

**State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education**

Midlands Technical College Northeast  
151 Powell Road  
Columbia, SC 29203

**Meeting Minutes**

12:00 P.M.

July 23, 2024

**PRESENT:**

Roger P. Schrum, Chair  
Terry Hardesty  
Ben Satcher  
Anthony G. Barker, *via Zoom*  
Ralph “Nick” Odom  
Kathy Richardson  
Carolyn Swinton  
Warren Darby  
Rachel Gainey  
Orville “Chip” Smith III  
Chris Huffman

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Tim Hardee, System President  
AJ Newton, Vice President of Governmental Affairs  
Warren Ganjehsani, Chief Legal Counsel  
Randall Johnson, Vice President for Finance  
Brad Neese, Vice President of Economic Development  
Kandy Peacock, Vice President for Human Resources  
Rosline Sumpter, Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Khushru Tata, Vice President for Information Technology  
Kelly Steinhilper, Vice President of Communications

**ABSENT:**

E. Grantland Burns

**SYSTEM STAFF ABSENT:**

Amanda Richardson

**GUESTS:**

Ian Headley, Deputy Superintendent, SC Department of Education  
Ashley Jaillette, Executive Director, SC Association of Technical College Commissioners, *via conf. call*  
Yarley Steedly, Legislative and External Affairs Manager, SC Commission on Higher Education  
Dr. Hope Rivers, President, Piedmont Technical College  
Dr. Greg Little, President, Midlands Technical College  
Mary Oakman, Retired VP for Community Engagement and Accessibility, SC System Office

**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, welcomed the guests, and introduced Ms. Rachel Gainey, the newly appointed Board Member from the Sixth Congressional District.

Mr. Schrum then recognized Mr. Khushru Tata for his service to the System, highlighted his accomplishments, and thanked him for his dedication. He then turned the floor over to Dr. Hardee. Dr. Hardee also recognized Ms. Mary Oakman on her retirement after 28 years of service and thanked her for her years of dedicated service to the system and the State of South Carolina.

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

#### **A. Executive Committee- Roger Schrum, Chair**

Mr. Schrum entertained a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss FY 2023-24 Agency Head Evaluation. Mr. Satcher moved, and Mr. Odom seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. They entered the Executive Session. Mr. Schrum asked AJ Newton, Randy Johnson, Kandy Peacock, and Warren Ganjehsani to stay for the executive session.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Section 30-4-70(a)(1)- “Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body...”*

#### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

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

#### **B. Economic Development and Training Committee – Warren Darby, Vice-Chair**

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

E-Zone Retraining Program for Ratification- Mr. Darby presented ten E-Zone retraining programs for ratification.

Mr. Darby entertained a motion to approve the one Project Budget for Ratification and the ten E-Zone Retraining Programs for Ratification. Mr. Satcher moved, Mr. Smith seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brad Neese updated the Board on the E-Zone retraining program and provided an overview of recent legislation changes. He noted that oversight has been centralized to the System Office. He also noted that E-Zone participation has increased, and the State Board will likely see further increases in this program.

**C. Fiscal, Audit, and Personnel Committee – Garvin Barker, Chair**

Chairman Schrum gave the floor to Mr. Barker. He reported that the Committee has six items for review. Mr. Barker also stated that he would like to change the order in which the items will be presented so that the less complicated matter is discussed first.

CPIP Summary of Year 1: 2024-2025 and Year 2: 2025-2026- Mr. Barker noted it was the annual review of the Comprehensive Permanent Improvement Plan (CPIP) for Year 1: 2024-2025 and Year 2: 2025-2026. He noted that the items were included in the agenda package. He turned the floor over to Mr. Randy Johnson to present the information to the Board and give the new Board Members a brief description of the process. Each of the sixteen technical colleges develops a five-year capital plan. The Board reviews projects for approval in Year 1 and Year 2 that are submitted to the Capital Budget Office. Years 3, 4, and 5 are not brought before the board until they enter Years 1 and 2. Year 1 includes eighty-one projects that are listed in the package. Details are included for each of the projects. He stated that page 4 of the agenda package summarizes all the projects for Year 1. Year 2 summary included seventy projects, and currently, the State appropriations request is \$508,609,718. Mr. Johnson noted this represents the requested amount; however, that would not be the amount approved. He also noted that two of the projects in year two would not be asking for State funding. Mr. Barker entertained a motion on behalf of the Fiscal, Audit, and Personnel Committee to approve the CPIP Year 1 and Year 2 requests, and Mr. Darby seconded. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.

