

STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEETING

January 30, 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 10:01am.
2. Commissioners Tony Lowden, Carmen Dill, Paul Williams, Jose Perez, Clara Keith and staff members, Gregg Stevens—Interim Executive Director, Lauren Holcomb – Chief Communication Officer, Morgan Felts—Deputy General Counsel and Director of Strategic Initiatives, Kristen Easterbrook—New Charter Program Manager, Sarah Beck – Operational Accountability Manager, Katie Manthey—Academic Accountability Manager, and Rennie Laryea-Organizational Development Manager, Terrance Washington—Financial Accountability Manager were present.
3. Approximately 95 members of the public were also present, including charter school staff and representatives, families of students attending state charter schools, charter school business representatives, and Georgia Charter Schools Association representatives.
4. Chairman Lewis opened the meeting by formally announcing that Dr. Bonnie Holliday had resigned as Executive Director of the State Charter Schools Commission. Chairman Lewis commended Dr. Holliday for all her accomplishments as Executive Director and thanked her for all her hard work to establish the Commission.
5. Chairman Lewis called for an approval of the meeting minutes from the November 14, 2018 meeting. Commissioner Lowden made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Perez provided a second. The minutes were unanimously approved.
6. Lauren Holcomb, Chief Communication Officer, reviewed the Economic Impact Study. The SCSC has extended its agreement with Georgia State University to complete the study. The extension will allow researchers to incorporate more years of labor data.
7. Katie Manthey, Academic Accountability Manager, reviewed the K-2 Accountability Study. The SCSC partnered with Georgia Center for Assessment to investigate the relationship with benchmark assessments schools used in grades K-2 and the Georgia Milestones in grade 3.
8. Lauren Holcomb, Chief Communication Officer gave a presentation on the SCSC’s efforts to redesign the agency website.
9. Katie Manthey, Academic Accountability Manager, shared that there were 6 schools who were considered “Beating the Odds” in 2018, 5 of the 6 were already meeting standards and this measure made Georgia Connections Academy meet SCSC standards.
10. Rennie Laryea, Organizational Development Manager, reported that the next governance training would be on February 5-6, 2019 at the UGA Center for Continuing Education & Hotel. She also mentioned that the New School Orientation was canceled due to inclement weather and that she will share more information about the new data once it is finalized.
11. Gregg Stevens, Interim Executive Director, gave an update on the 2018 SCSC monitoring visits. All the visits are complete, and the schools are working on corrective action plans. Mr. Stevens also reviewed the FY18 Audit submissions. Four schools did not meet the audit deadline and three are still currently outstanding.

12. Kristen Easterbrook, New Charter Program Manager, gave an update on the Start-Up Petition cycle. Early feedback applications were due on January 18th and their petitions submissions are due on February 1st. 10 groups registered for the Early Feedback Program this year.
13. Morgan Felts, Deputy General Counsel & Director of Strategic Initiatives, reviewed the Expedited Applications process. Two schools are currently requesting to switch from locally approved schools to the SCSC.
14. Commissioner Tom Lewis moved to action items and called on Gregg Stevens. Mr. Stevens explained the Charter Contract Amendments for Georgia Cyber Academy, Odyssey School, and Utopia Academy and gave recommendation to add one year to their respective terms. Commissioner Perez provided a motion to approve the extension, and Commissioner Lowden provided a second. The change was unanimously approved.
15. Commissioner Lowden provided a motion to approve the Pataula Charter Contract Amendment to correct their enrollment priority list and Commissioner Perez provided the second. The change was unanimously approved.
16. Commissioner Perez provided a motion to approve the Scintilla Charter Contract Amendment to add a sixth grade starting in the fall of 2019 and Commissioner Keith provided the second. Commissioner Williams recused himself from the vote. The motion passed unanimously.
17. Ivy Preparatory Academy submitted a request to terminate the charter contract for the Gwinnett location. Commissioner Lowden motioned to approve the proposed voluntary termination for Ivy Prep Academy at Gwinnett and Commissioner Keith provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved.
18. DREAM Charter Academy submitted a request to terminate their charter contract. Commissioner Lowden motioned to approve the proposed voluntary termination for DREAM Charter Academy and Commissioner Perez provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved.
19. Mr. Stevens then presented on the SCSC's proposed rule change. Commissioner Perez motioned to approve the proposed adoption of new rule 691-2-.07 regarding Multi-Year Contracts Beyond the Charter Term and Commissioner Lowden provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.
20. Chairman Lewis then opened the meeting for public comment at 10:30am. Students spoke about the benefit of cyber school allowing her to work two jobs, another student, a teen mom was able to take care of her several responsibilities. Parents also shared their concerns with having children with disabilities, and the school's ability to meet their needs.
21. Chairman Lewis adjourned meeting at 11:09am