

**SCSDB BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 27, 2022**

The regular meeting of the SCSDB Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. in the conference room of the SCSDB Outreach Center in Columbia, 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. He informed the board of his visit to the school during Homecoming weekend to present former board member, Bob Morrow, with the Distinguished Alumni Award. Additionally, he thanked Vice-Chairman Gundling for his unwavering assistance with board duties during the recent months that allowed the Chairman to focus on his health.

MEMBERS PRESENT

W. Scott Brawley, Chairman
Phyllis H. Alexander
Edward B. Bible
Andrew Dobson
David J. Gundling, Vice-Chairman
Robin Price
Dr. Steven R. Ross
Dr. Julie Fowler, Ex-officio

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Scott Falcone
Mary Hayes
Kristi Harding
Sam Hook
Jolene Madison
Josh Padgett
Scott Ramsey
Ben Riddle

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tara P. Carroll, Ex-officio

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Kristin Barber
Julie Bible

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2022 board meeting (see attachment #1 to the September 27, 2022 agenda) was made by Vice-Chairman Gundling and seconded by Mr. Dobson. The minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Madison opened her report with referencing the summer edition of, *The Buzz*, that was handed out to the board, as well as a wooden pin created by the SCSDB students on the Glowforge. She explained that the pin is the ASL sign for "I love you" with the braille included. She spoke about the return of the SCSDB Academic Recovery Program that took place over the summer in which all students were invited back to help academically prepare them for the start of a new school year. President Madison informed the board of several recent community and state partnerships with companies and agencies, such as Timken, Dominion Energy, and Commission for the Blind, to just name a few, which encouraged collaborative thinking and support of each others initiatives. She made the board aware of the almost finished renovation of the swimming pool, which will soon open once life guards on duty are secured. Additionally, she announced that in 2024 SCSDB would be hosting the National Conference for CEASD on the Spartanburg campus. In preparation, the students

worked with the SCSDB Foundation and a videographer to create several videos to be shown prior to the conference. She informed the board that the Strategic Plan, which included 4 key goals, was approved by the SC Department of Education. President Madison also informed the board of new communication and advertising updates that included a new campus recruitment video, the increase in SCSDB's social media presence, and a plan to produce a high-quality digital version of the yearbook for 2022-2023. Next, she briefed the board on recent and upcoming events on campus and throughout the state. President Madison spoke about her attendance of the NFB (National Federation of the Blind) of SC Convention she attended in August, along with Valerie Feiling, the new principle for the School for the Blind. Marty McKenzie, Outreach staff member, was voted the new president of NFB of SC during the convention. Other events included SCSDB Homecoming, an invitation by Molly Spearman, Superintendent of Education, to participate on a statewide taskforce addressing needs and accessibility, as well as plans for a statewide SCSDB summer camp to be held in 2023. Lastly, President Madison reported that in collaboration with the SCSDB leadership team, the Accountability report, a 5 year agency plan, was completed and a meeting to address the new goals was held. She explained the new goals determined as the most important and highest priority included, enhanced recognition and marketing of SCSDB, operating a residential campus that enhances holistic development, providing exceptional educational programming specific to sensory loss, expanding outreach services, and implementing a campus master plan.

FINE ARTS UPDATE

Chairman Brawley introduced, Josh Padgett, Director of Fine Arts, who proceeded to give an update to the board regarding the Fine Arts program at SCSDB. He explained that as one of 70 certified ABC (Arts Based Curriculum) schools in the state, SCSDB receives various support for equitable curriculum and education for the arts. He spoke on the various state and national conferences and retreats that he and his staff attend to help bring accessibility to the arts programs. Additionally, Mr. Padgett informed the board that as a fine arts objective, SCSDB students will have the opportunity through a work-based learning collaborative with PRIM, a global manufacturing company, to give feedback on their products to better improve those products for the visually impaired. Mr. Padgett reminded the board that November 14th SCSDB students would be performing at the National Women's Legislative conference in Charleston. He also spoke on the expansion of the after school activities at SCSDB, including orchestra, theater, and tactile art. Lastly, he updated the board on the erection of the "I Love You" sculpture that was created during Spoleto in Charleston and would soon be installed in Marion Square.

COCHLEAR IMPLANT SERVICES

Vice-Chairman Gundling explained to the board that with the rise of cochlear implants in children an influx of schools throughout the country now offer verbal/auditory learning to the deaf community. He relayed to the board that after several discussions with President Madison and Scott Falcone, Director of Outreach Services, he asked that the consideration of a similar program be offered by SCSDB in South Carolina. Mr. Falcone was asked to speak on this matter in respect to servicing the cochlear implant population. He spoke on the continuous work that SCSDB Outreach Services does to provide the listen and spoken language students within the school districts and through ASL (American Sign Language) in Early Intervention. Ultimately finding dual certified teachers would be ideal but difficult. Mr. Falcone covered the screening process for not only the hearing impaired but the visually impaired and spoke on the difficulty of having a non-centralized facility in South Carolina that provides information amongst the agencies and parents. After much discussion, the board agreed that regardless of the various limitations and current resources SCSDB needs to continue to be the foremost leader in educating not only the medical teams working with the students but also the caregivers. In closing, Mr. Brawley thanked Mr. Falcone and urged the SCSDB

leadership and the board to continue to keep an open dialogue regarding these matters, as well as encouraging forward thinking to help resolve them.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Riddle reviewed the financial information that had been mailed to the Board prior to the meeting (see attachment #2 to the September 27, 2022 agenda).

LEGISLATIVE/OPERATIONS UPDATE

Mr. Ramsey began his legislative update by informing the board that SCSDB would receive a generous influx of funds this year for capital projects and salaries. He commented that the General Assembly continues to hold SCSDB in high regards. Mr. Ramsey continued his report by sharing that as the restrictions lighten in regards to Covid there are high hopes that SCSDB students will be able to perform in person at the State house this year. He promised to keep the board abreast of specifics over the next few months. Operationally, Mr. Ramsey informed the board of several campus projects, such as the campus pool renovation and updates to the President's House. Lastly, Mr. Ramsey answered a question from Chairman Brawley regarding the status of future board appointments.

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 began by referencing the Aim High Sporting Clay event that just celebrated its 10th Anniversary which has raised over \$200,000 since its inception. He additionally referenced a few new projects in the works such as the funding of the campus bowling alley renovation that is near completion, a new science lab in the School for the Blind that several companies graciously donated, and classroom libraries in every school. Mr. Hook informed the board of the upcoming Chili Cook-off to be held on January 28^h at the Country Club of Spartanburg. Lastly, he revealed an exciting partnership with a Clemson basketball player who will promote SCSDB on his social media for a day, driving more traffic, thus awareness to SCSDB and the Foundation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Dr. Ross, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gundling, and unanimously approved to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and to receive legal advice.

A motion was made by Mrs. Price, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gundling, and unanimously passed to move out of Executive Session.

RESUMED REGULAR SESSION

Once the regular session resumed, a motion was made by Vice Chairman Gundling, seconded by Mrs. Price, and unanimously voted on to approve the Agency Head Performance Evaluation Planning Stage Document 2022-2023.

Mr. Brawley closed the meeting reminding the board of the next meeting date of Tuesday, December 13, 2022.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Scott Brawley, Chairman

Phyllis H. Alexander, Secretary