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**Education and Cultural Subcommittee Meeting
January 14, 2016
11:30 a.m.
Room 110 - Blatt Building**

ARCHIVED VIDEO AVAILABLE

- I. You may access archived video of this meeting by visiting the South Carolina General Assembly's website (<http://www.scstatehouse.gov>) and click on "Citizens' Interests," then click on "House Legislative Oversight Committee Postings and Reports." Lastly, click on "Video Archives" for a listing of archived videos for the Legislative Oversight Committee.

MINUTES

- I. House Rule 4.5 requires the standing committees of the House to prepare and make available for public inspection, in compliance with Section 30-4-90, the minutes of full committee meetings. House Rule 4.5 further provides that such minutes need not be verbatim accounts of such meetings. It is the practice of the House Legislative Oversight Committee to provide minutes, which are not verbatim accounts of such meetings, for its Subcommittee meetings.

Attendance

- II. The Education and Cultural Subcommittee (Subcommittee) meeting was called to order by Representative Clary on Thursday, January 14, 2016, in Room 110 of the Blatt Building, Columbia, South Carolina. The following Subcommittee Members were present: Representative Gary E. Clary, Representative Tommy M. Stringer, and Representative Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

- II. House Rule 4.5 requires the standing committees of the House to prepare and make available for public inspection, in compliance with Section 30-4-90, the minutes of full committee meetings. House Rule

4.5 further provides that such minutes need not be verbatim accounts of such meetings. It is the practice of the House Legislative Oversight Committee to provide minutes which are not verbatim accounts of such meetings, for its subcommittee meetings.

- II. Representative Clary submitted proposed minutes from the Committee’s previous meeting, December 11, 2015. Representative Jefferson moved to approve the minutes. A roll call vote was held, and all present voted in favor of approval.

Rep. Clary’s Motion to Approve the Minutes from the December 11, 2015 Meeting	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Gary E. Clary	Yea		
Rep. Joseph H. Jefferson Jr.	Yea		
Rep. Tommy M. Stringer	Yea		
Rep. James E. Smith Jr.			Not Present

Discussion of the Scope of Study of South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness

- III. In attendance from the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness (First Steps) were the following: Dan Wuori (Deputy Director); Mark Barnes (Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer); and Julia-Ellen Davis (Interim Director). Representative Clary swore in the three representatives from First Steps.
- IV. Julia-Ellen Davis provided introductory comments to the Subcommittee.
- V. Representative Clary explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the finances of First Steps and the performance of the 4K program at First Steps, and to have a preliminary discussion of other programs at First Steps. Mark Barnes provided comments explaining the finances for First Steps. He, with the assistance of Dan Wuori, answered questions asked of him by Representatives Clary, Stringer, and Jefferson related to, among other topics, the sources of funding at the state and county offices of First Steps, the changes in the agency’s funding over time, and the differences between various areas of the agency’s budget.

Representative Clary summarized the nature of the Subcommittee’s requests for information relating to the agency’s 4K program, and asked the representatives from First Steps to summarize the agency’s response to the Subcommittee’s requests and to provide any additional relevant information that was not included in the agency’s submissions. Dan Wuori then testified about the agency’s 4K program, the agency’s relationships to the county partnerships, and the agency’s funding requests to the House Ways and Means Committee, and, with the assistance of Mark Barnes, answered questions asked of him by Representatives Jefferson, Stringer, and Clary.

- VI. Representative Clary referenced specific programs that were listed in the materials that the agency had submitted to the Subcommittee, and he asked the agency representatives to provide further information at the Subcommittee’s next meeting related to, among other things:
- (1) The basis of the agency’s decision to initiate some programs and/or end some programs;
 - (2) The number of constituents served by each of the agency’s standalone programs;
 - (3) The number of employees that the agency uses to staff its standalone programs;

- (4) The responsibilities of the agency as provided for in statute;
- (5) The amount of time the agency devotes to each county and the reasons therefore;
- (6) If first steps only could keep one program what would it be and why;
- (7) The program the agency believes best fulfills its purpose as provided for in statute; and
- (8) The program the agency would eliminate if it had to choose one and the reasons therefore.

Representative Clary explained that in the next meeting with the agency, the Subcommittee would also like to discuss the agency's program performance and the agency's governance.

Adjournment

VII. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.