



State Library Board

Meeting Notes

Date: September 25, 2025
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Location: Virtual and in-person at 1500 Senate Street

Board Member Attendance:

Ms. Deborah Hyler, Member	Absent
Ms. Anna Claire Dando, Chair	Absent
Ms. Loretta Green, Member	Absent
Ms. Jennifer Cunningham, Member	Present
Ms. Andrea Kelly, Vice Chair	Present
Mr. Mark Herring, Member	Present

Other Attendees: Ms. Leesa Aiken, SCSL; Ms. Charlotte Dunn, SCSL; Ms. Faith Line, APLA; Ms. Breanne Smith, SCSL; Mr. Chris Yates, SCSL

A. Board Business and Approval of Minutes

1. Andrea Kelly called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.
2. Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 24, 2025, State Library Board Meeting. Mr. Herring made a motion to approve the minutes; Ms. Kelly seconded the motion; all board members present approved the minutes from the July 24, 2025, State Library Board Meeting.

(It was later noted that per SCSL Board by-laws, a quorum was not present; therefore, the approval of the minutes could not stand. The July 24, 2025, minutes will need to be voted upon at the November SCSL Board Meeting before they can be officially published.).

B. Director Report

1. Agency Administration

- a. The Agency Head Evaluation Process will be changing. Leesa Aiken let the Board know that there will now be a two-year cycle, including a mid-year review, that will be entirely online. Breanne Smith stated that next July will be the planning document year. A copy of the evaluation form will be sent to Board Chair Anna Claire Dando and everyone on the Board will receive notification. As the new process continues to be updated, SCSL will continue to keep the Board informed of any changes.
- b. The Governor's Budget Office Request Meeting for FY27 will be held October 1, 2025. SCSL is asking for nine positions to move from federal funding to state funding: these positions do not serve any federal purposes and are for positions such as SCSL's reference librarian, IT positions, circulation, etc. Next, SCSL is asking for an increase to the cost of operations for administration related to an unexpected expenditure related to an \$11,000 P-card audit as required by Proviso 104.10. Additionally, SCSL is moving its technology to the state IT office and will require an increased need for storage, which in turn will require more funding. Next, SCSL is requesting a minimum increase to \$200,000 for public library funding per APLA. Finally, SCSL is asking for nine new positions in preservation and digitization.
- c. The completed financial audit for SCSL was solid and near perfect. The two issues that came up were the classification of an asset related to the surplus sale of the TBS outreach van and a lift that was purchased separately for that van. The internal compliance findings of the audit showed no issues.
- d. Due to Proviso 104.10 that was passed during the last legislative session, SCSL and other state agencies must now have an independent audit of their p-card programs separate from that of the State Auditor's office. The cost to the State Library for the independent p-card (Bank of America) audit was \$11,000, which was an unexpected financial burden.
- e. SCSL received a FOIA request in early August 2025 from the ACLU related to the issues with Discus in Berkeley County Schools. The FOIA request was responded to with the requested information in a timely manner.
- f. SCSL has learned that Berkeley County Schools have recently granted access to Discus back to their high school students. Mr. Yates stated this information was gathered from a media alert. Mr. Herring stated that information was received from Gem Massey that access may soon re-open to elementary students.
- g. The Kasemake archival box machine is currently making its way to the Port of Charleston and due to arrive in early October. Ms. Aiken stated that staff are eager to have the machine set up, get trained, and start using it!
- h. At the July APLA meeting, SCSL hosted an Impact Grant Showcase for directors, which proved to be a great sharing opportunity. Last year, the State Library awarded eight impact grants; this grant cycle, there were twenty submissions. Impact grants vary

but are featuring projects such as book lockers, outreach vehicles, SC250 programming, etc.

- i. The Department of Administration is currently replacing all the windows in the State Library building. Ms. Aiken confirmed with Charlotte Dunn that the deadline for the project is late January 2026.

2. Partnerships

- a. Approximately 75 first-year law students from the USC Joseph R. Rice School of Law volunteered at the State Library on August 22, 2025. Their enthusiasm and energy were much appreciated as they sorted hundreds of books and labeled thousands of items for South Carolina Talking Book Services (TBS).
- b. South Carolina TBS has partnered with the SC State Museum in the creation of the TBS Mini Accessible Library. The TBS Mini Accessible Library is housed in the Accessibility Room, which highlights resources for children with sensory issues. The Mini Accessible Library contains braille pictures books and an audio book player.
- c. As a part of the SC250 partnership, SCSL has partnered with the Confederate Relic Room & Military Museum to digitize documents pertaining to the American Revolution.
- d. The State Library is partnering with the SC Department of Education for their Liberty Day and coordinating lesson plans in conjunction with SCSL's partnership with SC250.
- e. SCSL will be providing SC250 with a coloring/activity book for distribution at their interactive exhibit at the South Carolina State Fair.
- f. Ms. Aiken announced that she is now serving on the SCETV Advisory Council.
- g. SCSL will be presenting at the SC Department of Agriculture's Benefits Fair.

3. Personnel

- a. The State Library currently has the following open positions: Youth Services Consultant and SCLENDS Coordinator.
- b. Ms. Aiken emphasized the importance of getting someone for the SCLENDS Coordinator: the position will organize the Palmetto Consortium as well as the other twenty-two libraries that currently comprise SCLENDS.

4. Events

- a. Recent:
 1. Speaker at the Center: Silversmith Kaminer Haislip, "Charleston Silver: Past to Present" (August 7, 2025). This event had a huge turnout, especially from the South Carolina Silver Society.
 2. Speaker at the Center: Authors of *South Carolina's Matilda Evans: A Medical Pioneer* (August 26, 2025). This event also had a large turnout with an enthusiastic crowd.

b. Upcoming:

1. From Colony to Community: Three Centuries of South Carolina Culture (October 16, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. – online webinar)

5. Public Libraries

- a. SCSL is still waiting on some outstanding public library statistics regarding the Summer Reading Survey; they were due September 15, 2025.
- b. Regarding the Public Library Survey, almost all public libraries have reported their statistics, which are due to SCSL by September 30, 2025. These statistics are incredibly helpful when the State Library compiles information and creates infographics for legislative budget requests.
- c. Ms. Aiken explained a complicated situation relate to Pickens County Library and their certification for State Aid funding. Certification was received; however, the documents were not signed by the Board Chair. The motion to sign the documents included the movement of 10 books from the young adult collection of the Library to the adult collection. The motion passed and the Pickens County Library Secretary agreed to sign the documentation for State Aid. Subsequently, the Director of the Library informed the Board that the action was illegal and the books would not be moved. The Secretary contacted Ms. Aiken and advised she wanted to rescind her signature. Ms. Aiken wrote a letter to the Pickens County Library Board advising them they either needed to send in corrected, signed documentation or return the State Aid payment they received in order to be in compliance with Proviso 27.1. The Pickens County Library Board Chair did sign the required paperwork by the deadline Ms. Aiken provided. Pickens County continues to be an area with much conflict regarding youth and teen collection.
- d. Ms. Aiken visited the Lancaster County Library system on September 23, 2025; there had been reports from concerned community members over books being moved to different sections. Ms. Aiken had constructive, helpful conversations with the library director and the county library board. Lancaster County recently started a Teen Advisory Board, which at their first meeting had twenty teens in attendance. Ms. Aiken stated that they are working together as a community to better their library. Mr. Herring stated that Young Adult literature has changed for the worse in some books and that to him, it is clear why community members are upset. He mentioned SBE Code 43-170, which applies to school libraries and media centers.
- e. There is one current director vacancy in South Carolina: Chesterfield County.

C. APLA Report

Ms. Line thanked Ms. Aiken for her work on state aid for public libraries, especially with the request for a rise in the minimum to \$200,000. She stated that state aid is the bedrock of

funding, especially for South Carolina's small and rural libraries, allowing them to provide better services to their communities.

Ms. Line stated that the last SCAPLA board meeting had nothing of note happen and that SCAPLA's current focus is the increase to the minimum in funding to public libraries.

Ms. Line went on to note that most public libraries in South Carolina are doing their best to ensure they meet the qualifications and certifications of Proviso 27.1 regarding state aid.

Ms. Aiken stated that she requested a meeting with SCAPLA's executive board regarding State Aid Certification and the upcoming legislative agenda and session.

D. Finance

Ms. Aiken presented the financial report. The budget is on target with nothing of merit to note. No additional questions were asked by the Board.

E. Adjournment

Ms. Kelly made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 a.m.; Ms. Cunningham seconded the motion. All present approved. The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2025, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.