



SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

2023

DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

HANDBOOK

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING • DECEMBER 2, 2023 • 2:00 PM. • CHARLESTON MARRIOTT



2023

DELEGATE ASSEMBLY HANDBOOK

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The Board of Directors is pleased

to present the 2023 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 2, 2023, 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 2 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 2. 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.

2023 Delegate Assembly Agenda

Saturday, December 2, 2023
2 p.m.

Gail Hughes, President, South Carolina School Boards Association, presiding

Call to Order	Gail Hughes <i>SCSBA President</i>
Pledge of Allegiance	Michele Branning <i>SCSBA President-elect</i>
Credentials Report	Charles Govan <i>SCSBA Secretary/Treasurer</i>
Approval of Agenda (page 2).....	Gail Hughes
Approval of 2022 Minutes (page 4).....	Gail Hughes
Approval of Rules of Procedure (page 12).....	Gail Hughes
2022-2023 Annual Report (page 15).....	Gail Hughes
Finance Committee Report	Charles Govan, Chair <i>SCSBA Finance Committee</i> <i>SCSBA Secretary/Treasurer</i>
Nominating Committee Report	Jamie Devine, Chair <i>SCSBA Nominating Committee</i> <i>SCSBA Immediate Past President</i>
Election of Officers and Directors	Gail Hughes
2024 Resolutions (pages 25-43).....	Michele Branning, Chair
Section 1 – Current Legislative Resolutions	<i>SCSBA Legislative Committee</i>
Section 2 – Proposed Resolution for Deletion	<i>SCSBA President-elect</i> and Helen McFadden, <i>Parliamentarian</i>
Installation of Officers and Directors	Jamie Devine
Adjournment	Michele Branning, <i>SCSBA President</i>

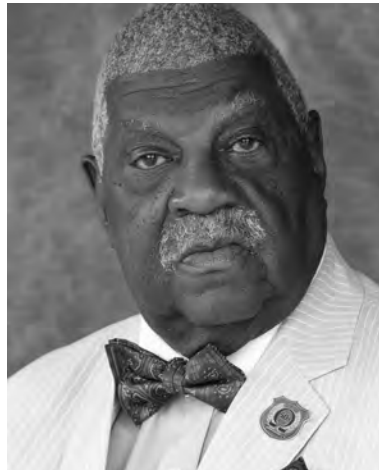
Executive Committee



Gail Hughes
President



Michele Branning
President-elect



Charles Govan
Secretary/Treasurer



Jamie Devine
Immediate Past President

Minutes of the 2022 Delegate Assembly

December 3, 2022

Time and place

The 2022 meeting of the South Carolina Schools Boards Association Delegate Assembly was held at the Charleston Marriott in Charleston, South Carolina, on December 3, 2022. President Jamie Devine called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. After welcoming the delegates, President Devine called on President-elect Gail Hughes to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Credentials report

SCSBA Secretary/Treasurer Michele Branning announced there were 109 delegates from 63 school boards present, which represented 86% of the 73-member school boards.

Approval of agenda

President Devine announced that the agenda needed to be amended to reflect that John DeLoach will serve as parliamentarian. The agenda as amended was approved by general consent.

Approval of minutes

The minutes from the 2021 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 John DeLoach to serve as parliamentarian for the 2022 Delegate Assembly and to conduct the resolutions portion of the meeting.



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



Darlene Roberson, Region 2
Director - Charleston



Michael Ramsey, Region
3 Director - Berkeley,
Georgetown

President's Report

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

Finance Committee Report

President Devine called upon SCSBA Secretary/Treasurer Michele Branning to present the Finance Committee Report. Secretary/Treasurer Branning 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 participation in SCSBA of the 73 school boards in the state for the 46th year in a row.

Nominating Committee Report

President Devine called on Cheryl Burgess, Immediate Past President and chair of the Nominating Committee, to present the Nominating Committee Report. Chairperson Burgess introduced the other members of the SCSBA Nominating Committee. The Chairperson reminded the delegates that the SCSBA Constitution calls for the president-elect to automatically become president upon the conclusion of the Delegate Assembly; therefore, Gail Hughes 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:

President-Elect..... Michele Branning (Fort Mill School District)
Secretary/TreasurerCharles Govan (Darlington County School District)
Director, Region 6 Rev. Dr. James Smith (Kershaw County School District)
Director, Region 10Hannah Priester (Hampton County School District)
Director, Region 14 Dr. Sarah Simmons (Spartanburg School District Two)

Chairperson Burgess moved for the adoption of the Nominating Committee Report. President Devine reminded the delegates that any candidate not slated by the committee wishing to run from the floor must have notified the President in writing of their intent 15 days prior to the Delegate Assembly. A nomination packet from Greenville for the Region 15 Director seat and two



Janet Graham, Region 4
Director - Horry



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

nomination packets for the Region 13 Director seat were received by the November 18 deadline. President Devine announced these two elections will be handled separately from the proposed slate on page 21. The motion to approve the Nominating Committee Report was passed by a voice vote.

The Greenville County Board of Trustees nominated Glenda Morrison-Fair as the Region 15 Director. Melvin Stroble from Lancaster County School District seconded the nomination. The vote passed by a voice vote. Glenda Morrison-Fair was elected as the SCSBA Region 15 Director representing Greenville County.

Nomination packets were timely submitted for Scott Childers from York One and Jessica Cody from Clover to run for the Region 13 Director seat. Tyrom Faulkner from Lancaster County School District seconded the nomination for Scott Childers, and Brenda Fort from Chester County School District seconded the nomination for Jessica Cody. Each candidate was given three minutes to speak, including anyone who may be speaking on their behalf. Following remarks from Scott Childers, Jessica Cody, and Ginger Marr, President Devine announced the voting instructions, and the Assembly stood at ease as ballots were being collected. After all ballots were collected, President Devine stated that after the votes had been counted, the winner would be announced later during the Delegate Assembly.

Legislative Committee Report

President Devine called on Gail Hughes, president-elect and chair of the Legislative Committee, to give the Legislative Committee Report. Chairperson Hughes introduced the other members of the SCSBA Legislative Committee. The Chairperson stated there were 33 current legislative resolutions numbered



Rev. Dr. James Smith, Region 6 Director - Chesterfield, Darlington, Kershaw, Lee, Marlboro



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



Dr. Monica Scott, Region 8 Director - Richland 1, 2

MINUTES

1-33 as found in Section 1. Section 2 contained one proposed resolution numbered 34 found on page 41. Chairperson Hughes turned the meeting over to John DeLoach, the Parliamentarian, to conduct the Resolutions portion of the meeting.

Parliamentarian John DeLoach announced that since the SCSBA Board of Directors submitted the report, no second was needed. Parliamentarian DeLoach stated it was the intent of the chair to call for a block vote for all proposed legislative resolutions in Section 1, which contained 33 Current Legislative Resolutions numbered 1-33. Terry Wilson from McMormick County School District asked that Legislative Resolutions 8, 26, and 33 be pulled for further discussion. Melvin Stroble from Lancaster County School District asked that Legislative Resolution 1 be pulled. LaShonda McFadden from Richland School District Two asked that Legislative Resolutions 1, 2, 14, and 15 be pulled. Parliamentarian DeLoach called for a block vote with the exception of numbers 1, 2, 8, 14, 15, 26, and 33; the vote passed by a voice vote.

Parliamentarian DeLoach called on Melvin Stroble to speak on Legislative Resolution number 1. Melvin Stroble asked for clarification on the Resolution; SCSBA Executive Director Scott Price explained the resolution. After clarification, Melvin Stroble proposed an amendment to the resolution. LaShonda McFadden from Richland School District Two proposed an amendment to the resolution. Discussion from Chuck Saylor from Greenville, Kevin Scully from Lexington-Richland Five, and LaShonda McFadden from Richland 2 ensued after Melvin Stroble's amendment. Parliamentarian DeLoach called for a voice vote on whether to adopt Legislative Resolution number 1 as amended by Stroble, which stated,



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



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



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

MINUTES

"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 work with the superintendent 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." The vote failed.

