

State of South Carolina

State Ethics Commission

F. XAVIER STARKES, CHAIRMAN
NEAL D. TRUSLOW, VICE
CHAIRMAN
BRYANT S. CALDWELL
HELEN MUNNERLYN



SARA PARRISH
MARY HUNTER B. TOMLINSON
MATTHEW N. TYLER

201 EXECUTIVE CENTER DRIVE, SUITE
150
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29210

MEGHAN WALKER DAYSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MINUTES

COMMISSION MEETING

OPEN SESSION

May 15, 2025

The May 15, 2025, meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Chairman F. Xavier Starkes at the State Ethics Commission's Hearing Room located at 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina. Chairman F. Xavier Starkes, Vice Chairman Neal D. Truslow, Commissioner Matthew N. Tyler, Commissioner Mary Hunter B. Tomlinson, Commissioner Helen Munnerlyn, and Commissioner Sara Parrish were in attendance. Commissioner Bryant Caldwell appeared via Zoom call.

Staff present: Meghan Walker Dayson, Ami Franklin, Courtney Laster, Kevin Hinson, Ryanne Caldwell, Reggie Gaymon, James Bagnall, W.B. White, Jr., Timothy J. Plunkett, Rachael O'Bryan, and Erin Caughman were in attendance.

Chairman Starkes declared a quorum present. Director Dayson noted for the record that the news media was duly notified.

MINUTES

Chairman Starkes called for the approval of the March 20, 2025 and April 17, 2025 minutes. Chairman Starkes asked for any discussion. A motion was made by Commissioner Tyler, seconded by Commissioner Tomlinson, to accept the minutes from the March 20, 2025 and April 17, 2025 Commission meetings. The motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

OFFICE OPERATIONS

Director Dayson presented the Budget, Compliance reports, and Pending and Paid Orders report for information. Director Dayson noted that there would be an amended budget report, so the numbers listed on the report provided will change.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Starkes asked for further discussion or a motion to go into Executive Session to hear probable cause matters, receive an update on a personnel matter, and receive legal advice. A motion was made by Commissioner Truslow, seconded by Commissioner Tyler, to go into executive session to hear probable cause matters, receive an update on a personnel matter, and receive legal advice. The motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commissioners returned from Executive Session at 2:25 p.m.

ADVISORY OPINION 2025-001

The Commission was presented with a draft of AO2025-001, which addresses if S.C. Code Ann. § 8-13-700 prohibits a school board member from voting to approve an in-term pay increase for himself for the duration of his present term, absent a specific statute for a district that provides otherwise. A motion was made by Commissioner Truslow, seconded by Commissioner Tyler, to adopt draft AO2025-001. The motion passed with a 7 – 0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Starkes asked for further discussion or a motion to adjourn. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Truslow, seconded by Commissioner Munnerlyn, to adjourn at 2:36 p.m. The motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachael O'Bryan

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