



SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

2022

DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

HANDBOOK

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING • DECEMBER 3, 2022 • 2:00 P.M. • CHARLESTON MARRIOTT



2022 DELEGATE ASSEMBLY HANDBOOK

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The Board of Directors is pleased

to present the 2022 Delegate Assembly Handbook in preparation for the South Carolina School Boards Association's annual business meeting. The meeting will be held from 2 to 5 p.m., Saturday, December 3, 2022, at the Charleston Marriott.

As a school board member and public official in South Carolina, you play a critical role in the decisions of this official Delegate Assembly. Delegates will convene on December 3 to make important decisions on behalf of governing boards and students in all 73 school districts. They will elect the association's leadership and adopt positions on educational issues that reflect the philosophies of the membership.

Take time to read the annual report and financial data. Your boards should have reviewed the resolutions in October or November. They are presented again in this booklet for your review. Your discussion will offer valuable guidance to those serving as your delegates at the Delegate Assembly. Finally, plan to attend the annual business meeting from 2 to 5 p.m. on December 3. Even if you are not an official delegate, you are invited to observe the meeting in a special visitor's section. Your involvement enables SCSBA to serve as the leading voice for public education and for public school governance in South Carolina. As a reminder, if you were appointed to serve as a delegate for your district, you will be voting on behalf of your board.

2022 Delegate Assembly Agenda

Saturday, December 3, 2022

2 p.m.

Jamie Devine, President, South Carolina School Boards Association, presiding

Call to Order Jamie Devine
SCSBA President

Pledge of Allegiance Gail Hughes
SCSBA President-elect

Credentials Report Michele Branning
SCSBA Secretary/Treasurer

Approval of Agenda (page 2)..... Jamie Devine

Approval of 2021 Minutes (page 4)..... Jamie Devine

Approval of Rules of Procedure
(page 11)..... Jamie Devine

2021-2022 Annual Report (page 14)..... Jamie Devine

Finance Committee Report Michele Branning, Chair
(page 19) SCSBA Finance Committee
SCSBA Secretary/Treasurer

Nominating Committee Report (page 21) .. Cheryl Burgess, Chair
SCSBA Nominating Committee
SCSBA Immediate Past President

Election of Officers and Directors..... Jamie Devine

2023 Resolutions (pages 22-41)..... Gail Hughes, Chair
Section 1 – Current Legislative Resolutions SCSBA Legislative Committee
Section 2 – Proposed New Resolution SCSBA President-elect
and Helen McFadden,
Parliamentarian

**Proposed changes to the SCSBA
Constitution and Bylaws** (pages 42-43)..... Mary Ulmer, Chair
SCSBA Policy Committee

Installation of Officers and Directors Cheryl Burgess

Adjournment..... Gail Hughes, SCSBA President

Executive Committee



Jamie Devine
President



Gail Hughes
President-elect



Michele Branning
Secretary/Treasurer



Cheryl Burgess
Immediate Past President

Minutes of the 2021 Delegate Assembly

December 4, 2021

Time and place

The 2021 meeting of the South Carolina Schools Boards Association Delegate Assembly was held at the Charleston Marriott in Charleston, South Carolina, on December 4, 2021. President Cheryl Burgess called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. After welcoming the delegates, President Burgess called on President-elect Jamie Devine to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Credentials report

SCSBA Secretary/Treasurer Gail Hughes announced there were 109 delegates from 68 school boards present, which represented 88 percent of the 77-member school boards.

Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved by general consent.

Approval of minutes

The minutes from the 2020 Delegate Assembly were approved by general consent.

Rules of Procedure

The rules of procedure were approved by general consent. The chair appointed Melissa Donald, Stephanie Lawrence, Steve Mann, and Mike Sandlin to serve as tellers during any voting situation where a tabulated vote is required. The chair also appointed Helen McFadden to serve as parliamentarian for the 2021 Delegate Assembly.

President's Report

President Burgess introduced the members of the Board of Directors. She then called everyone's attention to the Annual Report on pages 14 through 18 in the Delegate Assembly Handbook.



Patricia Simmons, Region 1
Director - Beaufort, Colleton,
Dorchester 2, 4, Jasper



Cindy Bohn Coats, Region 2
Director - Charleston



Michael Ramsey, Region 3
Director - Berkeley,
Georgetown

Finance Committee Report

President Burgess called upon SCSBA Secretary/Treasurer Gail Hughes to present the Finance Committee Report. Secretary/Treasurer Hughes reported the association's financial situation was in sound condition and indicated that a copy of the association's annual audit conducted by the independent firm of The Brittingham Group, LLP was available upon request. She further announced 100 percent membership in SCSBA of the 77 school boards in the state for the 45th year in a row.



Janet Graham, Region 4
Director - Horry

Nominating Committee Report

President Burgess called on Chuck Saylors, Immediate Past President and chair of the Nominating Committee, to present the Nominating Committee Report. Chairperson Saylors introduced the other members of the SCSBA Nominating Committee. Chairperson Saylors reminded the delegates that the SCSBA Constitution calls for the president-elect to automatically become the president upon the conclusion of the Delegate Assembly; therefore, Jamie Devine was not listed among the individuals on the slate of officers and directors. The slate of officers and directors as found on page 21 of the Delegate Assembly Handbook included:



Ervin Richardson, Region 5
Director - Clarendon; Dillon
3, 4; Florence 1,2,3,5; Marion;
Williamsburg

President-elect.....Gail Hughes (Dorchester School District Two)
Secretary/Treasurer Michele Branning (Fort Mill School District)
Director, Region 1 Patricia Simmons (Colleton County School District)
Director, Region 4 Janet Graham (Horry County Schools)
Director, Region 5 Ervin Richardson (Florence 5 School District)
Director, Region 9 Anne Marie Green, (Lexington District One)
Director, Region 13..... Robin Owens (Rock Hill School District)

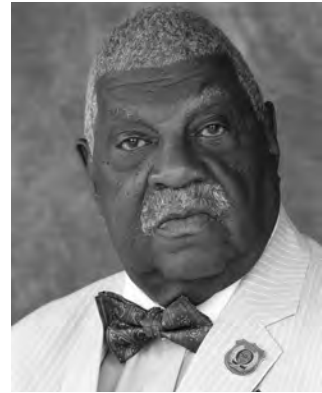
Chairperson Saylors moved for adoption of the Nominating Committee Report. The motion to approve the Nominating Committee Report was passed by a voice vote.

Legislative Committee Report

President Burgess called on Jamie Devine, president-elect and chair of the Legislative Committee, to give the Legislative Report. Chairperson Devine introduced the other members of the SCSBA Legislative Committee. President Burgess stated that there were 32 current legislative resolutions numbered 1-32 as found in Section 1. Section 2 contained one proposed new resolution numbered 33. Section 3 contained four previously adopted resolutions, number 34-37, that were recommended for deletion. President Burgess reminded the Delegate Assembly that since the SCSBA Board of Directors submitted the report, no second was needed.

President Burgess called for a block vote on Section 1, which contained 32 Current Legislative Resolutions numbered 1-32. President Burgess noted that the Board of Directors recommended that these resolutions be adopted as submitted in the Delegate Assembly handbook. Melvin Stroble from Lancaster County School District asked that Legislative Resolution numbers 1, 15, and 32 be pulled for further discussion. Billy Gossett from Spartanburg School District Three asked that Legislative Resolution numbers 5 and 23 be pulled for further discussion. President Burgess called for a block vote on the adoption of all Legislative Resolutions in Section 1, with the exceptions of numbers 1, 5, 15, 23, and 32; the vote passed by a voice vote.

President Burgess called on Melvin Stroble to speak on Legislative Resolution number 1. After discussion by Melvin Stroble, President Burgess called for a voice vote on whether to adopt



Charles Govan, Region 6
Director - Chesterfield,
Darlington, Kershaw, Lee,
Marlboro



Mary Ulmer, Region 7
Director - Calhoun,
Orangeburg, Sumter



Amelia McKie, Region 8
Director - Richland 1, 2

MINUTES

Legislative Resolution number 1 as amended: "SCSBA believes that the superintendent, as the district's chief executive officer, should be hired and their performance reviewed by the board of trustees." The vote passed by a voice vote.

Melvin Stroble presented his discussion for Legislative Resolution number 15. His motion was seconded, and discussion ensued. After discussion by Dr. Christina Gwozdz from Beaufort County Schools, Ken Loveless from Lexington-Richland Five, and Kristy Spears from Fort Mill and Debbie Elmore provided an explanation of the resolution. The resolution was amended to state, "SCSBA believes public schools should be authorized to collect levy impact fees on new home and commercial development." President Burgess called for a vote and Resolution number 15 was adopted as amended.

After discussion on Resolution number 32, Melvin Stroble made a motion to amend the resolution, and the motion was seconded. The motion to amend the resolution went to a voice vote. "SCSBA strongly opposes state or federally-mandated efforts to directly or indirectly subsidize elementary or secondary private, religious or home schools with public funds as intended by SC Constitution Articles XI, Sections 3 and 4." The resolution was adopted as amended.

Billy Gosset from Spartanburg School District Three discussed Resolution number 5. The motion to discuss the resolution was seconded. Debbie Elmore explained the resolution. Melvin Stroble from Lancaster County and Lisa Wells from Greenville County Schools discussed the proposed amendment. Parliamentarian Helen



Anne Marie Green, Region 9
Director - Lexington 1-5



Hannah Priester, Region 10
Director - Aiken, Allendale,
Bamberg, Barnwell
45, Hampton



Tim Rhodes, Region 11
Director - Abbeville, Anderson
1-3; Edgefield, Greenwood 50,
52; McCormick, Saluda, Ware
Shoals 51

MINUTES

McFaddin clarified the current resolution and the proposed amendment. President Burgess called for a voice vote to adopt the resolution. Melvin Stroble called for Division of the House, and a tabulated vote was conducted. President Burgess announced the results of the tabulated vote for Legislative Resolution number 5 were 121 for and 146 against. The motion to adopt the amendment failed. A motion was made to adopt the original Resolution number 5, and the motion passed by a voice vote.

President Burgess called on Billy Gossett to discuss Legislative Resolution 23, and he withdrew his request to look at the resolution. President Burgess called for the resolution to be approved as presented. A Point of Order was asked, and a voice vote was conducted. The resolution was adopted as presented.

President Burgess called upon Debbie Elmore to offer a brief explanation on recommended new resolution number 33 in Section 2. Melvin Stroble moved to amend the proposed resolution. His motion was seconded. Lisa Wells discussed the proposed resolution. President Burgess called for a voice vote. Melvin Stroble called for Division of the House, and a tabulated vote was conducted. The motion to adopt the amendment to the resolution passed 141 to 126. Lynda Leventis-Wells from Greenville County Schools wanted to amend it further. Her motion was seconded, and discussion ensued. Melvin Stroble motioned to refer the resolution to the Board of Directors for finality, and his motion was seconded. President Burgess called for a voice vote. The vote passed by a voice vote.



Billy Blackwell, Region 12
Director - Cherokee, Chester,
Fairfield, Laurens 55, 56;
Newberry, Union



Robin Owens, Region 13
Director - Lancaster, York 1,
Clover, Rock Hill, Fort Mill



Travis Sloan, Region 14
Director - Spartanburg 1-7

President Burgess called for a block vote on the deletion of Resolutions 34 to 37 in Section 3. Billy Gossett from Spartanburg Three asked to pull Resolution number 34. President Burgess called for a block vote on the deletion of numbers 34 to 37 with the exception of resolution 34; the vote passed. Billy Gossett's motion was seconded. After discussion by Nikki Gardner from Lexington/Richland Five, Christina Gwozdz from Beaufort County School District, and others, a motion was made to vote on the resolution. The voice vote to delete Resolution number 34 was passed by a voice vote.



Lisa Wells, Region 15
Director - Greenville

Proposed Constitution/Bylaw Changes

President Burgess called upon Charles Govan, Region 6 Director and Chair of the Policy and Constitution Committee, to give the Policy and Constitution Committee report. Chairperson Govan introduced the members of the committee. Chairperson Govan noted that the board of directors adopted the committee's report, allowing the recommendations to come before the Delegate Assembly. Chairperson Govan discussed that the committee and board of directors recommended several edits, including changing the word "will" to "may" regarding the naming of an alternate ending in Article 5, Section 4; in Article 6, Section 2 adding the term "single-district" and increasing the number of students from 40,000 to 45,000 to reflect the current enrollments; recommending moving Dillon 3 and 4 and Marion to Region 5; and changing the name of Clarendon 1, 2, 3, 4 to reflect the current status of consolidation; Clarendon 2 and 4 and Hampton 1, 2 were changed to reflect the consolidation. President Burgess explained that a two-thirds vote was needed for adoption of the amendments to the SCSBA Constitution. President Burgess called for a vote and the proposed amendments were adopted by a voice vote.



Tom Dobbins, Region 16
Director - Anderson 4, 5;
Oconee, Pickens

Installation of Directors and Officers

President Burgess called upon Immediate Past

President Chuck Saylors to conduct the installation of the officers. President Burgess called the names of the newly-elected officers and directors and asked that they come forward to receive the oath of office. Officers and directors installed included:

President..... Jamie Devine (Richland One)
President-elect..... Gail Hughes (Dorchester School District Two)
Secretary/Treasurer Michele Branning (Fort Mill School District)
Director, Region 1 Patricia Simmons (Colleton County School District)
Director, Region 4 Janet Graham (Horry County Schools)
Director, Region 5 Ervin Richardson (Florence 5 School District)
Director, Region 9 Anne Marie Green (Lexington District One)
Director, Region 13..... Robin Owens (Rock Hill School District)


President Burgess then recognized outgoing Board of Directors members Arthur Moyd from Clarendon County School District and Daniel Martin from Lexington School District Four (neither were in attendance). President Burgess then recognized Immediate Past President Chuck Saylors from Greenville County Schools, who was leaving the Board of Directors. President Burgess presented Saylors with a plaque and thanked him for his service to SCSBA.

President Burgess then introduced Jamie Devine as the new president of the South Carolina School Boards Association.

President Devine then presented the President's Plaque to Past President Burgess and thanked her for her service to SCSBA.

Adjournment

With no further business, President Devine declared the 2021 Delegate Assembly of the South Carolina School Boards Association adjourned at 3:55 p.m.



Scott T. Price, Executive Director

Assembly Rules and Procedures

The following meeting rules of procedure are recommended for adoption by the Delegate Assembly pursuant to Article V, Section 2, of the SCSBA Constitution, which provides that the Delegate Assembly adopts rules of procedure for the conduct of its meetings. The rules are adopted at the outset of the deliberation of the Delegate Assembly, at which time they are subject to discussion and amendment.

1. The latest edition of the Robert's Rules of Order is the official parliamentary authority for all business sessions of the association except where such rules conflict with the constitution or rules adopted by the Delegate Assembly.
2. Any candidate being nominated from the floor at the Delegate Assembly must have notified the association president in writing at least 15 days prior to the Delegate Assembly. In such cases, the presiding officer will announce the names of individuals who have submitted such notification immediately after the chairman of the nominating committee has read the slate of officers and directors being presented by the board of directors. Nominations from the floor require a second from a certified delegate representing a school board other than the board from which the candidate is a member. Before the nomination can be accepted, the presiding officer must receive written endorsement of the nominee from the nominee's board, along with a letter of confirmation that the nominee will serve if elected. After all those wishing to make nominations are recognized, the presiding officer will allow each nominee in a contested race to speak in alphabetical order. The candidate and a supporting speaker may speak for a combined total of no more than three minutes. The presiding officer will strictly enforce the three-minute limit. Association elections are to be conducted by secret ballot. The counting of the ballots will be completed by three impartial and independent individuals excluding SCSBA staff, members of the SCSBA Board, SCSBA delegates, or any school board member in attendance other than delegates. The announcement of the results of the elections will be limited to the name of the successful candidate with no reference to the actual votes tabulated by each candidate. Tabulation records will be maintained by the independent counters until the end of the Delegate Assembly, at which time they will be destroyed. Candidates will be allowed to review the vote tabulations prior to them being destroyed. In the event three or more candidates offer

RULES OF PROCEDURE

for an office and if a majority vote is not received by any candidate for such office, a run-off election will take place between the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes.

