

**SCSDB BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 21, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom. 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 welcomed everyone and informed the board of Mr. Bob Morrow's resignation from the board due to health concerns. Additionally, he reminded the board of the three seats currently open on the board that would hopefully be filled in the upcoming months.

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
Rebecca Davis, Ex-officio

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tara P. Carroll, Ex-officio

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Sarah Davis
Scott Falcone
Mary Hayes
Kristi Harding
Sam Hook
Jolene Madison
Michele Moseley
Lauren Prochak
Scott Ramsey
John Reynolds
Ben Riddle
Trad Robinson
Jennifer Stanion

INTERPRETERS

Robin Burgess-Mack
Callie Marsh

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Kristin Barber

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2021 board meeting (see attachment #1 to the September 21, 2021 agenda) was made by Mr. Gundling and seconded by Mr. Bible. The minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Madison opened her report with an update on COVID-19 protocols implemented throughout campus. She specifically spoke about the Academic Recovery Program that took place over the summer and the many other ways SCSDB has continued to keep the students healthy and academically focused during the start of a new school year. Mrs. Madison made the board aware of several campus updates including the renovation of the swimming pool and bowling alley, as well as the viability of reinstating a cochlear implant program. Additionally, she informed the board of an area of concern surrounding teacher recruitment. She was hopeful that working with the Department of Education a duplicate process that has been implemented in neighboring school districts would allow SCSDB to hire individuals with content expertise instead of a teacher certificate. These individuals would then participate in SCSDB provided training and coursework leading to certification. President Madison also informed the board of new communication and advertising updates that included bus wrappings, a campus video, and a parent publication that would be published twice a year. Lastly, she assured the board that SCSDB would continue to foster relationships with local organizations throughout the Spartanburg community.

PRINCIPAL UPDATES

Cherie Winkler, Principal of the Applied Academic Center, Sarah Davis, Principal of Cedar Springs Academy, Lauren Prochak, Principal of the School for the Blind and Jen Stanion, Principal of the School for the Deaf, gave brief updates on their respective schools.

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 21, 2021 agenda).

LEGISLATIVE/OPERATIONS UPDATE

Mr. Ramsey began his legislative update by informing the board that SCSDB would submit the 2022-2023 budget to the Governor's Office within the week. The submission will be the same as the year prior, including a request for an additional \$2 million for operating funds that were given in the past. Lastly, Mr. Ramsey also made the board aware of a meeting with Molly Spearman, the SC Superintendent of Education, which was scheduled for September 8 and then cancelled due to COVID restrictions. He was hopeful a new meeting date would be scheduled in the near future.

SCSDB BOARD POLICY

The following proposed revised SCSDB policy (see attachment #3 to the September 21, 2021 agenda) was reviewed with the board by Mr. Ramsey:

GBIAA-Telecommuting

Mr. Ramsey informed the board that the revised policy came about due to the effects of COVID-19. OHR (The Office of Human Resources) decided to review the varying telecommuting policies adopted by state agencies in order to make one cohesive policy. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gundling, seconded by Mr. Bible, and unanimously passed that the policy be approved as presented.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Mr. Brawley asked the board to consider a Distinguished Alumni Award named after Mr. Morrow that would be presented to alumni on an annual basis. After a brief discussion and advisement from legal council the board decided to vote on the adoption of the award during the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

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 that would continue this school year, such as the Bookworm Vending Machines in the schools and Caroline's Fund which provides every student with a present on their birthday. He additionally referenced a few new projects in the works such as the funding of the campus bowling alley renovation, a swingset at the School for the Blind and new carpet squares for the School for the Deaf. Lastly, Mr. Hook informed the board of the upcoming Chili Cook-off to be held on January 29th at the Country Club of Spartnburg.

DATE/TIME/PLACE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

After a brief discussion a motion was made by Mr. Gundling, seconded by Mrs. Alexander, and unanimously approved to move the next board meeting to the second Tuesday of the month, December 14, 2021.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mrs. Price, seconded by Mrs. Alexander, and unanimously approved to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and to receive legal advice.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to move out of Executive Session.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Scott Brawley, Chairman

Phyllis H. Alexander, Secretary