

**SC – SIC Board of Trustees
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2008**

Board Members Present: Jeff Nicholson, Chair; Virginia Alston Brown, Secretary; Nell Stewart, Immediate Past Chair; Wilbur Cave; Ken Clark; Sylleste Davis; Timothy Gibbs; Bruce Field; Nancy Hanley; Brian Hann; Michael Lisle, Jr.; Elizabeth Michael; Retha Ross; E’Lane Rutherford; Sherri Smith; Maria Taylor; Fred Washington, Jr.; Linda Weaver-Griggs

Staff Members Present: Cassie Barber, Executive Director; Tom Hudson, Director of Program Services; Claudia Wolverton, Public Information Coordinator; Diane Jumper, Senior Council Specialist.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeff Nicholson at 10:00 AM.

The minutes of the Board’s May 9, 2008 minutes were approved with corrections.

The following officers will serve for the 2008-09 year: Chair, Jeff Nicholson; Immediate Past Chair, Nell Stewart; Vice President, Carlos Primus; Secretary, Virginia Alston Brown. Committee chairs appointed are E’Lane Rutherford (Membership and Development) and Sylleste Davis (Awards and Conference Committee). Bruce Field will again serve as Ex-Officio representative of the Dean of the USC College of Education.

After comments by the Chair and a welcome by Executive Director Cassie Barber, Board members and staff introduced themselves. Mr. Nicholson stated that the Board is represented by all areas of the community and that is a major accomplishment which will lead to a strong SC-SIC.

The report of the Executive Director was as follows:

- New Board members Ellen Still and Mark Bounds, and Barbara Weston, SC-SIC Council Specialist, were introduced in their absence.
- The flood that occurred in the basement of the College of Education where the SC SIC office is located and the incident’s ongoing and debilitating effects were discussed and explained.
- The Executive Director pointed out that many Board members were at District Contact meeting on September 5 and thanked them for their presence. She explained the role of the District Contacts to the new Board members.
- Real accountability via the new SC-SIC membership database will assure accountability for the first time in 30 years. A new vendor and Claudia Wolverton, SC-SIC Public Information Coordinator, are making make sure that the new system will work effectively. The new tool captures real data for all SICs. Claudia was thanked for the database presentation at the meeting.
- Ms. Barber is a member of the Friends of Education Committee and has been elected chair of the group. This will also give SC-SIC additional visibility.
- Close Friends of Education met with the state superintendent, Dr. Jim Rex, and the Executive Director is also a member of that group. It is hoped that SC-SIC’s presence at these meetings will help with the SC- SIC budget dilemma. The 30-year old proviso that funds SC-SIC has not changed. A budget request must be put in order to get the funding from the EOC each year. Finally there is enough to fund 1.5 council specialists. SC-SIC is experiencing a \$4000.00 budget cut this year, leaving it with about a quarter of million dollar budget without the chance of rollover. This could mean about an 18-20% budget deficit eventually. SC-SIC will have to dip into the reserve and no conference may be held this year. Currently, the only co-sponsor for the

conference is SDE Deputy Superintendent Mark Bounds. There was discussion of sponsoring an awards recognition ceremony for the Riley Awards recipients.

- Communication has been problematic with phone calls and e-mail since the flood. The flood also caused problems with the FAX and computers. Some contact information was lost. District Contacts are being asked to make their own materials.
- Dr. Rex will send letters to all superintendents indicating that all districts must have SICs. Letters were sent by the Executive Director to schools regarding their SIC compliance. There is a chance that there will be a statement on the state School Report Cards at some future date regarding SIC compliance.
- Ms. Barber is considering lobbying for a quarter of million dollars for SC-SIC funding with a goal of moving from the College of Education. She also mentioned the possibility of beginning a foundation and will confer with the university to see how that would have to be done.

The next item on the agenda was the demonstration of the new SC-SIC Membership Network by Claudia Wolverton. Comments, questions and answers followed. The Executive Director thanked Mrs. Wolverton for spearheading the efficient data collection system.

Dr. David Virtue presented the “Inside Out Learning Center,” a component of the National Commission on Teaching and America’s Future. Its intent is to improve the teaching profession. As a part of this initiative, South Carolina has targeted recruitment and retention and a new project with the idea of restructuring schools beginning at the elementary level, comprised of new innovations in flexible scheduling, length of day, number of days, and the presence of health services for students and community within the school setting. Twenty superintendents who attended the initial information session were introduced to the project and the RFP which has been developed. After proposals are submitted, site visits will be done and one or two schools will be selected as pilot sites. A \$45,000 planning grant is available for start up and schools can receive part of those dollars. The State will solicit partnerships to assist with the costs of the new learning center concept. The RFP deadline is November. Aiken, Fairfield, Clarendon, Marlboro, Sumter 17, Anderson 5, Richland 1, Lexington 1 are among the school districts that have applied.

Mr. Bud Ferillo and State Senator John Matthews (Orangeburg) briefed the Board on the Goodbye Minimally Adequate movement, which focuses on quality education. Senator Matthews is the lead sponsor seeking legislative change to the South Carolina Constitution. The proposed constitutional amendment is designed to set a higher mark for future educational funding and therefore goes beyond the recent Circuit Court decision, promising to create a higher standard of expectation for education. One of the goals of the constitutional amendment is to make it easier to recruit highly qualified teachers into a system that promotes excellence. Senator Matthews referred to the importance of teacher recruitment and retention. He also reiterated the concept of backpacking where funding will not simply just follow the child but rather always go to the district. Opposite action will lead to the voucher system. Mr. Ferillo demonstrated the Goodbye Minimally Adequate website and the petition. Signatures are needed on the petition because the bill will come out of committee in 2010, the same year as the gubernatorial election.

An SC-SIC Board of Trustees resolution in support of the “high quality” education constitutional amendment was unanimously approved by the Board on a motion by E’Lane Rutherford and seconded by Ken Clark.

In final comments from the Executive Director, Board members were asked to sign the committee assignment list. The Strategic Planning System Management model will be sent to Board members. The Board’s attention was brought to Goal 100%, the movement to encourage all teachers to become registered to vote.

Drafts of the new and condensed state School Report Card recently approved by the Education Oversight Committee were distributed. SC-SIC Director of Program Services Tom Hudson noted that the report card narrative written by school principals and local SICs was retained by the EOC for the new versions.

Board meeting dates for the remainder of the year were distributed, with the next Board meeting scheduled for Friday, November 21, 2008.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Alston Brown
Secretary, SC SIC Board of Directors