

SOUTH CAROLINA  
SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

2025

ANNUAL  
CONVENTION

Feb. 19-22, 2026

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SOUTH CAROLINA  
SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

2022

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CONVENTION

Feb. 19-22, 2026

EMBASSY SUITES AT KINGSTON RESORTS  
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# SCSBA President's Welcome

## ***Welcome to the South Carolina School Boards Association's 2026 Annual Convention!***



Welcome to the South Carolina School Boards Association's 2026 Annual Convention! On behalf of the SCSBA Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Association's most well-attended and anticipated event of the year. This gathering brings together school board members from across the state for a weekend rich with meaningful learning, collaboration and connection.

This year's convention features a dynamic lineup of presenters and trainers who will address the evolving responsibilities and challenges of school board service. From effective governance and leadership to education equity and community engagement, the sessions are designed to strengthen our collective capacity and, most importantly, support improved outcomes for the students we serve.

My mantra as president is *Board Members as Drum Majors of Unity: Elected. Connected. #Period.* Whether advocating, legislating, or setting policy, our work is strongest when it is done together and with students at the center of every decision. I challenge you this weekend to learn something new, return to your district and put it into practice for the benefit of your community—while always honoring the privilege and responsibility entrusted to us as school board members. Your influence extends far beyond what you may realize, so make it count.

I also encourage you to visit the convention Trade Show, where our valued partners will share innovative ideas and resources to support your work. Throughout the weekend, follow SCSBA on Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter) and share your experiences using the hashtag **#SCSBA2026AC**.

I wish you a productive, inspiring and memorable convention.

### **Tim Rhodes**

*SCSBA President*

*Abbeville County School Board Chair*



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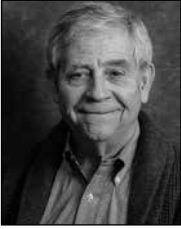
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# Agenda at a Glance

## Thursday, Feb. 19

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Board Chair Workshop** - Kensington C

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**New Board Orientation** - Windsor BC

4:30 - 7 p.m.

**Convention registration** - Windsor foyer

## Friday, Feb. 20

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

**Beverage break** - Kensington DEF

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Registration** - Windsor foyer

7:30 - 11 a.m.

**Trade show** - Kensington DEF & Cambridge hall

8:30 - 10 a.m.

**First general session** - Kensington ABCG

10 - 11 a.m.

**Refreshment break** - Kensington DEF

11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

**Second general session** - Kensington ABCG

12:15 - 1:30 p.m.

**Lunch on your own** - For your convenience, Coastal Grill and Black Drum will offer lunch. Coastal Grill is located to the left of the hotel guest registration. Black Drum is located outside behind the pool deck.

12:15 - 3:30 p.m.

**Trade show** - Kensington DEF and Cambridge hall

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

**Breakout sessions** (Choose one of five topics) - Eton, Kensington AB, Kensington C, Oxford, Winchester

2:30 - 3 p.m.

**Refreshment break** - Kensington DEF

3 - 4 p.m.

**Breakout sessions** (Choose one of five topics) - Eton, Kensington AB, Kensington C, Oxford, Winchester

# Agenda at a Glance

## Saturday, Feb. 21

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

**Beverage break** - *Kensington DEF*

7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Registration** - *Windsor foyer*

7:30 - 11:30 a.m.

**Trade show** - *Kensington DEF and Cambridge hall*

8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

**Third general session** - *Kensington ABCG*

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

**Refreshment break** - *Kensington DEF*

**Door prize winners posted** - *Kensington DEF*

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Breakout sessions** (Choose one of four topics) -  
*Eton, Kensington AB, Kensington C, Oxford*

12:30 - 1:45 p.m.

**Lunch on your own** - For your convenience, Coastal Grill and Black Drum will offer lunch. Coastal Grill is located to the left of the hotel guest registration. Black Drum is located outside behind the pool deck.

2 - 3 p.m.

**Breakout sessions** (Choose one of three topics) -  
*Eton, Kensington AB, Kensington C*

3:15 - 4:15 p.m.

**SC Caucus of Black School Board Members meeting** (Open to all convention participants) -  
*Kensington C*

5 - 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday evening reception** - *Kensington DEF*

## Sunday, Feb. 22

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

**Beverage break** - *Westminster hallway*

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

**Closing general session** - *Kensington ABCG*



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# Registration & Information

Everyone attending the convention must be a member of SCSBA and must register for the convention, including participants, guests, directors, and officers. Exhibitors do not need to register; they are pre-registered for the trade show only.

The convention registration desk serves as an information center. The SCSBA staff will be happy to help with any questions or concerns.

## Registration hours

Thursday, 4:30 - 7 p.m.

Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

## Name badge

Your name badge verifies your registration and must be worn at all times.

## Breakfast

Convention attendees staying in the Embassy Suites and Kingston Plantation Condos & Villas will receive a complimentary full breakfast Thursday through Sunday at the Embassy Suites' Coastal Grill beginning at 7 a.m. Guests staying at the Hilton will receive a breakfast voucher for the Café Amalfi restaurant.

## Lunch

On Friday and Saturday, lunch will be on your own. For your convenience, Coastal Grill and Black Drum will offer lunch. Coastal Grill is located to the left of the hotel guest registration. Black Drum is located outside behind the pool deck.

## Trade show hours

Visit the exhibit area to see the latest in education products and services. Many vendors offer demonstrations, samples, and door prizes! The participation and support of exhibitors and sponsors help to underwrite convention costs and are greatly appreciated. The last chance to register for exhibit door prizes is 8:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Friday, 7:30 - 11 a.m. and 12:15 - 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, 7:30 - 11:30 a.m.

## Door prize opportunities

Join other attendees in the exhibit area during the Saturday morning refreshment break when many exhibitors give away door prizes. Names of prize



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# Registration & Information

winners are displayed on the bulletin board in the exhibit area. Winners can claim their prize by bringing the form displaying their name to the exhibitor's booth. All door prizes must be claimed by 11 a.m. on Saturday.

Winners of door prizes being awarded during the Saturday evening reception and the Sunday morning general session must be present to claim their prize.

Participate in the vendor signature game and become eligible for two \$100 cash prize drawings during Sunday's general session. Look for the vendor signature sheet in your convention tote bag, obtain a signature from the vendors, and return the completed sheet to the registration desk by Saturday at 12:30 p.m.

