

STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEETING
September 26, 2019 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 10:05 am.
2. Commissioners Tom Lewis, Paul Williams, Tony Lowden, Jose Perez, Buzz Brockway, Carmen Dill and staff members Lauren Holcomb – Executive Director, Morgan Felts – Chief Operations Officer, 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, and Darcy Callaway – Business Manager were present.
3. Approximately 20 members of the public were also present, including charter school staff and representatives, charter school education service provider representatives and their attorney representatives, and Georgia Charter Schools Association representatives.
4. Chairman Lewis called for an approval of the meeting minutes from the August 28, 2019 meeting. The minutes were approved.
5. Ms. Lauren Holcomb provided an update on Commissioner school visits and stated that Commissioners will visit nine schools that are up for renewal over the next few months. In October, SCSC staff will present any proposed updates to the CPF.
6. Ms. Laryea provided an update on the upcoming trainings offered by the SCSC. On October 3rd, SCSC will host a Petitioner Boot Camp for start-up petitioners at Georgia Tech. From November 6-7th, SCSC will host a Governance Training for School's Board Members at Callaway Gardens. The second Governance training will be held in Athens in February.
7. Ms. Manthey updated the Commissioners on the timeline for the CCRPI release at the end of October. She also presented information regarding SCSC schools' graduation rates. Almost all State Charter Schools have seen improvements in their graduation rates from the previous year.
8. Mr. Washington reminded schools of the upcoming audit deadlines that are due November 1st. Most schools have completed their audit, and Mr. Washington believes the remaining schools will submit their audits by the deadline.
9. Ms. Beck provided an update to the Commissioners about the on-going monitoring visits. Twenty visits have been completed, and there are thirteen visits remaining. The

monitoring team is slated to complete monitoring November 5th. This is the earliest monitoring visits have been conducted and completed in the Commission's history.

10. Ms. Manthey presented an update on the National Association of Charter School Authorizers. The report examines charter school petitioner trends across the nation and includes specific results for Georgia. The Georgia results show that the SCSC is the primary driver of charter school growth in Georgia as local school districts have declined to approve new charter petitions in recent years. Ms. Manthey provided an overview of the report and its findings.
11. Ms. Easterbrook stated that SCSC approved 8 schools during the FY19 cycle. Three schools have stated partnership with operators, five have identified school leaders, and six have existing community partnerships.
12. Ms. Easterbrook presented the proposed Start-Up Petition Cycle and 2020 Start-Up Petition Cycle Application and Timeline Overview. She reviewed the changes to the 2020 petition application and discussed the expanded application timeline. The new timeline would provide for two application windows and three approval opportunities. This would provide petitioners and the SCSC additional flexibility, feedback, and development. Commissioners were given the opportunity to ask questions.
13. Commissioner Lewis moved to approve on the 2020 Start-Up Charter School Petition Cycle Application and Timeline. Commissioner Williams Seconded. The Motion passed.
14. Commissioner Williams inquired about termination provisions in Charter contracts regarding ESP's. Ms. Felts proposed several suggestions including increased requirements regarding ESP's in Charter contracts or Legislative reform regarding student record property.
15. Chairman Lewis asked if there was public comment. There was none.
16. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.