

Chairman Wm. Weston J. Newton

First Vice-Chair:
Laurie Slade Funderburk

Legislative Oversight Committee



South Carolina House of Representatives

Nathan Ballentine
Gary E. Clary
Kirkman Finlay III
Joseph H. Jefferson Jr.
Walton J. McLeod
Joshua Putnam
Samuel Rivers Jr.
Tommy M. Stringer
Bill Taylor

William K. (Bill) Bowers
Raye Felder
Phyllis J. Henderson
Mia S. McLeod
Ralph W. Norman
Robert L. Ridgeway III
James E. Smith, Jr.
Edward R. Tallon Sr.
Robert Q. Williams

Jennifer L. Dobson
Research Director

Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211
Telephone: (803) 212-6810 • Fax: (803) 212-6811

Charles L. Appleby IV
Legal Counsel

Cathy A. Greer
Administration Coordinator

Room 228 Blatt Building

Carmen J. McCutcheon
Auditor/Research Analyst

Education and Cultural Subcommittee

August 17, 2016

Archived Video Available

- I. Pursuant to House Legislative Oversight Committee Rule 6.8, South Carolina ETV was allowed access for streaming the meeting. You may access archived video of this meeting by visiting the South Carolina General Assembly's website (<http://www.scstatehouse.gov>) and clicking on *Committee Postings and Reports*, then under *House Standing Committees* click on *Legislative Oversight*. Then, click on *Video Archives* for a listing of archived videos for the Committee.

Attendance

- I. The Education and Cultural Subcommittee meeting was called to order by Chair James E. Smith, Jr., on Wednesday, August 17, 2016, in Room 110 of the Blatt Building. All members of the Subcommittee were in attendance.

Minutes

- I. House Rule 4.5 requires standing committees to prepare and make available to the public the minutes of committee meetings, but the minutes do not have to be verbatim accounts of meetings. It is the practice of the Legislative Oversight Committee to provide minutes for its subcommittee meetings.
Representative

- II. Representative Jefferson moved to approve the minutes from the Subcommittee’s meeting on July 13, 2016. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed.

Rep. Jefferson’s motion to approve the minutes from July 13, 2016:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Gary E. Clary	✓		
Rep. Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓		
Rep. Tommy M. Stringer	✓		
Rep. James E. Smith, Jr.	✓		

Discussion of the School for the Deaf and the Blind

- I. Chair Smith administered the oath to all of those present who wished to testify on behalf of the School for the Deaf and the Blind who had not been sworn in at a previous meeting. Those who were sworn in at the time were: Ben Riddle (Chief Financial Officer), Monique Callaham (Human Resources Director), and Trad Robinson (Chief Information Officer).
- II. Committee staff provided a brief overview of the School’s human resources, financial resources, and performance measures.
- III. Dr. Page McCraw (President) provided an overview of the School’s strategic plan.

Representative Jefferson asked for the number of students that enrolled in the School for this school year. Dr. McCraw said that she would submit that information to the Subcommittee in writing.

Chair Smith asked for a history of the relationship between the Walker Foundation and the School, whether any board members of the Walker Foundation are also board members of the School, and the ways in which the Foundation supports the School.

Chair Smith asked questions about the School’s accreditation results and reports, and he asked for the School to submit a copy of its report to the Subcommittee when the report has been completed.

Representative Clary asked for a summary of the rate of parental participation in the School’s online streaming broadcasts.

Chair Smith asked questions about the School’s infrastructure plans and needs.

Representative Clary asked for an explanation of the School's plans to tear down certain buildings on its campus considering that the buildings are quasi-historical sites.

Representative Jefferson asked if there were any industries waiting to hire students of the School upon their graduation.

Representative Jefferson asked if the School monitor's the career progress of its graduates over time so that it can monitor their success.

- IV. Scott Falcone provided an overview of the School's outreach services to the Subcommittee.

Chair Smith asked if the School's growing enrollment numbers were the product of improved screening for children.

Chair Smith asked questions about the admission process for the Kelly's Kids Program at the School.

Chair Smith asked questions about the relationships between the various services and programs for blind and deaf students in South Carolina.

Chair Smith asked if there were any students in South Carolina who did not have access to the School's services either because the School was filled to capacity or some other reason.

Representative Jefferson asked if there were any medical advances within the past one hundred years that could prevent the occurrence of deafness or blindness in children.

- V. The Subcommittee recessed for lunch.

- VI. After the break, Scott Falcone continued his presentation to the Subcommittee.

Representative Clary asked for the number of teachers that the School was adding to its faculty.

Representative Jefferson asked for the number of attempts that a prospective sign language interpreter has to take the national certification test.

Representative Clary asked for an explanation of the resources available on the School's website related to sign language interpreters and the profession.

Representative asked Mr. Falcone for his opinion about the appropriate salary for a sign language interpreter.

Chair Smith asked for an explanation of the steps that other states have taken in order to attract qualified sign language interpreters.

Representative Clary asked if the Braille Production Center was self-sustaining.

VII. Director McCraw testified about the staffing situation at the School.

Monique Callaham testified about the human resources department at the School.

Representative Jefferson asked for an explanation of the ways in which a job applicant could apply for employment at the School.

Representative Jefferson asked for the physical locations of the open positions at the School.

VIII. Ben Riddle and Director McCraw testified about the School's finances.

IX. Director McCraw testified about the School's future plans.

X. The meeting was adjourned.