## **Policy Services annual drawing**

SCSBA Policy and Legal Services' annual drawing for one non-subscribing district to win a waiver of the one-time start-up fee (\$4,175) for online policy services and/or one subscribing district to win a free year of annual maintenance fees (\$1,950) will be held at Sunday's general session. You must be present to win. Please write your name and list your district on the flyer provided in your registration packet. Then, take the perforated portion to the registration table for entry.

## **Boardmanship Institute credit**

### **Board Chair Workshop**

5 points and 5 hours of training

### **New Board Orientation**

5 points and 5 hours of training

### **Annual Convention**

10 points and 10 hours of training

## **scsba mission statement**

The mission of SCSBA is to be the leading advocate for quality public education and equip school boards through training and services.



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# Registration & Information

## Student performances

Various student performance groups will showcase their talents throughout the convention.

### Friday morning

Velvet Roar, *Williamsburg County School District*

### Saturday morning

Advanced Chamber Chorus, *Anderson School District Five*

### Sunday morning

Leopard Women's Chorus, *Kershaw County School District*

Brown's Ferry Elementary Marching Band, *Georgetown County School District*

## 2026 Events

April 22, 2026

**Day at the Capitol**, *Columbia, S.C.*

June 4, 2026

**New Board Orientation, Make-up**, *Columbia, S.C.*

Aug. 29 – 30, 2026

**School Law**, *Greenville, S.C.*

Oct. 8, 2026

**Beyond the Basics**, *Columbia, S.C.*

Oct. 14 – 16, 2026

**Risky Business**, *Hilton Head, S.C.*

Dec. 5 – 6, 2026

**Legislative Advocacy Conference & Delegate Assembly**, *Charleston, S.C.*

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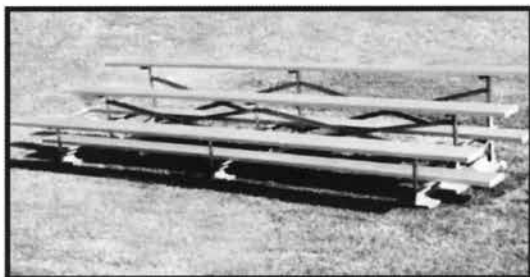
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# Keynote speakers

## **Anne Marie Anderson**

*Author, three-time Emmy Award-winning broadcaster and keynote speaker*



Anne Marie Anderson is a three-time Emmy Award-winning broadcaster, keynote speaker and author. Fresh out of college, Anderson walked through ESPN's doors to begin a career that led her into the boardrooms and locker rooms of some of the most successful franchises in sports.

Drawing on behind-the-scenes access to high-performing coaches, athletes and executives, Anderson adopted their willingness to take bold—and sometimes surprising—risks in her own personal and professional life. The knowledge and experience she gained through a series of unexpected career moves led her to become one of the most experienced female play-by-play announcers in the country.

In *Cultivating Audacity*, Anderson shares the system she developed to find the courage to confront hesitation and break down barriers that stood between her and the life she wanted. Known for delivering keynotes that are both humorous and heartfelt, she connects with audiences through the power of storytelling.

## **Former Gov. David M. Beasley**

*International humanitarian, peacemaker and reformer*



David Beasley is a distinguished leader, humanitarian and former governor of South Carolina (1995–1999). He most recently served as executive director of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) from 2017 to April 2023, having been nominated by two U.S. presidential administrations from different parties and appointed by the UN secretary-general.

Under Beasley's leadership, WFP became the world's largest humanitarian organization,



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# Keynote speakers

assisting more than 160 million people in 2022 alone and raising more than \$55 billion to combat global hunger. In 2020, he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of WFP for its efforts to provide food assistance in conflict areas and prevent food from being used as a weapon of war.

In his Oslo acceptance speech on Dec. 10, 2021, he remarked:

“We have learned that there is great richness in those who are seen, in the eyes of the world, as ‘the poor.’ And many of us who are considered ‘rich’ are actually poor in the things that matter most.”

## **Elizabeth “Liz” Huntley**

*Attorney, speaker, author and advocate*

Elizabeth “Liz” Huntley is an accomplished litigation attorney, dedicated child advocate, author and speaker. She is president and cofounder of the Hope Institute, an Alabama-based organization that helps schools build cultures of character for students. Huntley practices law at Lightfoot, Franklin & White LLC in Birmingham, Alabama.



She serves on numerous civic boards, commissions and task forces across Alabama and the nation. Huntley regularly speaks to audiences throughout the United States, often sharing insights from her memoir, *More Than a Bird*.

Huntley earned her law degree from the University of Alabama School of Law, where she serves on the Law School Foundation Board of Governors. She received her undergraduate degree from Auburn University and is a member of the Auburn University Board of Trustees. She and her husband, Tony, live in Alabama with their three children.



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# Keynote speakers

## **Sarita Maybin**

*International speaker,  
communication expert and  
author*



Sarita Maybin is a dynamic and seasoned speaker known for empowering audiences to transform uncomfortable conversations into constructive communication. With more than two decades of experience as an international speaker and communication expert, Maybin has shared her insights in all 50 states, 10 countries—including Iceland—and on the TEDx stage.

She blends real stories, practical solutions and a relatable presence to engage audiences and inspire positive action. Her universal message has resonated with a diverse range of clients, including the American Dental Association, Million Dollar Round Table, National Conference of State Legislatures, the Department of the Navy, the University of California and seven state school boards associations.

Drawing on her background as a former university dean of students and her master's degree in counseling, Maybin shares strategies for enhanced collaboration and communication. She is the author of *If You Can't Say Something Nice, What DO You Say?* and *Say What You Mean in a Nice Way*, continuing her mission to foster positive dialogue.

## **Dr. Shawn D. Foster**

*Superintendent, Orangeburg  
County School District*



Dr. Shawn D. Foster is a distinguished educational leader and author of the inspirational leadership memoir *Knee Deep: Dying to Lead*. With more than two decades of experience in school and district transformation, Dr. Foster serves as superintendent of Orangeburg County School District (OCSD), where he is committed to advancing academic excellence, equity and innovation.

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# Keynote speakers

Under his leadership, OCSD has experienced significant transformation in instructional practices and student opportunities. He has championed initiatives to improve educational outcomes and ensure all students receive a rigorous, high-quality learning experience.

Dr. Foster led efforts to secure a \$190 million bond referendum, supplemented by an additional \$40 million investment and a 90-acre land donation to support new schools and modernized facilities. His visionary leadership has positioned OCSD as a member of the national League of Innovative Schools.

He influences statewide and national education policy through service on the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Superintendents' Roundtable, the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee and the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching Advisory Board. He is also a Riley Institute Diversity Fellow and a Racial Equity Leadership Network Fellow through the Southern Education Foundation.

Dr. Foster has received numerous honors, including being named the 2025 3A/2A/1A Superintendent of the Year by the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association and the 2026 South Carolina State Superintendent of the Year by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators.

## **Corey Bedenbaugh**

*Social studies teacher, Batesburg-Leesville Middle School (Lexington School District Three)*

Corey Bedenbaugh is an eighth-grade social studies teacher at Batesburg-Leesville Middle School and a dedicated educator who believes great teachers do more than teach—they inspire.



An 11-year teaching veteran, Bedenbaugh serves as a statewide ambassador for the teaching profession, inspiring future educators and mentoring teachers across South Carolina. He has taught at both Batesburg-Leesville Middle School in Lexington School District Three and Pelion Middle

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# Keynote speakers

School, demonstrating a consistent commitment to shaping young minds.

Bedenbaugh founded Bow Ties with Bedenbaugh, a mentorship club for young men, and also coaches the JV girls basketball team, promoting teamwork, leadership and resilience among student-athletes.

## **Ellen Weaver**

*S.C. Superintendent of Education*

Born and raised in South Carolina, Ellen knows firsthand the sacrifices families make to give their children a brighter future.

Her own path—reading with her mom and great-grandmother, working alongside her dad on construction sites, graduating from an outstanding public school, and serving on the staff of U.S. Senator Jim DeMint—taught her the power of faith, integrity, hard work, and standing firm for what she believes.



In 2013, Ellen founded the Palmetto Promise Institute to champion common-sense, conservative solutions that expand opportunity for her fellow South Carolinians. She also made history as the first female chair of the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee.

Today, as State Superintendent of Education, she has turned vision into action—implementing evidence-based reading instruction grounded in phonics, leading the charge for phone-free classrooms, investing in safer schools and buses, and partnering with parents to restore trust and transparency in education.

Ellen's guiding belief is simple: hope is not passive—it's an action plan. With a listening ear, a strong backbone, and a laser focus on excellence, she works each day to ensure every child graduates ready for college, career, or military service. When education rises, South Carolina rises.



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# Schedule: Thursday - Friday

## Thursday, Feb. 19

8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Board Chair Workshop** - Kensington C

 Co-sponsored by  
**Halligan Mahoney & Williams, P.A.**

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**New Board Orientation** - Windsor BC

 Co-sponsored by **SSOE, Inc.**

4:30 - 7 p.m.

**Convention registration** - Windsor Foyer

## Friday, February 20

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

**Beverage break** - Kensington DEF

 Co-sponsored by  
**Halligan Mahoney & Williams, P.A.**

7:30 - 11 a.m.

**Trade show** - Kensington DEF & Cambridge hall

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Registration** - Windsor foyer

8:30 - 10 a.m.

**First general session** - Kensington ABCG

### **Welcome and Purpose**

Tim Rhodes, SCSBA President, Abbeville County School District

### **Presentation of Colors**

JROTC cadets, Marion High School

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Introduction of SCSBA Board of Directors**

### **Student Performance**

Velvet Roar, Williamsburg County School District

### **Introduction of keynote speaker**

Tim Rhodes, SCSBA President, Abbeville County School District

### **The Moment of Impact: Understanding Your**

**Influence:** Between navigating the cluttered social and political agendas, increased community involvement and heavy rates of attrition, it can be easy to lose sight of the



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# Schedule: Friday

powerful and positive influence of a healthy school board. Reconnect with how what you do matters and the impact it has on the future, the family, and the community. When all the noise tries to distract you from your purpose, this deeply personal keynote reminds you how your often unsung efforts can change not only the course of a student's life but that of the entire family.

**Anne Marie Anderson**, *Author, three-time Emmy Award winning broadcaster and keynote speaker*

10 – 11 a.m.

**Refreshment break** - Kensington DEF

▶ Co-sponsored by **White Story & Hicks, LLC**

11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

**Second general session** - Kensington ABCG

**Welcome and Introduction**

**Scott Childers**, *SCSBA Secretary/Treasurer, York School District 1*

**Greetings from the State Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver**

**Feeding the Body and the Mind is the Pathway to Peace:**

In a stirring keynote, David Beasley lays bare the quiet yet devastating toll of war and upheaval: children who go to class hungry simply cannot learn, grow, or hope. Drawing on his frontline experience with the World Food Programme and stories from war-torn regions, he shows how hunger is not just a food issue, it's



The Velvet Roar of Williamsburg County School District will perform during the first general session on Friday.

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# Schedule: Friday

a barrier to education, a threat to stability, and a hidden cost of conflict that erodes our future. He challenges leaders to see how the absence of meals in the classroom can amplify division, student potential, and ultimately undermine peace.

**David M. Beasley**, *SC Governor 1995-1999, Executive Director of U.N. World Food Programme 2017-2023*

12:15 - 1:30 p.m.

## **Lunch on your own**

For your convenience, Coastal Grill and Black Drum will offer lunch. Coastal Grill is located to the left of the hotel guest registration. Black Drum is located outside behind the pool deck.

12:15 – 3:30 p.m.

**Trade show** - *Kensington DEF and Cambridge hall*

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

**Breakout sessions** (Choose one of five) - *Eton, Kensington AB, Kensington C, Oxford, Winchester*

1. **The In's and Out's of Finance...** - *Eton*  
Information will be given regarding the Board's responsibilities regarding their General Fund Budget and understanding the process.

**Mellanie Jinnette**, *Retired School District Chief Financial Officer*

**Moderator: Tripp Bouknight**, *SCSBA Board of Directors, Anderson School District Three*

2. **Can I Get a Witness? School Board Member Testimony in Legal and Other Proceedings** - *Kensington AB*  
Participants can expect to understand what to do if they receive a subpoena to testify; how legal proceedings and depositions are conducted; and what, if any steps, individuals can take to advocate for their constituents and local districts without necessarily becoming a "witness" in a pending or future legal matter. This program may be helpful for school board members and/or administrators who (1) experience litigation and better seek to understand it; (2) desire to be involved in decision-making



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# Schedule: Friday

within the framework of their board member and administrative roles; and (3) wish to minimize risk to their organizations.

