# Lowcountry Graduate Center

# Education Advisory Board

# Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: April 2nd, 2019

1. 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.

1. Introductions

The following persons were present:

Dr. Nancy Muller – LGC

Jonathan Solomon – LGC

Lee Westberry – The Citadel

Larry Daniel – The Citadel

Anne Weston – Ashley Hall

Dr. Kenneth Wilson – Dorchester District 2

1. Presentations & Discussions
2. The first presenter was Lee Westberry from The Citadel discussing its newly created 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 seasoned principals who have remained as heads of their schools for five years or more.

A recent survey of administrators in the Tri-County Area, 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 three key ‘areas of need,’ or bands: Instructional Leadership, Management, and General Leadership to effect cultural change and develop support systems. Also noted in the study were deficits in how to plan for effective staff development; provide mental health support to staff and students; develop internal leadership; and undertake community engagement with parents and local businesses.

Such surveys will be undertaken continually byThe Lowcountry Principal Service Center to refine and stay current with the region’s needs. The center will provide professional development four-times a year along with the mentoring of new principals. Content for professional development by the Service Center will be developed in collaboration with Clemson University, with the latter creating a Service Center for principals and superintendents in the Upstate. Although not structured as a degree program, The Citadel will provide graduate credit hours to participants. These will also count towards state licensing renewal requirements. It may be possible in the future to qualify the quarterly sessions for micro-credentialing. Classes will be during the day and will only require 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 possibly funding it as a Center of Excellence in some future year. Such monies are not currently available.

In response to Muller’s question, The Citadel representatives confirmed that the Center is available to participants from both the public as well as private school sectors.

The Center has been established and the first such session could be offered as early as Summer 2019.

1. The second presenter of the meeting was Dr. Larry Daniel, Dean of the Zucker Family School of Education at The Citadel, to give an update on what is new within the School’s various graduate programs. After years of dialogue, The Citadel has consummated a collaboration with Clemson University for its Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) in Education Systems Improvement Science. The doctoral degree curriculum requires only 12 additional credit hours, plus an 18 credit hour dissertation, after a student earns an 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 for the LGC to be designated a satellite campus for the Ed.S. program, a new cohort will be offered instruction at the LGC Fridays and Saturdays, one to two times a month, in a hybrid (online and face-to-face) format. The LGC is being added to its teaching locations to improve recruitment of teachers who live and/or work in Dorchester and Berkeley counties who do not wish to drive onto the Peninsula for classes. The first such cohort is expected to begin classes in the Fall 2019 Term.

The next meeting of the LGC Advisory Board is Thursday, September 26th, beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the LGC in North Charleston. Please make note on your calendars.

1. 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

May 21, 2019