

SC SIC Board of Trustees
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2010

Board Members Present: Carlos Primus, Chair; E' Lane Rutherford, Vice Chair; Virginia Alston-Brown, Secretary; Jeff Nicholson, Immediate Past Chair; Gary Alexander; Mark Bounds; Ken Clark; Joseph Darby, Jr.; Sylleste Davis; Bruce Field; Michael Guarino; Nancy Hanley; Ellen Still; Fred Washington, Jr.; Linda Weaver-Griggs.

Staff Members Present: Cassie Barber, Executive Director; Tom Hudson, Director of Program Services; Claudia Wolverson, Public Information Director.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Primus at 10 a.m. After opening remarks by the Chairman, new Board member, Gary Alexander, was introduced. Mr. Alexander shared that he has been active in his local SIC since moving to South Carolina and has had positive experiences at both Round Top Elementary and Blythewood Middle in Richland Two.

The December 4, 2009, minutes were approved.

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Barber welcomed everyone, expressed thanks for the support of the Board as the budget dilemma continues and made the following report.

- Collaboration with the Riley Institute at Furman University is going well. Ms. Barber is participating on their Sustainable Communities coalition and the Wilkins Award dinner which was an excellent networking experience. She also attended the Ties that Binds Conference where Board member Rev. Darby was the keynote speaker.
- Numerous SIC trainings have been held this year and Diane Jumper continues to work directly with the Palmetto Priority Schools.
- SC-SIC is a sponsor of the Parent Leadership Conference is being held in Orangeburg on February 12-14, 2010 and will present an advocacy workshop.
- Legislative Advocacy Day scheduled for February 23 in Columbia.
- Ms. Barber, Mr. Hudson and Mr. Washington will present at the South Carolina School Boards Association conference later this month.
- The annual SC-SIC Conference, "The Power of Many," is scheduled for March 13. Mark Bounds will be the keynote speaker.
- Ms. Barber will present at the State Department of Education's Dropout Prevention/Public School Choice Conference.
- Ms. Barber thanked everyone for participating in the executive director's review.
- There was a lengthy discussion regarding grants and the state funding dilemma impacting the SC-SIC office. There has been no word from AstraZenca and its proposed contribution. SC-SIC has applied for two (2) federal grants: one was not awarded and the one with the Riley Institute, which would pay for part of each staff's salary, has not come in yet. SC-SIC is also included in the state's "Race to the Top" stimulus application.
- Chairman Primus and Mr. Hudson have started classes at the Riley Institute's Diversity Initiative and are attending on partial scholarships. Both are looking forward to gaining knowledge to use for SC-SIC.

- Next year's funding is still an issue. Mr. Guarino was recognized for his efforts in Greenville to get support for SC-SIC funding, and staff made calls and sent e-mails, along with Board members and local SICs, to garner support. These efforts were successful in retaining SC-SIC's EIA allocation. Ms. Barber shared the roll-up proviso proposed by the Education Oversight Committee and explained its intent.
- The Executive Director stated that Legislative Advocacy Day is an opportunity to garner more support for SC-SIC. Bullet points will be made available. SC-SIC needs to be aware that this is not the time to remove parents from the discussion of what schools will look like in this time of state budget cuts. She shared copies of the SC-SIC Budget Advocacy Plan. Ms. Barber stated that the proviso directing USC to provide \$100,000 for SC-SIC has been deleted by the House Higher Education Committee. Striking the mandate of the USC proviso means that it is now USC's discretion to fund the SC-SIC. Staff will work with the Board and USC Governmental Relations to ensure that the proviso is reinstated.

Staff Reports

- Mr. Hudson reported that eleven (11) Level Two applications for the Riley Awards will be reviewed by the Board during the afternoon session. Announcement of the finalists will be made on February 17. Board members with any connection to the semi-finalists will be excused after lunch to ensure there are no conflicts of interest. Mr. Hudson was commended for improving and streamlining the awards process.
- Ms. Wolverton reported that the SC-SIC Member Network is going well. Ninety-three percent (93%) of the state's schools are in compliance. The SC-SIC listserv is extracted from that database. There is much data that is available via the Member Network and much potential for how this database can be used in the future. Social media is a new public information platform being used by SC-SIC, and SC-SIC is on both Twitter and Facebook.

Committee Reports

- Ms. Davis, Awards/Conference Committee Chair, thanked Mr. Hudson for his work preparing for the annual conference. The draft conference agenda was reviewed. A legislative update speaker is to be determined. The caterer hired for last year's luncheon will provide a reasonably priced hot lunch, keeping the cost under \$2,500. The conference fee is \$20 and registration information is on the web. Ms. Davis will try to have prints donated by Santee Cooper as special gifts for the finalists. Mr. Hudson will contact St. Andrews Middle the host site, for audio visual support. SC-SIC has received a \$1,000 sponsorship from SC-PIRC and Children's Trust.
- Ms. Still, Membership Development Committee Chair, reported that two (2) Board vacancies need to be filled by individuals from US Congressional Districts One (1) and Three (3) to ensure compliance with our bylaws. The committee recommends not filling the two open seats left by the resignations of Sherri Smith and Michael Lisle at this time and will make suggestions to the Chair for appointments this summer. There will also be six seats open for election this summer: Two members of the class of 2010, Mr. Nicholson and Ms. Hanley may not run for another term, though the bylaws will allow Mr. Nicholson to remain for one more year as

Immediate Past Chair. Dr. Alston Brown and Ms. Weaver-Griggs have informed the committee that they do not plan to run again. Ms. Weaver-Griggs has already recruited a candidate from Rock Hill. Ms. Still and Ms. Ross may run for re-election if they choose to do so. All Board members are encouraged to provide the committee with suggestions for excellent candidates to assist the committee in submitting an excellent slate of candidates.

In final remarks, the Executive Director provided copies of the SC-SIC Strategic Plan and asked Board members to review it. She suggested that we may want to re-visit the plan in the near future to ensure the responsive of the organization to the current political and educational environment. The USC Education Foundation is accepting donations for SC-SIC. The link is on the SC-SIC website and total contributions go to SC-SIC. She thanked the Board members for continued support.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:15 PM so that Board members in attendance could review and judge Level Two applications for the Riley Award.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Alston Brown

Virginia Alston Brown, Ed D
Secretary, SC-SIC