

STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEETING

July 25, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

Georgia Department of Education Board Room
East Twin Tower, Room 854, Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Lewis at approximately 10:05 am. Commissioner Tony Lowden, Commissioner Clara Keith, and Commissioner Paul Williams were all present.
2. Also present were Commission staff members Bonnie Holliday, Gregg Stevens, Katie Manthey, Morgan Felts, Terence Washington, Sarah Beck, Rennie Laryea, Kristen Easterbrook, and Laura Bollman.
3. Approximately 35 members of the public also attended the meeting including charter school staff and representatives, charter school business representatives, and Georgia Charter Schools Association representatives.
4. Chairman Lewis asked for an approval of the meeting minutes from the June 27th SCSC meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.
5. Chairman Lewis then moved to the next action item on the agenda, introducing the summer interns.
6. Chairman Lewis then asked Ms. Sarah Beck to give an update on school openings. Two charter schools are slated to open this fall: International Charter Academy of Georgia (ICAG) and SLAM Academy of Atlanta. Ms. Beck also explained that she will begin working on the Pre-Opening Checklist with any newly approved schools in the coming months.
7. Chairman Lewis requested that Mr. Terence Washington give an update on school funding. The majority of state charter schools have received a funding increase from House Bill 787. In addition, some schools received an additional increase based on their capital funding.
8. Chairman Lewis asked Ms. Rennie Laryea for an update on training and school supports. SCSC is providing support to new schools as well as tenured schools in many subject areas including teacher and leader supports, staffing supports, data reporting training, and financial management training.
9. Chairman Lewis then proceeded to the Action Items and asked Ms. Felts to give an overview of the recommendation process for start-up charter school petitions. Ms. Felts gave an overview on the process and introduced the recommendation for the first school.

10. Ms. Morgan Felts reviewed the recommendation for Ethos Classical. Following the recommendation, the school had five minutes to present. The chairwoman of the governing board of Ethos Classical discussed the school's values and their academic strategy of literacy, math, and arts instruction in a rigorous classical curriculum. Commissioner Paul Williams moved to approve and Commissioner Clara Keith seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.
11. Ms. Morgan Felts reviewed the recommendation for Harriet Tubman School of Science & Tech. Following the recommendation, the school had five minutes to present. The school discussed closing achievement gaps and offering viable career opportunities for students. The school will offer a computer science innovation that will be a lighthouse in the community. Commissioner Lowden moved to approve and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. The vote was approved unanimously.
12. Ms. Morgan Felts reviewed the recommendation for The Community Academy of Architecture & Design. Following the recommendation, the school had five minutes to present. The school presented their mission to expose students to architecture and design thinking as a way to promote community conscious leaders. The school seeks to serve an urban population in Stone Mountain, with a plan to focus on community-based learning. The school will also offer project-based learning where the projects come from various architecture associations. Commissioner Lowden made a motion to approve and Commissioner Williams seconded. The vote to approve is unanimous.
13. Ms. Morgan Felts reviewed the recommendation for Yi Hwang Academy. Following the recommendation, the school had five minutes to present. The governing board chair presented the two-way dual immersion model of the school. It will be the first in Georgia to offer a whole school experience in Korean immersion, which is the third most spoken language. The school discusses the cognitive, cultural, and economic benefits of understanding multiple languages. Commissioner Lowden makes a motion to approve and Commissioner Keith seconds. The approval vote is unanimous.
14. Chairman Lewis made an announcement that there will be no SCSC Commission meeting in August.
15. Chairman Lewis then asked if there was any public comment. There was one public comment from a parent at Georgia Cyber Academy
16. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:50 am.