Parliamentarian DeLoach announced discussion was open for LaShonda McFadden's amendment to Resolution number 1. Terry Wilson from McCormick and Anne Marie Green from Lexington 2 discussed the amendment. A motion was made to call for the question; Melvin Stroble objected. John Griffith from Anderson 5, Gerdi Lake from Newberry, and Michelle Goodwin-Calwile from Greenville made comments. Parliamentarian DeLoach called for a vote on the current amendment amending language proposed by LaShonda McFadden. A voice vote was conducted, and Melvin Stroble called for a tabulated vote.

While the votes were being counted, Region 13 Director winner Scott Childers was announced.

The motion to amend language in the amendment was passed 169 to 75. The amendment was amended to read, "The board may delegate other staffing decisions to the superintendent with policies in place to assure equitable hiring, promotion, and dismissal practices." With there being no further discussion, parliamentarian DeLoach called for a vote to pass Resolution 1 as amended. The vote passed, and Legislative Resolution number 1 was adopted by voice vote.

Parliamentarian DeLoach called on LaShonda McFadden to discuss Legislative Resolution 2. LaShonda McFadden stated that Richland 2 does not support Resolution 2; there was no proposed amendment. Melvin Stroble asked



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



Scott Childers, Region 13
Director - Lancaster, York 1,
Clover, Rock Hill, Fort Mill



Dr. Sarah Simmons, Region
14 Director - Spartanburg 1-7

MINUTES

for clarification in the first sentence. Scott Price clarified the meaning. Parliamentarian DeLoach called for a vote, and Resolution number 2 was adopted.

Terry Wilson from McMormick spoke on Legislative Resolution number 8. Wilson proposed amending his offered amendment. This was seconded by Melvin Stroble. The vote to amend the amendment to read, "Any, and all, school boards affected by proposed incentives must approve tax incentives affecting school district revenue that are provided as incentives," passed by a voice vote. Clarification on the proposed amendment was asked by SCSBA Director of Governmental Relations Debbie Elmore. Terry Wilson clarified his intent, and discussion ensued. Terry Wilson withdrew his amendment, and Chuck Saylors from Greenville moved for Resolution 8 to be sent back to committee. His motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

LaShonda McFadden stated that Richland 2 does not support Resolution 14; there was no amendment proposed. The vote to adopt the resolution passed by a voice vote.

LaShonda McFadden stated that Richland 2 does not support Resolution 15; there was no amendment proposed. Scott Childers from York One and Melvin Stroble discussed the resolution. Dr. Christina Gwozdz from Beaufort proposed an amendment to the resolution. Discussion ensued. Kristy Spears from Fort Mill further amended the amendment. Parliamentarian DeLoach called for a vote on the amended amendment, and the vote passed. The voice vote to adopt Resolution number 15 passed.

As amended and approved, Resolution 15 (Impact fees) now reads: "SCSBA believes public school boards should be authorized to levy impact fees on new home and single-family and multi-family residential development."

Terry Wilson stated that there was no amendment for Resolution 26, and there was no further discussion. Resolution 26 was adopted by voice vote.

Terry Wilson did not speak to Resolution 33, and there was no discussion or amendment offered. Resolution 33 was adopted by voice vote.



Glenda Morrison-Fair,
Region 15 Director -
Greenville



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

Parliamentarian DeLoach called upon Debbie Elmore to offer a brief explanation on Recommended New Resolution 34 in Section 2. Randy Walker from Georgetown asked for clarification on the resolution. Parliamentarian DeLoach called for a voice vote, and Resolution 34 was adopted.

Parliamentarian DeLoach explained the rules for taking up resolutions from the floor. Item 1 was a proposed new resolution offered by the Beaufort County Board of Trustees. Parliamentarian DeLoach called for a voice vote to consider Item 1. Melvin Stroble called for Division of the House, and a tabulated voice was conducted. Parliamentarian DeLoach announced the results of the tabulated vote: 94 for and 151 against. The motion to consider the proposed new resolution failed to receive a two-thirds majority. Item 2 was a proposed new resolution offered by the McCormick County School Board of Trustees. Parliamentarian DeLoach called again for a voice vote to consider Item 2. Melvin Stroble called for Point of Order. Parliamentarian DeLoach called again for a voice vote to consider Item 2. Item 2 failed to receive a two-thirds majority and was not considered.

Proposed Constitution/Bylaw Changes

President Devine called upon Mary Ulmer, Region 7 Director and Chair of the Policy and Constitution Committee, to give the Policy and Constitution Committee report. Chairperson Ulmer recognized the members of the committee. Chairperson Ulmer noted that the board of directors adopted the committee's report allowing the recommendations to come before the Delegate Assembly. Chairperson Ulmer discussed that the committee and board of directors recommend several edits, including changing the word "legislation" to "legislative" to reflect the proper name of the committee in Article 5, Section 8; in Article 6, Section 8 changing the names of Clarendon 2, 4, Florence 1-5, Bamberg 1, 2, and Barnwell 19, 29 to Clarendon, Florence 1, 2, 3, and 5, Bamberg, and Barnwell respectively to reflect consolidations; changing National School Boards Association to The Consortium of State School Boards Associations to reflect current membership; and changing the word "legislation" to "legislative" to reflect the proper name of the committee in Article 8, Section 5 and Article 10, Section 1. President Devine explained that a two-thirds vote was needed for adoption of the amendments to the SCSBA Constitution. President Devine called for a vote, and the proposed amendments were adopted by a voice vote.

Installation of Directors and Officers

President Devine called upon Immediate Past President Cheryl Burgess to conduct the installation of officers. President Devine 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:

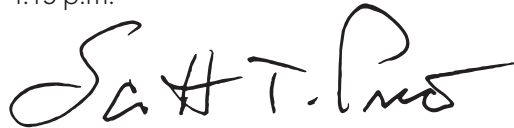
President..... Gail Hughes (Dorchester Two board)
President-elect..... Michele Branning (Fort Mill board)
Secretary/Treasurer Charles Govan (Darlington County board)
Region 6 Director..... Rev. Dr. James Smith (Kershaw County board)
Region 10 Director Hannah Priester (Hampton County board)
Region 13 Director Scott Childers (York One board)
Region 14 Director Dr. Sarah Simmons (Spartanburg Two board)
Region 15 Director Glenda Morrison-Fair (Greenville County board)

President Devine then recognized outgoing Board of Directors members Cindy Bohn Coats from Charleston County School District, Amelia McKie from Richland Two, Robin Owens from Rock Hill Schools (York Three), Lisa Wells from Greenville County Schools, and Travis Sloan from Spartanburg School District One (none were in attendance). President Devine then recognized Immediate Past President Cheryl Burgess from Lexington 3, who was leaving the Board of Directors. President Devine presented Burgess with a plaque and thanked her for her service to SCSBA.

President Devine introduced Gail Hughes as the new president of the South Carolina School Boards Association. President Hughes then presented the President's Plaque to Past President Devine and thanked him for his service to SCSBA.

Adjournment

With no further business, President Hughes declared the 2022 Delegate Assembly of the South Carolina School Boards Association adjourned at 4:15 p.m.



Scott T. Price, Esquire, Executive Director

Assembly Rules of 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 of 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.

2022–2023 Annual Report

The 2022-2023 school year was one that presented distinct challenges for South Carolina's public schools and school boards. From navigating consolidations and dodging hurricanes, to addressing the teacher shortage, student and staff mental health and well-being, and the never-ending discussion on education funding, school boards have chartered difficult territory with pronounced success.

With the goal of every student being successful, the school districts' educational team of school boards and superintendents are working together to ensure that quality teachers are in classrooms, new funding formulas crafted by the General Assembly are understood and navigated, and that parents, students, and local communities are engaged. We work better – and more effectively – when we work together.

It is against this backdrop that the South Carolina School Boards Association (SCSBA) and its membership are proudly partnering with the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) for local governments to lead the way on modeling civility in our respective communities.

SCSBA in the past few years has put a notable professional development emphasis on civility in the boardroom, and you, our members, have responded enthusiastically! What better way to strengthen our foundations of advocacy for public schools than through a commitment by local school boards to engage in civil discourse.

As we head into the second year of the 125th S.C. General Assembly, SCSBA is committed to being the strongest advocate for public schools and public-school students. SCSBA will continue to provide relevant training, communications, policy/legal, and advocacy services to enhance your knowledge and advocacy efforts concerning the legislative agenda and landscape.

