

# STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEETING

**January 30, 2013, 10 a.m.**

**University of Georgia, Terry College of Business  
3475 Lenox Road, NE, Suite 300, Atlanta, Georgia 30326**

## Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by Commission Interim Chair Dr. Charles B. Knapp at 10:05 a.m. after he verified that a quorum of the State Charter Schools Commission members existed.
2. Dr. Knapp, James E. Hogg, Thomas C. Lewis, Jose R. Perez, Jennifer Rippner, and Paul W. Williams were present. Tony Lowden joined the meeting in progress at 10:15 a.m.
  - Also present were Georgia Assistant Attorney General Jennifer Colangelo and Georgia Department of Education Charter Schools Division Director Louis Erste.
  - 35 members of the general public also attended the meeting, including charter school staff and representatives, Georgia Charter Schools Association staff, charter school business representatives, and members of the media.
3. Dr. Knapp welcomed the Commission members, Georgia government staff, and the general public and, at Dr. Knapp's request, the Commission members and Georgia government staff introduced themselves.
4. Dr. Knapp requested a motion to elect a permanent Chairman and Mr. Lewis moved and Mr. Perez seconded the motion that Dr. Knapp be elected Chairman. Rev. Lowden called the question and the Commission voted 6-0 in favor of the motion with Dr. Knapp abstaining.
5. After Dr. Knapp described his request for a presentation and the content he wanted emphasized for the Commission members, Mr. Erste briefed the Commission on charter schools and charter authorizing in Georgia, including a history of charter schools in Georgia, the basic "charter bargain", the transition of former Commission schools to state chartered special schools and locally-approved charter schools following the Supreme Court's May 2011 ruling, basic information on – and where the new Commission fit into – charter school authorizing and support in Georgia, the different types and locations of Georgia charter schools and how each are created, Georgia charter school growth and academic performance highlights, Georgia charter school application and approval rates, and the definition of a high quality charter school. Mr. Erste also presented several issues for Commission consideration, including the timeline for granting charters to former Commission schools (and the readiness of each for Commission charters), the timeline for granting charters to other existing charter schools and for releasing a new Commission school application along with an application deadline, and the make-up of other schools in the new Commission applicant pool.
6. Dr. Knapp announced that the Executive Session would not be needed since he was appointing an Executive Director Search Committee composed of Mr. Lewis (Committee Chair), Ms. Rippner, and Mr. Perez. After the Search Committee members agreed to serve, Dr. Knapp requested and received

Commission approval of his authority to finalize the Executive Director position description proposed by the Search Committee.

7. Dr. Knapp requested a motion that the three former Commission schools and the one non-Commission state chartered special school that had not yet completed their charter renewal process with the State Board of Education (SBOE) be informed immediately that they should complete the SBOE renewal process in time to be considered by the State Board at its February 20, 2013, meeting if they were interested in being considered by the Commission for an expedited Commission charter, given Mr. Erste's request that the Commission complete this expedited Commission charter review by April 13, 2013, to give the State Board 60 days before its June 12-13 Regular Meeting to determine if it wished to overrule the Commission on any of its expedited Commission charters. Mr. Lewis made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Perez and adopted with a 7-0 vote.
8. Dr. Knapp proposed a Regular Meeting on the last Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. and asked Commissioners to let him know as soon as possible if that would fit their calendars – and if the third Wednesday of February would be possible as well. Once everyone responds to this request, Dr. Knapp will then send out a Commission meeting schedule.
9. Dr. Knapp requested a motion to adjourn, which was offered by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Rev. Lowden. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.