



Fire School Advisory Board Meeting Minutes Quarterly Meeting: February 10, 2021 at 10 a.m.

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the South Carolina Fire Academy, 141 Monticello Trail, Columbia, SC 29203 and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

In accordance with the Governor's directives regarding social distancing, the meeting was held via video and teleconference.

I. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was posted and advertised pursuant to all South Carolina laws, rules, and regulations. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Chair Billy Dillon.

Roll call of members:

SC Fire School Advisory Board															
Billy Dillon	X	Mark Davis	X	Scott McClain	A	Douglas Cline	X	Brad Stio	X	Brian Horton	X	Joel Rogers	X	Tommy McDowell	A
William Brocious	X	Andrew Morris	X	Shaun Gadsen	A	Justin McLellan	X	Terry Sheriff	X	Joshua Jordan	X				

P: Via Phone X: Present A: Absent

VISITORS PRESENT: Emily Farr, Jonathan Jones, Dennis Ray, Charlie King, Ashley Boltin, Kristie Watson, Andrela McCoy, Erick Adams, Julie McCabe, Nathan Ellis, Bonita Watters, Karen Rivera, Greg Bass, Amy Williamson, Terrell Brown, Doug Spinks, Brick Lewis, and Sherri Bush.

- A. Superintendent Dennis Ray led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
- B. A quorum was present

II. Review of Agenda

Joel Rogers made a motion to approve the agenda. Justin McClellan seconded. The motion carried unanimously with no discussion.

Approval of Minutes

Joshua Jordan made a motion to approve the November 13, 2021, minutes. Justin McClellan seconded. The motion carried unanimously with no discussion.

III. Committee Chair Comments

- Chair Dillon is looking forward to being able to meet in person again soon.
- SC is one of the few states conducting fire training during the pandemic. He took a moment to praise Superintendent Chief Ray and the Fire Academy for their hard work during this time.

Director Emily Farr Comments

- Thanked the Committee and State Fire for the continued work and training during the pandemic.

IV. Employee Updates

Chief Ray stated there were no employee updates.

V. Superintendent's Remarks

Chief Ray presented the following updates:

- Briefly discussed the challenges of continuing to deliver training during the pandemic.
- SCFA held its first virtual graduation and first hybrid recruit school. Also hosted the first national webinar and virtual course delivery using Zoom. All were successful.
- The Superintendent's Minute video is available for viewing.
- Hosted two virtual delivery Instructor Development trainings.
- MOU's are in place with ambulance companies and EMS providers throughout the state so clinicals can be performed.
- Replaced LXR with ASC. Test banks are being loaded to the new system.
- Several consolidations are taking place with the NFPA standards in curriculum.
- Resumed Industrial and ARFF training onsite.
- Recruit school continues onsite.
- Received federal grant funds that will be used to replace the SC Fire Academy database, regional and onsite training trailers, extractors and dryers.
- SC State Fire partnered with SC Firefighters' Association and the Fire Chief's Association to sponsor several speakers for the Executive Chief Officer Weekend.
- SC State Fire is also partnering with the SCIAAI to host a Fire Investigation course.

VI. State Fire Marshal's Remarks

Chief Jonathan Jones presented the following updates:

- State Fire continues to grow in terms of innovation and adaptability.
- Conducted from August - December 2020: 395 Zoom sessions for 17,600 participants.

Finance Related

Chief Jones presented the following updates:

- FY20 ended with a deficit of approximately \$500,000. This deficit is not expected to impact the day-to-day operations, but it could delay some of the planned capital improvement projects.
- State Fire has seen a decrease of approximately 20 percent overall in terms of revenue compared to FY20. There is also approximately a 42 percent decrease overall compared to FY19. The largest deficit is due to reduced industrial training and the dormitory being closed for renovation.
- Dorms and cafeteria are over-budget due to the required changes in food preparations and dorm occupancy.
- Finance team is meeting to determine which expenses are reimbursable under the COVID relief law.

CPIP Project Updates

Chief Jones, on behalf of George Stapleton, presented the following updates:

- Dorm project is closed. Funds leftover were transferred to the fire station project.
- Bay floors are being repaired in the fire station.
- Louvers in the fire station bay are being repaired.
- We are in phase II of the HVAC replacement project.
- Asphalt parking lots will be resurfaced. A new parking lot will be created at the USAR building.
- Training tower brick veneer will be replaced with precast concrete slabs. This project will be managed by State Fire.
- Maintenance staff has made upgrades and improvements in-house without it being a CPIP project.

