

**State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education**

**Meeting Minutes**

111 Executive Center Drive  
Columbia, SC 29210  
Board Room

10:00 A.M.

September 26, 2023

**PRESENT:**

Roger P. Schrum, Chair  
Gregory B. Askins  
Kathy Richardson  
Ralph A. Odom, Jr.  
Orville S. Smith, III  
Terry Hardesty  
Warren Darby, Jr.  
E. Grantland Burns *via Zoom*  
Carolyn Swinton  
Ben Satcher

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Tim Hardee, System President  
Warren Ganjehsani, Chief Legal Counsel  
Kandy Peacock, Vice President for Human Resources  
Rosline Sumpter, Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Greg Little, Vice President of Strategic Planning and Innovation  
AJ Newton, Vice President of Governmental Relations  
Mary Oakman, Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
Brad Neese, Vice President of Economic Development *via Zoom*  
Amanda Richardson, Vice President of Apprenticeship Carolina  
Khushru Tata, Vice President for Information Technology  
Kelly Steinhilper, Vice President of Communications

**ABSENT:**

Ellen Weaver  
Chris Huffman  
Anthony Garvin Barker

**SYSTEM STAFF ABSENT:**

Randall Johnson

**GUESTS:**

Ashley Jaillette, Executive Director, SC Association of Technical College Commissioners  
Quincie Moore, State Director for Career and Technical Education, SC Department of Education  
Laura Belcher, SR Advisor to the President and Executive Director, Commission on Higher Education

**NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA**

The State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education complied with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act in notifying the media and posting the agenda for the State Board meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER – Roger Schrum, Chair**

Chairman Schrum called the meeting to order and welcomed guests. Mr. Schrum thanked Mr. Ben Satcher, Ms. Carolyn Swinton, Kathy Richardson, and Mr. Terry Hardesty for participating in the September 12<sup>th</sup> board member orientation.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORTS:**

### **A. Economic Development and Training Committee – Grant Burns, Chair**

Project Budgets for State Board Approval: Mr. Burns entertained a motion to enter an Executive Session to discuss readySC™ projects over \$200,000 for approval. Mr. Burns moved, and Mr. Hardesty seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. They entered the Executive Session, and Mr. Brad Neese was asked to stay for the Executive Session.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Section 30-4-70(a)(5) of the S.C. Code of Laws provides that "A public body may hold a meeting closed to the public for one or more of the following reasons: Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim."*

*S.C. Code of Laws Section 30-4-70(a)(5) – "Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body..."*

## **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

The Committee returned to open session. Mr. Burns reported that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

Project Budgets for Ratification- Mr. Burns reviewed the one readySC™ project budgets for ratification under \$200,000. There were no questions.

Mr. Burns entertained a motion to approve the one Project Budgets for Ratification. Mr. Burns moved and Mr. Hardesty seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Askins made a motion to approve the four readySC™ capital projects over \$200,000 discussed during the Executive Session, and Mr. Odom seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**B. Fiscal, Audit, and Personnel Committee – Chip Smith, Vice-Chair**

Chairman Schrum gave the floor to Mr. Smith. He reported that the Committee has three items for review.

Tri-County Technical College Capital Project for Approval- Pendleton Land Acquisition- Mr. Smith presented the Tri-County Technical College Capital Project- Pendleton Land Acquisition to the board. The request is to acquire approximately 7.6 acres from the Tri-County Technical College Foundation. This property is adjacent to the Pendleton Campus, providing an opportunity for academic program expansion. The purchase price will be equal to the Foundation's cost for the initial acquisition of the property. This land was not available for purchase at the time the CPIP was filed. The budget costs \$220,000 in college funds. The Committee recommends approval of the project subject to other necessary approvals. Mr. Smith called for a motion to approve. Mr. Hardesty moved, and Mr. Satcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Approvals for July 15, 2023 – September 15, 2023 - Informational Item – Mr. Smith noted that the staff approval list included in the agenda package contained ten staff approvals.

State Board Financial Summary – Month Ending August 31, 2023- Informational Item- Mr. Smith noted the summary in the agenda package and stated it reflected activity through August 31, 2023.

**C. Instruction and Student Services Committee- Nick Odom, Chair**

Mr. Odom reported there were two academic program proposals for consideration by the Committee.

He provided a summary of the program proposals that were included with the agenda materials distributed prior to the meeting. The following academic programs were recommended for State Board approval:

- Central Carolina Technical College - Diploma in Applied Science, Nursing (Practical Nursing)
- Spartanburg Community College - Associate in Applied Science, Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Mr. Odom made a motion for approval, which Mr. Hardesty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Chairman Schrum adjourned the Committee of the Whole and called the State Board to order.

## **CALL TO ORDER- STATE BOARD MEETING**

Chairman Schrum called the State Board Meeting to Order.

## **SC ASSOCIATION OF TECHNICAL COLLEGE COMMISSIONERS' REPORT – Ashley Jaillette, Executive Director**

Ms. Jaillette informed the Board as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, the association has rolled over to a new fiscal year, and they will be starting their annual audit next week. The ACCT conference will be held in Las Vegas from October 9-12, 2023. The next SCATCC board meeting is scheduled for the first week of December. She also reminded the group of the January 31<sup>st</sup> annual event in conjunction with the Legislative Luncheon.

## **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

Chairman Schrum entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the State Board meeting on July 25, 2023. Mr. Askins moved and noted two edits, adding Mr. Ben Satcher's name to the attendee list and correcting the spelling of Mr. Satcher's name on page 1 of the minutes which Mr. Darby seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

## **MINUTES FOR REVIEW**

Chairman Schrum stated that minutes from July 13, 2023, and August 10, 2023, Presidents' Council meetings were included with the agenda materials distributed before the meeting for review. Mr. Schrum encouraged the Board members to read them.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDATIONS-CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Schrum entertained a motion for State Board approval of the Committee of the Whole recommendations. Mr. Odom moved, and Mr. Darby seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the following recommendations were adopted unanimously without discussion:

- Project Budget for State Board Approval
- Project Budget for State Board Ratification
- Tri-County Technical College Capital Project for Approval – Pendleton Land Acquisition
- Central Carolina Technical College - Diploma in Applied Science, Nursing (Practical Nursing)
- Spartanburg Community College – Associate in Applied Science, Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- State Board Meeting Minutes for July 25, 2023

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tim Hardee, Executive Director**

Dr. Hardee started his report by sharing a list of the events and meetings he has attended since the July meeting.

*Southern State Energy Board-* The governor asked Dr. Hardee to participate on a panel regarding workforce development. Governor McMaster served as chair. It was a very productive meeting.

*Tech Hub Grant-* On September 20<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Hardee, along with Governor McMaster, the Presidents from USC, Clemson, South Carolina State University, and Secretary Lightsey, attended several meetings and met with multiple members of the Congressional Delegation regarding the combined application for the U.S. Economic Development Administration (US EDA) grant. The SC Nexus is the name of the group that is working on the grant for the State. The US EDA is expected to announce the grant awards by the end of the year.

*Enrollment-* Dr. Hardee updated the current enrollment numbers across the system. Last fall, enrollment was up around 9.8% and was significantly higher than our sister states. This fall, enrollment is up by 1.2%. We are currently serving approximately 8,000 more students than we were two years ago. The system is showing an increase where many states are still decreasing in enrollment. Dr. Hardee stated the scholarship dollars have helped improve the enrollment numbers. He noted that Aiken and Piedmont are currently showing the largest increases in enrollment. He noted that there currently isn't any College that is showing alarming decreases in enrollment.

*Transfer Agreement-* Dr. Hardee updated the Board regarding a meeting that was held on September 12, 2023. The meeting was attended by representatives from USC, Clemson, and the System Office, with the purpose of discussing how to fulfill the general education requirement. Currently, 30 hours of general education courses have been agreed upon, but the group is exploring ways to make the transfer agreement more efficient and intentional. While the transfer agreement is not yet finalized, Dr. Hardee wanted to inform the Board about the progress being made in this regard. This initiative aims to improve the process of transferring credits and ensure that the general education requirements are met effectively.

*GEER Funding Update-* On September 13<sup>th</sup>, Governor McMaster held a press conference in conjunction with the South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS) at Trident Technical College. Governor McMaster announced that over 32 thousand South Carolinians have earned an industry credential through the Workforce Scholarships for the Future programs. In total, Governor McMaster awarded \$55M in GEER Funds to the SCTCS; to date, \$44M has been expended. Dr. Hardee noted that Governor McMaster received \$98M in GEER Funds, and more than half was sent to SCTCS for the Workforce Scholarships for the Future.

*SCDEW Partnership-* Dr. Hardee noted that House Speaker Murrell Smith has encouraged State Agencies to work together and to address the needs of the citizens of South Carolina collectively. The System Office and SCDEW are working together on data to show the return on investment being made by the State legislature with the scholarship dollars being sent to SCTCS. In conjunction with SCDEW, wage data from the 3,800 welders who have completed programs through technical colleges in the last ten years was pulled. The average wage prior to completion of the welding program was \$27K a year prior to training and an average of \$43K after completion. The goal is to have other jobs categories available soon, such as, nursing, machine tool and mechatronics.

*SC Army Reserve and SC Public Charter School-* Dr. Hardee informed the board of a recent meetings with Major General Tommy Harter of the South Carolina Army Reserve and Mr. Chris Neely, superintendent of the SC Charter School District. These meetings were to discuss the opportunities to

provide training for the Army Reserve and Dual Enrollment courses for those who attend Public Charter Schools throughout South Carolina.

### **OTHER MATTERS**

Mr. Schrum distributed the current committee assignments to the Board members. Mr. Schrum also reviewed the upcoming retreat itinerary. He noted if any of the Board members had items, they would like to add to the agenda to reach out him.

### **ADJOURN STATE BOARD**

With no other matters to discuss, Chairman Schrum called for a motion to adjourn the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education meeting. Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Satcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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Date Approved by the State Board

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Roger Schrum, Chairman

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Tim Hardee, Executive Director