

STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION MINUTES

District-Collaboration Committee Meeting

February 17, 2020 (4:04 p.m. - 5:10 p.m.)

Conference Call Line: 1-888-808-6929

Access Code: 5206746

1. The State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC) Vice Chairman, Paul Williams, called the meeting to order at approximately 4:04 p.m. The following commissioners were present: Buzz Brockway and Hunter Hill. All commissioners appointed to the committee were present. Thus, a quorum was present.
2. The following State Charter Schools Commission staff, among others, were present: Executive Director, Lauren Holcomb; Chief Operations Officer, Morgan Felts; General Counsel, Cerrone Lockett; and Financial Accountability Manager, Terence Washington.
3. The Vice Chairman offered an opportunity for any participants dialed into the conference call to introduce themselves. Several representatives from Foothills Education Center High School and Mountain Education Charter School identified themselves. The Vice Chairman announced that the materials to be discussed during the meeting had been made available via the SCSC website.
4. The Vice Chairman explained the purpose and goals of the committee. The Vice Chairman Lewis announced that the District-Collaborative committee had been formed by the Chairman of the SCSC as an ad hoc committee with a term lasting as long as the task required.
5. The Vice Chairman acknowledged the diversity among the commissioners appointed to the committee. Specifically, the Vice Chairman recognized that the committee of three, including himself, represented a diversity among nominating officials. The Vice Chairman is a Lieutenant Governor nominee and is a veteran SCSC commissioner. Commissioner Hill is the Governor's nominee and a veteran Senator. Commissioner Brockway is the Speaker of the House of Representatives' nominee and a veteran House Representative.
6. The Vice Chairman reiterated that the committee was formed to discuss funding and accountability for charter schools that partner with school districts. In particular, the committee was charged with developing a growth strategy for these schools and to thereafter report back to the SCSC. The Vice Chairman explained that the committee intends to complete its assignment thoroughly and to submit recommendations before the 2020-2021 legislative session. The Vice Chairman expressed a desire for the committee to have a voice in what appeared to be forthcoming legislative changes.
7. Commissioners Hill and Brockway announced their gratitude and excitement to learn about the district-collaborative charter school model.

8. The Vice Chairman invited the SCSC Executive Director to lead the discussion regarding Agenda Item II, "Establish Committee Meeting Schedule." The Executive Director recommended that the committee hold regular in-person meetings following the scheduled SCSC monthly meetings and that the committee hold one additional meeting per month, by conference call. The Executive Director proposed scheduling the committee meetings in this fashion for the next four (4) months. Commissioner Brockway suggested that the additional conference call meeting occur two (2) weeks after the regularly scheduled SCSC meetings and that if the meetings were not necessary, they could be cancelled. Commissioner Hill agreed.
9. The Executive Director clarified that the committee would meet, by conference call, at the mid-point of the month on Mondays at 4:00 p.m. All committee members agreed. The Vice Chairman charged the Executive Director with creating a meeting schedule, disseminating it to committee members, and providing the notice required by law.
10. The Vice Chairman Lewis invited the SCSC Financial Accountability Manager to provide commissioners with a charter school formula funding review.
11. The Financial Accountability Manager provided an overview of the charter school funding formula. His presentation included a summary of the three sources of state charter school funding: state funding (Quality Basic Education Act funds), SCSC Supplemental funding, and federal funding. The Financial Accountability Manager reviewed only the state and SCSC supplemental funding formulas in additional detail. The Financial Accountability Manager answered clarifying questions from Commissioner Hill and Vice Chairman Lewis and provided examples of funding scenarios in the context of SCSC charter schools. The Financial Accountability Manager concluded his presentation with a brief explanation of forward funding.
12. The Vice Chairman asked the committee members if they had additional questions following the presentation. Both commissioners indicated that they did not.
13. The Vice Chairman opened the floor for public comment. One representative from Foothills Education Center High School expressed her appreciation for the exercise on charter school funding and excitement to work with the committee on solutions. A representative from Mountain Education Charter School expressed the school's willingness participate in the process and receive guidance from the committee.
14. Vice Chairman concluded the meeting by stating that the committee will seek to develop solutions and a growth strategy that will address legislative concerns. He would like the input of legislators at future committee meetings to further the committee's discussion.
15. Vice Chairman Lewis adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:10 p.m.