

STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEETING

March 27, 2019 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 10:03 am.
2. Commissioners Tony Lowden, Tom Lewis, Carmen Dill, Clara Keith, Paul Williams, Jose Perez, and staff members Gregg Stevens—Interim Executive Director, Morgan Felts—Deputy General Counsel and Director of Strategic Initiatives, Lauren Holcomb- Chief Communications Officer, Kristen Easterbrook—New Charter Program Manager, Katie Manthey—Academic Accountability Manager, and Rennie Laryea- Organizational Development Manager, Sarah Beck – Operational Accountability Manager, and Terence Washington- Financial Accountability Manager were present.
3. Approximately 20 members of the public were also present, including charter school staff and representatives, charter school business representatives, and Georgia Charter Schools Association representatives.
4. Chairman Lewis called for an approval of the meeting minutes from the February 27, 2019 meeting.
5. Commissioner Lewis called on Ms. Rennie Laryea to provide an Organizational Development update. Ms. Laryea indicated that the SCSC recently hosted New Schools Orientation. She also highlighted that board members who had not met the governance training requirements for FY19 will need to make those arrangements independently. The SCSC website has guidance related to annual governance training requirements if schools have questions.
6. Chairman Lewis called on Mr. Gregg Stevens to give a legislative update. The state's FY19 Amended and FY20 budgets have both passed. Another bill that the SCSC is tracking is HB 59 which states that a state charter school with a statewide attendance zone shall be considered to have state-wide jurisdiction.
7. Chairman Lewis then asked Ms. Katie Manthey to give an overview of the 2019 Performance Reviews. Ms. Manthey indicated that the next three meetings will consist of performance reviews. Each school will have 5 minutes to present and then Commissioners will have 15 minutes for questions.
8. Chairman Lewis asked Mr. Terence Washington to give a financial accountability update. Mr. Washington indicated that the SCSC would be releasing their FY18 Audit RFP for the Approved Auditors Program. Interested auditing firms should submit their proposals by April 26th.
9. Chairman Lewis then asked Ms. Kristen Easterbrook to provide an update on the 2019 Application Cycle. Ms. Easterbrook indicated that petitions for new schools are due on April 12th. She also asked Commissioners to hold June 10th through 21st for potential interview dates.
10. Chairman Lewis then asked Mr. Stevens to present the proposed action items. Mr Stevens presented two action items related to the SCSC's administrative withhold. The first is to return FY19 Midterm adjusted funds to schools. Commissioner Lowden motioned to approve, and Commissioner Dill seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

11. Mr. Stevens then presented the second recommendation to adjust the SCSC's FY20 Administrative withhold from 3% to 2% for existing schools and 1% for new schools. Commissioner Lowden motioned to approve, and Commission Williams provided the second. The vote was unanimous.
12. Mr. Stevens then presented the third action item which was for a charter contract amendment for Georgia Connections Academy to expand their grades served to include 4th and 5th grades. Georgia Connections Academy met academic standards in elementary grades in the 5th year of their charter contract. Commissioners called on Georgia Connections school leader Heather Robinson to provide additional context. Ms. Robinson indicated that the school has been very intentional in their student onboarding process to ensure that every student has the tools to succeed in a virtual environment. Commissioner Williams motioned to approve the recommendation, and Commissioner Lowden seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
13. Chairman Lewis then opened the meeting for public comment. There was no public comment.
14. Chairman Lewis adjourned the meeting at 11:35 am.