

STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEETING
January 29, 2020 10:00 a.m.
SCSC Meeting Room
SCSC Board Room, Suite 512, West Tower GA 30334

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Lewis at approximately 10:04 AM.
2. Commissioners Tom Lewis, Paul Williams, Jose Perez, Carmen Dill, Buzz Brockway, Lina Millan and staff members Lauren Holcomb – Executive Director, Morgan Felts – Chief Operations Officer, Cerrone Lockett – General Counsel, Kristen Easterbrook – Charter Development Manager, Katie Manthey – Director of Research and Evaluation, Rennie Laryea – Associate General Counsel, Sarah Beck – Associate General Counsel and Operational Accountability Manager, Terence Washington – Financial Accountability Manager, Darcy Callaway – Business Manager, and Lindsey Newton – Graduate Student Intern were present.
3. Approximately 25 members of the public were also present, including charter school staff and representatives, charter school education service provider representatives and their attorney representatives, and charter advocacy organizations’ representatives.
4. Chairmen Lewis welcomed everyone and introduced SCSC’s new Commissioner Dr. Lina Millan. Executive Director, Lauren Holcomb, introduced the two newest SCSC staff members. Cerrone Lockett joined as SCSC’s General Counsel and Michele Neely as the President of the State Charter Schools Foundation.
5. Chairman Lewis called for an approval of the meeting minutes from the October 30, 2019 Board Meeting. The minutes were approved.
6. Ms. Holcomb noted that the Commissioners visited all nine schools eligible for renewal in October and November of 2019. There will be several more visits by Commissioners in the Spring for the SCSC schools that opened in the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Ms. Holcomb provided a legislative update and informed the Commission that the Governor’s budget recommendations have been released and the SCSC may request a legislative clarification regarding student records this Session.
8. Ms. Easterbrook provided an update on the November Governance Training held on November 6th and 7th, 2019. The next Governance Training will be held on February 4th and 5th, 2020, at the UGA Center for Continuing Education in Athens, Georgia. Ms. Easterbrook also updated the Commission on the New Schools Orientation meeting that took place January 15th. The training focused on staffing and student recruitment. The next New Schools Orientation will be held on March 17th, 2020. The orientation will focus on legal obligations and operational requirements.

9. Ms. Holcomb stated that SCSC and the Tennessee Charter School Center (TCSC) are conducting a study of Georgia's charter school facility and financing environment. The study will give an in-depth analysis of Georgia's charter facility landscape in order to provide potential solutions. The cost of the study will be covered by a U.S. Department of Education Charter School Program grant that was received from the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools.
10. Ms. Manthey presented information on academic performance of SCSC schools. Four state charter schools were designated as "Beating the Odds" for the 2018-19 school year. Five state charter schools had statistically higher VAM scores than the district(s) they serve in all relevant grade bands for the 2018-19 school year. With this addition 18 of 29 state charter schools (62%) are meeting the SCSC's academic expectations as outlined in the Comprehensive Performance Framework for the 2018-2019 school year.
11. Ms. Beck provided an update to the Commissioners about this year's pilot program for monitoring, referred to as desk monitoring. She expects to expand this program next year.
12. Ms. Easterbrook provided a reminder that early feedback applications are due February 3rd, 2020 and that final applications are due April 10th, 2020. There are 16 groups that registered for the early feedback program this year.
13. Ms. Manthey stated that there are currently nine charter schools up for renewal this year. All nine schools submitted their applications before the deadline. Renewal interviews will be conducted by SCSC staff and Commissioners throughout the week. Renewal recommendations will be posted publicly one week before the February 26th SCSC meeting.
14. Chairman Lewis called to recommend Commissioners Paul Williams, Hunter Hill, and Buzz Brockway to an SCSC committee. Commissioner Dill motioned to approve, and Commissioner Williams seconded. The Motion passed.
15. Ms. Manthey presented updates and amendments for the Comprehensive Performance Framework. Some of the changes include updating the academic performance language to better reflect the CCPRI of schools. For financial performances, the proposed new measure will examine a school's debt to income ratio, rather than debt to asset ratio, to better reflect the financial state of a school in their first contract. She also proposed updates to operations to consolidate measures, which will more accurately capture school compliance.
16. Chairman Lewis called for an approval of the Comprehensive Performance Framework Amendments. Commissioner Williams motioned to approve, and Commissioner Perez seconded. The Motion passed.

17. There was no public comment.

18. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.

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