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**South Carolina House of Representatives**

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### **Education and Cultural Subcommittee**

**Tuesday, June 11, 2019  
Room 321 Blatt Building**

#### **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 an 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 Chairman Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr., Tuesday, June 11, 2019, in Room 321 of the Blatt Building. All members were present for some or all of the meeting.

#### **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.

- II. Representative Neal A. Collins moves to approve the minutes from the Subcommittee’s meeting on March 21, 2019. A roll call vote is held, and the motion passes.

<b>Representative Collin’s motion to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2019, meeting:</b>	Yea	Nay	Not Voting: Present	Not Voting: Absent
Neal A Collins	✓			
Patricia Moore Henegan	✓			
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓			
Tommy Stringer	✓			

**Discussion of Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School**

- I. Chairman Jefferson states that on January 14, 2019, a public statement was issued to provide the public an opportunity to comment on Wil Lou Gray, or “WLG.” Further, he explains the information obtained at the February 12, 2019, public comment meeting. Moreover, he explains that this meeting will discuss recommendations received at the February 12, 2019, meeting for WLG.
- II. Chairman Jefferson states all testimony provided to this Committee is under oath, and reminds everyone previously sworn in that they remain under oath.
- III. Mr. Pat Smith (Director of WLG) and Ms. Diane McNinch (Licensed Professional Counselor, or “LPC”), provide testimony about WLG’s student performance, mental health needs, and employee training.
- IV. Agency staff responds to Subcommittee member question about the mental health procedures implemented.
- V. Chairman Jefferson states that recommendations from subcommittee members regarding WLG will be heard. Further, he states that for each recommendation, the agency may adopt, reject, or request further information from the agency.
- VI. Representative Henegan, Collins, and Stringer question Mr. Pat Smith regarding the GED program, budgetary concerns, and incentives.
- VII. Representative Henegan moves to receive as information the program internal change recommendation report.

<b>Representative Henegan’s motion to receive as information the internal change recommendation report.</b>	Yea	Nay	Not Voting: Present	Not Voting: Absent
Neal A Collins	✓			
Patricia Moore Henegan	✓			
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓			
Tommy Stringer	✓			

VIII. Representative Henegan asks additional questions regarding communication about agency programs and data collection.

IX. Representative Henegan moves to adopt recommendation that WLG contract for a formal education program evaluation focused on correlating school structure and implementation with its results.

<b>Representative Henegan’s motion to adopt recommendation on WLG contract for formal evaluation on program structure, implementation, and results.</b>	Yea	Nay	Not Voting: Present	Not Voting: Absent
Neal A Collins	✓			
Patricia Moore Henegan	✓			
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓			
Tommy Stringer	✓			

X. Representative Henegan then presents recommendations drawn from service opportunities used by other educational programs.

XI. Representative Henegan moves to adopt the recommendation that WLG investigate service opportunities that include regular service at one organization, while continuing to offer one-time opportunities.

<b>Representative Henegan’s motion to adopt recommendation on WLG investigation of service opportunities including regular service at one organization.</b>	Yea	Nay	Not Voting: Present	Not Voting: Absent
Neal A Collins	✓			
Patricia Moore Henegan	✓			
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓			
Tommy Stringer	✓			

XII. Representative Henegan then presents recommendations regarding the WLG handbook, particularly regarding personal appearance. Particularly, how WLG can update its standards to match JRTOC rules.

<b>Representative Henegan’s motion to adopt recommendation on WLG handbook considerations.</b>	Yea	Nay	Not Voting: Present	Not Voting: Absent
Neal A Collins	✓			
Patricia Moore Henegan	✓			
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓			
Tommy Stringer	✓			

XIII. Representative Henegan then presents recommendations regarding opportunities for students to practice their religion at WLG. Further, she questions Mr. Pat Smith regarding how WLG handles religious and non-religious student activities.

XIV. Representative Collins questions Mr. Pat Smith about students who are at risk of not completing high school, or “at-risk.”

XV. Representative Collins moves to approve his recommendation regarding students who are considered “at-risk.” The recommendation provides that principals seek parental consent to release names and addresses of “at-risk” students. Failure to get consent or provide this list of names could result with WLG losing base student cost.

<b>Representative Collins’s motion to adopt recommendations on enforcement for WLG failing to get consent for or failing to list “at-risk” students.</b>	Yea	Nay	Not Voting: Present	Not Voting: Absent
Neal A Collins	✓			
Patricia Moore Henegan	✓			
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓			
Tommy Stringer	✓			

XVI. Representative Stringer moves to adopt recommendation that if the evaluation reveals promising practices that can be replicated across public schools, make this information accessible via the WLG website, Department of Education, and related oversight committees. This recommendation would put WLG partially in compliance with S.C. Code § 59-51-10(3).

<b>Representative Stringer’s motion to adopt the recommendation of evaluation practices and information accessibility.</b>	Yea	Nay	Not Voting: Present	Not Voting: Absent
Neal A Collins	✓			
Patricia Moore Henegan	✓			
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓			
Tommy Stringer	✓			

XVII. Representative Stringer moves to adopt the recommendation that WLG adopt a system to track interactions with the school or district personnel. He explains that periodically using the data to ascertain the types of interactions has been successful.

<b>Representative Stringer’s motion to adopt the recommendation of a system to track interactions with the school or district personnel.</b>	Yea	Nay	Not Voting: Present	Not Voting: Absent
Neal A Collins	✓			
Patricia Moore Henegan	✓			
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓			
Tommy Stringer	✓			

XVIII. Representative Stringer moves to adopt the recommendation that WLG amend the student application in regard to collection of demographic information. Further, he states that this

would ensure that the data collected by WLG through applications is accurate. He names the U.S. Census as a potential source for this information.

<b>Representative Stringer’s motion to adopt the recommendation of amending the student application to more accurately collect demographic data.</b>	Yea	Nay	Not Voting: Present	Not Voting: Absent
Neal A Collins	✓			
Patricia Moore Henegan	✓			
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓			
Tommy Stringer	✓			

XIX. Representative Stringer moves for recommendation that WLG add topics on “how the State government works” into board training.

<b>Representative Stringer’s motion to adopt the recommendation that WLG add topics on “how the State government works” into board training.</b>	Yea	Nay	Not Voting: Present	Not Voting: Absent
Neal A Collins	✓			
Patricia Moore Henegan	✓			
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓			
Tommy Stringer	✓			

Representative Stringer moves for a recommendation that the board be taught how the State procurement process works.

<b>Representative Stringer’s motion to adopt the recommendation of the board being taught how the State procurement process works.</b>	Yea	Nay	Not Voting: Present	Not Voting: Absent
Neal A Collins	✓			
Patricia Moore Henegan	✓			
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓			
Tommy Stringer	✓			

## Adjournment

I. There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned.