

# Fire School Advisory Board Minutes

From the November 9, 2016 Quarterly Meeting



**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mike Norket, Justin Mclellan, Joel Rogers, Brad Maness, Mike Benoir, Bruce Burding, David Laird (No Quorum for official meeting)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** John Ryan, Brian Horton, Tommy McDowell, Shannon Tanner, Barry Davis, David Laird, John Robinson, Joel Rogers, Diane Woods, Terry Sheriff.

**ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENTS:** Bert Polk

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Skip Hannon, Phillip Russell, Brent Turner, Ray Reckelhoff, Sherri Bush, Phil Jolly, Bonita Watters, Ashley Bolton, Lenny Busby, Marquis Solomon, Kyle Minick

Chairman Norket called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. A quorum was not present. Only information was provided.

Phillip Russell opened the meeting with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Norkett noted that the Agenda had been posted and sent to the media 24 hours prior to the meeting.

## **Chairman Mike Norket:**

Chairman Norket asked for Chief Polk to have the floor.

Chief Polk asked the members of the board to observe the improvements being made to the site. He also spoke briefly about the status of the search for a new SCFA Superintendent, stating that the job position had been closed and no decision had been made at this point. Currently there is no deadline for this decision and it has been extended to at least until first of 2017.

## **Interim Superintendent Phillip Russell:**

Phillip Russell briefly reviewed the previously sent report. He noted that there were 32,311 students who trained in FY16, 1152 Fundamental of Fire Fighting enrollment was down and the Instructor Recertification deadline has been extended until January, 31, 2016. Phillip also stated that the several courses including NFA courses are being archived and the 2102 Fire Officer II has gone from a five day to a four day program.

Lastly, he stated that the Fire Academy housed three Rescue Teams during hurricane Matthew.

### **Ray Reckelhoff- Facilities**

Ray briefly discussed the project underway on the campus. He updated the board about the ongoing LP (Liquid Propane) and the completed sewer project. In addition, he informed the board that currently there was no one that is willing to accept responsibility for the sewer lines. Lastly, Ray informed the board that the Class A building would be back in service soon.

### **Bonita Watters – Curriculum**

Bonita has updated the articulation contract with the technical schools. Several new courses have been added. Pro-board has increased the price of their certificates from \$15 to \$17.50.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The board would like the search for a new Fire Academy Superintendent to be expedited. Members were tasked with doing a SWAT analysis but only received two from the entire group. The board is still open to receiving information on this.

### **NEW BUSINESS : information provided**

- The partnership between the fire service and the career & technology centers is three years old. Mike Benoir is concerned with the amount of work shifting from the schools to his fire department. He would like to have an additional FDID issued to him specifically for high school students.
- Bruce Burding inquired about how to resolve an issue he was having with an instructor. Burt suggested he reach out to that instructor's Regional Coordinator for assistance.
- Mr. Burding also wanted to know if the Industry customers have access to their SCFID numbers. Phillip responded that they do, and industry does have the ability to build their department rosters, as municipal members.
- Brad Maness inquired about modification of school doors to reduce the ability of an active shooter to enter a school room. Burt Polk advised that any modifications must comply with current codes.
- Chairman Norket inquired to the progress of an agreement with S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles in an agreement of the Academy's Emergency Vehicle Drivers Training Program (1210) Phillip recommended that Chairman Norket and meet after their meeting so they could both review a correspondence.

- Phillip informed the committee that South Eastern Fire School has been canceled for 2017 to be replaced with a Fire Safety and Career Day due to low enrollment. Chairman Norket agreed that it should be canceled for 2017 but not canceled permanently. Marquis Solomon suggested that a demographics study be done to identify our customers and tailor SEFS accordingly. David Laird suggested working with the vocation schools and sending out a survey to increase enrollment at SEFS. He also suggested offering a big rig class.
- The SCFA was working to bring in an outside Fire Officer III program to meet the needs and request of our State's Fire Service. Even as the SCFA has been working on their own program, receiving this training would provide relief for those seeking this training, as well, allow the SCFA to monitor and learn from the program to benefit future SCFA program.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ashley announced the After Hurricane Matthew after Action Review forum coming up on Nov. 15, 2016 at Seawell's in Columbia at 9am. Lunch will be provided, RSVP required for attendance. In addition, the 2017 Fire Service Improvement Conference will be held January 27-29, 2017 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Registration & Schedule can be found at [www.scfirfighter.org](http://www.scfirfighter.org).

**NEXT MEETING** – February 8, 2017 at 10am at the South Carolina Fire Academy conference room A.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 pm

Respectfully submitted by  
Sherri Bush

Disclaimer: The attached minutes are DRAFT minutes. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, statements and decisions recorded in them, their status will remain that of a draft until such time as they are confirmed as a correct record at the subsequent meeting.