

# STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION

## MEETING MINUTES

January 26, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

SCSC Board Room, 512 Twin Towers West

**Virtual Access:** <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/848536285>

**Phone:** +1 (408) 650-3123 **Access Code:** 848-536-285



**Attendees:** Commissioners: Buzz Brockway – Chairman; Tony Lowden – Vice-Chairman; Jose Perez; Lina Millan; and Mike Dudgeon. SCSC Staff: Lauren Holcomb – Executive Director; Morgan Felts – Chief Operations Officer; Cerrone Lockett – General Counsel; Katie Manthey – Director of Research & Evaluation; Kristen Easterbrook – Charter Development Manager; Kristen Settlemire – Associate General Counsel; Erin Wright – Associate General Counsel; Scott Riley – Research Analyst; Candice Ball – Business Manager; Kiara Thompson – Program Coordinator; Erica Acha-Morfaw – Administrative and Communications Coordinator; Jacari Gill – SCSC Intern; Daniel Glenn – SCSC Intern; and Noah Hawkins – SCSC Intern.

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### I. Call to Order (Chairman Brockway)

- Chairman Brockway called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.
- The following Commissioners attended the meeting: Commissioners Brockway, Lowden, Millan, Perez, and Dudgeon. A quorum was formed.

### II. Approval of SCSC Meeting Minutes (Chairman Brockway)

- Commissioner Perez made a motion to approve the November 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Dudgeon seconded the motion. The November 2021 meeting minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

### III. Commissioner School Visits (SCSC Executive Director)

- Commissioners should anticipate visiting the following newer SCSC schools in the Spring: Academy for Classical Education, Baconton Community Charter School, Ethos Classical, Spring Creek Charter Academy, Northwest Classical Academy, and Liberty Tech Charter School.

### IV. Legislative Update (SCSC Executive Director)

- The Executive Director shared the Governor's budget recommendations for the amended FY22 budget and the FY23 budget as impacting state charter schools.

### V. Organizational Development (SCSC Charter Development Manager)

- Past Trainings
  - New Schools Orientation was held virtually on January 19, 2022, with 59 participants.
  - The second session of virtual Governance Training took place on January 25, 2022, with 77 attendees.
- Upcoming Trainings
  - The second round of in-person Governance Training is scheduled for February 9, 2022, in Athens, Georgia. Approximately 80 people are currently registered to attend.

- VI. Pre-Opening Schools (SCSC Charter Development Manager)**
- There are presently eight new schools and one replication school scheduled to open next fall.
  - Draft lease agreements were due to the SCSC on December 17, 2021. To date, the SCSC has received three executed lease agreements, two leases have been reviewed and are awaiting landlord signature, one has been reviewed and is completing final revisions, and two are still working through their facility options. The SCSC continues to work with the schools who have not finalized their facilities to ensure they remain on track for opening or plan for a possible deferral.
- VII. Petitions (SCSC General Counsel)**
- The FY22 petition cycle is underway. The petition portal opened for submissions on November 1, 2021. FY22 Charter petitions are due on April 15, 2022. Interviews for eligible petitioners will begin the week of June 20, 2022. Staff will begin making recommendations to the SCSC board at its July 27, 2022, meeting.
  - The Charter Development Manager will be handling early feedback this petitions cycle.
- VIII. Accountability**
- **Achievement Scores (SCSC Director of Research & Evaluation)**
    - The Director of Research & Evaluation presented the GaDOE Achievement results for the 2020-2021 school year.
  - **Operations Update (SCSC General Counsel)**
    - SCSC staff completed annual onsite monitoring on November 17, 2021, and are currently evaluating the information collected in preparation to disseminate monitoring letters on January 31, 2022.
  - **Audit Update (SCSC Chief Operations Officer)**
    - Two schools have not yet submitted audits, due to school-based system changes and delayed guidance on the treatment of federal funds. The SCSC hopes to have the audits by end of February.
    - The SCSC will be releasing the annual RFP for the approved auditor program in February.
- IX. School Renewal Process and Timelines (SCSC Director of Research & Evaluation)**
- The Director of Research & Evaluation outlined the renewal timeline for schools with contracts ending in June 2022.
- X. Authorizer Standards (SCSC Director of Research & Evaluation)**
- The State Board of Education adopted the Authorizer Standards at its December 2021 meeting. SCSC staff will continue to partner with GaDOE in the next phase of this work, which entails constructing the plan for evaluating authorizers on these standards.
- XI. Research (SCSC Director of Research & Evaluation, Dr. Peter Bluestone, and Nick Warner)**
- Dr. Peter Bluestone and Nick Warner from the Center for State and Local Finance at Georgia State University presented findings from the joint Economic Impact Study with

the SCSC. This phase of the research tracked charter school students' success into the workforce.

**XII. Action Items**

- **D.E.L.T.A. STEAM Charter Amendment (SCSC General Counsel)**
  - The General Counsel recommended that Commissioners approve D.E.L.T.A STEAM Academy's request to amend its charter contract by modifying the school's attendance zone to better serve the school community and meet the demand of stakeholders outside of the existing attendance zone.
  - Commissioner Dudgeon made a motion to approve the proposed charter amendment, as stated. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**XIII. Additional Items from Commissioners**

- None

**XIV. Public Comments**

- There was no public comment.

**XV. Adjourn**

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.