

**SC SIC Board of Trustees
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2010**

DRAFT

Board Members Present: Carlos Primus, Chair; E'Lane Rutherford, Vice Chair; Gary Alexander; Sylleste Davis; Bruce Field; Michael Guarino; Nancy Hanley; Fred Washington, Jr.; Linda Weaver-Griggs. (Proxies received from Virginia Alston Brown; Mark Bounds; Joseph Darby; Georgia Lash; Jeff Nicholson.)

Staff Members Present: Cassie Barber, Executive Director; Tom Hudson, Associate Director; Diane Jumper, Senior Council Specialist.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Primus at 10 a.m. After opening remarks by the Chairman, the February 12, 2010, minutes were approved.

The Chairman presented appreciation awards to outgoing Board members Ms. Hanley and Ms. Weaver-Griggs thanking them for their service to the SC-SIC Board. Outgoing member and Board Secretary Virginia Alston Brown, who was not present, was also recognized for her service.

Executive Director's Report

In her report, Ms. Barber addressed the following items:

Budget:

- EIA allocation of \$149,768 in both House and Senate budgets;
- USC Proviso for \$100,000 restored in the Senate;
- Expected total allocation for FY 10 is \$249,768.

Other Funding:

- Still no word on the federal grant proposal with the Riley Institute;
- Decided against working on GEAR UP graduation rate proposal – not a good fit;
- Working to support state Department of Education with the federal Race to the Top application;
- Attended webinar on Innovation grant funding but could not locate an appropriate school or district partner in time to submit;
- Exploring other funding and programs for potential revenue.

Activities:

- Parent Leadership Conference in February a success in spite of snow;
- SCSBA conference presentation was well received but sparsely attended;
- Legislative Advocacy Day also well received but sparsely attended. Options for future years are being considered;
- Working with Riley Institute on Community Learning Centers;
- Co-presented with SCDE staff at dropout Prevention/School Choice Conference in March;
- SC-SIC Conference was a major success;
- Quarterly Volunteer Coordinators Advisory Board – excellent networking opportunity with district and SCDE personnel;
- Attended Education Policy Fellows Washington Policy Seminar and various other conferences and events;

- Met with staff of the Sisters of Charity Foundation, which is now making grants in support of education;
- Due to needed changes and shifting of responsibilities within the office, have made some staff title changes: Mr. Hudson is now Associate Director, and Ms. Wolverton is now Public Information Director. There is no change in pay involved.

Staff Reports

Program Services: Mr. Hudson provided data regarding SC-SIC training activities year-to-date. These have included 15 training sessions (8 conducted by staff; 7 conducted by district-level personnel), training 407 individuals across 12 districts. Full training information for the 2009-10 school year to date is available on the SC-SIC website. For the upcoming school year, SC-SIC will take a more proactive approach to getting trainings scheduled in more districts through the SIC District Contacts. Mr. Hudson also reported on his participation, along with that of Chairman Primus, in The Riley Institute's Diversity Leaders Initiative; SC-SIC participation in February's statewide Parent Leadership Conference; and SC-SIC's participation in April's "Enough is Enough" education rally at the State House.

Communications: Mr. Hudson (in the absence of Ms. Wolverton) reported on the office's efforts in social media, specifically its presence on Twitter and Facebook. Feedback on both of these efforts has been positive. Regarding the SC-SIC Member Network, steps are being taken to have the SIC Reports to the Parents of individual schools posted to the Network. Ms. Wolverton is working with USC technical support staff to explore this option. Posting the Reports to the Parents would provide another level of accountability and material for research, as well as a resource for schools.

Technical Assistance: Ms. Jumper reported on her work with the 37 Palmetto Priority Schools she has served during the 2009-10 year. To date, she has made 56 site visits and a total of 372 technical assistance contacts, whether on-site, telephone or email. She has conducted 16 "Basics" training sessions, with 33 of the 37 PPS schools in attendance. Some benchmark reports and materials from PPS schools have already been submitted, with the deadline set at June 15.

Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee: Ms. Rutherford, Committee Chair, referenced the February Legislative Advocacy Day (LAD) held in conjunction with the Association of American University Women (AAUW) and the League of Women Voters (LWV). While the session was viewed as having value, attendance this year was down over previous years. It was shared that the leadership of both organizations are looking to SC-SIC to provide more coordination efforts for future LADs. This was discussed by the Board in light of SC-SIC's current responsibilities. The Board voted to have SC-SIC consider taking a greater role in LAD, with assistance from AAUW and LWV, looking at the possibility of three regional advocacy trainings and a one-day visit to the State House in February.

The Board adjourned for lunch.

Awards/Conference Committee: Ms. Davis, Committee Chair, reported that feedback from the annual SC-SIC Conference was overwhelmingly positive. The conference had 213 registrants, 166 attendees and 37 complimentary registrations. To date, 147 registrations have been paid with additional payments expected. Conference expenses were \$3,268.73, income to date stands at \$3,940.00 (including a \$1,000.00 sponsorship from The Children's Trust), an additional \$290.00 is expected from late registration payments, totaling \$961.27 in revenues.

Membership/Development Committee: Mr. Hudson, reporting for absent Committee Chair Ellen Still, noted that the Board's Class of 2010 is up for election and that three members will not be returning to the Board (Ms. Hanley, due to term limits, and Dr. Alston Brown and Ms. Weaver-Griggs). Other members of the class have indicated they will again stand for election. Additionally, there are two open seats on the Board (one each from the Classes of 2011 and 2012) which need to be filled by appointment of the Chair. Board members were encouraged to identify candidates for these open seats and a tentative elections schedule was presented: call for nominations, May 19; nominations due, June 4; balloting, June 14 to June 25; results announced, June 30.

In Board discussion, Mr. Alexander shared some information from a recent Innoventure Conference which he attended, and ideas about pursuing the application of a customer satisfaction survey regarding schools. It was noted that surveys currently used to gauge parents' perceptions of schools may be incomplete or underutilized. Ms. Barber suggested that Mr. Alexander and she might want to meet with Dr. Diane Monrad of the SC Education Policy Center at USwho has done significant work in the area of school climate. Mr. Guarino stated he would also like to take part in any meeting.

Mr. Hudson shared with the Board some proposed meeting dates for the Board for the 2010-11 year. After discussion, the Board approved the following tentative schedule: Friday, August 27, 2010 (meeting); Friday, November 5, 2010 (meeting); Friday, February 4, 2011 (meeting); Friday, February 11, 2011 (Riley Award judging); Saturday, March 19, 2011 (Annual Conference). A date for the spring 2011 meeting will be determined at a later time.

Ms. Barber shared with the Board a proposal that SC-SIC adopt as a framework the "Five Promises" of the organization America's Promise Alliance, to help local SICs focus their goals and energies for the school year. Through this framework, which can be found on the web at www.americaspromise.org, local SICs can identify aspects of their schools' strategic plans which fall within the framework and on which the SIC can take action. The Board was supportive of this approach.

Ms. Barber also briefed the Board on her work with the Education Policy Fellows Program (EPFP) sponsored by the Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, DC (about which more can be found on the web at www.epfp/iel.org). Ms. Barber and Board member Mark Bounds earned Fellowship certificates in 2005 and both are enthusiastic supporters of the program. SC-SIC has been invited to make a proposal to the SCEFPF Board to assume coordination of the program which is currently facilitated by the SC Association of School Administrators. The Board endorsed this endeavor which was viewed as a good fit with the organization's mission and also as a potential source of revenue.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom F. Hudson for
Virginia Alston Brown, Ed D
Secretary, SC-SIC