

STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEETING

April 30, 2014, 10 a.m.

**Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning Conference Room
East Twin Tower, Room 854, Atlanta, Georgia 30334**

Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Charles B. Knapp. Chairman Knapp verified that a quorum existed and that all members of the commission were present.
2. Also present were Commission staff members Bonnie Holliday—Executive Director, Gregg Stevens--General Counsel, Daniela Belton—Business and Operations Manager, Terence Washington—Accountability Manager.
3. Approximately 20 members of the public also attended the meeting including charter school staff and charter school business representatives. Representatives from GCSA were also present.
4. A motion was made by Commissioner Perez and seconded by Commissioner Hogg that the Commission approve the meeting minutes from the March 26th SCSC meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.
5. Chairman Knapp requested that Bonnie Holliday address the items listed under Section II of the agenda. Director Holliday stated that CCRPI scores were just released. Commission staff are currently compiling individual schools profiles and will present a breakdown of state charter school performance at the May meeting. Commissioner Perez inquired about the alignment between the value-add impact scores and the new CCRPI scores. Director Holliday confirmed staff would examine the relationship between the two performance measures.
6. Director Holliday noted that the deadline for the 2014 petition review cycle is May 15th. She estimated that the SCSC will receive 20-30 petitions. This estimate is based on the number of petitioners that have submitted letters of intent to the Georgia Department of Education.
7. Next, Director Holliday informed commissioners that the SCSC staff recently submitted a large volume of material for a desk audit that NACSA is conducting as a part of the SCSC's ongoing authorizer evaluation. A site visit is scheduled for May 28th -29th during which NACSA evaluators will observe our May SCSC meeting and conduct interviews with commissioners, school leaders, and other important stakeholders. Director Holliday stated Chairman Knapp, Vice Chairman Williams, and Commissioner Rippner will represent the SCSC in a short interview with NACSA immediately preceding the May SCSC meeting. Charter School leaders have been contacted via email to ask for their participation.
8. Director Holliday provided an overview of the April newsletter because Lauren Holcomb was offsite assisting with CRCT monitoring in state charter schools. Director Holliday explained that the SCSC recently provided a Teacher Keys Evaluation System (TKES) Training and Leader Keys Evaluation System (LKES) Training. All public schools are required to implement TKES/ LKES in the 2014-2015 school year so the SCSC worked with the Georgia Department of Education to establish trainings that met the credentialing requirements for state charter leaders and boards. All participants in the trainings, including school leaders and members of the governing boards, became credentialed to conduct evaluations.
9. Commissioner Rippner asked a question about the Implementation and Expansion Grants referenced in the newsletter. Gregg Stevens explained those grants are distributed by the Georgia Department of Education Charter Division through a competitive application process. Implementation grants are awarded to those schools in their first years of operation and Expansion grants are awarded to those schools adding additional grade bands.

10. Next, Director Holliday highlighted our upcoming training opportunities:
 - “How To Be An LEA” Training—May 8-9
 - Strategic Planning—Summer 2014
 - Budget Review—Summer 2014
11. Accountability Manager Terence Washington provided an update on the end of year closeout procedures for Scholars Academy and Heritage Preparatory Academy. Mr. Washington explained a committee for each school consisting of governing board members, the school leader, a parent representative and himself had been established. Both committees are having productive meetings.
12. Next, Director Holliday asked Gregg Stevens to explain the staff recommendation to return any remaining funds to schools at the End of Fiscal Year 2014. Mr. Stevens explained that the SCSC is likely to have a small funding surplus at the end of Fiscal Year 2014, and the recommendation at hand will establish a procedure that allows any surplus funds to flow back to schools for use in Fiscal Year 2015 since QBE funds do not lapse.
13. Chairman Knapp asked for a motion to consider the recommendation. Commissioner Lewis moved and Commissioner Hogg provided a second. There was no discussion. All members voted in favor of the recommendation.
14. Chairman Knapp asked if there were any additional items from Commission members. There were none. Chairman Knapp then invited those who signed up for public comment to come up. Matt Arkin, Head of School for Georgia Cyber Academy, invited all Commissioners and staff to attend their May 31st graduation. This will be GCA’s first class of four year graduates.
15. Chairman Knapp asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Lowden moved and Commissioner Perez provided a second. The meeting was adjourned at 10:33a.m.