3. In speaking to a motion, a delegate will be limited to three minutes. A delegate must come to the microphone to be recognized.
4. A delegate who has once spoken on a question will not be recognized again for the same question until others who wish to speak have spoken. A delegate is limited to speaking twice on a pending motion.
5. All matters except contested elections will be decided by voice vote or a tabulated vote. A tabulated vote may be called for by a single delegate if supported by four other delegates from boards other than the board of the delegate requesting the tabulated vote. A voice vote is a verbal expression of "yea" or "nay" with no recognition to the weighted votes. A tabulated vote is the tabulation of all weighted votes assigned to each school board.
6. Once a resolution, amendment, or constitutional change has been adopted by the Delegate Assembly, consideration of that same subject matter at a subsequent time during the same Delegate Assembly will be out of order unless the Delegate Assembly votes to reconsider the item in question. A motion to reconsider must be made by an individual who voted on the prevailing side of the original motion, and a simple majority vote will be necessary for the item to be reconsidered.
7. All substantive floor amendments to a proposed resolution or constitutional change will be made in writing on the official amendment forms provided at the Assembly and submitted to the president at the time the amendment is proposed. The presiding officer is granted authority to accept minor amendments in verbal form or may require such amendments to be submitted in writing prior to consideration.
8. Proposed resolutions or constitutional changes that are not presented in advance in the Delegate Assembly handbook by the board of directors may be presented to the Delegate Assembly if two-thirds of the delegates vote to allow the presentation of such. Consideration of a resolution or constitutional change presented from the floor will be voted on separately. Such resolutions or constitutional changes must be presented in writing to the president when a delegate makes the motion to allow presentation.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Proposed resolutions or constitutional changes submitted under these circumstances will only be allowed when written verification is provided that the action is requested by a majority vote of the submitting board.

9. Although informal advice and explanation may be sought of SCSBA staff, only delegates and members of the board of directors who are not delegates may speak at the Delegate Assembly. All rulings concerning assembly or parliamentary procedure will be made exclusively by the presiding officer. The ruling of the presiding officer will be final unless there is an appeal from the decision of the presiding officer by a delegate and there is a second. In this case, the presiding officer will speak first and last and any delegate may speak once. A majority vote is required to sustain or overturn the decision of the presiding officer.
10. Subsequent to initial approval by the Delegate Assembly, any of these rules may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the Delegate Assembly.

SCSBA mission

To be the leading voice advocating for quality public education while ensuring excellence in school board performance through training and service.

2021–2022 Annual Report

Many of us viewed the start of the 2021-2022 school year as a new beginning following the shut-downs and remote learning from the previous year. However, while things were certainly closer to normal, schools and communities could not completely divest themselves of the challenges presented by a lingering pandemic.

Further, South Carolina's public schools and school boards found themselves – for a variety of reasons – at the center of political debates ranging on topics from masks and COVID-19 restrictions policies to which books are on school library shelves and who could play on which team. Some of these issues would manifest themselves into proposed legislation at the State House. The legislature also enacted through a budget proviso a new funding formula for public schools effective in the recently adopted 2022-2023 state fiscal year budget.

It was a transitional year for SCSBA as well. In November 2021, SCSBA left the National School Boards Association and moved our membership to the newly-created Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) as a founding state. SCSBA's mission continues as the leading voice for public schools, while ensuring that, as local leaders, our members have all the tools necessary to move forward through this unprecedented time. Your SCSBA team worked to see that boards had the best information and policies on matters impacting you at the local level, such as public input at board meetings and following the state's open meetings laws.

Board members in February took a deep dive into leading through difficult times at our return to an in-person 2022 SCSBA Annual Convention. Throughout the year, using a combination of in-person, online, and virtual trainings for our members, we provided ongoing training and professional development.

And, certainly, SCSBA continues to take the lead legislatively, making sure members are kept up-to-the-minute on issues in front of the General Assembly and where school board members can be most impactful in the debate over education policy.

Your role as school board members has never been more important! Your association is here for you and your board to help navigate the often-unsettled waters of school district management.

Following is a snapshot highlighting SCSBA's efforts this year aimed at promoting and supporting local school boards. Thank you for all that you do and for supporting SCSBA - your association and your voice for public education in South Carolina!



Scott Price, *Executive Director*

COMMUNICATIONS — PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

During the month of January SCSBA organized a “Celebrating Local Leaders” School Board Recognition campaign, providing each of the state’s 73 school districts with materials and resources to celebrate their school board members locally, highlighting the unique role school boards play in championing and advocating for quality education and the ownership they take for governing their local public schools. Governor Henry McMaster also signed a resolution officially declaring January as School Board Recognition Month in South Carolina.



Angela Crosland, M.Ed.,
Director of Communications

School boards across the state signed poster-sized copies of the South Carolina School Board Member Ethical Principles during the month of January. This project served as a symbolic gesture by school boards, publicly stating that they will uphold these effective governance principles. This project brought much deserved attention and recognition to school boards by media and in local communities.

Champions for Public Education Awards were given to community groups and individuals around the state during local school board meetings throughout the year. These awards were given to recognize community residents, organizations, and local businesses whose support of and contributions to public education have significantly benefited entire school districts.

SCSBA provided school board members with several ways to show support for their 2022 graduates, including a Facebook frame and signs for printing.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT — KEEPING YOU AHEAD OF THE CURVE

- SCSBA recognized school board members throughout the state for achieving one of six levels in the 2021-2022 year with certificates of achievement and a lapel pin designating their level of accomplishment in the Boardmanship Institute.
- SCSBA recognized 10 school board members for achieving level six, the highest recognition in the Boardmanship Institute. To qualify, level six recipients must earn at least 300 points for participation in training sessions over the past five years or less and pass a written exam.
- SCSBA staff visited 11 school districts across the state, working with school boards to enhance effective board governance practices.



Gwen Hampton, MSW,
CMP, *Director of Leadership
Development*

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION — #SCHOOLBOARD STRONG

After a couple of years of limited in-person meetings, the South Carolina General Assembly was fully open for business at the State House in 2022. SCSBA legislative staff kept members up-to-date on K12 legislation as it was pre-filed, filed, and moved through the legislative process. In the end, more than 13 bills that have direct or indirect impact on K12 were signed into law.

Lobbying and advocacy efforts at the State House resulted in additional revenue for K12 education through a new funding formula introduced during the budget process as a budget proviso that included the following:

- \$273 million increase in the Aid to Classrooms funding, which includes increasing the state minimum teacher salary schedule by \$4,000 which raises the starting teacher pay from \$36,000 to \$40,000;
- \$2.2 million to increase the teacher supply stipend to \$300 from \$275 per teacher;
- \$4.2 million for a 5 percent pay increase to the state school bus driver minimum salary schedule;
- \$12 million for the lease/purchase of school buses; and
- \$100 million in general funds and \$40 million in Education Improvement for Capital Needs of Disadvantaged Schools, \$25 million of which is to be available to school districts consolidating with another school district.

Despite COVID-19, it was another exciting year of Regional Advocacy Meetings, in which a limited number of school board members discussed the growing oversight of the State in K12 education, including state takeover of districts and the removal of school boards, mandated consolidation, and the growing teacher shortage crisis. Participants were asked how school boards can leverage the new accountability requirements to advocate for increased authority for school boards.

SCSBA is committed to ensuring that the local school board voice is heard in every public policy forum in which education decisions are made or influenced.



Debbie Elmore, *Director of Governmental Relations*

POLICY AND LEGAL SERVICES — EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE STARTS HERE

- The Policy and Legal Services department provides training in specialized areas such as Boardmanship 101, FOIA, Parliamentary Procedures and Meeting Management, Policy Revisions, and other topics by request.
- The Policy and Legal Services department also provides review and feedback to boards concerning their agendas and meeting minutes upon request.

- SCSBA continues to contract with school districts for specialized, fee-based policy projects. These currently include three standard policy manual revisions, one consolidation revision, two section revisions, policy audits, policy reviews, and policy manual re-coding work. Drafts for one standard manual revision, two consolidated manual revisions, and three section revisions were completed in the past year. SCSBA is working with those districts on final review and posting of the approved policies.
- Following some consolidations, we have 66 districts and special schools currently utilizing online policy manuals.
- Stephanie N. Lawrence, Esq. is now General Counsel and Director of Policy and Legal Services.



Stephanie Lawrence, Esquire,
*General Counsel and
Director of Policy and Legal
Services*

SCSBIT — MEMBERSHIP IS OUR STRENGTH

- The South Carolina School Boards Insurance Trust (SCSBIT) continues to serve the majority of school districts for both property and casualty coverage along with workers' compensation coverage.
- The Property & Casualty Trust currently insures approximately \$17 billion in school properties and serves 438,842 students. The increase in students is 2.7 percent over the previous year which reflected a 6 percent decrease. The decrease of 6 percent was largely attributed to COVID with some students enrolling in private schools or charter schools. The student enrollment is coming back slightly after approximately two years of declines. The Property & Casualty Trust currently has 50 school district customers representing 65 percent of districts across the state. Some of the coastal districts remain insured by the State of South Carolina as SCSBIT rates these areas as higher risk for property losses, and premiums for coastal districts are generally lower with the State. However, SCSBIT does have some coastal exposure including the Georgetown and Beaufort school districts.
- SCSBIT continues to mitigate risk by purchasing reinsurance in the domestic, Bermuda, and London markets. The self-retention of losses retained by SCSBIT is \$300,000, with the reinsurance paying all losses after that. The latest audited financials on 6/30/2021 for the property and casualty trust fund reflect a net position of \$47.6 million with revenue exceeding expenses by \$3,031,000 for the fiscal year ended 6/30/2021. The audited financial statements for 6/30/2022



Steve Mann, CPA, *Director
of Insurance Services*

were not available at the time of this report.

- The Workers' Compensation Trust currently insures approximately \$3 billion in payroll, which reflects a 3 percent increase in covered payroll compared to the previous year. The Workers' Compensation Trust has 57 school district customers representing 74 percent of districts across the state. The latest audited financials on 6/30/2021 for the workers' compensation trust fund reflect a net position of \$62.7 million with revenue exceeding expenses by \$5.6 million. Some of this excess totaling \$5 million was returned to member school districts as a credit or loyalty coupon for the 2021-22 fiscal year. The audited financial statements for 6/30/2022 were not available at the time of this report.
- School districts across the state received \$630,611 for Workers' Compensation Risk Control Grants for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The grants that are funded by SCSBIT are used to improve safety and to help control costs by implementing preventive measures for our member school districts that have workers' compensation insurance with SCSBIT.
- SCSBIT continues to keep its qualified and professional staff, although we did experience two retirements in the past year. We were successful in replacing these folks with two very qualified managers, Mike Sandlin, Assistant Director of Property and Casualty, and Jill Callais, Assistant Director of Workers' Compensation, who will ensure that customer service remains second to none.
- SCSBIT lost two districts in 2022-23 due to a competitive bid process. Both Orangeburg and Spartanburg 7 school districts left the Workers' Compensation Trust. SCSBIT anticipated this and planned accordingly during the budget process. The Property & Casualty Trust did retain Beaufort County School District, which was very significant. Additionally, two newly-consolidated school districts (Clarendon 2 & 4, and Barnwell 19 & 29) transferred their property and casualty coverage from the State to SCSBIT. The Barnwell school districts did solicit bids, and SCSBIT was successful in keeping them.
- SCSBIT remains the choice of school districts across the state of South Carolina. Commercial brokers continue to change insurance carriers in an effort to lower premiums and earn more profit. SCSBIT continues to offer exceptional service and remains the insurer that the majority of school districts rely on for their insurance coverage.



Melissa Donald, *Director of Finance*

Statement of financial position

As of June 30, 2022

| Assets | June 30, 2022 |
|---|----------------------|
| Current assets | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 2,239,529 |
| Accounts receivable | 2,712 |
| Investments | 5,507,836 |
| Accrued interest receivable | 8,491 |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets | 130,849 |
| Total current assets | \$ 7,889,417 |
| Property and equipment | |
| Land | \$ 215,713 |
| Land improvements | 187,779 |
| Building and improvements | 3,307,350 |
| Furniture and office equipment | 485,439 |
| Vehicles | 42,718 |
| Total property and equipment | 4,238,999 |
| Less accumulated depreciation | (2,240,744) |
| Net property and equipment | 1,998,255 |
| Total assets | \$ 9,887,672 |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | |
| Current liabilities | |
| Accounts payable | 15,504 |
| Other accrued expenses | 212,592 |
| Mortgage payable - current portion | 123,744 |
| OPEB liability - current portion | 7,538 |
| Total current liabilities | \$ 359,378 |
| Mortgage payable - long-term portion | 1,418,426 |
| OPEB liability - long-term portion | 1,729,842 |
| Total long-term liabilities | 3,148,268 |
| Total liabilities | \$ 3,507,646 |
| Net assets | |
| Net assets without donor restrictions | 5,886,910 |
| Net assets with donor restrictions | 493,116 |
| Total net assets | 6,380,026 |
| Total liabilities and net assets | \$ 9,887,672 |

Statement of activities**June 30, 2022****June 30, 2022****Revenue**

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Membership dues | \$ 1,417,341 |
| Conferences and meetings | 423,135 |
| Policy services | 236,496 |
| Investment income | (153,562) |
| Consulting | 55,059 |
| Publication sales and advertising | 10,325 |
| Administrative fees | 3,276,380 |
| Other income | 7,195 |

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Total revenue | \$ 5,272,369 |
|----------------------|---------------------|

Expenses

Program services:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Member services | \$ 3,007,450 |
| Conferences, meetings and training seminars | 557,801 |
| Policy and other services | 494,662 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total program services | \$ 4,059,913 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| General and administrative expenses | 1,035,982 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Total expenses | \$ 5,095,895 |
|-----------------------|---------------------|

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Increase in net assets | 176,474 |
|------------------------|---------|

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Net assets, beginning of year | 6,203,552 |
|-------------------------------|-----------|

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Net assets, end of year | \$ 6,380,026 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|

PROPOSED SLATE

Proposed slate of officers and directors

The SCSBA Board of Directors presents this slate of officers and directors for 2022-2023. Officers serve one-year terms. Directors serve four-year terms representing regions containing similar numbers of students.



Michele Branning
President-Elect
Current: Secretary/Treasurer

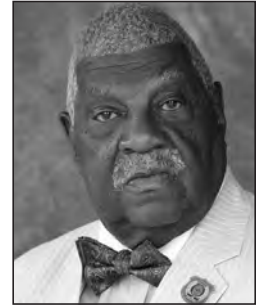


Rev. Dr. James Smith
Region 6 Director
Kershaw County School District



Dr. Sarah Simmons
Region 14 Director
Spartanburg School District Two

Charles Govan
Secretary/Treasurer
Current: Region 6 Director



Hannah Priester
Region 10 Director
Hampton County School District



Guide to 2023 SCSBA Legislative Resolutions

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South Carolina School Boards Association Legislative Resolutions for 2023

Section 1: Current Legislative Resolutions

1. Board hiring of superintendent

SCSBA believes that the superintendent, as the district's chief executive officer, should be hired and performance reviewed by the board of trustees. The board should relinquish other staffing decisions to the superintendent with policies in place to assure equitable hiring, promotion, and dismissal practices. The board should award staff contracts as provided in policy and act on the superintendent's recommendations for personnel.

Rationale: SCSBA believes the best use of the board's time is to govern with excellence. The perceptions of micromanagement by a board are primarily in the area of staffing. In South Carolina, some boards interpret state law to empower them to interview and hire on behalf of the district. This leads to divided loyalties among staff and a chief executive officer who cannot select those he/she feels would work best with the administrative team. The board's appropriate role is to hire the superintendent, assure that policies are in place to provide fairness in staffing practices and monitor the superintendent's job performance in relationship to previously established criteria (i.e., goals and limits). When the board believes the superintendent does not merit its trust, it has the authority to seek new leadership.

History: adopted prior to 1993; revised 1996, 2001, 2002, 2009, 2021

2. Board member legal actions

SCSBA believes in prohibiting a school board member from instituting in his or her capacity as a citizen, taxpayer, or a school board member any legal proceeding before any court or

governmental agency opposing or challenging any votes taken by the school board of which he or she is a member. This prohibition does not affect a school board member's right in his or her capacity as a private individual to seek redress for a personal grievance resulting from board action.

Rationale: A school board's power lies in its action as a group, and individual board members exercise their authority over district affairs only as they vote to take action at a legal meeting of the board. Further, the policy-making function of a school board involves the interaction of competing ideas that eventually resolve themselves in a decision that may not satisfy all of the board's members. This is the essence of the legislative process and should not be compromised by ready access to the courts or some other forum for dissenting members who are disappointed in the outcome, which could present a significant public policy concern. Finally, board members in general enjoy qualified immunity from legal liability for their actions taken in their role as a school board member; this means, however, that a school board has no legal remedy against a fellow board member who files a lawsuit in his or her official capacity challenging board actions that may cause economic damage to the district. On the other hand, when acting as a private individual pursuing a personal grievance against the school board, a school board member has no such immunity. A board member must, however, be able to seek a remedy for injuries to his or her private, individual, personal rights or property – even if the wrong for which he or she seeks remedy occurred as a result of an action taken by the school board on which he or she is a member.

History: adopted 2011; revised 2017

3. **Board training in underachieving school districts**

SCSBA believes that state-funded board training must be a key element of any recommendation by the state superintendent regarding district improvement well before the takeover stage. The training should be tailored to address the board's specific issues that are identified through a thorough diagnostic review of board operations, board and superintendent relationships and governance structure.

Rationale: State law places the governance of schools in the hands of board members chosen directly by the community's voters, who trust these leaders to make decisions in the best interests of their children. Removing voter control through takeovers should not be considered without technical assistance to school districts to include the school board. Under state law, state-funded board training is one option available to the state superintendent prior

to the declaration of emergency in a district not meeting the state accountability standards.

History: adopted 2004; revised 2008, 2011, 2019

4. **Broadband expansion statewide** (*amend rationale as indicated*)

SCSBA supports legislation allocating state funding for the expansion of broadband statewide to ensure every student has access to the internet at sufficient speed and affordability for remote learning.

Rationale: The unfortunate need to teach and learn remotely as a result of due to the coronavirus, exposed a substantial lack of broadband capability in many school districts. Internet service is absolutely essential, particularly in rural areas, to ensure all students have the opportunity to learn and progress when remote learning is necessary. ~~Broadband expansion is not only needed to address issues regarding remote learning due school closures, but as an essential tool to expand student achievement opportunities in every school district.~~ Since 2020, the South Carolina General Assembly has invested millions in state and federal funding to increase efforts for expanding broadband access. Some of these efforts include creating a Broadband Infrastructure Program within the Office of Regulatory Staff to assist with expansion projects, a mapping project that identified underserved areas of the state, and assistance in providing mobile hotspots to households with students. These efforts are a great start, but work is needed to ensure all citizens in the state have effective and reliable internet access.

History: adopted 2020; revised 2022

5. **Compulsory attendance**

SCSBA believes that state accountability and reporting measures and the state's compulsory attendance laws should be consistent.

Rationale: South Carolina's public schools have made great strides to improve student achievement since the Education Accountability Act of 1998 (EAA). A contradiction exists, however, between the accountability system's graduation measurement and the state's compulsory attendance law. While the accountability system penalizes high schools for students who do not graduate on time (within four years after entering high school), the compulsory attendance law allows students to leave or drop out of school when they reach the age of 17, which could happen during their junior year of high school.

History: adopted 2006; revised 2007, 2009, 2010, 2018, 2019

6. **Consolidation** (*amend resolution statement and rationale as indicated*)

SCSBA believes in consolidation or deconsolidation of school districts provided that in each district affected a ~~referendum is held and a majority of the board of trustees voters voting in the referendum in each affected district authorizes~~ supports the consolidation or deconsolidation. ~~Each district shall have equal voice in the consolidation or deconsolidation question.~~

Rationale: A major consolidation of South Carolina school districts took place in the early 1950s. ~~Since then, other districts have consolidated into larger systems.~~ Since 2019, 15 small, rural districts have consolidated into six larger systems. Currently, there are ~~79~~ 73 school districts ranging in size from ~~750 to 61,000~~ 1,430 to 76,900 students. ~~A statewide study to determine, among other things, the relationship between school district size in South Carolina and student performance and the cost of providing educational services reached no conclusion on the district size/student performance relationship.~~ Successful consolidations of school districts must include the buy-in of local community stakeholders and not a top-down approach.

History: adopted prior to 1993; revised 2001, 2002, 2009, 2016, 2022

7. **Constitutional amendment**

SCSBA believes the South Carolina Constitution should be amended to require the General Assembly to provide a high-quality system of free public schools open to all children and allowing each student to reach his highest potential.

Rationale: The adequacy of education funding is the issue in a lawsuit originally filed in 1993 by 40 South Carolina school districts. In 1999, the Supreme Court set a new baseline standard for the public education clause of the state's constitution. The Court said that the constitution broadly outlines the parameters of a "minimally adequate education" in South Carolina. In its final ruling in 2015, the court affirmed its earlier finding in favor of the districts, citing, among others, that the State was not meeting its constitutional duty. SCSBA does not believe that the General Assembly should be satisfied with or proud of a state constitution that only requires a "minimally adequate education."

History: adopted 1999; revised 2002, 2004, 2008, 2013, 2016

8. **Economic development tax incentives** (*amend rationale as indicated*)

SCSBA believes that a school district's tax base should not be eroded by economic development incentives and that all revenue generated or determined by local school district tax millage must

be preserved for use by school districts for school purposes. SCSBA believes that school districts should be active participants in the negotiation process as related to economic development incentives provided to developers and industry and, in the case of multi-county industrial or commercial parks, that they receive negotiated fees in at least the same percentage as general taxes are to school taxes and statewide reporting for all economic development incentives should be implemented.

Rationale: ~~Almost 100 percent of the local share of school districts' budgets comes from property taxes. School districts, however, are finding it increasingly difficult to preserve school tax millage for use exclusively for school purposes due to the erosion of the local tax base: due to E~~economic development incentives, such as fee-in-lieu of taxes and multi-county industrial parks, ~~are two examples of the erosion of school districts' tax bases. All revenue generated from taxable property, to include all special taxing districts, represented by assessed valuation of a school district as determined by school tax millage must be used by school districts for school purposes. Finally, no statewide data exists on multi-county industrial park agreements and related incentives such as special source revenue bonds and tax credits. No one is monitoring how economic development incentives are impacting school district tax revenue, and the lack of data makes it impossible to estimate the financial impact at the local district level. According to a May 2022 report by the national, nonprofit organization, Good Jobs First, the state's public schools reported \$534 million in revenues lost to corporate tax abatements in FY 2021, an increase of 65% compared to just four years earlier. Annual reported losses have been growing by \$50 million per year since tax-break disclosures began in 2017, for a cumulative five-year total of \$2.2 billion. Good Jobs First, which tracks subsidies in each state, concludes that S.C. school districts lost more property tax revenue to economic development incentives than those in any other state.~~

History: adopted prior to 2000; revised 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2010, 2022

9. Education achievement gap and graduation rates

SCSBA believes in meaningful, research-based national, state, and local initiatives with measurable outcomes that facilitate closing the educational achievement gap and ensure all students complete at least a high school education program at the highest level.

Rationale: Leaders at the federal, state, and local levels should pursue a serious opportunity agenda that draws on the evidence and promise of school and community-based programs that work to help us guide at-risk children toward a better future. The State

should marshal the necessary resources and support to have a positive impact on the academic performance of student groups that have historically underperformed academically in South Carolina public schools, thereby significantly improving the academic performance of public school districts. Where there is a continuing or increasingly low graduation rate among some populations, including, but not limited to African American, Hispanic, and Native American students, students with disabilities, and students living in poverty, school boards should adopt policies, programs, and practices and provide resources to address the needs of these students. Efforts must also be made to encourage and direct students who do not obtain a high school diploma to complete an alternative high school experience at the highest academic level.

History: adopted 2007; revised 2016, 2018

10. **Education funding reform** (*amend resolution statement and rationale as indicated*)

SCSBA believes that the state's education funding structure ~~must be reformed~~. Any revisions should be based upon specific analysis and recommendations on (1) the current tax structure and the state's taxing policy, (2) the current education funding formulas and their ability to equalize educational opportunities statewide, and (3) a realistic means of computing a per pupil funding amount, which is aligned with state-imposed student performance standards and expectations. ~~Recommendations for reforming~~ The method of fully funding public education in South Carolina must do should include the following:

- expand local district revenue-raising options;
- generate revenue that is adequate, stable, and recurring;
- ensure equitable and timely distribution, to include direct distribution from the state to a district;
- provide adequate funding for other operational needs such as transportation and fringe;
- include state-driven initiatives to ensure that every public school student has the opportunity to learn in permanent school facilities that are safe, structurally sound and conducive to a good learning environment; and,
- ensure that districts are held harmless from receiving less money through a new funding plan; ~~and,~~
- ~~grant all elected school boards full fiscal autonomy.~~

Rationale: An in-depth review of our state's tax system and how public education is funded is long overdue. ~~However,~~ the funding structure plan must include certain components as follows:

- It must generate adequate revenue for schools.

- It must set a per-pupil funding amount reflecting what it actually costs to educate a child.
- It must expand local initiatives and the ability for districts to exceed the state minimum requirements.
- It must include equitable components to lessen or erase the impact that a child's residence has on the quality of the education he/she receives.

The funding adequacy lawsuit involving school districts primarily along the I-95 corridor has evidenced woefully inadequate school facility conditions for students and teachers. Just as South Carolina should not be satisfied with a constitutional requirement for a "minimally adequate" education for children, the state must take steps to ensure that all children attend schools that are safe and conducive to learning.

History: adopted prior to 2001; revised 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2020, 2022

11. Elimination of Education Oversight Committee

SCSBA believes that the Education Oversight Committee should be dissolved and that its responsibilities and duties, where necessary, be moved to the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE).

Rationale: The appointed 18-member EOC was created in 1998 to advise elected officials on student performance, educational programs, and public school funding in accordance with the Education Accountability Act (EAA). The EOC has served a useful purpose in overseeing implementation of the EAA, as well as issuing critical reports on topics such as school governance and fiscal efficiency. However, in the last 20 years the EOC's role has expanded dramatically. Its members and staff no longer serve in an oversight capacity but as a governing body, establishing critical public education policy and appropriating millions of taxpayer dollars with no direct accountability to citizens. The EOC is often in conflict with the duly elected State Superintendent of Education, who has no vote on the EOC, but is accountable to the people of South Carolina and charged with providing the leadership and services to ensure a public education system that enables all students to become educated, responsible, and contributing citizens.

History: adopted 2017

12. Fiscal autonomy/affairs (*amend rationale as indicated*)

SCSBA believes that all elected school boards should have full fiscal autonomy.

Rationale: Taxing authority is a logical requirement and natural extension of the funding partnership between the state legislature

and the local school board. Nationally, nearly all school boards have taxing authority. ~~Twenty-six districts~~ In South Carolina, ~~have no the~~ taxing authority of school boards varies to include limited taxing authority, taxing authority that is capped, or no taxing authority at all. Following passage of the Property Tax Relief Act of 2006, known as Act 388, no South Carolina school district has full fiscal autonomy. As elected officials, school board members need authority for financial decisions to enable them to bear the accountability for the district's instructional programs. State law currently establishes the powers and duties of local boards of trustees, including the authority to govern fiscal affairs of school districts.

History: adopted prior to 1993; revised 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2007, 2013, 2021, 2022, 2022

13. Full funding of education mandates

SCSBA believes that the General Assembly must meet its commitment to fully fund state-mandated educational programs for public schools. SCSBA believes that the South Carolina Constitution should be amended to prohibit state mandates on local units of government unless they are fully funded by the state.

Rationale: While it is critical for the General Assembly to reform how South Carolina funds its public schools, of equal importance is for the state to fully fund the system it has in place. When state funds are not adequate to meet the true cost of a required program, the fiscal burden falls to local taxpayers to cover the deficit, or districts must sacrifice in other areas such as classroom size and personnel. For example, the Education Finance Act (EFA) requires a funding formula that has not been fully funded in more than 10 years. While the EFA is not the only state funding allocated to public schools, it provides the clearest example of legislators' failure to meet their commitment to K12 public education. The issue of unfunded and underfunded mandates arises each legislative session as programs and directives are proposed at the state level with the knowledge that state funds are not available and that in most instances local taxpayers will feel the fiscal impact. Cities and counties enjoy statutory protection from unfunded state mandates, with certain exceptions. While a statutory prohibition of unfunded mandates for school districts would be appropriate, such legislative enactments are often subject to political or other power shifts. A constitutional amendment, on the other hand, carries the weight of the state's electorate.

History: adopted 2013; revised 2014, 2015, 2016

14. Health insurance coverage for boards

SCSBA believes the General Assembly should enact legislation to allow local school districts to opt into the state Public Employee Benefits Authority (PEBA) Health Insurance coverage for school board members, ensuring equal benefits across the board for all local government leaders in South Carolina.

Rationale: Effective governance of local school districts is the cornerstone of sound local government. PEBA Health Insurance coverage, which is granted to all other local elected officials, including city and county council members, fire and police departments, and various governmental boards, commissions, and public service districts, does not extend to members of local school district boards of trustees. Access to health care and retirement benefits would be a fair and appropriate incentive to attract and retain committed, passionate citizens to serve on local school boards, given many school districts' difficulty in providing otherwise just compensation.

History: adopted 2019

15. Impact fees

SCSBA believes public schools should be authorized to levy impact fees on new home and commercial development.

Rationale: State government must remain sensitive to the fact that existing taxpayers often face increased school debt-service property taxes to pay for the high growth that they did not cause. This may negatively impact the economy and potential taxpayer support for future school district referendums. Funding tools such as impact fees can help districts cope with community growth and unique educational demands.

History: adopted 2007; revised 2012, 2013, 2016, 2019, 2021, 2022

16. Local district fiscal impact statements

SCSBA believes the General Assembly should provide individual school district fiscal impact statements before passage of any legislation which requires a local district financial match or use of local funds for any reason.

Rationale: The state government must become sensitive to the impact of mandated programs on local taxpayers. Any new requirement that has a financial impact on local school districts falls unequally on economically rich or poor districts unless it is made a part of the base student cost. Education-related legislation should never be considered and enacted until there is a clear understanding by lawmakers of the fiscal impact on each local school district.

Current state statute requires such fiscal impact statements for laws impacting cities and counties.

History: adopted 2006; revised 2009, 2018, 2019

17. Local governance of school districts

SCSBA believes in local decision-making in the governance of school districts.

Rationale: One of the key strengths of high quality public education is the emphasis on local decision-making. The local school board is the body closest to the community and reflects the community's commitment to its schools. One of the four major roles of a school board is accountability for the mission of the district. When school boards are able to exercise appropriate governance, they become accountable to their community for results. The school board, speaking as one, must reflect the interests of the community in the governance of the district.

History: adopted prior to 1993; revised 1995, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2006, 2007

18. Local legislation (*amend resolution statement as indicated*)

SCSBA believes members of the General Assembly, prior to ~~introducing~~ giving second reading to any local legislation, should be required to ~~attach a statement that~~ notify the local affected school board ~~as a whole was notified of the intent to file the bill and stating if the board supports~~ of the proposed legislation.

Rationale: South Carolina's current system of lawmaking provides for the authority of local legislative delegations to pass laws that apply only to a specific school district. Because members of the South Carolina Senate and House of Representatives as a practice do not vote as a body on a local bill, it can pass both legislative chambers in a matter of days. Local laws can change the makeup of a district board; change board election procedures; forgive missed days from the defined minimum plan requirement; and have an impact on a board's authority to set and fund its budget. Too often, these bills are filed without the knowledge and consent of the affected board. Additionally, some question exists about the legality of local laws as being unconstitutional special legislation under Article III, Section 34 of the South Carolina Constitution. The end result of local laws is a state whose variety of school district and board governance structures does not easily lend itself to statewide initiatives relating to public education. Local school boards as the governmental body elected or appointed to operate a school district must at the very least be consulted prior to the filing of a local bill or, at the most,

should be the driving force behind such a bill's introduction.

History: adopted 2002; revised 2004, 2018, 2019, 2022

19. Lottery funding for K12

SCSBA believes the General Assembly should increase funding from the South Carolina Education Lottery Program for K12 education.

Rationale: Over the years, the proportionate share of lottery funds that have been allocated for K12 education programs and services has declined as lottery funds have grown. An increase of lottery funds should benefit students at all levels of education and be allocated to K12 education in accordance with state law enacting the lottery, which states "proceeds of lottery games must be used to support improvements and enhancements for educational purposes and programs as provided by the General Assembly and that the net proceeds must be used to supplement, not supplant, existing resources for educational purposes and programs."

History: adopted 2019

20. Maximizing potential of high achievers

SCSBA believes in increased growth and support of the State's gifted and talented education programs to enhance and nurture the potential of academically advanced students.

Rationale: High achieving students need gifted education programs to challenge them in regular classroom settings and enrichment and accelerated programs to enable them to make continuous progress year to year. Less than 20 percent of students in South Carolina public schools are served by gifted and talented programs. Studies of gifted and talented programs show they have a long-term impact on students' postsecondary achievements and in maintaining their interests over time and involvement in creative productive work after they finish college and graduate school.

History: adopted 2016

21. Mental health services (*amend rationale as indicated*)

SCSBA believes the General Assembly should appropriate adequate and sustainable funding for school districts to provide mental health services for students.

Rationale: According to the Association for Children's Mental Health, addressing mental health needs in schools is vital because "1 in 5 children and youth have a diagnosable emotional, behavioral or mental health disorder, and 1 in 10 young people have a mental health challenge that is severe enough to impair how they function at home, school or in the community." It cites estimates that among children ages 6 to 17, "at least one-half and as many as 80 percent" do not receive the mental health care they require. South Carolina

was ranked 41st in the nation on the overall well-being by the Annie E. Casey Foundation in 2020. The 2022 Kids Data by S.C. Joint Committee on Children cites suicide as the leading cause of death for children between 10 and 17-years-old in the state while school-based mental health services are available in less than 50% of public schools. Mentally healthy children have a positive quality of life and good mental health is a proven prerequisite for consistently high levels of academic achievement and social development, according to research aggregated by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). As of 2018, each of the 37,000 school psychologists in the U.S. was responsible for an average of 1,200 students, nearly double the recommended number. In some school districts, one psychologist is responsible for as many as 3,000 students, according to the NASP. The nation's 43,000 school social workers were responsible for, on average, 1,200 students each, in 2018, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. That's nearly five times the recommended ratio of 1-to-250. And millions of students attend schools where there is no social worker or psychologist.

History: introduced 2022; revised 2022

22. Nonpartisan election of school board members (*amend rationale as indicated*)

SCSBA believes in the popular, nonpartisan election of all school board members.

Rationale: Nationally, nearly all school boards are elected. ~~Only an elected board can have taxing authority. In South Carolina, Presently, there are three only two, partisan-elected school boards – in Horry County and Lee County. Latta, Dillon 4 and Clarendon 2 – that have all appointed members. Clarendon County has one appointed board, one elected board, and one board with a combination of elected and appointed. Trustees elected in partisan elections often have to respond to the demands of their party rather than to the needs of the school children. In addition to increased election costs, partisan election of school boards could narrow the pool of potential talent in some communities. Qualified candidates, including incumbents, who do not identify with a political party or do not wish to engage in politics may choose not to run. The Hatch Act prohibits federal employees, and state and local government employees whose salaries are paid entirely with federal funds, from running for partisan office. Candidates for school board should be elected based on their qualifications, merits, experience, and platform, no matter their political party affiliation. Two school boards in this state, Horry County and Lee County, are elected in partisan elections. A board member losing in a June primary serves as a lame duck board~~

member for five months. If several lose in June, the entire board is affected until the November general election.

History: adopted prior to 1993; revised 1998, 1999, 2002, 2008, 2011, 2022

23. Public school choice

SCSBA believes in public school choice options, particularly when designed to increase opportunities for all children to learn in ways that best meet their abilities and needs. SCSBA believes in the right of local boards to determine school choice options within their own districts or between districts. Mandated choice programs must be driven by local flexibility, remain within the public school system, and reflect a focus on academic achievement.

Rationale: Recognizing that school choice is a matter of great interest in the state, as well as the fact that South Carolina is a target state for out-of-state proponents of vouchers and tuition tax credits whose idea of choice includes private schools – an idea long opposed by SCSBA – it is critical that, for the benefit of its membership, SCSBA occupy a seat at the table concerning any initiatives relating to school choice. SCSBA’s focus on choice initiatives, mandated or discretionary, will be on flexibility and local decision-making authority, academic achievement, public school involvement and adequate funding.

History: adopted 2007; revised 2009, 2012

24. Retired teacher salary cap

SCSBA supports the elimination of the salary cap for retired classroom teachers.

Rationale: South Carolina, like most states in the country, is facing a major teacher shortage. The group of teachers who are eligible or near eligibility for retirement is quickly becoming the largest group within the state teaching force. As the teacher supply and demand gap continues to widen, school districts will need the option of recruiting retired teachers to return to the classroom, especially in critical need subjects or in high need areas. However, under current law, state retirees are prohibited from earning more than \$10,000 in the state system while continuing to draw their retirement pay. This makes it difficult to hire teacher retirees in districts that do not meet the criteria for exemptions to the salary cap, including a critical academic need area or a geographic need area, as defined by the State Board of Education.

History: adopted 2017; revised 2020

25. School bus safety

SCSBA believes the Department of Public Safety should be authorized to obtain a civil penalty citation against the registered owner of a vehicle that unlawfully passes a stopped school bus.

Rationale: Section 56-5-2770 of the South Carolina State Code of Laws sets forth the penalties for unlawfully passing a stopped school bus. However, these penalties only apply to the driver of the vehicle, and the Department of Public Safety has had a difficult time confirming the identity of the vehicle's driver. As a result, there have been few charges and convictions under this law, and drivers continue to pass school buses when the stop arm is engaged despite the risk of death or injury to students loading and unloading the bus. Protecting our students is one of the most important responsibilities of school boards of trustees, and supporting this legislation will help ensure that our students can unload and load our buses safely.

History: adopted 2017, revised 2019

26. School governance takeovers

SCSBA opposes the takeover of schools, school districts and locally raised revenues and opposes legislative efforts to remove, diminish or interfere with the authority of local governing school district boards.

Rationale: School and district takeovers are very disruptive and the effects of which for communities and schools can be long lasting and difficult to overcome. What ultimately is lost in the takeover debate is the action of suspending local autonomy and democracy by usurping the appropriation of local revenues and eliminating responsibilities of duly elected local school boards. While researchers studying mayoral and state takeovers nationally are divided on the role takeovers have on student achievement, most agree that the role of parents and the community, especially among minority groups, can be marginalized and can further compromise democratic control of schools (Harvard, 2006; Moscovitch et al., 2010; Hess, 2003, 2011). Most found scant evidence that circumventing elected school boards helps solve the problems. In fact, it may disenfranchise the very communities who depend most on strong public schools for their youth.

History: adopted 2018

27. School safety

SCSBA believes the state should allocate funding for school safety efforts in all South Carolina public school districts.

Rationale: Currently, school districts must fund the services of school resource officers (SROs), security cameras and other school security measures at the local level. County governments that have previously shared the cost of financing SROs with their local school districts now claim that a provision in Act 388 prohibits them from funding this expense. They state that funding SROs with

local property tax revenue violates Act 388 because the law exempts owner-occupied residential property taxes from being used for school operating purposes. SCSBA strongly disagrees with this assertion and believes it is acceptable to finance SROs from the municipality and/or county general fund. SROs, as law enforcement officers, are not used solely for school operating purposes, and the safety of the community is a joint function administered by the municipality and/or county and school districts. A safe learning environment is essential for all students to focus on learning the skills necessary for success. With adequate funding, districts could provide training for educators and law enforcement, employ safety personnel in schools and purchase safety equipment for district facilities, ensuring a safe school climate.
History: adopted 2016, revised 2017, 2018, 2019

28. School start date

SCSBA believes in amending state law regarding when public schools may start the school year to give districts the flexibility of setting their own start date.

Rationale: Following a lengthy legislative debate, the General Assembly in 2006 enacted a uniform starting date for South Carolina's public schools stating that – with few exceptions – no school could begin classes prior to the third Monday in August annually. One rationale used by proponents was the need for districts to have an equal or near equal amount of instructional days prior to taking high stakes state and federal testing, which was administered to all students on the same dates. However, a 20-day testing window approved in 2016 frees up schools to start earlier or later and still ensure an equal number of instructional days before testing. In addition, over the ensuing years, some districts have found it to be increasingly difficult to complete school business before the semester break and still meet the requirements of the uniform starting date. For example, schools that operate on a block schedule are unable to complete the semester and exams before the holiday break. This can mean a delay in starting college in January for students who graduate high school early or are enrolled in dual enrollment courses. Community and parent frustration with the holiday break schedule is evident. Determining the local school calendar should be a core function of the locally-elected school board of trustees.

History: adopted 2012; revised 2015, 2016, 2020

29. State school bus system review

SCSBA believes that the General Assembly must conduct a thorough review of the current state transportation system to determine if it is the most efficient, effective, and economical service model. Any review, as well as any efforts at privatizing school bus transportation

for South Carolina's public schools, must ensure the following:

- student safety is the top priority;
- adequate state funding is available for operation, maintenance, and replacement on a recurring basis, with no financial burden falling to the local districts; and,
- the unique needs of all districts are met.