**Ashley Story**, *Partner, White Story & Hicks, LLC*

**Ryan Hicks**, *Partner, White Story & Hicks, LLC*

**Chandra Stallworth**, *Associate Attorney, Richardson Plowden*

**Mike Sandlin**, *SCSBIT Assistant Director of Property and Casualty*

**Moderator: Gary Porth**, *SCSBA Board of Directors, Chair, Calhoun Public Schools*

### 3. **I'm Right, You're Wrong. Shut Up!** -

*Kensington C*

This high-energy and extremely engaging presentation will share insights and strategies to establish and maintain a high-functioning board culture during some of the most challenging times in education. We will examine real-life examples of both poor and positive board cultures and examine toxic and healthy behaviors. Districts are experiencing agenda-driven candidates and stakeholders who are looking to disrupt the current school climate. There IS hope and opportunity for success as we discuss practical strategies and activities to build understanding and common ground.

**Dr. Lee Pritzl**, *President, Elevated Performance 4U, Former Superintendent and Educator*

**Moderator: Kathy Anderson**, *SCSBA Board of Directors, Secretary, Georgetown County School District*

### 4. **From Vision to Reality: How Pickens County Reimagined Career and Technical Education Through Gateway to Innovation (G2i)** - *Oxford*

The School District of Pickens County is launching Gateway to Innovation (G2i), a reimagined Career and Technical Education model opening in January 2027. A former middle school campus is being transformed into a hands-on hub where students in

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# Schedule: Friday

grades 3–7 explore career pathways that seamlessly connect to advanced CTE programs in grades 8–12. Through a partnership between the SDPC Board, district administration, and community industry leaders, the project aligns financial planning, facility redesign, and workforce needs. G2i is already making progress through campus renovations, pathway development, and strengthened industry partnerships, positioning Pickens County students for future success in college, careers, and life.

**Dr. Danny Merck**, *Superintendent, School District of Pickens County*

**Tim Johnson**, *Gateway to Innovation Director, School District of Pickens County*

**Moderator: Karla Kelley**, *SCSBA Board of Directors, Vice Chair, School District of Pickens County*

## 5. **Richland County School District One - Transforming Our Work - Winchester**

This presentation will emphasize understanding the 'why' behind teaching, prioritizing connection before content, and aligning daily practices through collaboration to create productive classrooms with student-driven, data-based instruction. Participants will learn how success is measured and how collaboration occurs.

**Dr. Eunice C. Williams**, *Chief of Teaching and Learning, Richland One*

**Kevin Hasinger**, *Executive Director of Secondary Education, Richland One*

**Dionne Sturdivant**, *Executive Director of Early Childhood and Elementary Education, Richland One*

**Moderator: Tim Rhodes**, *SCSBA President; Chair, Abbeville County School District*

2:30 – 3 p.m.

**Refreshment break - Kensington DEF**



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# Schedule: Friday

3 – 4 p.m.

**Breakout sessions** (Choose one of five) - *Eton, Kensington AB, Kensington C, Oxford, Winchester*

1. **How to pass and successfully implement a school district capital project referendum** - *Eton*

How does a district pass a referendum 18 months after an unsuccessful attempt to get voter approval for a capital referendum? After passing a referendum, how does a district implement construction in a manner that builds community trust to pass a subsequent referendum with ever greater community support? Let us explain the “Beaufort Method” that achieved success.

**Colonel Richard P. Geier**, *Retired, Beaufort County School District*

**Moderator: Carlton B. Dallas**, *SCSBA Board of Directors, Chair, Beaufort County School District*

2. **Total Transparency: Effectively Managing the Flow of Information between Board, Administration, and Community** - *Kensington AB*

In this time of heightened public scrutiny of elected officials and governmental organizations, this presentation will share how Greenville County Schools fulfills its commitment to total transparency through a three-pronged approach: Board, Administration, and Public. We will share best practices for transparency in Board operations, enhancing public access to information, soliciting and responding to public comment, and optimizing communication between the Board and Administration. This presentation will be interactive, and attendees will leave with a range of ideas for improving and enhancing board effectiveness in order to focus on the ultimate goals of academic and operational excellence.

**Dr. Carolyn Styles**, *Board Chair, Greenville County Schools*

**Nancy Fitzer**, *Board Liaison, Greenville County Schools*

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# Schedule: Friday

**Moderator: Glenda Morrison-Fair, SCSBA**  
*Board of Directors, Greenville County  
School District*

3. **From Policy to Persuasion: Influence is the Currency of Leadership - Kensington C**

In *From Policy to Persuasion: Influence is the Currency of Leadership*, school lawyer Alex Sherard and communications strategist Whitney McDuff explore how legal precision and message strategy combine to create effective leadership. This session helps board members and administrators translate policy into clear, credible public communication—especially when facing challenge or change. Through real-world examples, participants will learn how unified board-administration collaboration can strengthen trust, reduce conflict, and shape public perception. Attendees will leave with practical tools to enhance influence, align messaging, and lead with confidence in today's complex education environment.

**Alex Sherard, Senior Associate Attorney,**  
*White Story & Hicks, LLC*

**Whitney McDuff, Founder, Leadership  
& PR Brand Strategist, Whitney McDuff  
Consulting**

**Moderator: Dr. James Smith, SCSBA Board  
of Directors, Chair, Kershaw County School  
District**

4. **The Power of Progress: Williamsburg  
County School District's Roadmap to  
Greatness**

*- Oxford*

Participants will provide an overview of the key leadership practices, initiatives, and collaborative efforts that have guided the success of Williamsburg County School District over the past six years from state governance to local board governance. It highlights the district's strategic focus on the shared vision from both the school board and district's leadership team, instructional improvement, professional development, community engagement, and student well-being.



