

**SC-SIC Board of Trustees**  
**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
**November 9, 2007**  
S.C. Association of Counties, Columbia, S.C.

Board Members present: Jeff Nicholson, Chair; Maria Taylor, Vice Chair; Nancy Hanley, Secretary; Virginia Alston Brown; Wilbur Cave; Patrick Cobb; Sylleste Davis; Bruce Field; Retha Ross; Elaine Rutherford; Nell Stewart; Cindy Smith; Linda Weaver-Griggs; Judy Wilson.

Staff Members present: Tom Hudson; Cassie Barber (arrived 11:15 a.m.)

Mr. Nicholson called the meeting to order and presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes; Ms. Weaver-Griggs seconded the motion.

Mr. Hudson presented a PowerPoint presentation and exercise on how to judge Dick and Tunky Riley School Improvement Awards applications. The awards timeline for this year is: November 15, 2007 – Level 1 applications due; January 10, 2008 – Honor Roll nominees announced; January 31, 2008 – Level 2 applications due; February 21, 2008 – Finalists announced; March 8, 2008 – Award presented at SC-SIC conference.

The Chair informed the Board that Ms. Rutherford had proposed a different type of recognition for the winner instead of just the plaque and recognition for the year. Ms. Rutherford has proposed a cash award, and currently has \$1,000 but is seeking \$5,000 through two Rotary groups in the state.

The SC-SIC bylaw revisions were discussed. Ms. Stewart addressed the draft bylaws distributed earlier to the Board by SC-SIC staff and introduced several additional modifications:

**Article 3 - Membership, Section 1.**

The SC-SIC Board of Trustees will be comprised of at least one representative from each of the six Congressional districts in South Carolina. Two seats on the board will be reserved for students in their junior or senior years of high school. Students will serve as at-large members and will reside in different regions of the state. New Board members will be elected by the current Board members to fill any open seats at the end of each fiscal year. Total Board membership will be limited to twenty, not including ex-officio members. Board members must demonstrate a sphere of influence in their community and an interest in motivating educational improvement.

**Paragraph 3 - before final sentence, add:**

Advisory Council members may attend and participate in any Board meeting or other SC-SIC activity, but no mandatory attendance will be imposed.

**Section 2, Terms of Service**

Terms of service for SC-SIC Board of Trustees members shall be three years in duration except for at-large members who will serve one year terms. Terms will begin with the first scheduled meeting of the fiscal year. At the conclusion of their first term, Board of Trustees members may choose to terminate their Board service, or run for election for another term. Student members who are rising seniors may run for an additional one year term. A student must have the approval of his or her school principal in order to run for a seat on the Board of Trustees.

**Paragraph 2 of this section, second sentence**

Board members may not be appointed or elected to the Board for one year following two consecutive terms of service.

**Article 4, Section 1, last word**

officer. (singular instead of plural)

**Article 4, Section 2**

The Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary shall elected by the members of the SC-SIC Board of Trustees at the last Board meeting of the fiscal year, take office at the first Board meeting of the following fiscal year, and shall serve a one year term. The Chair shall serve in that capacity on both the SC-SIC Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee. The Vice Chair shall serve as the Chair of the Advocacy Committee. The Immediate Past Chair shall serve as Chair of the By Laws committee. Officers may serve up to two consecutive one-year terms.

**Article 5, Section 3, paragraph 2, sentence 2**

The Membership Development Committee will forward (prior to the last Board meeting of the fiscal year) nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary for election during the final quarterly meeting of the fiscal year, and may also be called upon to make suggestions to the Board Chair concerning a mid-year vacancy on the SC-SIC Board of Trustees.

These changes were discussed and will be emailed to the Board for final approval.

In the Executive Director's Report, Ms. Barber presented information on the following items:

**--Annual District Contact Meeting.** This year's meeting had the highest attendance in recent memory, with 61 of the state's 85 districts represented.

**--Implementation of training fees.** For districts and schools (particularly those rated as "unsatisfactory," SC-SIC will begin assessing a \$250.00 training fee for "make-up" sessions or under-attended trainings. Due to limited resources and a variety of training sessions regularly scheduled by SC-SIC, districts and schools should take advantage of these free sessions. A total of 17 regional training sessions have been scheduled to date.

**--Database update.** To date, 45 schools districts have user IDs, and 426 schools have user IDs. Deadline for school compliance with reporting SIC membership is November 15, though a number of schools may miss this deadline as web-based technical issues are still being resolved.

