

2026 NEW BOARD ORIENTATION

FEB. 19, 2026 · EMBASSY SUITES MYRTLE BEACH

Agenda

- 8 - 8:30 a.m. **Registration and beverage break**..... *Windsor Foyer*
Co-sponsored by SSOE, Inc.
- 8:30 - 9 a.m. **Welcome and About SCSBA**..... *Windsor BC*
Scott T. Price, *SCSBA Executive Director*
Tim Rhodes, *SCSBA President, Abbeville County School District*
- 9 - 10 a.m. **Understanding Roles and Responsibilities** *Windsor BC*
- Setting the vision
 - Establishing the structure and environment
 - Identifying accountability measures and monitoring progress
 - Being an advocate for schools and students
 - Fostering positive board/superintendent relationships
 - Adhering to a code of ethics
- Beth Branham**, *Esquire, SCSBA Past President, Former Board Member,*
Lexington School District Two
- 10 - 10:15 a.m. **Beverage break**..... *Windsor Foyer*
Co-sponsored by SSOE, Inc.
- 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. **Avoiding the \$10,000 Fine: S.C. School Board Members Need to Know About the South Carolina Ethics Act**..... *Windsor BC*
 In this session, you will receive an overview of the Ethics Reform Act with an emphasis on the rules of conduct for new school board members.
Alex Sherard, *Senior Associate Attorney, White Story & Hicks, LLC*
- 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. **School Finance 101** *Windsor BC*
 From the general fund to pupil activity and everything in between, board members will be provided general information on school district finance. Where does the funding come from and how do we get it?
Mellanie Jinnette, *Retired School District Chief Financial Officer*
- 12:15 - 1:30 p.m. **Lunch (Included in registration)** *Kensington G*
Co-sponsored by White Story & Hicks, LLC

- 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. **Understanding the S. C. Freedom of Information Act**..... *Windsor BC*
 This session will review the key provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act and provide guidance to new Board members as to how school boards operate in order to ensure compliance with the FOIA.
Kathy Mahoney, *Attorney, Halligan Mahoney & Williams, P.A.*
Vernie Williams, *Attorney, Halligan Mahoney & Williams, P.A.*
- 2:30 - 2:45 p.m. **Beverage break**..... *Windsor Foyer*
Co-sponsored by SSOE, Inc.
- 2:45 - 3:45 p.m. **Stop, Collaborate and Listen: Robert's Rules of Order
 for New Board Members** *Windsor BC*
 This session offers a practical, engaging introduction to Robert's Rules of Order tailored specifically for new board members. Participants will learn how to navigate meetings with confidence by understanding the purpose behind parliamentary procedure.
Westley P. Cox, Esquire, *West Cox Law Firm, LLC*
- 3:45 - 4 p.m. **Workshop closing and door prizes**..... *Windsor BC*
Tim Rhodes, *SCSBA President, Abbeville County School District*