

**SC-SIC Board of Trustees Meeting
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2022
Via Zoom**

Board Members Present: Bob Grant, Chair; Mary Anne Byrd, secretary; Dora Leonard, Immediate Past Chair; Jessica Adamson; Stewart Cooner; Ellen Hamilton; Clara Heinsohn; Carol Hill; King Laurence; and Lashonda McFadden

Staff Member Present: Tom F. Hudson, SC-SIC Executive Director

With a quorum present, Mr. Grant called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

Approval of the Board's Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes as submitted from the December 10, 2021, meeting was made by Mr. Cooner, seconded by Ms. Leonard, were approved unanimously.

Review of Staff Reports: Mr. Hudson provided highlights of his report. He said that he is pleased with the amount of virtual SIC trainings that he has been able to provide during the pandemic. SC-SIC has applied for a federal grant to extend the Carolina Family Engagement Center (CFEC) efforts for an additional five years. He has been appointed by UofSC College of Education Interim Dean Tommy Hodges to serve on the College of Education's organization committee. Additionally, Mr. Hudson is coordinating monthly sessions of SC Education Policy Fellows and will be attending the national seminar in March in Washington, DC. Mr. Hudson's complete report is included with these minutes.

Mr. Hudson provided an overview of the report of SC-SIC Associate Director Karen Utter. Her full report is included with these minutes.

Mr. Hudson also gave an overview of the report of SC-SIC Digital and Web Director Claudia Parnell. Her full report is included with these minutes.

Board Exercise: Mr. Hudson shared an exercise to help generate ideas that would help the SC-SIC determine funding priorities. Ms. Adamson said that there may be opportunities to help parents more effectively interact with school boards. She also mentioned building support for SICs with school board members. There may be an opportunity to partner with the SC School Boards Association. Mr. Laurence mentioned the SCSBA annual convention in February every year would be a good avenue for advocacy. Ms. Heinsohn said that SICs can help parents know the issues that are being discussed by the SC General Assembly and help them be stronger advocates for public education. Mr. Hudson said that SCASA's superintendents' roundtable may also be a good avenue to share information about SICs. Mr. Grant also said that other SCASA roundtables would be good resources too. Ms. Hill said that the compelling story handout would be a good resource for schools who are submitting Riley Award applications.

Old Business: Mr. Hudson shared the Board's committee assignments again and said that the committees have not been as active as they could be. He will try to help organize meeting schedules. He also asked Board members to think about persons who would be good to serve as future Board members. Openings will be for the Aiken and Lowcountry. It was recommended that we be mindful of diversity in making recommendations.

New Business: Mr. Hudson said the Riley Award Level Two judging will happen soon. He also encouraged Board members to be thinking of possible nominations for the SIC Advocate of the Year Award. He said that he anticipates that the award ceremony will be held virtually again; a date will be set next week. If anyone has any ideas about a possible guest speaker, please share that with Mr. Hudson. The next board meeting will be held on May 6 at 10 a.m. The location will likely be Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church in Lexington.

Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Heinsohn, seconded by Mr. King to adjourn, which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Byrd

Mary Anne Byrd, SC-SIC Secretary

REPORT TO THE BOARD

02/16/22

Tom F. Hudson, SC-SIC Executive Director

Trainings

- To Date 2021-22:** 18 virtual training sessions conducted on SIC Basics (15), SIC Leadership (3), and SIC District Contacts (1); 430+ participants.
- Scheduled:** SIC Report to the Parents, TBD, Orangeburg (Hudson); SIC Basics, SIC Basics, 02/24, Royal Live Oaks Charter, Jasper (Hudson); Overview, 02/24, Charleston Shared Promise (Hudson); SIC Overview, 03/17, SC Baptist Convention (Hudson).
- End of Year 2020-21:** 30+ virtual training sessions conducted; 500+ participants.

Selected Activities

- Participated in several conference calls relative to the SC Education Policy Fellowship Program (SC-EPFP) with staff from Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) and national EPFP.
- Participated in numerous meetings and conference calls related to the Carolina Family Engagement Center (CFEC) grant, to include leadership team, budget, and partnership meetings.
- Participated in monthly meetings of the SEL4SC Board.
- Participated in monthly Administrative Council meetings of UofSC College of Education.
- Attended quarterly virtual Schools Network/Governor's Council on Physical Fitness meetings.
- Attended several executive board meetings of SC Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association (SC/NSPRA).
- Appointed by Interim Dean Tommy Hodges to the CoE Organizational Review Committee, with meetings on 01/28 and 02/04.
- Read to Ms. Weaver's 3rd grade class at Lake Carolina Elementary (Richland Two), 02/02/22.
- Ongoing work in preparing copy for materials and e-publications (SC-SIC and CFEC), to include web and social media postings.
- Ongoing work in providing technical assistance by telephone and email.
- Preparing upcoming edition of SIC180.
- Coordinated monthly sessions of SC-EPFP, 12/17, 01/14, and 02/15 "Day at the State House."

Upcoming Activities Scheduled to Date

- SC-EPFP Washington Policy Seminar in DC, 03/20 to 03/23.
- State Board of Education Accountability Task Force, TBD.
- SIC trainings as listed above.
- Level Two Riley Award judging, TBD.
- Coordinating with various local school boards presentations of SC-SIC awards for 2021.

Carolina Family Engagement Center (CFEC)

- Oversaw all CFEC partnerships and activities
- Work continues with SICs at 30 partner schools (up from the original 24).
- CFEC Parent Leadership Partner Program continues to meet monthly.
- Updated information and discussion guide for SICs on ESSER funds is available on website.
- CFEC in process of setting up Community Family Resource Centers at 7 sites throughout the state. We have received funding from SCDE for an additional 8 sites. Target for formal launch is 03/22. These projects may make a good model for SIC projects in their communities.
- CFEC co-sponsored an event for families on attendance with the SCDE. Recording is online at cfec.sc.gov, and can be used to host local sessions on attendance. CFEC also co-sponsored an attendance event for school-level family engagement personnel in January.
- CFEC currently preparing proposal to extend CFEC funding beyond the 5-year grant period. Submission due by 02/18/22.

Trainings and on-site technical assistance

SIC Trainings, Presentations, and Facilitations (completed)

- Provided 1:1 tutorial for SIC Chair at Saunders Elementary School (Richland One)
- Provided short version of SIC Basics training for Gold Hill Middle SIC on 12/13/21; Pleasant Hill Middle SIC on 01/27/22.

Awards and Annual Meeting

Riley Award

- Completed coordinating Level One judging process. Seven SICs were named to the 2022 SIC Honor Roll (Bookman Road Elementary SIC, Richland School District Two; Eastside High SIC, Greenville County Schools; Foxbank Elementary SIC, Berkeley County School District; Greer Middle SIC, Greenville County Schools; Joseph Keels Elementary SIC, Richland School District Two; Leavelle McCampbell Middle SIC, Aiken County Public Schools; and Millwood Elementary SIC, Sumter School District) and have submitted Level Two binders for next round of the award process.

SC-SIC Website

The SC-SIC website at sic.sc.gov continues to provide comprehensive information to the public. Staff members frequently receive comments on the thoroughness of the provided material and ease of navigation. The site is hosted by <https://sc.gov/>, the hosting agency for South Carolina state government agencies.

SC-SIC Member Network

As of 02/10/22, the total number of SIC members is 12,138. This figure includes some schools, such as career and early childhood centers, that are not mandated to convene SICs but choose to do so. The deadline to submit SIC membership information to SC-SIC is November 15. The total number of SICs falling under laws governing School Improvement Councils, plus those who choose to convene SICs even though not mandated to do so, as of this date and reported by the school districts, is 1,144. This figure includes some schools that have been allowed to convene “joint” SICs; those schools are counted as one school. Schools can report after the statutory November 15 deadline. However, if the membership is not fully reported by January 1, the school’s SIC is assigned a “Not Reported” or a “Reported, Non-Compliant” designation. The Member Network is reset each July 1 to allow for new SIC membership reporting. For security reasons, all user accounts are deactivated on this date and new passwords must be issued.

SIC Report to the Parents Uploads

893 Reports to the Parents for the 2020-21 school year were uploaded to the Member Network as of 02/10/22. Schools can upload their SICs’ Reports to the Member Network database beginning March 1 of each year. SC-SIC requests that schools upload Reports by June 1. April 30 is the mandated deadline for schools to distribute Reports to the greater school community. Reports are available for public viewing via the “View the SIC Members” (Read-Only)” link on the SCSIC Member Network at <https://sic.ed.sc.edu/network>. The SIC Report to the Parents offers publicly accessible information about what Councils across South Carolina are planning and accomplishing. A toolkit and template are accessible on the SC-SIC website to assist Councils in developing their Reports; instructions for uploading the file are also available. SC-SIC began recognizing outstanding Reports in 2019. For 2021, SC-SIC awarded the Hilton Head Island High School Improvement Council the Award of Merit for SIC Report to the Parents Excellence. The award was acknowledged in the virtual awards ceremony held May 1, which also recognized the 2021 Riley Award winner. The winning Report is available for viewing online [HERE](#).

Social Media

The SC-SIC Twitter account currently has 3,729 followers. Use of Twitter by SC-SIC provides a communications conduit to education groups and professionals across the country as well as accelerated access to education and civic engagement news, blogs, podcasts, and journal articles on a wide variety of topics, and immediate contact with the community. Media personnel, political figures, and key education players in South Carolina and beyond follow @SCSIC and often “retweet” or mention @SCSIC (our Twitter “handle”) in their tweets, continuing to raise our public profile and advancing a key strategic planning goal. Among @SCSIC followers are many educators, political figures, organizations, social media influencers, and media professionals from South Carolina, other U.S. states, and countries. Also, of great use is the accessibility of breaking news obtainable through Twitter lists of media, education outlets, and those involved in the South Carolina political landscape. The account has been active since August 2009.

The SC-SIC Facebook Page has 1,085 "Likes" and 1,235 individuals and organizations that follow the page. Many links to information and articles that are shared on Twitter are also posted here, though less in number. As with the Twitter account, it has been active since August 2009. The Facebook and Twitter pages each increase our search engine rankings, or SEO, (Search Engine Optimization), and in so doing advance our public profile and outreach. Social media has proven to be an essential tool in maintaining the SC-SIC public presence and in facilitating information flow. In June 2018 the SC Education Policy Fellowship Program (SC-EPFP), coordinated by SC-SIC Executive Director Tom Hudson, relaunched its social media program. Its Twitter handle is @PolicySc and to date the account has 459 followers. SC-EPFP's Facebook page has 131 "Likes" and 137 individuals and organizations that follow the page.

SIC180 (video updates for SIC members and friends; delivered via Facebook)

Recorded by and from SC-SIC Executive Director Hudson, SIC180 is an effort to reach out to the SIC community and share information periodically in a video format. Links to the videos are on the SC-SIC website at <https://sic.sc.gov/>; or you can scroll down the Facebook feed to find them. If you cannot access the video, please contact Claudia at cparnell@mailbox.sc.edu.

Council News (SC-SIC Newsletter; delivered via email)

The Council News electronic newsletter is emailed to all SIC members and friends that share their email address with us. Current and archived editions are posted to the SC-SIC website and can be viewed [HERE](#).

SC-SIC Listserv

The primary SC-SIC listserv of members and friends was recently purged of email addresses older than 2015. It now consists of over 20,000 subscribers.

Other Listservs

SC-SIC also maintains listservs for school principals, SC-EPFP graduates and friends, School Improvement Council Chairs, SIC District Contacts, and SC school superintendents.