

State Charter Schools Commission Meeting

January 23, 2020 (12:45pm) -January 24, 2020 (1:45 pm)

Barnsley Resort, 597 Barnsley Gardens Rd, Adairsville, GA 3010

1. At approximately 12:45 PM Chairman Tom Lewis, called the first meeting day to order by offering opening remarks, including a reminder of the SCSC's mission. The following additional Commissioners were present: Vice Chairman- Paul Williams; Commissioner- Carmen Dill; Commissioner- Buzz Brockway; and Commissioner- Hunter Hill. A quorum of Commissioners was present.
2. The following State Charter Schools Commission staff were present: Executive Director- Lauren Holcomb; Chief Operations Officer- Morgan Felts; General Counsel- Cerrone Lockett; Associate General Counsel and Operational Accountability Manager- Sarah Beck; Director of Research & Evaluation- Katie Manthey; Financial Accountability Manager- Terence Washington; Associate General Counsel- Rennie Laryea; Charter Development Manager- Kristen Easterbrook; Business Manager- Darcy Callaway.
3. No members of the public were present.
4. The Executive Director reiterated the SCSC mission and presented on the history of the SCSC, its portfolio of schools, schools pending charter renewal decisions, agency budget overview. She also provided an overview of the information staff would present during the remainder of the retreat.
5. The Director of Research & Evaluation discussed the public comments and staff recommendations regarding the proposed modifications to the Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF).
6. The Director of Research & Evaluation discussed SCSC renewal criteria and reviewed financial, operational, and academic performance data for six of the nine schools pending renewal. The Commissioners discussed the criteria for renewal interview exemptions.
7. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:25 PM.
8. The second day of meeting was called to order at approximately 9:00 am on January 24th, 2020. The Executive Director summarized matters addressed during the first meeting day.

9. The Director of Research & Evaluation resumed reporting on the financial, operational, and academic performance data for the remaining three of nine schools pending 2020 renewal.
10. The Executive Director suggested the need for the Commission to evaluate the virtual school model within the charter school context in response to concerns raised by members of the Legislature.
11. At approximately 10:45 AM, the Director of Research & Evaluation announced that she would begin reviewing the financial, operational, and academic performance data for Scintilla Charter Academy. Vice Chair Paul Williams identified a potential conflict of interest and disclosed that his daughter was an administrator at the school.
12. General Counsel reviewed the SCSC Rule regarding conflicts of interest. In accordance with the Conflict of Interest Policy, the Vice Chair removed himself from the meeting. The remaining Board members: Chairman Tom Lewis, Buzz Brockway, Carmen Dill, and Hunter Hill discussed the potential conflict of interest. Thereafter, Buzz Brockway motioned to find that a conflict of interest existed. The motion was seconded by Carmen Dill. A conflict of interest was determined to exist by unanimous vote. The Vice Chair re-entered the meeting and was informed that the board voted that a conflict of interest existed. Therefore, the Vice Chair should not participate in renewal discussions regarding Scintilla Charter Academy. The Vice Chair did not participate in the discussion regarding Scintilla Charter Academy renewal. The report concluded at approximately 11:35 AM.
13. At approximately 12:00 PM, Buzz Brockway left the meeting.
14. The Executive Director and Chief Operations Officer presented information on the SCSC's growth plan, which included recommendations from the Financial Accountability Manager as to a legislative modification to the capital outlay funding formula, considerations for out-of-state operators, establishing standards for transfer charter schools seeking SCSC authorization, and the growth of District-collaborative schools. Chairman Lewis opined that the Commission should appoint a sub-committee to consider the how the Commission should address District-collaborative schools, and their continued expansion, in the future.
15. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:45 PM.