Grants Update

Chief Jones, on behalf of George Stapleton, presented the following updates:

- All of the Scott SCBA's, turn out gear, washer extractor, dryer, and defibrillators were replaced with the funds received from the AFG grant. Funds from this grant will also be used to replace the existing database along with regional and resident trailers.
- A SAFER Grant was awarded to employ a recruitment and retention coordinator.
- An AFG grant has been submitted to replace an old fire engine.

VII. SCFA Section Reports

Facilities

Greg Bass provided a Facilities update:

- Repairs were made to AARF truck.
- Upgraded the fire panel in the cafeteria
- Robert Standridge started in October 2021 in the maintenance department.
- Redesigned the pump house.
- Redesigned the Class A building ceiling to better withstand the heat.
- Added drip legs to the SAFT.
- Commended landscaping and cafeteria staff for a job well done during pandemic.
- Ordered new State Fire cloth facemasks.

Curriculum

Bonita Watters provided additional curriculum updates:

- Recruit graduations are now being streamed live.
- Virtually delivering I-300 and I-400 through Black Board Collaborate. PICO, DIMCO and STICO will be added this quarter.
- Virtually offered 5241 Fire and Life Safety Educator through Zoom. Skills were evaluated on the fourth day and tested (in person) on Friday.
- The Firefighter series, Instructor I & II, and the Fire Officer programs will be updated by Nov. 2021.

Training

Terrell Brown provided an onsite training section update:

- Promoted Kristie Watson to Resident Training Supervisor.
- Promoted Don Headrick to Special Operations division.
- Graduated 22 students in the recruit program.
- Vacancy - Resident Training has three full time positions open.
- Resident instructors are working with curriculum on classes that need to be reaccredited.
- Hired Eric Bolen as Region 5 Coordinator - replacing Erick Adams, Regional Coordinator supervisor
- Region 1 was split into two regions creating Region 7. Region 1 is now housed at the Duncan Chapel FD. Wayne Craft was hired as the Region 7 Coordinator. His office is housed in the Anderson FD. Region 4 was split to add Region 3. The Region 3 coordinator will start Feb. 17, 2021. The search for a Region 4 coordinator is ongoing.

EMS

Julie McCabe provided a training update:

- In 2020, 42 students tested the NREMT cognitive exam. The first attempt pass rate was 79 percent. This is 10 percent higher than the state average and eight percent higher than the national average.
- The EMS committees will meet in April 2021.
- Fairfield EMS has been added as a clinical site.
- Awarded two Zoll monitors (grant funding).
- EMS has set classes in the catalog.

Accreditation

Andrela Riley provided an update:

- 99% of the accredited level and end of course exams have been uploaded to ACS.

IFSAC Site Visit

Julie McCabe provided an update:

- Site team will be made up of three members. The visit is scheduled May 3-7, 2021. They plan to interview State Fire stakeholders. They will issue a report within 30 days.

Administration

Sherri Bush, Administrative Supervisor, provided an update:

- There is a vacancy in the records office. Interviews will be held next week.

Marketing

Amy Williamson provided Marketing and Special Projects updates:

- Asked for help in terms of speaker suggestions for upcoming events.
- Prepping for virtual delivery of the Executive Chief Officer's conference on Feb. 25-26, 2021. The SC Firefighters' Association and the SC Fire Chief's Association have sponsored several speakers.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- None

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presented by Chief Ray

- Universal fee schedule is being developed to ensure classes are being billed consistently across the state. A draft should be ready for committee review at the May 2021 meeting.
- New fees are being considered based on what it costs to deliver class and how much is offset by the One Percent money.
- A new printable course catalog is under development.

XI: ANNOUNCEMENTS

- On Feb. 25, 2021, the SC Firefighters' Association in partnership with The National Volunteer Fire Council will virtually host Leadership Training for Fire and Emergency Services at 10 am and 7:30 pm.
- Training and Education Committee will be conducting 5-7 in person hands-on training events around the state. These trainings will include Flood Boat Operations and Engine Company Ladder extrication skills.
- 30 pieces of legislation under consideration at the State House that have impact on the fire service.
- The Fire Rescue Conference is scheduled for the second week of June 2021. It will be held at the Convention center in Columbia, SC.
- Amy Williamson received the 2021 President's award at the Fire Chief's Conference.
- The Fire's Chief's Conference is October 7, 2021 at the Doubletree in Myrtle Beach SC.
- The Cancer Coalition is launching a 12-month program to address issues related to the fire service. The first blog will be announced March 1, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

Doug Cline made a motion to adjourn. Justin McClellan seconded. Motion passed unanimously with no discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 12, 2021, in the SC Fire Academy Conference Room or via teleconference.

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.