

# **STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION INTERVIEW PANEL MEETING**

**June 18, 2019, 8:20 a.m.**

**State Charter Schools Commission Conference Room  
East Twin Tower, Room 1470B, Atlanta, Georgia 30334**

## Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting convened at approximately 08:22am. The interview panel, consisting of Commissioner Carmen Dill; Commission Staff Gregg Stevens, Morgan Felts, Kristin Easterbrook, Terence Washington, and Katie Manthey; Nnenna Ogbu and Colleen Eskow were present. Members of the public were also present.
2. The interview panel met with the governing board of the Bettye Cardwell School of International Studies. The interview panel asked the school to discuss day-to-day activities, the proposed educational model, and plans for curriculum development. Additionally, the panel inquired about strategies for teacher and student recruitment, funding for professional development, and how students will be assessed for their target language proficiency. The interview panel then asked the governing board to discuss how the school will support students struggling to meet targets. The panel also questioned the proposed school's governing board about their community partnerships, student transportation plans, student due process discipline plans, and facility plans. The panel then inquired about the EMO/CMO budget allocation in the petition, the school's ability to pay for textbooks and computers up front, and the governing board's capacity to operate as an LEA. The interview panel expressed concerns about the lack of reserve funds available in the school's proposed budget, as well as about the school's plan for teacher recruitment. The interview concluded at approximately 09:28am.
3. At approximately 10:07am, the interview panel met with representatives of Furlow Charter School. The governing board of the existing charter school began by walking the panel through a day in the life of a typical student and provided an overview of the school's education model and implementation strategies. The interview panel then asked the governing board about its focus on service-learning, as well as how Furlow Charter School is preparing students for graduation and beyond. The interview panel also asked about the school's capacity to operate as its own LEA, including data recording and reporting requirements, federal programs, and special education obligations, specifically accommodating students with disabilities. The interview panel inquired about the facility and a status update on leasing/purchase negotiations. Additionally, the interview panel questioned the governing board about diversity and community representation both in the school and on the board and discussed the use of a weighted lottery. The interview panel also asked about enrollment and projected population trends, as well as financial sustainability. The interview panel expressed concerns about the school's capacity to meet all its requirements as an LEA. The interview concluded at approximately 11:12 am. Nnenna Ogbu and Katie Manthey left the meeting. The interview panel broke for lunch.
4. At approximately 01:25 pm, Dave Howland, Polina Aleshina, and Rennie Laryea joined the interview panel. The interview panel then met with the governing board of Cornerstone Innovation Academy. The governing board of the proposed charter school provided an overview of a day in the life of a typical student. The interview panel questioned the board about the educational model, professional development, and curriculum development. Additionally, interview panel asked about the use of student assessment data, the school's teacher looping

plans, and strategies for teacher and student recruitment. The interview panel then questioned the governing board about the rationale for the school's attendance zone, and student transportation plans. The governing board also provided clarification on school startup funding, the status of the facility search, governance board structure, and board subcommittee roles. The interview panel then asked about due process plans for complaints and student discipline. The interview panel expressed concerns about the school's capacity in regards to data reporting and compliance, as well as their plans for staff recruitment. The interview concluded at approximately 2:21pm. Interview panelist Rennie Laryea left the meeting.

5. At approximately 03:21pm, Lauren Holcomb joined the interview panel. The interview panel then met with Pollock Moore Academy. The governing board of the proposed state charter provided an overview of a day in the life of a typical student, the school's overall vision and plans for implementation. The interview panel questioned the school about the proposed curriculum and if it can be implemented with fidelity according to Georgia standards. The interview panel then inquired about the Mighty Monday program whereby students who are classified as proficient do not attend in-person instruction on Mondays. The interview panel also asked for clarification about the proposed staffing plan with positions that are dual administrator and teaching roles. The interview panel then questioned the governing board of the proposed charter school regarding its capacity to act as its own LEA, as well as how the governing board plans to hold the proposed administration accountable. The interview panel then asked about the proposed school's student recruitment plan, the philosophy behind applying for a statewide attendance zone, and the community reaction to the proposed charter school. Additionally, the interview panel inquired about student disciplinary procedures, future facility plans, and about the financial model. The interview panel expressed concerns regarding the school's budget, as well as the Governing Board's role in managing the school's ability to meet comprehensive performance standards. The interview concluded at approximately 04:20pm.