

MEETING MINUTES

South Carolina School Facilities Planning and Construction Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 10:00 am

Location

849 Learning Lane, West Columbia, SC 29172
Conference Room A111 (State Board Room)

Committee Members Present: Mike Doles, Henry Gunter, Virgie Chambers, Wayne Stokes, Scott Powell, Chris Partrich, PE, Ashley Johnson, PE, Allen Taylor, Will Ligon, Joel Carter, Ruan Reynolds, Nathan Ellis, Raquel Deschler, PE, Cameron Runyan, Scott Carlin and Dr. Shawn Foster and Dr. James N. Epps, Jr.

Virtual Committee Members: Dr. Francisco Rodriguez, Cole Owens and Doug Bouma

Committee Members Absent: John Payne and Barb Haller

Office of School Facilities (OSF) Staff Present: Kiawania Reed and Jack Bonnette

Recorders: Kiawania Reed

OPENING

Superintendent, Ellen Weaver welcomed everyone to the annual meeting for the South Carolina School Facilities Planning and Construction Guide that is open to the public. Ellen indicated that the purpose of the meeting is for the Committee Members to vote on potential updates to be included in the 2025 South Carolina School Facilities Planning and Construction Guide.

Each Committee Member introduced themselves.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Ellen Weaver welcomed all visitors and thanked them for attending.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Ellen Weaver called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Ellen Weaver confirmed and declared a quorum of members present for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Ellen Weaver stated that the agenda was distributed in advance and made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Committee Member seconded the motion. The motion carried.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS

Each Committee Member was given an opportunity to make a brief comment, and comments were presented for absent Committee Member(s).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kevin Mason, Executive Director for the Public Charter School Alliance of South Carolina. Commends the ongoing efforts to enhance the Guide and believe the process will help strengthen public education and facilities, benefiting all students. Kevin indicates that the most critical areas for charter schools is timely approvals as most schools operate on tight budgets and strict timelines in competitive markets, he encourages setting clear timelines for project studies, reviews and approval. Charters often rely on modular solutions during early phases or periods of growth. A streamlined approval process for modern modular classrooms can help schools quickly meet their needs while maintaining high standards for safety and functionality. Overall, the Public Charter School Alliance of South Carolina recognizes and appreciates the complexity of creating and maintaining a comprehensive Guide.

APPROVAL OF CHANGES FOR THE 2025 SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL FACILITIES PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION GUIDE

Committee Members voted and agreed upon the updates below:

Revisions to the School Facilities Planning and Construction Guide (Guide) are recommended that streamline and refocus the Guide on the substance of “the latest applicable standards and specifications,” per State statute. This streamlined Guide incorporates the most recent updates to the codes while also removing OSF implementation timelines, processes, and procedures.

NEW BUSINESS

Emphasize the Manual, Process and Procedure Improvements PowerPoint will be attached. Send comments to schoolfacilities@ed.sc.gov. The next Committee meeting will be Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

No further business. Ellen Weaver made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned which was seconded by a Committee Member. The meeting was officially adjourned at 10:50 am.