

# **SURRY COUNTY SCHOOLS NEWS RELEASE**

Sonia Dickerson, Communications Director  
P.O. Box 364  
Dobson, North Carolina 27017  
336/386-8211 Fax: 336/386-4756  
E-Mail: [dickersons@surry.k12.nc.us](mailto:dickersons@surry.k12.nc.us)

## **For Immediate Release**

### **SURRY COUNTY SCHOOLS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD LEADERSHIP**

DOBSON, NC-The Surry County Schools Educational Foundation Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Mr. John Priddy has accepted the nomination of chairperson. Mr. Priddy has been a member of the Foundation Board since 2014 and has served on the Investments Committee.

John Priddy moved to Surry County in 1977 to serve as Branch and Operations Manager for NCNB. In 1983, he moved to United Savings and Loan (becoming First Financial Savings Bank and then BB&T). During his BB&T career, Priddy managed offices in Mount Airy and Elkin. In 2000, he became Area Executive for Surry, Alleghany, and Wilkes Counties. John Priddy retired in 2015 after thirty-two years of service with BB&T. He continues his link to BB&T as a member of the BB&T Surry County Advisory Board.

A member of many civic groups, Mr. Priddy is very active in the community. In addition to his work on the Surry County Schools Educational Foundation, he is also a past chairperson with the Surry County Economic Development Partnership Board and a past chairperson for the Mt. Airy Salvation Army. He has twenty-five years of total Rotary membership with the Surry Sunrise Rotary Club, Mt. Airy Lunch Rotary Club, and the Yadkin Valley Rotary Club.

“I am excited to take this new position on the Foundation Board,” said Priddy. “I am always ready to help with organizations I believe do good things for our community.”

Mrs. Sue Stone has accepted the nomination of vice-chairperson of the Board. Mrs. Stone served on the Surry County Board of Education for thirty-six years where she influenced children and families throughout Surry County with her dedication to promote policies and initiatives that put children first. As a Surry County Schools Business Advisory Committee member, Mrs. Stone has been involved in most of the major educational initiatives in the SCS System for more than forty years.

Mrs. Stone is also very active in the community. She volunteers at Northern Hospital of Surry County and is a member of First United Methodist Church of Pilot Mountain.

“Education in Surry County is very important to me,” said Stone. “The Foundation supports Surry County Schools in many ways, and I am happy to continue my support of education in this way.”

Graham Atkinson will continue his appointment as treasurer for the Foundation. Atkinson has served in this capacity for several years and is a very important part of helping provide students and teachers with enhanced learning opportunities. Atkinson, Sheriff of Surry County, is proud to serve on the Foundation Board in this way because, “if I can help education in Surry County in anyway, that is what I will do. The Surry County Schools Educational Foundation directly impacts teachers and students positively, and I am happy to help with it!”

Brent McKinney is stepping down from the chairperson position with the SCS Foundation Board. Mr. McKinney was an instrumental leader in the creation of the Foundation. He, along with other local business and community leaders, formed the Educational Foundation because they were passionate about education and the future of Surry County. “We came away from the original meeting in early 2011 with a clear goal to have a well-educated work force in Surry County,” said McKinney. “We felt we could create and attract good paying jobs which would help to maintain and even improve the quality of life in our county.”

“After six years of organizational work,” McKinney continues, “we are now incorporated as a non-profit organization, we have an outstanding Board of dedicated community leaders, we have three annual fundraising events, we have identified several areas in the county school system where financial assistance is making a positive difference, and we have begun an endowment campaign. In the coming months and perhaps years, our greatest challenges are to make the Foundation well-known, and reach out to every potential source for financial support.”

McKinney will continue as a Board of Directors member, and will always support education in Surry County. He is looking forward to spending more time with his family and church.

The Surry County Schools Educational Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization created by a group of local business and community leaders who are passionate about the education and the future of Surry County. The Board of Directors is committed to providing enhanced learning opportunities for students that will position them to be ready to compete in a global market.

For more information about the Surry County Schools Educational Foundation, please visit [www.scsfoundation.org](http://www.scsfoundation.org) or contact Ashley Mills, Foundation Liaison, (336) 386-8211 or [millsa@surry.k12.nc.us](mailto:millsa@surry.k12.nc.us).