

MINUTES

Policy and Legislation Committee

Tuesday, September 1st, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.

P&L Committee Members in Attendance:

Chair Dr. David Mathis, *Second Judicial Circuit*

Chair-Elect Joyce Crimminger, *Sixth Judicial Circuit*

Jacqueline Lynn, *Fourth Judicial Circuit*

Dr. Christian T. Hanley, *Ninth Judicial Circuit*

Dr. Joette Johnson, *Seventh Judicial Circuit*

Cliff Warren, *Fourteenth Judicial Circuit*

Also in Attendance:

Donna Elmore, *First Judicial Circuit*

Dr. Trent Ivey, *Third Judicial Circuit*

Virginia Catoe, *Fifth Judicial Circuit*

Dr. Joette Johnson, *Seventh Judicial Circuit*

David Trent, *Eighth Judicial Circuit*

Anthony Vincent, *Tenth Judicial Circuit*

Richard Harrington, *Twelfth Judicial Circuit*

Ken Richardson, *Fifteenth Judicial Circuit*

Joey Haney, *Sixteenth Judicial Circuit*

Rita Allison, *Governor's Appointee*

Makenzie Segars, *Assistant Deputy General Counsel*

- I. WELCOME AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:** The Policy and Legislation Committee convened at 9:00 a.m. Chair Mathis called the meeting to order, welcomed all present and confirmed the presence of a quorum.
- II. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR AUGUST 4, 2026:** The minutes of the regular Policy and Legislation meeting for August 4, 2026, was approved by unanimous consent.
- III. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 1, 2026:** The agenda for the September 1, 2026, meeting was approved by unanimous vote.
- IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND NEWS MEDIA:** Chair Mathis welcomed any media and visitors present and/or viewing online.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no participants for public comment.
- VI. COMMITTEE ITEMS:** There were two items for Approval before the Committee.

FOR APPROVAL

1. Request for Approval of Property Disposal—Aiken County School District, 422 Hazzard Circle, Ridge Spring, SC 29129—Theresa Penney, Associate Engineer III, Office of School Facilities

The Office of School Facilities (OSF) received a request for property disposal from Aiken County School District. This parcel is land only; therefore, charter school offer is not applicable. Dr. Joette Johnson made a motion to approve the property disposal. Chair-Elect Crimminger seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. *Approval of SC Model Code of Ethics and Effective Board Governance, First Reading—*Rebecca Blackburn Hines, Director of Policy & Government Affairs

Rebecca Blackburn Hines presented the SC Model Code of Ethics and Effective Board Governance. This establishes a statewide model code outlining ethical standards, governance responsibilities, and accountability expectations for local school board trustees in South Carolina. The policy emphasizes a student-centered approach to governance, clear distinctions between board and superintendent responsibilities, responsible stewardship of public resources, transparency, ethical conduct, and continuous board improvement. It also provides guidance for board member training, performance, and accountability measures intended to strengthen public trust and improve educational outcomes. During the first reading, input and feedback from external stakeholders were received and will be taken into consideration as the policy is reviewed and refined prior to second reading.

Chair-Elect Crimminger made a motion to approve the First Reading of the Model Policy. Dr. Joette Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

FOR INFORMATION

No items.

- VII. CONSENT AGENDA:** Since the Item #2 is a first reading, it will not be placed on the Consent Agenda but will be placed on the agenda for Approval by the full board. Jacqueline Lynn made a motion to place Item #1 on the Consent Agenda. Cliff Warren seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- VIII. OTHER BUSINESS** There were no other items for business.

- IX. ADJOURNMENT** Chair Mathis requested a motion for adjournment. Chair-Elect Crimminger made a motion, Jacqueline Lynn seconded. The Committee adjourned at 9:35 a.m.