



Lowcountry Graduate Center
Education Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: April 2nd, 2019

I. Call to order

Director of the Lowcountry Graduate Center (LGC), Dr. Nancy Muller called to order the regular meeting of the K-12 Education Advisory Board at 4:30 PM on April 2nd, 2019 at the LGC Room 136.

II. Introductions

The following persons were present:

Dr. Nancy Muller – LGC

Anne Weston – Ashley Hall

Jonathan Solomon – LGC

Dr. Kenneth Wilson – Dorchester
District 2

Lee Westberry – The Citadel

Larry Daniel – The Citadel

III. Presentations & Discussions

1. The first presenter was Lee Westberry from The Citadel discussing a new Lowcountry Principal Service Center that will be hosted at the LGC. As the state of South Carolina struggles with teacher retentions, it also struggles with the retention of principals and school administrators. Within the four local school districts, (Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester 2, and Dorchester 4), there are roughly 215 vacancies in administrative roles, especially in regard to principals who have remained as heads of their schools for five years or more.

A survey, conducted by The Citadel, collected 115 responses within 48 hours. The results suggest that many principals are relatively young in their careers, with only one individual saying they have been a principal for 20 years or longer. The survey identified with three ‘areas of need,’ or bands: Instructional Leadership, Management, and General Leadership to effect cultural change and delevelop support systems. Also noted in the study were needs for planning for

effective staff development; providing mental health support of staff and students; internal leadership development; and community engagement with parents and business.

The Lowcountry Principal Service Center is proposing to survey principals and superintendents for current needs two-to-three times a year, within the four local counties in order to determine regional needs. The center will provide professional development four-times a year along with the mentoring of new principals. The professional development and the service center will be in collaboration with Clemson University and will provide graduate credit hours to participants. Classes will be during the day and will only be one day per month.

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, as well as Dorchester School Districts Two and Four, support the project and are looking at fund for a Center of Excellence.

2. The second presenter of the meeting was Larry Daniel, Dean of the Zucker Education Center at The Citadel, to give an update on what is new within the programs. First, was a collaboration with Clemson University's Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) in Education Systems Improvement Science. The degree curriculum is now only 12 additional credit hours, plus an 18 credit hour dissertation after a student earns their Education Specialist degree (Ed.S.) in Educational Leadership from The Citadel. There is a 25% reduction in tuition for the cohorts, and opportunities for school districts to offer tuition support. Following approval from SACSCOC, the program will be offered at the LGC Fridays and Saturdays, one to two times a month, in a hybrid (online and face-to-face) format.

IV. Adjournment

Director of the Lowcountry Graduate Center (LGC), Dr. Nancy Muller adjourned the meeting at 6:15 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Jonathan M. Solomon

Minutes approved by: Dr. Nancy Muller