

STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEETING

February 27, 2019 10:00 a.m.

SCSC Meeting Room

SCSC Conference Room, 5th Floor, West Tower GA 30334

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Lewis at approximately 10:06 am.
2. Commissioners Tony Lowden, Tom Lewis, Carmen Dill, Clara Keith, Paul Williams, Jose Perez, and staff members Gregg Stevens—Interim Executive Director, Morgan Felts—Deputy General Counsel and Director of Strategic Initiatives, 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 20 members of the public were also present, including charter school staff and representatives, charter school business representatives, and Georgia Charter Schools Association representatives.
4. Chairman Lewis called for an approval of the meeting minutes from the January 230, 2019 meeting.
5. Gregg Stevens, Interim Executive Director, presented on the SCSF Facilities Study. The SCSF, through a grant made possible by the Walton Foundation, engaged Level Field Partners to conduct an assessment of the facility landscape for charter schools. The assessment found that state charter schools pay more than their traditional school and national charter school counterparts for less optimal facilities due to 1) lack of access to public/district space; 2) low funding; and 3) human capital (knowledge base) constraints.
6. Chairman Lewis asked that when we talk to charter schools in the application process, we should emphasize the findings of the studies. Mr. Washington mentioned that it is a topic that is discussed at Petitioner Bootcamp as well as during the petition process. Commissioner Williams asked if USDA funding was favorable enough that it warrants other schools applying.
7. Commissioner Williams then offered a suggestion that the Bootcamp have a representative from the USDA come and present. Commissioner Lowden agreed.
8. Chairman Lewis asked Ms. Laryea to give the Organizational Development Update. She reported that the New School Orientation was rescheduled to March 12, 2019.
9. Chairman Lewis then asked Mr. Stevens to give a brief update on pending legislation related to charter schools and other bills that may impact charter schools or the SCSC. Mr. Stevens highlighted the proposed FY2019 and proposed FY2020 budgets as well as legislation that would require local boards to have public comment at their meetings.
10. Chairman Lewis then asked Ms. Manthey to give an academic accountability update. She reviewed the 2017-2018 CPF standings and discussed the upcoming school performance presentations that will take place. Schools have already been notified on the timeline for performance reviews and received finalized CPF standings prior to the February meeting. Performance reviews will occur in April, May, and June (no more than 8 schools per meeting) and will follow the identical formats of previous years –schools will have 5 minutes to present

the steps they've taken in the past year to increase achievement, and the commissioners will have up to 15 minutes to discuss those steps with the schools.

11. Chairman Lewis asked Mr. Washington to give a financial accountability update about the FY2018 audit submissions. There are currently 3 outstanding are: SOWEGA, GSIC, GACHS.
12. Chairman Lewis then moved on to the proposed action items and asked Ms. Felts to speak to the recommendation for the Academy for Classical Education (ACE) located in Bibb county. Ms Felts reported that ACE currently operates as a locally-approved charter school in the Bibb County School District but seeks authorization by the SCSC as provided by O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2085. SCSC staff recommended that the petition for ACE be approved.
13. Commissioner Perez motioned to approve and Commissioner Lowden seconded the motion. Commissioner Williams requested to recused himself. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Commissioner Williams.
14. Ms. Felts then reported that Baconton Community Charter School (BCCS) currently operates as a locally-approved charter school in the Mitchell County School but seeks authorization by the SCSC as provided by O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2085. SCSC staff recommended that the petition for BCCS be approved. Commissioner Lowden motions to approve, Commissioner Williams seconds, and the vote is unanimous.
15. Chairman Lewis then opened the meeting for public comment. Craig Cason, the school leader from Dubois Integrity Academy, spoke about his experience working with his school's data and how the GaDOE Data Collections conference has helped his school to learn how to correctly report their data and improve their CPF scores.
16. Chairman Lewis adjourned the meeting at 11:40 am.