**--Staff activities.** Mr. Hudson and Claudia Wolverton both attended the annual conference of the S.C. chapter of the National School Public Relations Association in October. Ms. Barber attended a statewide Parent Involvement Collaboration Meeting hosted by USC's College of Education. An SC-SIC staff retreat and planning session was held in September.

**--Unsatisfactory schools.** New benchmark forms have been prepared for unsatisfactory rated schools, which will eliminate the need for many repeat visits to schools by SC-SIC council specialists. Senior Council Specialist Diane Jumper is currently working with about one-third of the state's 116 unsatisfactory schools, while Council Specialist Barbara Weston is working with the remaining two-thirds. The S.C. Department of Education will release the new unsatisfactory school list in November, and it is anticipated that more schools will be listed.

**--Budget.** The SC-SIC budget was submitted to the Education Oversight Committee October 8. EIA funds for next year will be cut according to the EOC staff. EIA funds comprise about two-thirds of the SC-SIC budget. The EOC has stated that additional funding over what has been appropriated is not likely, though SC-SIC has requested an additional \$37,500 for next year to serve the anticipated increase in unsatisfactory schools.

**--Collaboration.** State Superintendent of Education Dr. Jim Rex has contacted SC-SIC for cooperation on a state initiative assisting parents to finance higher education for their children. Ms. Barber has also contacted Voices for South Carolina's Children, which has provided some funding to SC-SIC for work with unsatisfactory schools. There is also a possibility for some additional funding from the organization for research. Efforts have been made by SC-SIC to strengthen its relationship with USC, including greater participation in College of Education events, with one step being changing the color of the SC-SIC logo to garnet.

**--Additional.** Ms. Barber outlined the SC-SIC goals for the year, captured in the acronym ABLE – Advocacy supporting the SC-SIC mission; the Basics of training and awareness of SIC responsibilities and operations; Leadership of SIC members and principals; and Engagement of stakeholders in school improvement and accountability. For 2008, Board of Trustees meetings are scheduled for February 8, May 9, September 5, and November 7. Advocacy Day at the State House is scheduled for February 19, with all Board members encouraged to attend. The SC-SIC Annual Conference is scheduled for March 8, 2008.

The Board reviewed and discussed committee responsibilities and goals.

**--Awards/Conference.** Mr. Cobb referenced the upcoming March 8 Annual Conference, to be held at the Columbia Conference Center as last year, and stated that SC-SIC will pursue Dr. Steve Constantino, founder of Family Friendly Schools, as the keynote speaker. There has been discussion of showcasing Honor Roll schools through display tables, space permitting.

**--Branding.** Mr. Cobb stated that this committee, composed of himself, Dr. Field and Mr. Hudson, will be meeting in the near future. The committee will look at SC-SIC branding opportunities and what that will mean specifically, and how the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SC-SIC can be emphasized. Use of the ABL acronym and moving to the garnet logo to stress SC-SIC's affiliation with USC are good first steps.

**--Membership.** Mr. Nicholson stated that the Board needs to address and strengthen membership roles in local SICs. Ms. Barber stated that the Membership Committee would be a good way to organize support for statewide corporate sponsorships. Mr. Primus will chair the Membership Committee.

**--Advocacy.** Ms. Taylor provided details on the February 19 Advocacy Day at the State House. Registration will be \$30.00 and all Board members are encouraged to attend. A number of issues will be discussed, including early childhood education, the Riley Institute Report, and equity in education funding (Act 388). The Board discussed various advocacy activities to be carried out on an ongoing basis on the local levels, including letter writing to legislators and media and building grassroots advocacy.

**--Ad Hoc Student Membership.** Ms. Taylor stated that an application form for prospective student members to SC-SIC is near completion. The Board discussed selecting students to begin this spring versus beginning the nomination process and placing students on the Board next spring. It was suggested that student members be announced at the March 8 conference.

Under New Business, two items were discussed:

**--SC-SIC License Tags.** Specialty plates were discussed as a method to raise awareness. For the state to commit to producing the plates, a certain number (400) must be guaranteed by an organization. SC-SIC staff will investigate.

**--Vouchers.** Ms. Smith referenced the recent resounding defeat of school vouchers in Utah. South Carolina should be prepared for additional attention to be paid to this issue in the state.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hanley  
Board Secretary