Midlands Technical College Capital Project for Approval- Advanced Manufacturing and Skilled Crafts Center- Midlands Technical College requests approval for Advanced Manufacturing and Skilled Crafts Center (AMSC) Expansion. The scope of the project consists of enclosing the rear of AMSC under the existing awning, as well as extending the awning across the rear of the building for storage. The reason for this expansion is the growth of the Building Construction Program. The total project is \$1,250,000. MTC has received a \$1,000,000 grant from Lowes, for which \$700,000 has been earmarked for construction to expand AMSC. MTC plans to add an additional \$550,000 from local funds. Mr. Barker motioned to approve the Midlands Technical College Capital Project for Approval- Advanced Manufacturing and Skilled Crafts Center. Mr. Satcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Approvals for May 16, 2024 – July 10, 2024 - Information Item- Mr. Barker noted that the staff approval list included in the agenda package contained six staff approvals. He stated that Mr. Johnson was available to answer any questions, but there were none. Mr. Barker moved to approve the staff approvals. Mr. Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

State Board Financial Summary—Month Ending June 30, 2024—Information Item-Mr. Barker noted the summary in the agenda package and stated that it reflected activity through the end of the fiscal year.

### **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.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE- AJ Newton, Vice President of Governmental Relations**

Mr. Newton provided the Board with an update regarding the vetoes for the FY 2024-25 state budget. The governor had 21 vetoes for a total of \$2.3M. None of the vetoes impacted any item within the budget for the South Carolina Technical College System or any of the 16 colleges. Mr. Newton provided the board with an update to the FY 2024-25 state budget for the Technical College System. \$8M recurring-based funding, \$115,061,656 Non-recurring for Capital and Maintenance Needs, Lottery Technical College System items: \$94M for SCWINS, \$25M High Demand Job Skill Training Equipment, \$51.1M Lottery Tuition Assistance Program, \$80M Need-Based Grants (portion to SCTCS), \$10M Nursing initiative (portion to SCTCS), \$8M Technology Funding (portion to SCTCS) \$700K for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Pilot Program. Other budget items of note: \$1M recurring funds for the JAG Program. Statewide Employee Pay Raise: \$1,125 for those making \$50k or less and 2.25% for employees above \$50,000. He also noted that the Income tax rate was reduced from 6.4% to 6.2%. Mr. Newton also provided an update on the several bills:

- S.557 (Apprenticeship Tax Credit) agreed to by both House and Senate and was signed by the Governor
- H.4087 (Ezone Bill) agreed to by both House and Senate and was signed by the Governor
- S.314 (Streamlines the State's Capital/PIP process) agreed to by both the House and Senate and signed by the Governor. CHE has been removed from the CPIP process and increases CPIP thresholds to \$2.5M for the SCTCS (it adds in an annual inflation factor )
- H.4289 (DEI Bill) is dead for the year
- H.4060 (Comprehensive Education Bill) is dead for the year
- H.5105 (Military/ACE Credentialing) is dead for the year

Mr. Newton also provided the meeting dates:

August 20, 2024 – Joint Bond Review

August 27, 2024- State Fiscal Accountability Authority

**LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2025-2026- AJ Newton, Vice President of Government Relations**

*Legislative Request for 2025-2026* AJ Newton will update the timeline for the legislative request for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Mr. Newton explained the timeframe for approval of the legislative request for the upcoming fiscal year. The proposed legislative request for 2025-26 is as follows:

*Recurring Request*

Base funding for the local colleges is \$12M

Dual Enrollment initiative \$5M

*Non-Recurring Request*

Lottery Tuition Assistance (LTAP) \$56.1M

Continue SCWINS Scholarship \$95M

Equipment for high-demand job skills training \$25M

Continue funding for readySC to deliver on commitments made by the state of \$5M

Mr. Newton explained that the \$12M request for base funding for the local colleges would equate to approximately a 4% tuition increase. He also discussed the dual enrollment initiative. Mr. Schrum called for a motion to approve the Legislative Agenda 2025-2026. Mr. Satcher moved, and Mr. Darby seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Jaillette apologized for not being able to attend in person. She also provided updates on behalf of Billy, who is also on vacation. Ms. Jaillette noted General Assembly and Committee Changes at the State House. Daniel Boan, the longtime Chief of Staff for the House Ways and Means Committee, is leaving. The current general counsel, Meredith Ross, will replace him as Chief of Staff. Julia Foster, previously with the Higher Education Subcommittee, is returning to the Committee as the legislative director. LCI Committee Chairman Bill Sander lost in the June primary; there will be significant movement among House members and committees, possibly affecting the Ways and Means Committee. Ms. Jaillette also noted that the SCATCC board held a retreat in Greenville from June 6th to 8th, during which they updated policies, approved the fiscal year 2024-25 budget, and thanked Greenville Technical College for its facilities and for setting up a tour of the new Prisma Health Sciences Building. Other items of note from the June meeting where dues calculations for the next fiscal year were approved and released to colleges and an RFP for advocacy work is being reviewed by the executive committee and will be issued by the end of August.

### **COUNCIL OF TECHNICAL COLLEGE PRESIDENTS' REPORT- Hope Rivers, Chairperson**

Chairman Schrum welcomed Dr. Rivers to her first meeting as the new Chair of the Presidents' Council and thanked her for participating in the State Board meeting. Dr. Rivers introduced herself to the State Board and provided the Board with her goals for the Presidents' Council over the next year. She wants the Presidents' Council to be more proactive, especially regarding legislation. She also provided an overview of the recent Presidents' Council Retreat, held in Greenville on June 13-14, 2024. Dr. Rivers highlighted the following discussions:

- Senator Massey's Talk: Senator Massey addressed the impact of recent elections on South Carolina's legislative landscape and emphasized the consequences of political changes.
- Leadership Continuity: There was a discussion on succession planning and the importance of having a strong bench for leadership transitions.
- Men of Color Initiatives: The retreat highlighted efforts to increase the participation and success of Black male students in higher education. Greenville Technical and Piedmont Technical programs were showcased, demonstrating practical strategies for supporting these students.

### **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

Chairman Schrum entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the State Board meeting on May 28, 2024. Mr. Hardesty motioned and was seconded by Mr. Satcher. The minutes were approved as amended with no further discussion.

### **MINUTES FOR REVIEW**

Chairman Schrum stated that minutes from the May 09, 2024, Presidents' Council meeting were included with the agenda materials distributed before the meeting for review. Mr. Schrum encouraged the Board members to read them.

### **DENMARK TECHNICAL COLLEGE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Odom motioned that the eight recommendations discussed in the Executive Session be approved and implemented by our executive director. Mr. Hardesty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **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; Mr. Satcher seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the following recommendations were adopted unanimously without discussion:

- Project Budgets for State Board Ratification
- Board Ratifications for E-Zone Retraining Program
- FY 2021-2022 Agency Head Evaluation
- CPIP Summary of Year 1: 2024-2025
- CPIP Summary of Year 2: 2025-2026
- Midlands Technical College Capital Project for Approval-Advanced

Manufacturing and Skilled Crafts Center

- Legislative Agenda 2025-2026
- State Board Meeting Minutes, May 26, 2024
- Denmark Technical College Recommendations

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

Dr. Hardee provided the Board with a list of events and meetings he has attended since the last Board meeting in May. He also provided the Board with an update on the following areas:

*Enrollment Status:* The System is seeing a 2.4% increase in enrollment for the fall semester, though this varies among colleges within the system. Efforts are ongoing to address declines in some areas and ensure accurate enrollment data as the semester approaches. From 2018 to 2023, The System's enrollment increased by 3.5%, the second highest among nine Southern states. This reflects a strong recovery post-pandemic, though efforts continue to attract more students.

*Collaborations and Initiatives:* Plans are underway to enhance collaboration with hospitals, including a joint meeting with the South Carolina Hospital Association. In October, the hospital CEOs and technical college presidents will meet to discuss expanding nursing programs and other career opportunities. Dr. Hardee also discussed the Richmond Federal Reserve. The System will participate in a Federal Reserve project. The goal of the project is to develop better measures for community college success, as current metrics often overlook part-time and non-traditional students who achieve employment before completing their programs.

Overall, the system is progressing well compared to regional peers and is actively engaging in partnerships and research to improve student outcomes and enrollment strategies.

### **AGENCY HEAD EVALUATION – Roger Schrum, Chair**

FY 2023-2024 Agency Head Evaluation- Chairman Schrum called for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the agency head evaluation. Mr. Odom motioned and was seconded by Mr. Homan; the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Schrum asked Ms. Kandy Peacock to stay during the executive session.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*S.C. Code of Laws Section 30-4-70(a)(1)(2)(5) – A public body may hold a meeting closed to the public for one or more of the following reasons:*

- (1) "Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body..."*

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Chairman Schrum stated that the Board was out of Executive Session and called for a motion. Mr. Odom moved to approve Dr. Hardee's yearly evaluation and that the board allow the chairman to work with Ms. Kandy Peacock to finalize the evaluation and send a letter to the State Agency Head Salary Commission requesting to bring Dr. Hardee's salary to the midpoint of the salary range. Mr. Satcher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Schrum noted he had proxies for Mr. Darby, Mr. Burns, and Mr. Barker.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Schrum called for a motion to adjourn the meeting with no other matters to discuss. Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Odom seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned the meeting.

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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