We appreciate your membership in SCSBA and are excited to be on this journey with you. Your association with SCSBA matters! We have outlined some of our efforts to promote and support local school boards this past year, none of which would have been possible without your continued commitment to serve. Thank you for all you do to further our mission together to be the voice for YOU and thereby the voice for public education in South Carolina!



Scott Price, Esquire,
Executive Director

COMMUNICATIONS — WITH THE HEART OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS IN MIND

- SCSBA amped up its **Civility Initiative** with its first ever, one-day intensive training titled, “Bringing Civility to Verbal Conflict,” made possible by the partnership between SCSBA and the MASC. This training replaced the association’s annual Beyond the Basics training and was one of many aspects of an ongoing public relations plan, which includes promotion through media relations, digital and print media, training offerings and other awareness means to and through the association’s internal and external stakeholders.
- SCSBA has launched a monthly podcast, **The Voice of School Boards**, to keep its membership informed concerning association news and issues impacting public education. The podcast’s subscribers hail primarily from the U.S. but also include listeners from Mexico, New Zealand and the United Kingdom; the preponderance of them are between the ages of 35 and 59. Guests have included S.C. Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver, S.C. Teachers and Superintendents of the Year, the State Board of Education chair, board members and an SCSBA past president.
- SCSBA relaunched its **Board Member Profile Campaign** to publicize school board members’ service outside the board room. This year’s focus is on civility. From patient care and hospital administration to non-profit organization leadership and affordable housing provision, school board members have shared stories of how they invest their time and resources toward the betterment of their constituencies every day in nearly every way.
- SCSBA began conducting one-on-one digitally recorded interviews with a sampling of board members during its conferences. It is yet another way to determine the effectiveness of the training provided at this and other conferences and learn of ways in which board members have taken back strategies, processes and programs to be implemented in their respective districts. Additionally, SCSBA engagement with those who are present and those who may not have attended, but are interested in making an impact where they serve, has been enhanced. The **Video Vignettes and Photographed Testimonials** are shared across various SCSBA platforms, including the Regional Directors’ reports, which are emailed at the conclusion of each conference.
- To provide a more efficient service to its membership, SCSBA has begun to upgrade its **Database System** within the same company it has employed for several years. The database company has taken the foundation and used it to build a more robust system with significant enhancements in the overall management experience, with the association’s membership specifically in mind.



Angela Crosland, M.Ed.,
Director of Communications

- SCSBA launched an **Instagram account** for its membership with an ever-increasing following. It serves as another way for engagement between the association and its membership.
- The year 2025 will mark the **75th Anniversary** of the formation of SCSBA and the planning has already begun. SCSBA has conducted interviews with five of the most senior past presidents of the association and facilitated the production of a video honoring the association's growth and development. Highlights will be shared at conferences throughout 2024.
- SCSBA continued its "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 in governing their local public schools. Governor Henry McMaster also signed a resolution officially declaring January School Board Recognition Month in South Carolina.
- School boards across the state signed poster-sized copies of SCSBA's **Ethical Principles** during the month of January. This project served as a public gesture by school boards to uphold effective governance principles.
- **Champions for Public Education Awards** were granted to community groups and individuals across the state during local school board meetings throughout the year. These awards recognize community residents, organizations and local businesses whose support of and contributions to public education have significantly benefited school districts.
- During its annual **Graduation Blitz**, SCSBA mailed a yard sign congratulating graduates to be placed on the district office lawn and emailed an electronic version of the sign to each board member to be printed and shared across social media platforms to show support for their 2023 graduates.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT — KEEPING YOU AHEAD OF THE CURVE

- SCSBA recognized school board members throughout the state for achieving one of six levels in the 2022-2023 year with certificates of achievement and a lapel pin designating their level of accomplishment in the Boardmanship Institute.
- SCSBA recognized seven school board members for achieving level 6, the highest recognition in the Boardmanship Institute. To qualify, level 6 recipients must earn at least 300 points for participation in training sessions and pass a written exam.
- SCSBA staff visited several 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 — #SCHOOLBOARDSTRONG

The 125th session of the South Carolina General Assembly was nonstop as lawmakers returned to the State House in 2023 eager to dig into a mountain of legislative bill ideas and budget proposals touted during the 2022 election. The House welcomed 27 new members, which is the third highest number of freshmen lawmakers. The elections also meant a reorganization of House leadership including Rep. Shannon Erickson as chair of the Education and Public Works Committee and Rep. Bruce Bannister as chair of the Ways and Means Committee. SCSBA governmental relations staff, no less deter-

mined to meet the moment, advocated for the needs and concerns of governing boards and kept members up to date on K12 legislation as it was pre-filed, filed, and moved through the legislative process. Of the hundreds of K12 bills that were pre-filed before the session and filed throughout the session, 14 bills that directly or indirectly impact schools were signed into law.

Lobbying and advocacy efforts at the State House resulted in \$2,500 increase in teacher pay to the state minimum salary schedule and additional revenue for K12 education through a new funding formula introduced during the FY 2022 budget process as a budget proviso. Highlights of the funding to schools include the following:

- \$324.3 million for State Aid to Classrooms (\$172.9 million from general fund and \$151.4 million in Education Improvement Act (EIA) funds)
- \$17.3 million for bus driver pay increase (20% state contribution)
- \$2.24 million for 4K program
- \$3 million in EIA funds to increase the teacher supplies stipend from \$300 to \$350 per teacher
- \$120 million for capital funding for schools (\$10 million for a local district consolidating schools or with other districts and \$20 million for facilities upgrades aligned with school safety priorities)
- \$121.5 million to help fund the employee increase for the state health insurance premium increase
- \$40.1 million for a 1 percent state retirement employer contribution increase
- \$30 million for instructional materials

Also, the South Carolina Department of Education was allocated \$2 million to set up and implement in 2024, the state's education voucher program known as the Education Scholarship Trust Fund. The program will provide a \$6,000 scholarship for up to 15,000 eligible students to pay approved expenses to



Debbie Elmore, *Director of Governmental Relations*

attend a private school, another public school district or through alternative routes.

It was another exciting year of hearing from lawmakers during our Annual Legislative Advocacy Conference. Regional Advocacy Meetings focused on strengthening school board advocacy efforts with lawmakers, and the Day at the Capitol event had board members advocating for funding and legislation impacting K12 schools.

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.

POLICY AND LEGAL SERVICES — EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE STARTS HERE

- The Policy and Legal Services department provides training at SCSBA conferences and onsite to districts in specialized areas such as Boardmanship 101, FOIA, Parliamentary Procedures and Meeting Management, Policy Revisions, and other topics by request. This year the department provided eight training sessions.
- The Policy and Legal Services department also provides review and feed back 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, policy audits, policy reviews, and policy manual re-coding work. Drafts for two standard manual revisions, one consolidated manual revision, and one section revision were completed in the past year. SCSBA is working with those districts on final review and posting of their approved policies.

- Following some consolidations, we have 67 districts and special schools currently utilizing online policy manuals.
- The Policy and Legal Services department also facilitates programming and training for South Carolina school law attorneys statewide. This year the department hosted two continuing legal education (CLE) days for these attorneys.



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

**SCSBIT — THE INSURANCE PARTNER
SCHOOLS TRUST. SINCE 1984**

- The South Carolina School Boards Insurance Trust (SCSBIT) continues to serve the majority of school districts for both property and casualty coverage and workers' compensation coverage.
- The Property & Casualty Trust currently insures approximately \$21.7 billion in school properties and serves 443,654 students. The Property & Casualty Trust currently has 47 school district customers plus career and consortium entities, bringing the total membership to 59. 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. Charleston School District's property coverage is placed separately from the rest of the 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 6/30/2022 for the property and casualty trust fund reflect a net position of \$51.1 million with revenue exceeding expenses by \$3,535,582 for the fiscal year, which ended 6/30/2022. The audited financial statements for 6/30/2023 were not available at the time of this report.
- The Workers' Compensation Trust currently insures approximately \$3.1 billion in payroll, which reflects a 5% increase in covered payroll compared to the previous year. The Workers' Compensation Trust has a total of 60 member customers. The latest audited financials on 6/30/2022 for the workers' compensation trust fund reflect a net position of \$57.2 million with the change being a decrease of \$5.5 million. Over the life of the Workers' Compensation Trust, \$12.5 million has been returned to member districts in the form of loyalty premium coupons. The audited financial statements for 6/30/2023 were not available at the time of this report.
- School districts across the state received \$793,242 for Workers' Compensation Risk Control Grants for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The grants, which 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 began a business partnership with STOPit Solutions in July 2019, which is an added asset provided for free to member districts with the Property & Casualty Trust. STOPit Solutions is an anonymous reporting program to ensure student and school safety. This program empowers students and



