

**SCSDB BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
December 13, 2022**

The regular meeting of the SCSDB Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. in the BB&T Board Room in Walker Hall on the SCSDB campus, Spartanburg, South Carolina. Chairman Brawley opened with prayer before calling the meeting to order and stating that proper notification of the meeting had been made according to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act.

MEMBERS PRESENT

W. Scott Brawley, Chairman  
Phyllis H. Alexander  
Edward B. Bible  
Andrew Dobson  
David J. Gundling, Vice-Chairman  
Robin Price

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tara P. Carroll, Ex-officio  
Dr. Steven R. Ross

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Logen Belmont  
Sarah Davis  
Valerie Feiling  
Keith Van Fossen  
Mary Hayes  
Kristi Harding  
Sam Hook  
Jolene Madison  
Scott Ramsey  
John Reynolds  
Ben Riddle  
Trad Robinson

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Kristin Barber  
Julie Bible

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2022 board meeting (see attachment #1 to the December 13, 2022 agenda) was made by Mr. Gundling and seconded by Mr. Dobson. The minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Madison opened her report by highlighting several recent events at SCSDB, such as the White Cane Day at the School for the Blind, the annual CSA plant sale, the Goal Ball Championship in Florida, as well as upcoming holiday events around campus and throughout the community. She also informed the board of a recent trip to the Nutcracker taken by the School for the Blind students who for the first time were able to use audio descriptive technology to experience the ballet. President Madison ended her report by emphasizing what a remarkable job SCSDB teachers do to engage and empower the students while preparing them to succeed in their post-secondary careers, and becoming active community members.

## NEW PRINCIPALS- INTRODUCTION AND UPDATE

President Madison introduced the principals for the School for the Blind, the School for the Deaf, and Cedar Springs Academy. Valerie Feiling, the new principal for the School for the Blind, Keith Van Fossen, the new principal for the School for the Deaf, and Sarah Davis, the existing principal for Cedar Springs Academy, each presented the board with updates on their respective schools.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Riddle reviewed the financial information mailed to the Board prior to the meeting (see attachment #2 to the December 13, 2022 agenda).

## LEGISLATIVE/OPERATIONS UPDATE

Mr. Ramsey began his legislative update by informing the Board that SCSDB completed their submission of the 2023-2024 budget to the Governor's Office. Mr. Ramsey referenced the first budget hearing before The General Assembly scheduled for mid January. Additionally, he informed the Board of the new appointment of the Chairman for the Ways and Means Committee. Operationally, Mr. Ramsey spoke on various updates, such as the campus wide Holiday decorations that were a first for SCSDB, as well as the beginning plans to paint Walker Hall in the coming year. Following Mr. Ramsey's updates, Chairman Brawley informed the Board of his recent attempts to reach out to the Governor's office regarding the vacant appointments. He remains hopeful that after further communication with the Governor's office the vacant seats would soon be filled in the near future. The Chairman made the Board aware of the resignation of Julie Fowler, the ex-officio representative appointed by the South Carolina Superintendent of Education's Office who most recently left her current role with the State to become a Spartanburg school district superintendent. Lastly, Mr. Ramsey informed the Board that he and President Madison would be traveling to Columbia in the new year to meet with the new Superintendent of Education, Ellen Weaver, in an effort to introduce her to SCSDB.

## SCSDB FOUNDATION UPDATE

Mr. Hook updated the Board on the recent activities of the SCSDB Foundation and the many ways they continue to assist the school and more specifically the students and staff on campus and throughout the State. He highlighted a handful of campus projects funded by the Foundation, such as, the funding of the classroom libraries, the expansion of the STEM science lab, as well as the purchase of winter coats for all students in need. Additionally, Mr. Hook referenced four significant contributions given to the SCSDB Foundation by donors in the last week that would greatly impact the future of SCSDB. Lastly, Mr. Hook informed the Board of the upcoming Lion's Club Holiday Luncheon in December, the SCSDB Foundation Chili Cook-off to be held at the end of January, and the visit by Academy Award winning actress, Marlee Matlin, in March.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman Brawley turned the meeting over to President Madison. She advised of the need to elect three (3) officers: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary.

President Madison opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson.

A nomination for Mr. Brawley as Chairperson was given by Mr. Gundling, as well as a further nomination for Mr. Dobson as Vice-Chairperson and Mrs. Alexander as Secretary.

A motion was made by Mr. Gundling, seconded by Mr. Bible, and unanimously approved to close the nominations and the slate of officers be nominated by acclamation.

### SCSBA DISCUSSION

Mr. Ramsey reviewed the current status of SCSDB's membership with the SCSBA (South Carolina School Boards Association), as well as the SCSBA's association with the National School Boards Association. After much discussion, the Board agreed no action would be taken regarding the membership until a later date. Vice-Chairman Dobson assured the board he would report back with any further information following his attendance to the SCSBA conference in February.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Scott Brawley, Chairman

Phyllis H. Alexander, Secretary