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# Schedule: Friday - Saturday

**Genia Smith**, *Assistant Superintendent, Williamsburg County School District*

**Mark Fraiser**, *Principal, Kingstree High School, Williamsburg County School District*

**Woodrow Nesbit**, *Principal, Hemingway Elementary, Williamsburg County School District*

**Berlinda Mack**, *Director of Early Childhood and Literacy, Williamsburg County School District*

**Sean Berry**, *District Instructional Math Coach, Williamsburg County School District*

**Angela Fred**, *Coordinator Secondary Literacy, Williamsburg County School District*

**Donna Palmer-Lewis**, *Director of Flex Academy, Williamsburg County School District*

**Johni McElveen**, *Director of Testing and Accountability, Williamsburg County School District*

**Moderator: Ervin Richardson**, *SCSBA Board of Directors, Chair, Florence School District Five*

## 5. **Creating a Culture of Staff Retention Through Board Leadership** - Winchester

This session covers how board policies and climate impact teacher and staff retention, the ripple effect of board decisions on employee morale and policy-level strategies that support retention.

**Shawn Williams**, *Chief Human Resources Officer, Barnwell County School District*

**Dr. Crystal (Crissie) Stapelton**, *Superintendent, Barnwell County School District*

**Moderator: Jessica Cody**, *SCSBA Board of Directors, Vice Chair, Clover School District*

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# Schedule: Saturday

## Saturday, February 21

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

**Beverage break** - Kensington DEF

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7:30 - 11:30 a.m.

**Trade show** - Kensington DEF

7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Registration** - Windsor foyer

8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

**Third general session** - Kensington ABCG

▶ Co-sponsored by  
**Duff Freeman Seibert, LLC**

### Welcome and introductions

*Janet Graham, SCSBA President-elect, Horry County Schools*

### Recognition of SCSBA Past Presidents

### Recognition of SCSBA President's Club Members

### Student performance

*Advanced Chamber Chorus, Anderson School District Five*

### Introduction of speaker

*Janet Graham, SCSBA President-elect, Horry County Schools*

**Unlocking Dreams by Cultivating Hope through Education:** Elizabeth "Liz" Huntley, J.D. is an attorney by trade and a child advocate by triumph. Her story has inspired audience members from around the world as she continues to devote her time and energy toward bringing hope through education. She knows,



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# Schedule: Saturday

firsthand, the life-changing effects of the power of human goodness found in education. Liz will be sharing the details of her story and how her story is now inspiring schools across the country to pursue the same goodness that changed her life and unlocked her dreams.

**Liz Huntley**, *Attorney, Speaker, Author, Advocate*

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

**Refreshment break** - *Kensington DEF*

**Door prize winners posted** - *Kensington DEF*

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Breakout sessions** (Choose one of four) - *Eton, Kensington AB, Kensington C, Oxford*

1. **Hearing Officers in Action: Trends, Policies, and Growth Areas in K-12 Hearings...**

- *Eton*

Step inside the hearing room and see how hearing officers decode the trends, policies, and common missteps shaping K-12 discipline today. Discover the tools and strategies districts need to deliver discipline decisions that are fair, consistent, and truly student centered. Attendees will leave with bold, actionable insights to elevate collaboration and build discipline systems that are legally sound, defensible, and built for real impact.

**Dr. Kelvin Williams**, *CHO, LPC, District Discipline Hearing Officer, Sumter School District*

**Brian Chatman**, *CHO, Director of Student Support Services & Program, Lexington School District Two*

**Dr. Sheka Huston**, *Director of Student Support Services & Program, Chester County School District*

**Larry Dunn**, *District Hearing Officer & District Coordinator of Athletics, Aiken County Public Schools*

**Cedrick Tidwell**, *Coordinator of Student Hearing & Student Intervention Services, Richland One*

**Myra Combs-Bramlett**, *Assistant Hearing Officer, Richland One*

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# Schedule: Saturday

**Ben Fuller**, *Coordinator of Attendance, Truancy & Discipline, Cherokee County School District*

**Moderator: Charles Govan**, *SCSBA Immediate Past President, Darlington County School District*

## 2. **Linking Research-Driven School Design to Student Success** - *Oxford*

This session presents findings from two award-winning projects in Richland School District Two, a new school and a large-scale renovation. In both, trustees, district leaders, and design partners focused the design on its academic impacts, and assessed the results with students, teachers, administrators, and parents. Post occupancy assessments revealed improved student academic performance, reduced bullying and behavior referrals, improved school climate, and in the new school, the district's highest teacher retention rates and lowest chronic absenteeism. Board members will leave with practical insights and a framework for ensuring that school buildings are not only safe and cost effective, but also powerful tools for fulfilling their vision of fostering student success and educational excellence.

**Will Anderson**, *Chief Operations Officer, Richland School District Two*

**Moderator: Niki Porter**, *SCSBA Board of Directors, Richland School District Two*

## 3. **From Assets to Impact: How School Boards Can Leverage Community and Business Partnerships to Expand Opportunity** - *Kensington AB*

Effective school boards understand that long-term student success and district sustainability are strengthened through purposeful community and business partnerships. This session highlights how school systems, guided by board vision and policy, can leverage relationships, assets, and storytelling to expand student opportunities, support workforce development, and enhance employee recruitment and retention. Participants will explore practical examples of



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# Schedule: Saturday

how districts can collaborate with counties and municipalities by repurposing school facilities as shared community resources, strengthening trust while maximizing public investment.

**Dr. Erica S. Taylor**, *Assistant Superintendent for Communications and Business and Community Partnerships, Orangeburg County School District*

**Moderator: Sylvia Harrison-Williams**, *SCSBA Board of Directors, Vice Chair, Fairfield County School District*

#### 4. **School Employee Social Media Posts About Public Matters or Persons - When Do They Cross the Line?** - *Kensington C*

When school employees speak out or make controversial social media posts in their capacity as private citizens on matters of public concern, their speech is likely protected by the First Amendment. However, there are limits. Those limits are based on the disruptiveness of the speech outweighing the employee's speech rights or perhaps where the posts are deemed inappropriate, insensitive, or callous. This presentation will explore speech rights and their limits.

**David T. Duff**, *Attorney, Duff Freeman Seibert, LLC*

**Moderator: Quincy Sutton**, *SCSBA Board of Directors, Chair, Lexington School District Four*

12:30 – 1:45 p.m.

#### **Lunch on your own**

For your convenience, Coastal Grill and Black Drum will offer lunch. Coastal Grill is located to the left of the hotel guest registration. Black Drum is located outside behind the pool deck.

2 – 3 p.m.

