to the “governing body” or the school board. Therefore, “school board governance related issues” are the reason that the School System was given the status of “Accredited Under Review.”

4.

Finally, the State Board has been notified in writing of the School System’s accreditation status.

For these reasons, it is the decision of the State Board that the criteria of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-73(a)(1) have been met, requiring a hearing to be held not less than ten days of such notice nor more than 90 days of the notice received by the State School Superintendent on August 10, 2015.

Absent a successful request for a continuance, the hearing on this matter is scheduled for November 5, 2015, as previously noticed by the State Board of Education.

Adopted by the State Board of Education, this \_\_\_\_ day of October, 2015.

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HELEN RICE, CHAIR  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION