

STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION

January 25, 2017, 10:00 a.m.

State Charter Schools Commission Conference Room
East Twin Tower, Room 1470B, Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jennifer Rippner on January 25, 2017 at approximately 10:03 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jennifer Rippner on January 25, 2017 at approximately 10:03 AM. Commissioners Jimmy Hogg and Clara Keith were physically present and Chairman Jennifer Rippner, Commissioner Tom Lewis, and Commissioner Paul Williams were present via teleconference. Commissioner Jose Perez arrived at approximately 10:20 a.m. and Commissioner Tony Lowden was absent.
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 Sarah Beck—Business and Operations Manager.
3. Approximately 30 members of the public also attended the meeting including representatives of charter schools, businesses, and the Georgia Charter Schools Association.
4. Chairman Rippner called for approval of the meeting minutes from the November 16, 2016, December 21, 2016, January 18, 2017, and January 19, 2017 SCSC meeting minutes. Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the minutes, and Commissioner Hogg provided a second. There was no discussion, and the minutes were unanimously approved by those present.
5. Director Bonnie Holliday introduced Ms. Morgan Felts who then presented a preview of the SCSC's new online platform for receiving charter school petition applications. Ms. Felts demoed the online platform (<https://scsc-grants.fluidreview.com>) and explained that many of the substantive parts of the petition application remained the same from the previous year's, but that the online platform gives the application an updated look and feel and should prevent petitioners from making common errors. Ms. Felts reported that the petition application and webinars about how to use the new online petition platform will be live by the end of the week. Additionally, petitioner applications will be due April 18th – about a month earlier from the 2016 deadline.
6. Mr. Gregg Stevens discussed the SCSC rulemaking process and the recommendation to adopt amended SCSC rules 691-2-.02 State Charter School Petitions and 691-2-.03 State Charter School Monitoring. Mr. Stevens explained that the rule amendments were made in response to a request for clarification from the United States Department of Education as well as to postpone the annual audit deadline to November 1 to align with the charter school annual report. The SCSC did not receive any comments for revisions. SCSC Staff recommended that the Commission adopt the rules. Chairman Rippner called for a motion. Commissioner Hogg made the motion. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the amendment was unanimously approved by those present.

7. Mr. Gregg Stevens then introduced the SCSC staff recommendation to approve the 2017 SCSC Petition Application as presented by Morgan Felts earlier in the meeting. Chairman Rippner called for a motion. Commissioner Lewis made the motion and Commissioner Hogg provided the second. There was no discussion, and the amendment was unanimously approved by those present.
8. Chairman Rippner next called for additional items from Commissioners, but no Commissioners offered additional items.
9. There being no further business before the SCSC, Chairman Rippner adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:37 a.m.