**Breakout sessions** (Choose one of Three) -  
Eton, Kensington AB, Kensington C

#### 1. **Leading the Shift: Implementing AI with Intention by Building Trust, Capacity, and Innovation** - *Eton*

As artificial intelligence reshapes education, school systems must lead with clarity,



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# Schedule: Saturday

purpose, and care. In this session, Florence 1 Schools will share its districtwide journey to implement AI for staff and students through policy development, professional learning, budgeting, and responsible tool selection. Participants will explore how collaboration between the Board of Trustees and district administration created a shared vision that fostered innovation, trust, and ethical AI use. Attendees will leave with practical frameworks and actionable steps to design or refine their own district AI implementation plans aligned to student learning, staff development, and organizational goals.

**Gregory Hall**, *Assistant Superintendent, Florence 1 Schools*

**Kyle Jones**, *Deputy Superintendent, Florence 1 Schools*

**Moderator: Scott Childers**, *SCSBA Secretary/Treasurer; Chair, York School District 1*

## 2. **Leading the School District: Governance vs. Management** - *Kensington AB*

The success of the school district depends on the collaboration and support of all stakeholders joining together for a common purpose and goal. While everyone has the same goal, each stakeholder has a different role. This interactive session will examine the various stakeholder roles with an emphasis on the role governance plays in charting the course for the school district and in performing its oversight function. This session will also explore how school boards can work with the administration to ensure accountability and continued progress toward the identified goal. This session will cause “the what” of governance to blend with “the how” of management to reach a constructive balance.

**Charles Boykin, Esquire**, *Senior Partner, Boykin & Davis, LLC*

**Tierney F. Goodwyn, Esquire**, *Partner, Boykin & Davis, LLC*

**Moderator: Gary Porth**, *SCSBA Board of Directors, Chair, Calhoun Public Schools*



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# Schedule: Saturday

## 3. **Road to Success: Our Journey Towards Achievement in Colleton County**

- *Kensington C*

This presentation highlights the district's strategic efforts to strengthen academic performance and student support. It outlines key initiatives focused on improving instructional quality, expanding learning opportunities, and fostering community engagement. The presentation also emphasizes data-driven decision-making and collaborative leadership as essential components of long-term progress. Overall, it showcases Colleton County School District's commitment to creating a high-achieving, student-centered educational environment.

**Jessica Williams**, *Superintendent, Colleton County School District*

**Dr. Cordelia Jenkins**, *Interim Superintendent of Academics and Student Services, Colleton County School District*

**Janis Headden**, *K-12 Director of Teaching and Learning, Colleton County School District*

**Brandi Boseman**, *Director of Federal Programs, Assessment and Accountability, Colleton County School District*

**Moderator: Dr. Sarah Simmons**, *SCSBA Board of Directors, Vice Chair, Spartanburg School District 2*

3:15 - 4:15 p.m.

**S.C. Caucus of Black School Board Members meeting** (Open to all convention participants) - *Kensington C*

5 - 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday Evening Reception** - *Kensington DEF*

 Co-sponsored by **Burr & Foreman LLP**

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# Schedule: Sunday

## Sunday, February 22

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

**Beverage break** - Westminster hall

▶ Co-sponsored by  
**Allspring Global Investments  
and Wells Fargo**

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

**Closing general session** - Kensington ABCG  
Tim Rhodes, SCSBA President; Chair, Abbeville  
County School District

**Student performance**  
Leopard Women's Chorus, Kershaw County  
School District

**Greetings from the 2026 SCASA  
Superintendent of the Year**  
Dr. Shawn Foster, Superintendent, Orangeburg  
County School District

**Recognition of SCSBA Boardmanship Institute  
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The Brown's Ferry Elementary Marching Band of Georgetown County School District will perform during the Sunday closing general session.

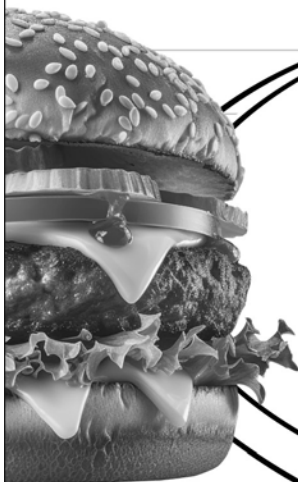


The Leopard Women's Chorus of Kershaw County School District will perform during the Sunday closing general session.



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# Schedule: Sunday

## **Video Greetings from the 2026 South Carolina Teacher of the Year**

**Corey Bedenbaugh**, *Social Studies Teacher, Batesburg-Leesville Middle School, Lexington School District Three*

## **Student performance**

**Brown's Ferry Elementary Marching Band**,  
*Georgetown County School District*

## **Introduction of Speaker**

**Tim Rhodes**, *SCSBA President; Chair, Abbeville County School District*

## **"If You Can't Say Something Nice, What DO you Say? Practical Solutions for Working Together Better"**

This upbeat presentation inspired by Sarita Maybin's first book provides practical approaches and positive phrases for delivering difficult messages with tact and respect. You'll also learn strategies for staying positive and working together, even amid uncertainty and challenging situations.

Presentation highlights include:

- Determine whether to confront a situation or just let it go
- Proven process for constructively conveying concerns
- Three P's for staying positive in challenging situations
- Sarita's Top 10 Positive Communication Phrases

**Sarita Maybin**, *International Speaker, Communication Expert & Author*

## **Convention closing remarks and door prizes**

**Tim Rhodes**, *SCSBA President; Chair, Abbeville County School District*

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1955	Dr. George D. Johnson, Spartanburg
1956	Robert Lee Scarborough, Eastover
1957	Robert Lee Scarborough, Eastover
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1959	O.S. Aiken, Florence
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1986	Sandra Franklin, Columbia
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1989	Sidney Mathis, Marion
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2003	Leni Patterson, Laurens
2004	Porter Stewart, Florence
2005	John Bamberg, Bamberg
2006	Dru James, Greenwood
2007	Debra Bush, Greenville
2008	Ronald Bessant, Horry
2009	Gerald Cook, Moore
2010	Bruce Davis, Estill
2011	Cindy Smith, Lexington
2012	Richard Cook, Lake City
2013	John Hughes, Mullins
2014	ElizaBeth D. Branham, West Columbia
2015	Robert Gantt, Irmo
2016	Dr. Kathy Coleman, Saluda
2017	Queenie Boyd, Bishopville
2018	Wesley Hightower, Aiken
2019	Tony Folk, St. George
2020	Chuck Saylor, Greenville
2021	Cheryl Burgess, Lexington
2022	Jamie Devine, Richland
2023	Gail Hughes, Dorchester
2024	Michele Branning, Fort Mill
2025	Charles Govan, Darlington