Lyde Graham, CPM, *Director of Insurance Services*

ANNUAL REPORT

employees to speak up about behavior like bullying, misconduct, and mental health issues. STOPit includes a powerful incident management system, giving administrators investigative tools, such as real-time alerts, built-in reports, and the ability to communicate directly with incident submitters. Member districts continue to sign up to participate in the successful program.

- SCSBIT member districts participated in the annual Risky Business Seminar on October 26-28, 2022. The seminar was held at the Sonesta Resort on Hilton Head Island and featured experts discussing topics related to managing risk and reducing the frequency and cost of claims.
- SCSBIT continues to keep its qualified and professional staff. Lyde Graham joined SCSBA as director of SCSBIT effective April 3, 2023. Lyde replaced Steve Mann, who retired after eight years. Tim Hinson was named Assistant Director of Risk Control effective July 1, 2023. Tim joined SCSBIT's risk control division in 2007 and was promoted to manager in 2016.
- SCSBIT currently has a 98% client retention rate and remains the choice of school districts across the state of South Carolina.
- SCSBIT continues to offer exceptional service and provides a complete insurance program for South Carolina school districts. Building quality relationships and reaching out to our member school districts when needed is the goal of the SCSBIT Team. SCSBIT continues to be the insurance partner schools trust.



Melissa Donald, *Director of Finance*

Statement of financial position

As of June 30, 2023

Assets	June 30, 2023
Current assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 782,627
Accounts receivable	3,182
Investments	7,057,633
Accrued interest receivable	41,340
Prepaid expenses and other assets	146,210
Total current assets	\$ 8,030,992
Property and equipment	
Land	\$ 215,713
Land improvements	187,779
Building and improvements	3,307,350
Furniture and office equipment	486,007
Vehicles	42,718
Total property and equipment	4,239,567
Less accumulated depreciation	(2,400,849)
Net property and equipment	1,838,718
Total assets	\$ 9,869,710
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current liabilities	
Accounts payable	41,751
Other accrued expenses	222,276
Mortgage payable - current portion	129,687
OPEB liability - current portion	10,017
Total current liabilities	\$ 403,731
Mortgage payable - long-term portion	1,288,739
OPEB liability - long-term portion	1,588,721
Total long-term liabilities	2,877,460
Total liabilities	\$ 3,281,191
Net assets	
Net assets without donor restrictions	6,131,409
Net assets with donor restrictions	457,110
Total net assets	6,588,519
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 9,869,710

Statement of activities**June 30, 2023****June 30, 2023****Revenue**

Membership dues	\$ 1,531,268
Conferences and meetings	530,386
Policy services	260,685
Investment income	99,751
457 Plan investment income	340
Consulting	58,704
Publication sales and advertising	9,900
Administrative fees	3,330,486
Other income	8,322

Total revenue**\$ 5,829,842****Expenses**

Program services:

Member services	\$ 3,354,621
Conferences, meetings and training seminars	654,813
Policy and other services	576,268

Total program services**\$ 4,585,702**

General and administrative expenses	1,035,647
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Total expenses**\$ 5,621,349**

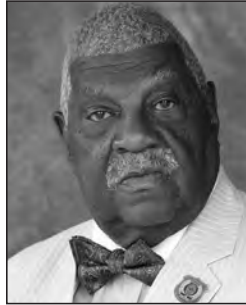
Increase in net assets	208,493
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Net assets, beginning of year	6,380,026
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Net assets, end of year**\$ 6,588,519**

Proposed slate of officers and directors

The SCSBA Board of Directors presents this slate of officers and directors for 2023-2024. Officers serve one-year terms. Directors serve four-year terms representing regions containing similar numbers of students.



