

## STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEETING

March 28, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning Conference Room  
East Twin Tower, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334

### Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Lewis at approximately 10:00 am.
2. Commissioners Tom Lewis, Tony Lowden, Clara Keith, Carmen Dill, Paul Williams, Jose Perez, and Clara Keith, and staff members, Gregg Stevens—Deputy Director and General Counsel, Morgan Felts—Associate General Counsel and Petitions Manager, Kristen Easterbrook—Business Manager, Terence Washington—Financial Accountability Manager, Katie Manthey—Academic Accountability Manager, Sarah Beck—Operations Manager, Rennie Laryea—Manager of Organizational Development, and Lauren Holcomb—Chief Communications Officer were present.
3. Approximately 23 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 called for an approval of the meeting minutes from the SCSC February 28, 2018 meeting. Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Lowden provided a second. The minutes were unanimously approved.
5. Next, Chairman Lewis asked Ms. Laryea to provide an organizational development update. The SCSC held a New Schools Orientation on March 20, 2018. The FY18 Training Support Calendar is available on the SCSC website. The SCSC staff are formulating FY19 Trainings and Supports.
6. Chairman Lewis then asked Mr. Stevens to provide a legislative update. The legislative session ends tomorrow, March 29<sup>th</sup>. HB 787, sponsored by Representative Scott Hilton aims increase state charter funding by raising the state charter supplement. It also provides forward funding for horizontal growth and allows state charter schools to receive services from RESAs. HB 787 passed the Georgia Senate floor on March 27<sup>th</sup> with amendments. HB 787 is currently on its way back to the Georgia House for review of the proposed amendments. Chairman Lewis commended the President Pro Tem of the Georgia House for her support of this bill and the Governor for the increased funding for QBE. He then thanked the SCSC staff for their hard work on HB 787.
7. Next, Chairman Lewis called for an SCSC accountability update for the 2016-2017 academic school year. Mr. Stevens provided an overview of the SCSC mission, the SCSC evaluation tool: Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF), and CPF standards. Ms. Manthey introduced the full Comprehensive Performance Framework document as well as the Academic Accountability Briefing, which has already been shared with schools. Both will be available on the SCSC website following the meeting.

8. Next, Ms. Manthey provided an academic accountability update for the 2016-2017 academic school year. Ms. Manthey discussed the academic metrics within the CPF (academic, financial, and operational), and overall and grade band performance trends. Mountain Education Charter High School, Pataula Charter Academy, International Charter School of Atlanta, and Atlanta Heights met standards in all CPF indicators. Academic performance trends show a 10% increase in schools meeting academic performance standards. Moreover, Ivy Preparatory Academy at Kirkwood outperformed its comparison districts in all five academic metrics.
9. Next, Ms. Manthey provided a financial accountability update for the 2016-2017 academic school year. 15 of 23 authorized SCSC schools met financial standards, which is also an increase from the previous year. However, schools struggle to manage enrollment variance. Mr. Washington discussed the trainings the SCSC staff offers as resources for state charter schools to remedy financial accountability issues.
10. