

SC-SIC Board of Trustees
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2008
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; Ray Fleming; Carlos Primus; Retha Ross; E' Lane Rutherford; Nell Stewart; Cindy Smith; Thessa Smith

Staff Members present: Cassie Barber; Tom Hudson

Chairman Nicholson called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the Board's November 9, 2007, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Ms. Stewart, seconded by Ms. Cindy Smith.

The Board's two new student members, Carmichael Caldwell, Greenville, and Timothy Gibbs, Allendale, were introduced.

Various Board committees (Awards/Conference, Membership/Development, Advocacy) convened in small meetings for approximately 30 minutes, with reports to follow later in the meeting. Mr. Nicholson and Ms. Taylor met with the Board's new student members.

In the Executive Director's report, Ms. Barber noted the following:

- Over 1,000 SIC members had been trained by staff across the state for the school year, with additional training opportunities posted to the SC-SIC web site.
- SC-SIC is improving its relationships with the state Department of Education by involvement with NCTAF and the SDE Task Force on Adult Sexual Misconduct in Schools.
- Steps are also being taken to strengthen SC-SIC's relationship with the USC College of Education.
- SC-SIC staff has met with the Education Oversight Committee and House Ways and Means regarding funding for the 08-09 fiscal year. An additional \$37,000 was requested from EOC to meet needs of providing targeted assistance to unsatisfactory schools (149, up from 116 last year). Due to budget constraints for higher education, SC-SIC's allocation from USC may be cut.
- During recent meetings with legislators, a number of them asked that SC-SIC look at instituting some sort of consequences for local SICs not in compliance with statute. Mr. Hudson discussed that placing some sort of a compliance rating on the annual School Report Card might be a cost-effective method to spur compliance using the SC-SIC's improved database. (Board members asked that SC-SIC staff investigate this suggestion further.)
- The pro-public education organization RISE SC has been organized to promote the platform of Dr. Jim Rex in the state legislature. SC-SIC has been invited to be an active participant in the fledgling group. No action was taken on this request.

In Board Discussion:

- Ms. Barber shared that the USC College of Education will be working with SC-SIC to develop a formal performance review for the executive director. This has not been done previously. Ms. Barber, with Department Chair Dr. Ken Stevenson, will put together the instrument for use by the Board.
- Board members discussed a potential spring Board retreat. Ms. Barber suggested meeting with a systems engineer to look at SC-SIC plans and processes and map out an 18-month action plan. Possible retreat dates will be sent to Board members for consideration.
- Mr. Hudson presented information on the “Be There” parental involvement media campaign. Organizations supporting the program include NSPRA, SC-NSPRA, SCSBA, and the EOC. Campaign materials are free to school districts, with the only cost being printing. Mr. Hudson suggested that SC-SIC be on record as supporting the initiative, at no cost. (Motion to do so was made by Ms. Rutherford, seconded by Mr. Cave, and approved unanimously.)

Under Committee Reports:

Advocacy Committee Chair Maria Taylor referenced the upcoming Legislative Advocacy Day February 19 and asked that Board members encourage groups to attend. Additional information is available on the SC-SIC web site and newsletter.

Awards/Conference Committee Chair Patrick Cobb confirmed that Dr. Steve Constantino will be the keynote speaker at the SC-SIC Annual Conference March 8. Other guest speakers will be confirmed later, including Education Superintendent Dr. Jim Rex and State Treasurer Converse Chellis. Mr. Cobb asked that as many Board members as possible be on hand to serve as greeters for the conference, which will host up to 300 attendees. The Dick and Tunky Riley School Improvement Award will be announced, and the year’s five finalists will give short presentations on their efforts for the year. The SIC Advocate of the Year Award will be presented to Rep. Robert Q. Williams of Darlington, who was also instrumental in getting a joint legislative resolution passed honoring SICs for 30 years of service to the state.

Membership/Development Committee Chair Carlos Primus reported that six Board members are serving in the last year of their terms. Several will be ineligible to serve again, but those that remain eligible for re-election should contact the SC-SIC office if they wish to continue serving. One current Board member has been determined to be out of compliance with participation requirements as set forth in the bylaws, resulting in automatic resignation from the Board. Mr. Primus will be contacting this member to inform him of such. Mr. Primus also reported that Ms. Rutherford is working to get funding from a number of civic groups for a \$5,000 monetary award for future recipients of the Riley Award.

During a working lunch, Board members reviewed and scored the second level Riley Award applications of this year’s 13 Honor Roll schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Hanley, Secretary