

SPEAKER LUCAS AND CHAIRLADY ALLISON TO MEET WITH TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

In a surprise move by the Speaker of the House Jay Lucas and Chairlady of the House Education Committee, Rita Allison, have set up meetings with the various teachers of the year across South Carolina. Since the teacher walkout of 10,000, more attention has been paid to the views of in- classroom teachers.

In the last legislative session, Speaker Lucas created a massive education reform package that was eventually passed by the House, but saw no movement in the Senate. The current feeling among House members is that they will proceed to get more input from those on the ground and improve on the bill that has already been passed.

SCORS applauds the actions of the Speaker and Chairlady for moving forward and for their desire to make the bill even more progressive. Teachers will have a chance to express their opinions in closed door meetings in sessions on September 23-26 and September 30. At this time there is no published agenda for these meetings.

The traditional teacher organizations, the South Carolina Education Association and the Palmetto State Teachers Association have been spurred on by a new group called SC4 Ed. This new organization was formed only this past year and has made itself a more aggressive voice for educators across the state.

Chairlady Allison comes to these deliberations from her experience as a former school board member and her many education meetings attended across the state. Her voice is one that is respected across the aisle. Both she and Speaker Lucas understand that South Carolina must change its stand on education and attend to the needs of its children. We can no longer be satisfied with being on the bottom of the list of the states.

SCORS will always be supportive of efforts to improve the education of all of our children in South Carolina. We may disagree with certain parts of a bill, but the necessity to move forward is absolutely necessary. We will watch very carefully these efforts and support what we can.