

STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION INTERVIEW PANEL MEETING

June 11, 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 Clara Keith; Commission Staff Gregg Stevens, Morgan Felts, Kristin Easterbrook, Terence Washington, and Rennie Laryea; Rachel Ksenyak and Chantel Mullen were present. Members of the public were also present.
2. The interview panel met with representatives of the DELTA STEAM Academy. The governing board of the proposed 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 plans for implementation. The interview panel questioned the proposed school's governing board to determine its capacity to implement its proposed educational program and strategy to recruit, train, and retain high-quality teachers. Additionally, the panel questioned DELTA STEAM Academy about its rationale for a K and 3 model and the growth projections, student recruitment, its ability to operate as a LEA, and its understanding of reporting and recording requirements. The governing board of the proposed charter school elaborated on the internal controls it intends to implement and the breakdown of responsibilities for operating as an LEA. The panel also inquired about the grievance process for handling complaints, the intended transportation plan, the facility site, start-up expenditures and fundraising, and the capability of the school's governing board and administrative staff. The panel expressed concerns regarding the school's proposed funding during the planning year. The interview concluded at approximately 9:30am. Interview panelist Rennie Laryea left the meeting.
3. At approximately 10:08am Katie Manthey joined the interview panel.
4. At approximately 10:10am the Superintendent of Fayette County Public School System spoke to the panel regarding their interests relating to the potential charter school and existing school choice options available in Fayette County.
5. At approximately 10:25am the interview panel met with the governing board of The Lyceum Lab School. The representatives of the governing board of the proposed charter provided a brief overview of the school's vision and plans for implementation. The interview panel then questioned the proposed school's governing board to determine its capacity to administer core content curriculum in addition to the industry-specific curriculum. Additionally, the panel inquired about the school's student assessment procedures and asked for an update on the search for a school leader to administer the day-to-day operations. Further, the interview panel inquired about the governing board's efforts regarding student recruitment, the board's relationship with an existing charter middle school, Utopian Academy, the school's capacity to operate as an LEA, and its plans to recruit teachers with professional expertise in Media Arts. The interview panel then questioned the school's governing board about their budget process and how they will ensure accountability and adequate oversight of both schools. The interview panel further inquired about the school's transportation offerings, community support, and facility options. The panel expressed concern about the proposed budget and financial operations, professional

development, and enrollment targets. The interview concluded at approximately 11:36am. Interview panelists Chantel Mullen and Katie Manthey left the meeting. The meeting broke for lunch.

6. At approximately 1:20pm, Lauren Holcomb and Carmen Freemire joined the interview panel.
7. At approximately 1:23pm the interview panel then met with the governing board of Torchlight Academy Charter School. The meeting began with introductions between the panelists and school governing board. The governing board of the proposed school provided a brief overview of the school's vision and plans for implementation. The panel asked the school to discuss the school's day-to-day activities, why the governing board chose the ESP, and why the school's education model will work in the proposed location. Additionally, the panel inquired how the school will abide by Georgia standards, how the ESP fee will be paid, the specific roles of the governing board and the ESP and how they are related, and whether a school leader has been identified. Further, the interview panel asked the school to explain how the ESP and governing board will fulfill the duties of a LEA. The board expressed concern regarding the proposed contract with the ESP and the board's ability to ensure LEA requirements will be met. The interview concluded at approximately 2:37pm. Lauren Holcomb left the meeting.
8. Rennie Laryea joined the meeting at approximately 03:20pm.
9. At approximately 3:22pm the interview panel met with the governing board of 1Vision Charter School. The governing board of the proposed state charter provided a brief overview of the school's vision and plans for implementation. The panel asked the school to discuss how the school's focus on mindfulness complements the educational program and how the curriculum will be aligned to Georgia standards. Additionally, the panel inquired about how teachers will be trained to teach mindfulness, the plans for funding teacher development, and the status of school leader selection. Further, the panel asked what the steps have been taken to operate as an LEA, how the board fulfills LEA obligations from day-to-day, how the school will recruit students, how the school will recruit faculty, and how mindfulness will be incorporated into the discipline procedure. The panel expressed concern regarding the schools funding in their planning year and expressed the need for the board to address potential gaps in expertise. The interview concluded at approximately 04:38pm.