



Fire School Advisory Board Meeting Minutes Quarterly Meeting: May 14, 2025 at 10:00 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.

The meeting was held in person in the SC Fire Academy conference room. Board members also utilized video and teleconferencing.

I. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was posted and advertised pursuant to South Carolina laws, rules, and regulations.
The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Chair Terry Sheriff.

Roll call of members:

SC Fire School Advisory Board															
Terry Sheriff	X	Mark Davis	X	Jody Suttles	Z	Douglas Cline	A	Brad Stio	A	Brian Lovin	Z	Joel Rogers	Z	Tommy McDowell	A
Michael Dozier	Z	Harold Nichols	Z	Justin McLellan	Z	Thomas Tardo	A	Joshua Jordan	X	Peter Dontje	Z				

P: Via Phone X: Present A: Absent Z: Via Zoom

VISITORS PRESENT: George Stapleton, Rick Dunn, Terrell Brown, Amy Williamson, Andrela Riley, Bonita Watters, Erick Adams, Richard Naugler, Shelly Allen and Sherri Bush.

- After roll call, a quorum was established.
- Superintendent Pope led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.
- Mark Davis made a motion to approve the agenda. Joshua Jordan seconded. The motion carried unanimously without discussion.

II. Approval of Minutes

Josh Jordan made a motion to approve the May 14, 2025 minutes. Mark Davis seconded. The motion carried unanimously without discussion.

III. Committee Chair Comments

Committee Chair Terry Sherriff

- Discussed the success of the Company Officer Academy and the SOCON conference. Thanked everyone for their hard work and commitment to the fire service.

IV. State Fire Marshal's Remarks

Financial Update

Chief Jonathan Jones:

- Discussed the budget

CPIP Project Updates

George Stapleton:

- Discussed the ongoing CPIP projects

Grants Update

George Stapleton shared the following update:

- Discussed the AFG grants.

Employee Updates

- Discussed vacancies and new hires.

V. SCFA Section Reports

Facilities

- Superintendent Pope announced the hire of the new maintenance manager Charlie Belk.

Curriculum & Production

- Bonita Watters discussed the NFPA 1010 instructor updates scheduled in July 2025.

Training

- Terrell Brown discussed test eBooks and online testing and employment vacancies in training.

EMS

Richard Naugler:

- Discussed ongoing EMS classes starting throughout the state.
- State Fire is now licensed at the advanced level as a EMT training institution for South Carolina.

Accreditation

- Andrela Riley, discussed online testing in pyrotechnics.

Administration

- Sherri Bush discussed ongoing dorm reservation project with Amy Williamson and DOTS.

Marketing

- Amy Williamson discussed the updates to the Fire Academy database.

Superintendent's Remarks

Chief Jason Pope stated:

- Discussed issues with employment and vacancies in training.
- The dorms will return to double occupancy.
- Staff is working to develop a process to offer course packages in digital format.
- Discussed the Driver Operator testing schedule.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- None

IX. Announcements

- Don Wilkins received The Order of the Palmetto on May 3, 2025 for his years as a Fire Instructor.
- Amy Williamson received Member of the Year for the Palmetto Incident Team.
- The Fire Rescue conference is June 11-14, 2025 at Myrtle Beach, SC.
- The Fire Chiefs Annual Leadership Symposium is Sept. 22-25, 2025 in Myrtle Beach SC.

- George Stapleton announced his retirement from State Fire in Aug. 2025.

X. Adjournment

Joshua Jordan made a motion to adjourn. Mark Davis seconded. Motion passed unanimously without discussion. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2025, 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.