

**SCSDB BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF MEETING
August 8, 2023**

The regular meeting of the SCSDB Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, August 28, 2023, 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. Chairman Brawley introduced and welcomed the newly appointed Ex-officio board member, Deb Blickenstaff, who joined the meeting via phone.

MEMBERS PRESENT

W. Scott Brawley, Chairman
Phyllis H. Alexander
Andrew Dobson
David J. Gundling, Vice-Chairman
Robin Price
Deb Blickenstaff, Ex-Officio

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Mary Hayes
Sam Hook
Jolene Madison
Scott Ramsey
Ben Riddle
Trad Robinson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Edward B. Bible
Tara P. Carroll, Ex-officio
Cynthia S. Holland
Dr. Steven R. Ross

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Kristin Barber

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2023 board meeting (see attachment #1 to the August 8, 2023 agenda) was made by Mr. Gundling and seconded by Vice-Chairman Dobson. The minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Madison opened her report with a briefing on the return of Summer Camp for SCSDB students, as well as the various staff trainings on campus and throughout the state that took place over the last several months in preparation for the upcoming school year. She spoke on the development of the brand manual that would add a fresh and consistent update to the agency logo, mascot, and all press material throughout the next year. President Madison touched on pertinent information that staff and teachers would receive during the opening of school meeting scheduled on August 14th. She explained that along with celebrating the 175th anniversary in January, SCSDB would be hosting the Conference of Educational Administrators of School and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD) for the first time since 1992 in April of 2024. President Madison played a promotional video that was created for the conference highlighting the school and Spartanburg county. Additionally, she introduced the new logos for the 175th anniversary, as well as plans to add new flags, banners, and billboards on campus and around Spartanburg. Lastly, President Madison assured the board that more information regarding all of the events planned for both the 175th anniversary and CEASD would be announced in the near future.

ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

President Madison presented the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Annual Accountability Report (see attachment #2 to the August 8, 2023 agenda). She explained to the board that the report is submitted annually and published to the SC State House website.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Riddle reviewed the financial information that had been mailed to the board prior to the meeting (see attachment #3 to the August 8, 2023 agenda).

LEGISLATIVE/OPERATIONS UPDATE

Mr. Ramsey began his legislative update by informing the board that SCSDB would begin assembling the Governor's Budget due in September. Operationally, he informed the board that campus-wide preparations for the approaching school year were in full swing. Lastly, he announced the retirement of Joe Walker, Director of Maintenance, who would be replaced by current staff member, Will Anthony.

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 reflecting on the successful 2022-2023 year for the Foundation that saw a total of \$1.5 million raised for SCSDB. He referenced three large estate donations that were generously donated. As a result of the donations and money raised by the Foundation, Mr. Hook spoke on the tremendous additions to the campus, such as the the bowling alley and chemistry lab, as well as the natural playground design to be completed in the next year. He spoke on the anticipation of the 175th anniversary for SCSDB and all of the plans surrounding the year long celebration. In addition to the annual Chili Cook-off to be held in January, the Foundation plans to host a car and motorcycle show, an art cocktail party, and many more events to continue to raise money for the 175 days of giving that will begin in June of 2024.

APPROVAL OF 2023-2024 COURSES

President Madison presented a list of proposed elective course codes to the board for approval. She explained the courses would be offered on a yearlong basis and provide instruction in employability soft skills, leadership and personal development, and career exploration and development. She added that the culmination of the courses would equal a 40-hour internship aligned with the Profile of a South Carolina Graduate. A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Dobson, seconded by Mrs. Price, and unanimously approved to adopt the elective courses for the 2023-2024 school year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Chairman Brawley stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.

RESUMED REGULAR SESSION

Chairman Brawley closed the meeting reminding the board of the next meeting date of Tuesday, December 12, 2023 on the SCSDB campus in Spartanburg.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Scott Brawley, Chairman

Phyllis H. Alexander, Secretary