

SC-SIC Board of Trustees Meeting
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2021
Via Zoom Meeting

Board Members Present: Bob Grant (Chair), Mary Anne Byrd (Secretary), Dora Leonard (Past Chair), Rose Choice, Stewart Cooner, Sallie Cooks, Clara Heinsohn (joined after minutes approved), Carol Hill, Trevor Ivey, Jon Pedersen, and Thessa Smith.

Staff Member Present: Tom F. Hudson, SC-SIC Executive Director; and Karen Utter, SC-SIC Associate Director

With a quorum present, Mr. Grant called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

Approval of the Board's Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes as submitted from the February 12, 2021, meeting was made by Dr. Pedersen and seconded by Ms. Choice. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Grant and Mr. Cooner thanked Mr. Hudson for a successful virtual awards ceremony earlier in May.

Review of Staff Reports: Mr. Hudson provided highlights of the Executive Director's report, which is included in its entirety with these minutes.

Mrs. Utter provided highlights of the Associate Director's report, which is included as part of these minutes.

Mr. Hudson gave an overview of the Digital and Web Director's Report for Claudia Parnell. This report is also included as part of these minutes.

Old Business: Mr. Hudson said he was pleased with reports from Riley Award nominees during the recent annual virtual Awards Ceremony.

He said that SC-SIC funding for next year is at the same level as has been for last 11-12 years in both the House and Senate budgets. He will continue to monitor this situation as the final state budget is approved. He also mentioned that as we head into new school year, he will be working with others on the best ways to request increased funding for future years.

New Business: Mr. Hudson will physically present the 2021 Riley Award to Flowertown Elementary SIC later this month. The school has applied for several years, and the application improved each time so it was nice to see their growth and now recognition. He will work with the school districts to schedule the presentations for other award winners.

He mentioned that Board members in the Class of 2018 (Mary Anne Byrd, Carol Hill, Rose Choice, Bonnie King, and King Laurence) are eligible to run for re-election. He will be in touch with these members to determine their preference and also advertise to see if anyone else wants to serve.

UofSC College of Education Dean Petersen announced that he is leaving the College to accept a position at the Oklahoma State University, which puts him closer to family. He expressed his appreciation to

everyone on the SC-SIC Board and especially to Mr. Hudson. Mr. Hudson expressed his appreciation to Dean Pedersen for his support over the years.

Mr. Hudson will send out a Doodle poll with dates for the first meeting of 2021-22. At that fall meeting, the meeting dates will be set for the remainder of the school year. He anticipates that the Board will be able to meet in-person next school year, although there may also be a few virtual meetings. The face-to-face meetings will allow for more robust professional development.

Mr. Grant expressed his appreciation to all for their service in public education during this challenging year.

Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made by Dr. Ivey and seconded by Ms. Heinsohn to adjourn. This was approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Byrd
Secretary, SC-SIC Board of Trustees

Tom F. Hudson, SC-SIC Executive Director

Trainings

To Date 2020-21: 30+ virtual training sessions conducted; 500+ participants.

Selected Activities

- Participated in several conference calls relative to 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.
- Attended various virtual legislative meetings of SC House of Representatives and SC Senate committees.
- 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.
- Attended Sumter County Schools Social-Emotional Learning Committee, 02/25/21.
- Visited Chapin MS to present 2020 Riley Award for SIC Excellence and tape video interview, 03/17/21.
- Recorded installment of *SIC180*, 03/23/21.
- Participated in interviews for SCDE Family Engagement Coordinator, 03/31/21 and 04/01/21.
- Attended virtual Schools Network/Governor's Council on Physical Fitness meeting, 04/24/21.
- Attended Lexington-Richland Five School Board 04/25/21, to recognize Chapin MS receiving 2020 Riley Award.
- Attended UofSC College of Education (CoE) All College Meeting and Staff Meeting, 04/27/21.
- Participated in SC-SIC Virtual Awards Ceremony, 05/01/21.
- Served as judge for Spartanburg 3 Teacher of the Year, 05/03/21.

Upcoming Activities Scheduled to Date

- Attend national virtual EPFP Steering Committee, 05/27/21.
- Videoing new installment of *SIC180*, May TBD.
- State Board of Education Accountability Task Force, TBD.
- Planning for 2021-22 year of SC Education Policy Fellowship Program (SC-EPFP).

Karen Utter, SC-SIC Associate Director

Carolina Family Engagement Center (CFEC)

- Oversaw all CFEC partnerships and activities.
- Work continues with SICs at 27 partner schools. SIC at CFEC partner school Sullivan Middle was a finalist in this year's Riley Award competition. CFEC partner district Anderson 2 was named SIC Advocate of the Year.
- Attended SIC meetings and provided technical assistance to SICs at CFEC partner schools Eau Claire High, Alcorn Middle, and Heywood Gibbes Middle.
- Teacher and Parent Leader Partner Programs ongoing. Many participants in Parent Leader Partner program are members of their local school SICs in Charleston School District.
- CFEC working with coalition led by First Steps and including SC-SIC to work with Education CFEC Commission of the States on developing common infrastructure to support family engagement in the transition to kindergarten.
- Continue work in collaboration with SC-SIC to develop information and discussion guides for SICs to encourage their participation in district and school decision making related to expenditure of federal emergency relief funds to address impacts of COVID-19. Joint SC-SIC and CFEC webinar on this topic planned for June 3, 2021.
- CFEC partnering with SCDE to pilot Community Family Resource Centers in 5 SC districts.
- CFEC partnering with SCDE, SERVE, and Mid-Eastern Equity Center to sponsor family engagement summit scheduled for Fall 2021.

SIC Trainings, Presentations, and Facilitations (completed)

- Provided SIC chairs training to Columbia High and CA Johnson clusters (Richland One) in March.
- Delivered virtual SIC Basics training to Tanglewood Middle SIC (Greenville) in April 2021.
- Delivered joint training with Family Connection on inclusive family engagement for Lancaster County school district.

Awards and Annual Meeting

- Attended virtual Awards program held May 1, 2021.

Claudia Parnell, SC-SIC Digital & Web Director

SC-SIC website

The SC-SIC website at *sic.sc.gov* continues to do an excellent job of providing information to the public. Staff members frequently receive comments on the thoroughness of the provided material and ease of navigation. The is hosted by SC.GOV, the hosting agency for South Carolina state government agencies.

SC-SIC Member Network

As of 05/11/21, the total number of SIC members is **12,320**. This figure includes some schools, such as career and early childhood centers, that are not mandated to convene SICs but choose to do so. More schools may report their membership going forward. Aggregated numbers of SIC members have averaged between 11K+ - 13K+ for the past five years.

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, is as of this date **1,019**. This figure includes some schools that have been allowed to convene “joint” SICs; those schools are counted as one school. SICs may report after the statutory November 15 reporting 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

730 *Reports to the Parents* for the 2020-21 school year were uploaded to the *Member Network* as of 05/11/21. 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. There is no state mandate to share *Reports* to the *Member Network*. April 30 is the mandated deadline for schools to distribute *Reports* to the greater school community. School districts are supportive of this SIC reporting initiative and encourage SICs to share their *Reports* to the *Member Network*.

Reports are available for public viewing via the “View the SIC Members” (Read-Only)” link on the SC-SIC *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.

Social Media

The SC-SIC Twitter account currently has **3,040** 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, 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 ongoing SC-SIC Facebook Page has **1,056** “Likes.” 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), facilitated by SC-SIC, relaunched its social media program. Its Twitter handle is @PolicySc and to date the account has **423** followers. SC-EPFP’s Facebook page has **111** “Likes.”

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

Recorded by and from SC-SIC Executive Director Tom F. Hudson, *SIC 180* is an effort to reach out to the SIC community and share information in a video format. In the latest episode, Director Tom Hudson salutes this year's five Riley Award finalists and shares info on the *SIC Report to the Parents*. There is a link to the video on the SC-SIC website at <https://sic.sc.gov/>, but you will need to scroll down the Facebook feed to find it.

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 at <https://sic.sc.gov/sic-information/council-news-electronic-letter>.

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 ~**16, 316** subscribers. Addresses are deleted by individual request; subscribers are also able to independently leave the list.

Other listservs

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