Rationale: While South Carolina is one of the few remaining states to operate a school bus system, it has been recognized nationally for its efficiency. Under the current state-operated system, even children living on a dirt road in a rural community can expect bus service. If privatization is pursued in South Carolina, certain basic elements of the current state-run system must be preserved without additional costs to the districts. School districts currently have the ability to contract with private companies for transportation services.

History: adopted 2004; revised 2005, 2007, 2010

30. Tax reform/relief

SCSBA believes the state should conduct an immediate review of the property tax relief plan enacted in 2006 to determine necessary changes that support high quality public schools and preserve local districts' ability to meet their operational and school facility needs. Changes should include, but not be limited to:

- ensuring that local district funds are held harmless or replaced with a stable, predictable, funding source that will fully and equitably fund the public schools;
- amending the state constitution to increase the general obligation debt limit from eight to at least 12 percent; and,
- authorizing all boards of education to raise local revenue, to include levying a one percent sales and use tax for certain non-recurring educational purposes.

SCSBA opposes state-driven sales, residential and personal property tax relief without adequate study of, or provision for, replacement of locally-collected property taxes and consideration of implications at the local school district level. SCSBA supports sales tax exempt status for all local school districts. SCSBA believes that a review of components of the State's tax structure, as well as any new tax relief measures, must be done in conjunction with comprehensive tax reform in South Carolina.

Rationale: With the passage of the Property Tax Relief Act (Act 388) in 2006, the General Assembly significantly impaired the ability of local school boards to raise operational millage. Act 388 removed owner-occupied homes from being taxed for school operations purposes and put in place a hard cap on a local board's ability to raise millage on the remaining classes of property. Locally-funded

programs and community-driven school initiatives have suffered. It now becomes the Legislature's responsibility to provide every district the funding necessary to meet the operational and programmatic requirements in state law and at the local level. Districts need more funding tools to address operational and capital needs. The funding of technology, school construction or other special non-recurring needs for school districts is a continuing concern. Current funding options, i.e. referenda or budgeted operations costs, do not lend themselves to addressing this concern. Special legislation is needed to assist willing school communities in funding special needs. Article X of the South Carolina Constitution limits school districts' bonded debt to eight percent of the assessed valuation of property subject to taxation in the school district. In order to exceed the eight percent limit, a school district must hold a referendum. The eight percent limit became effective in 1982 and significantly affected a district's ability to sell bonds. SCSBA believes that at least 12 percent would give districts increased flexibility and reduce the need for many to go to referendum, which can be costly and time consuming. South Carolina's tax code over the years has become a disjointed, unbalanced structure that caters to special interests and is not supportive of local governments, including school districts. Comprehensive tax reform is long overdue.

History: adopted 2006; revised 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2016

31. Teacher salaries (amend resolution statement and rationale as indicated)

SCSBA believes the state should fully fund in raising teacher pay to the national average for teacher salaries and establishing a salary structure that would be appropriate considering differentiated responsibilities so as to compensate teacher leaders in relation to skills and performance.

Rationale: In the state's quest to improve student achievement, we must not overlook the importance of qualified, effective teachers in every classroom. If South Carolina is serious about raising student achievement, then a state salary structure must be developed that is competitive with neighboring states and will allow us to hire and retain qualified teachers. A plan to compensate teachers on a differentiated scale according to responsibilities, skills and performance will allow districts to keep master teachers and teacher leaders in the classroom.

History: adopted 1999; revised 2002, 2009, 2022

32. Threats and assaults on school employees

SCSBA supports changing criminal laws so that anyone who commits assault and battery on a school employee faces penalties that are consistent with or greater than the penalties that apply for making threats to school employees.

Rationale: Currently, someone who threatens a government official (including school employees) with violence can be charged with a felony and receive a sentence of five years in prison or a \$5,000 fine (S.C. Code of Laws, Section 16-3-1040). However, that same individual could actually walk into a classroom and strike a teacher in front of a classroom of children and face only 30 days in jail and/or a \$500 fine for third degree assault and battery. Changes are needed to ensure penalties for physical attacks on school employees by anyone must be as great as or greater than the penalties for making threats.

History: adopted 2010

33. Tuition tax credits and vouchers

SCSBA strongly opposes state or federally-mandated efforts to directly or indirectly subsidize elementary or secondary private, religious or home schools with public funds as intended by SC Constitution Article XI, Sections 3 and 4.

Rationale: SCSBA believes that a strong public school system is the very bedrock of democracy and must not become viewed as a mere public service. Tuition tax credits, tax deductions, or vouchers for private schools undermine the principles of public education by encouraging the enrollment of children in private schools and raise constitutional problems. The original tuition tax credit proposal Put Parents in Charge Act and various subsequent proposals represent a complete abandonment of South Carolina's public schools. Studies by SCSBA and the State Budget and Control Board prove schools are negatively impacted financially by the loss of state funds due to declining enrollment of students transferring to private schools. Tuition tax credits or vouchers divert public funds to private entities with absolutely no accountability. Over the past decade, several studies have recommended a state increase in funds for public schools. South Carolina cannot afford further erosion of the funds available for public schools.

History: adopted 1996; revised 1998, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2012, 2014, 2021

Section 2: Proposed new resolution

34. Realignment/reclassification of athletics-based schools

Statement: SCSBA believes the interscholastic competition of all non-traditional, athletics-based public schools, schools that are not required to adhere to the same rules and regulations governing athletics of traditional public schools, should be realigned/reclassified to include, but not limited to, the following provisions:

- A separate region based upon their enrollment.
- A separate classification level of competition to include a separate state championship.
- Allowance for non-region competition.

Rationale: The current process of determining a school's classification level for competitive play for athletic state championships has an unfair, negative impact on student athletes. These inequities are based on inconsistencies in the application of rules and regulations by non-traditional public schools that include, but are not limited to, recruitment of student athletes, student eligibility requirements, time requirements for practices and/or other activities, athletic facility requirements, coaching requirements and more. Realigning/reclassifying competition levels for schools based on their application of athletic rules and regulations will result in crowning champions in a more equitable manner.

Proposed Changes to the SCSBA Constitution and Bylaws

Article V Delegate Assembly

Section 8. Resolutions

A. Proposed resolutions will be submitted to the ~~legislative~~ committee prior to the delegate assembly meeting at a time designated by the executive director. Resolutions may be submitted by the active member boards or by the board of directors of the association.

Article VI - Board of Directors

Section 2. Composition

The board of directors will be composed of the two elected officers, the president, the immediate past president, and a member from each of the 16 regions in South Carolina. The regions will be based on student population. Each single-district region represents approximately 45,000 students. The regions are as follows:

- Region 1 - Beaufort, Colleton, Dorchester 2, 4; Jasper
- Region 2 - Charleston*
- Region 3 - Berkeley, Georgetown
- Region 4 - Horry*
- Region 5 - Clarendon ~~2, 4~~; Dillon 3, 4; Florence ~~1-5~~ Florence 1, 2, 3, and 5, Marion, Williamsburg
- Region 6 - Chesterfield, Darlington, Kershaw, Lee, Marlboro
- Region 7 - Calhoun, Orangeburg; Sumter
- Region 8 - Richland 1, 2
- Region 9 - Lexington 1-5
- Region 10 - Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg ~~1, 2~~; Barnwell ~~19, 29~~, Barnwell 45; Hampton
- Region 11 - Abbeville, Anderson 1, 2, 3; Edgefield, Greenwood 50, 51, 52; McCormick, Saluda
- Region 12 - Cherokee, Chester, Fairfield, Laurens 55, 56; Newberry, Union
- Region 13 - Lancaster, York 1-4
- Region 14 - Spartanburg 1-7
- Region 15 - Greenville*
- Region 16 - Anderson 4, 5; Pickens, Oconee

**Denotes single-district region.*

The executive director will serve as an ex-officio member of the board of directors without voting rights.

A South Carolina school board member serving on the governing board of ~~the National School Boards Association~~ The Consortium of State School

Boards Associations may also serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the board of directors. The board member may serve until the end of his/her tenure on the national board.

Article VIII – Officers

Section 5. President-elect

The president-elect will participate in the functions of the board of directors and will follow closely the duties of the president. The president-elect will perform all duties related to the office of president-elect including that of serving as chairman of the legislation ive committee and the training and convention committee.

Article X - Committees

Section 1. Standing committees

The president will appoint members from the board of directors to the following standing committees: legislation ive committee, finance committee, audit committee, awards committee, nominating committee, training and convention committee, and policy and constitution committee.

[illegible]

NOTES



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