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**Michelle Bryngelson**  
*Dorchester County  
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## 35 years

**James Hodges**  
*Dorchester School  
District Four*

**Henry Miller**  
*Fairfield County School  
District*

**Ronald Bessant**  
*Palmetto Unified School  
District*

**Lynda Leventis-Wells**  
*Greenville County  
Schools*

**Eddie Dearybury**  
*Spartanburg School  
District Three*

**Hannah Priester**  
*Hampton County  
School District*

## 30 years

**Maggie J. James**  
*Chester County School  
District*

**William Kyle Berry**  
*Latta Schools*

**Nathaniel Brunson**  
*Lee County School  
District*

## 25 years

**Charles H. Govan**  
*Darlington County  
School District*

**Christy Nichols**  
*Saluda County  
Schools*

**Mark Rollins**  
*Spartanburg School  
District One*

**15 years**  
**Gary L. Burgess**  
*Anderson County  
Board of Education*

## 20 years

**James B. Tisdale Jr.**  
*Abbeville County School  
District*

**Shirley Halley**  
*Kershaw County  
School District*

**Tim Rhodes**  
*Abbeville County School  
District*

**Jan Simmons**  
*Laurens County School  
District 56*

**Richard P. Bradshaw**  
*Anderson School District  
Five*

**Jodi H. Gilmer**  
*Spartanburg School  
District Three*

**Kimberly T. Burch**  
*Chesterfield County  
School District*

**Ralph Canty**  
*Sumter School District*



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# 2026 Service Awards

## 10 years

### Keith Dunn

*Abbeville County  
School District*

### Catherine Russell

*Allendale County  
Schools*

### Tripp Bouknight

*Anderson School District  
Three*

### Ron Wingard

*Clarendon County  
School District*

### Johnnie Lawson

*Clarendon County  
School District*

### Anne Calhoun

*Dillon County Board of  
Education*

### Famon Whitfield Jr.

*Dillon School District  
Four*

### Bradley Davis

*Dorchester County  
Career & Technology  
Center*

### Evan Guthrie

*Dorchester School  
District Two*

### Blair Massey

*Edgefield County  
School District*

### Johnny Peterson

*Edgefield County  
School District*

### Sylvia Harrison-Williams

*Fairfield County School  
District*

### Robert Singletary

*Florence County School  
District Two*

### Scott Frattaroli

*Fort Mill Schools*

### Kristy Spears

*Fort Mill Schools*

### Randy Walker

*Georgetown County  
School District*

### Michelle Goodwin- Calwile

*Greenville County  
Schools*

### Jo Ann Williamson

*Latta Schools*

### Ray George

*Latta Schools*

### Kimberly Williams- Carter

*Laurens County School  
District 56*

### Michael Anderson

*Lexington County  
School District One*

### Heather McNally

*McCormick County  
School District*

### Shannon Haskett

*School District of Pickens  
County*

### Betty Bagley

*School District of Pickens  
County*

### Betty Garrison

*School District of Pickens  
County*

### Mark Ivey

*Union County Schools*

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LEVEL

6

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*Board members are recognized for reaching each of six levels. Board members who reached a level from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, were recognized in their district.*

*Listed below are the recipients of Level 6, our highest level of recognition in the Boardmanship Institute. This level acknowledges the many hours of training board members receive to gain the knowledge and skills to assist them as leaders in making decisions for the benefit of children in public schools.*

**Tripp Bouknight**

*Anderson School District Three*

**Ruby Edwards**

*Orangeburg County School District*

**Lucy Anne Meetze**

*School District of Newberry County*

**Gary Porth**

*Calhoun Public Schools*

**Melvin Stroble**

*Lancaster County School District*

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C L U B



## **Gold level** **(\$10,000)**

Boykin & Davis, LLC  
Duff Freeman Seibert, LLC  
Halligan Mahoney & Williams, P.A.  
White Story & Hicks, LLC

## **Silver level** **(\$6,000)**

Burr & Forman LLP

## **Bronze level** **(\$3,700)**

Allspring Global Investments  
& Wells Fargo Bank  
Craig Gauden Davis | PBK  
McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture  
SSOE, Inc.

**2026**

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SCSBA is thankful for all our Associate members who help support SCSBA activities and enable the expansion of training for local school boards.

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Campbell Consulting Group  
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Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A.  
Moore Bradley Myers  
Morton & Gettys, Attorneys at Law  
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LS3P  
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Metz Culinary Management  
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Niki Porter, *Region 8 (Richland County School Boards)*

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Aldeane Brock, *Property and Casualty Claims Analyst*

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803.324.5665, leitnerconstructionco.com

**Representatives:** Sandra Doherty, Henry Owen  
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803.904.0302, musco.com

**Representative:** Brian Hartman

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843.287.2186, palmettobrick.com

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704.847.9851, pinnaclearchitecture.net

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# Exhibitors

## **Quackenbush Architects**

### **+ Planners ..... Booth 37**

1217 Hampton Street, Columbia, S.C. 29201

803.771.2999, quackenbusharchitects.com

**Representatives:** Barb Haller, Robyn Rogers, Lydia Ureda

*Architecture, planning and interior design for high-performance learning environments.*

## **Schneider Electric ..... Booth 9**

1521 Laurens Road, No. 16371, Greenville, S.C. 29606

210.748.7774, se-public-sector.com/sc

**Representatives:** Justin Shutt, Madelyne Hyatt

*Turnkey infrastructure enhancements focused on districtwide modernization.*

## **School Safety Solution ..... Booth 24**

114 Shortcut Road, North Augusta, S.C. 29860

888.733.0406, schoolsafetysolution.com

**Representatives:** Dorian True, Shane Smith

*Safety solutions designed to protect schools during emergencies.*

## **SCSBA/SCSBIT ..... Booths 45 & 46**

111 Research Drive, Columbia, S.C. 29203

800.326.3679, scsba.org

**Representatives:** Lyde Graham, Michael Sandlin, Jill Callais

*Premier voice for school boards, public education and insurance needs.*

## **SeamonWhiteside ..... Booth 65**

104 North Daniel Morgan Avenue, Spartanburg, S.C. 29306

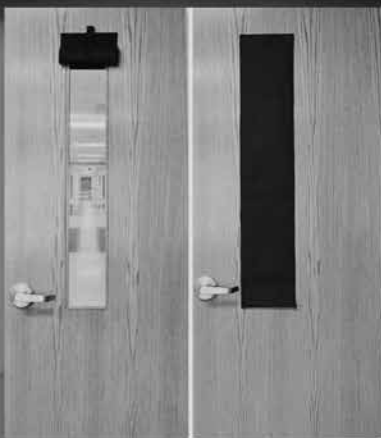
864.272.1272, seamonwhiteside.com

**Representatives:** Danny Balon, Jennifer Palmer

*Site design, planning and engineering services for school communities.*



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**Sodexo ..... Booth 40**

20714 Meadow Drive, Sonoma, Calif. 95476  
833.955.1496, [us.sodexo.com/industry/schools.html](http://us.sodexo.com/industry/schools.html)

