

STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION GOVERNANCE AND POLICY RETREAT

January 18, 2017, 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

January 19, 2017, 8:15 AM – 12:30 PM

The James Madison Inn and Conference Center

Madison, Georgia

Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jennifer Rippner on January 18, 2017 at approximately 12:00 p.m. Chairman Rippner verified that a quorum was present. Commissioner Tony Lowden arrived at approximately 4:00 p.m.
2. Also present were Commission staff members Bonnie Holliday—Executive Director, Gregg Stevens—Deputy Director and General Counsel, Terence Washington—Financial and Operational Accountability Manager, Morgan Felts—Associate General Counsel and Petitions Manager, Katie Manthey—Academic Accountability Manager, and Lauren Holcomb—Director of Organizational and Resource Development.
3. Chairman Rippner reminded attendees that the purpose behind this called meeting was to discuss how will the SCSC fulfill its mission with regard to accountability for low performing schools and how the SCSC will promote accessible high quality options for all students in Georgia.
4. Director Holliday presented an overview of state charter school performance, and she noted the nine state charter schools up for renewal in 2018.
5. Ms. Holcomb then discussed the various support services the Commission provides to state charter schools.
6. Deputy Director Stevens outlined the process and timeline by which renewal hearings would occur.
7. The Commission then discussed how to ensure the renewal process runs smoothly. Commissioners emphasized the need to have open communications with schools and stakeholders and to maintain clear expectations for a school's prospect for renewal.
8. Chairman Rippner adjourned the first day of the meeting at approximately 5:10 p.m.
9. Chairman Rippner reconvened the meeting at approximately 8:20 a.m. on January 19, 2017. Chairman Rippner verified that a quorum was present.
10. Deputy Director Stevens provided an overview of the demographics, performance, and outcomes of the largest state charter schools not meeting standards.
11. Director Holliday then discussed the role of the Commission in providing higher quality educational options for students in the event state charter schools are closed for not meeting the obligations of their charter contracts.

12. The Commission then heard from a panel of authorizers from other states regarding their experiences in upholding performance standards for charter schools. The Commission discussed the circumstances faced by representatives from Hillsborough County Public Schools, The School District of Palm Beach County, Broward County Public Schools, the Ohio Council of Community Schools, and the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board as they required schools to adhere to performance contracts.
13. The Commission then discussed the next steps to ensure that the SCSC promotes high quality options for all students in Georgia. The Commission spoke about the need to maintain standards of performance and build upon the practices that have proven successful. The Commission noted the need to communicate the efforts of the Commission to increase school quality and improve educational options throughout Georgia.
14. Chairman Rippner thanked Commissioners and staff for their work and participation during the meeting. Chairman Rippner adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:20 p.m.