Charles Govan
President-elect
Current: Secretary/Treasurer



Darlene Roberson
Region 2 Director
Charleston County School District



Gary Porth
Region 7 Director
Calhoun County School District



Glenda Morrison-Fair
Region 15 Director
Greenville County School District



Tim Rhodes
Secretary/Treasurer
Current: Region 11 Director



Kathy Anderson
Region 3 Director
Georgetown County School District



Cheryl Harris
Region 8 Director
Richland One

Guide to 2024 SCSBA Legislative Resolutions

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South Carolina School Boards Association Legislative Resolutions for 2024

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 may delegate 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, 2022

2. 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

3. **Broadband expansion statewide (*amend as indicated*)**

SCSBA believes ~~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 is critical.

Rationale: The need to teach and learn remotely 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. 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 more work is needed to ensure all citizens in the state have effective and reliable internet access.

History: adopted 2020; revised 2022, 2023

4. **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

5. **Consolidation**

SCSBA believes in consolidation or deconsolidation of school districts provided that in each district affected a majority of the board of trustees supports the consolidation or deconsolidation.

Rationale: A major consolidation of South Carolina school districts took place in the early 1950s. Since 2019, 15 small, rural districts have consolidated into six larger systems. Currently, there are 73 school districts ranging in size from 1,430 to 76,900 students. 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

6. 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

7. Economic development tax incentives

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. Incentives that would directly or indirectly erode revenues for school district operations or debt service should require approval by the school district board of trustees for inclusion in any incentives package.

Rationale: School districts 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 economic development incentives, such as fee-in-lieu of taxes and multi-county industrial parks. 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

8. 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

9. Education funding reform

SCSBA believes that the state's education funding structure 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. The method of fully funding public education in South Carolina 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.

Rationale: An in-depth review of our state’s tax system and how public education is funded is long overdue. The funding structure 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

10. 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 (EEA). The EOC has served a useful purpose in overseeing implementation of the EEA, 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

11. Fiscal autonomy/affairs

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. In South Carolina, the taxing authority of school boards varies to include limited taxing authority, taxing authority that is capped, or no taxing authority. 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

12. Full funding of education mandates (*rationale amended*)

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 K-12 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, 2023

13. 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

14. Impact fees

SCSBA believes public school boards should be authorized to levy impact fees on new single-family and multi-unit residential developments.

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

15. 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

16. Local governance of school districts (*amend as indicated*)

SCSBA believes in the preservation of local decision-making in the governance of school districts by opposing efforts that limit or remove authority and autonomy in key governance areas.

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 can exercise appropriate governance in areas including, but not limited to, local policy, curriculum and instruction, health and safety and student discipline, 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, 2023

17. Local legislation

SCSBA believes members of the General Assembly, prior to giving second reading to any local legislation, should be required to notify the local affected school board 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 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

18. 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

19. 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

20. Mental health services

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 of students by the Annie E. Casey Foundation in 2020. The 2022 Kids Data by the S.C. Joint Committee on Children cites suicide as the leading cause of death for children between ages 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 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

21. Nonpartisan election of school board members

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

Rationale: Nationally, nearly all school boards are elected. In South Carolina, there are only two, partisan-elected school boards in Horry County and Lee County. 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 on their qualifications, merits, experience, and platform, no matter their political party affiliation.

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

22. 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

23. Realignment/reclassification of athletics-based schools

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 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.

History: adopted 2022

24. Retired teacher salary cap (*amend as indicated*)

SCSBA ~~supports~~ believes the ~~elimination of the~~ salary cap for retired classroom teachers who return to work must be eliminated as one measure to address the teacher shortage crisis.

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, 2023

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 (*amend as indicated*)

SCSBA believes in ~~opposes~~ opposing 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. These actions often raise constitutional issues. 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; revised 2023

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 number 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 can 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. 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

SCSBA believes the state should fully fund raising teacher pay to the national average 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 (*amended as indicated*)

SCSBA ~~supports~~ believes in 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 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; revised 2023

33. Tuition tax credits and vouchers (*amended as indicated*)

SCSBA believes in strongly ~~oppose~~ opposing 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.

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, 2023

Section 2: Proposed resolution for deletion

34. ~~Board member legal actions (recommend deletion)~~

~~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,~~

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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

[illegible]



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