**Representatives:** Ron Gomez, Jim Ashbrook, Rion Skinner

*Foodservice and facilities management.*

**Southern Bleacher Company ..... Booth 8**

P.O. Box One, Graham, Texas 76450  
940.549.0733, [southernbleacher.com](http://southernbleacher.com)

**Representative:** J. McCathern

*Setting the standard for bleachers and grandstands since 1946.*

**Southwest Foodservice**

**Excellence ..... Booths 22 & 23**

9366 East Raintree Drive, Scottsdale, Ariz. 85260  
480.551.6550, [sfellc.com](http://sfellc.com)

**Representative:** Curtiss Stancil

*Culinary-driven foodservice management company.*

**SSOE Inc. .... Booth 61**

1501 Main Street, Suite 730, Columbia, S.C. 29201  
803.756.0320, [ssoe.com](http://ssoe.com)

**Representatives:** Tim Williams, Randall Holmes, Isabel Korn

*Internationally ranked architecture and engineering firm specializing in K-12 design.*

**Sturdisteel ..... Booth 28**

P.O. Box 2655, Hewitt, Texas 76643  
800.433.3116, [sturdisteel.com](http://sturdisteel.com)

**Representatives:** Gary Wilson, Todd Glaesmann

*Permanent grandstand seating, bleachers and press boxes.*

**The Nutrition Group ..... Booths 30 & 31**

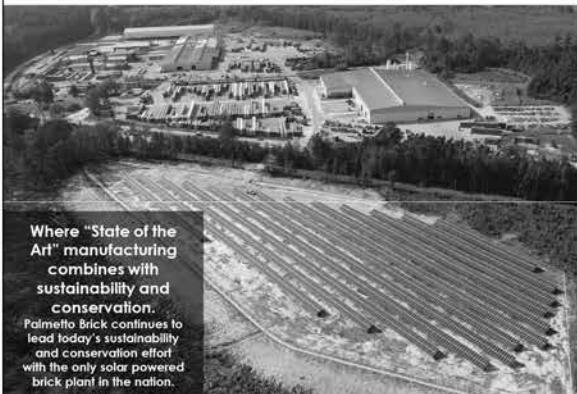
580 Wendel Road, Suite 100, Irwin, Pa. 15642  
570.760.4548, [thenutritiongroup.com](http://thenutritiongroup.com)

**Representatives:** Lyle Kerrick, Joe Geisweidt, Walter Mooney, Caitlyn White, Kate Petrewski

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# Exhibitors

## **Thompson Turner**

### **Construction ..... Booths 1 & 2**

100 North Main Street, Sumter, S.C. 29150

803.773.8005, thompsonturner.com

**Representatives:** Paige Carlton, Ginny Kirk

*Building safe, efficient and inspiring schools.*

## **Trane Technologies ..... Booth 38**

2286 Harvestwood Lane, Chapin, S.C. 29036

803.944.2381, trane.com/commercial

**Representatives:** Monte Edwards, Beau Reynolds

*Heating, ventilation and air conditioning solutions for schools.*

## **Triangle Construction**

### **Company Inc. .... Booth 56**

P.O. Box 6266, Greenville, S.C. 29606

864.404.6057, triangleconstruction.com

**Representatives:** Charley Patrick, William Trammell, Bryant Nixon

*Full-service general contractor and construction manager.*

## **Veregy ..... Booth 3**

Charleston, S.C.

636.686.9835, veregy.com

**Representative:** Erik Froehlich

*Innovative building technology, renewable energy and infrastructure optimization solutions.*

## **Virco ..... Booth 44**

2027 Harpers Way, Torrance, Calif. 90501

803.543.7264, virco.com

**Representatives:** Gareth Lanford, Todd Manning

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## **Wells Fargo Bank NA ..... Booth 34**

1441 Main Street, 15th Floor, Columbia, S.C. 29201

803.765.3095, wells Fargo.com

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**Columbia, S.C.**

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[ghampton@scsba.org](mailto:ghampton@scsba.org) 803.799.6607

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conference  
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**Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 5-6  
2026**

**Charleston, S.C.**

*The much anticipated SCSBA Legislative Advocacy Conference and Delegate Assembly sets the stage for all the legislative action that takes place from January through June each year in our state's capital.*

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**day**  
at the  
**capitol**

**Wednesday, April 22**

**2026**

**Columbia, S.C.**

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# **risky business**

**workers' compensation and property  
& casualty insurance trust seminar**

**Wednesday & Thursday, Oct. 14-16  
2026**

**Hilton Head Island, S.C.**

*For SCSBIT member districts only, this seminar features information on programs and strategies school districts can use to reduce the risks of workplace accidents and other liabilities.*

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— or —

**Scott Price**

[sprice@scsba.org](mailto:sprice@scsba.org)

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*"One of the best trainings — helped me to think outside of the box about leadership and the functions of leaders."*

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# beyond the basics

*One intensive trending topic at a time*

**Thursday, Oct. 8  
2026**

**Columbia, S.C.**

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# easy access to district policies



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online**

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**school  
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conference**

**Saturday & Sunday, Aug. 29-30  
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*Legal experts and policymakers provide  
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members through the often complicated  
terrain of school policy and law.*

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*"Great general session speakers and student performances. Nice variety of break-out sessions to choose from. Well done!"*

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# 2027 annual convention

Friday-Sunday, February 19-21

**2027**  
Myrtle Beach, S.C.

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Pre-convention: Thursday, February 18

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**new board  
orientation**

**&**

**board chair  
workshop**

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