

## STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEETING

April 24, 2019 10:00 a.m.

SCSC Meeting Room

SCSC Conference Room, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, West Tower GA 30334

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Lewis at approximately 9:57 am.
2. Commissioners Tony Lowden, Tom Lewis, Carmen Dill, Clara Keith, Paul Williams, Jose Perez, and staff members Gregg Stevens—Interim Executive Director, Lauren Holcomb- Chief Communications Officer, Kristen Easterbrook—New Charter Program Manager, Katie Manthey—Academic Accountability Manager, and Rennie Laryea- Organizational Development Manager, Terence Washington- Financial Accountability Manager were present.
3. Approximately 40 members of the public were also present, including charter school staff and representatives, charter school business representatives, charter school representatives and Georgia Charter Schools Association representatives.
4. Chairman Lewis called for an approval of the meeting minutes from the March 27, 2019 meeting.
5. Gregg Stevens, Interim Executive Director, presented on the 2019 legislative session. Mr. Stevens highlighted HB 59, which is related to military families enrolling in schools based on military orders. Additional language was added to allow charter schools to enter students in their lottery as long as they moved to the district by enrollment. It also allows state charter schools with statewide attendance zones to host meetings telephonically.
6. Chairman Lewis asked Kristen Easterbrook, New Charter Program Manager, to provide an update on school openings. Ms. Easterbrook highlighted the five schools that are on track to open in August, as well as two current schools who are transitioning from their local authorizer. All schools have met their current milestones on the pre-opening checklist, but there are still some concerns that schools will not
7. Chairman Lewis then asked Ms. Easterbrook to give an update on the 2019 Application Cycle. Ms. Easterbrook indicated that the Commission received 20 petitions. She also indicated that she will begin scheduling interviews and requested the Commissioners availability for the interviews.
8. Chairman Lewis then asked Ms. Katie Manthey to begin the School Performance Reviews. Ms. Manthey called up the first group which was Coweta Charter Academy. Coweta Charter Academy did not meet in the area of finance. The school presented on their plan to improve from their score of 0 points in “Debt/Asset Ratio”.
9. DuBois Integrity Academy was next to present. Dubois Integrity Academy did not meet in the area of finance. They indicated that they are in the process of negotiations with their bank which would help them correct their finances. They also indicated that they had corrected the issues they had with their enrollment variance from the previous year.
10. International Charter School of Atlanta was next to present. International Charter School of Atlanta did not meet in the area of finance. School representatives shared their plans for growth in the area of finance specifically around enrollment variance. They also discussed how the board receives financial status updates from school leadership.

11. The next school to present was Brookhaven Innovation Academy. Brookhaven Innovation Academy did not meet in the area of finance. They presented on the steps they have taken to improve their financial score. They also indicated that they are in the process of purchasing a new facility located in Norcross.
12. The next school to present was Odyssey Charter School. Odyssey did not meet in the area of academics. Mr. Hooper, the school's leader, talked about the curriculum changes that they made which should be better aligned from grade to grade. The school representatives discussed their use of weekly progress monitoring to improve student achievement.
13. The next school to present was International Academy of Smyrna. International Academy of Smyrna did not meet in the areas of finance or academics. The school's board chair shared that there was a leadership change at the end of the previous year. He also shared that the school had been in discussion with school staff and families about no longer offering the IB program. The school also talked about their enrollment and how they wanted to ensure that the change in academic model would not negatively affect student enrollment.
14. The final school to present was Statesboro STEAM. Statesboro STEAM did not meet in the areas of academics and finance. The school talked about the ongoing professional development that they are offering teachers and how they outperform their comparison district in one grade band but not the other. The school representatives also discussed how they are looking to relocate into a larger facility because they have a strong waitlist.
15. Chairman Lewis asked if there was public comment. There was none.
16. The meeting adjourned at 12:24 pm.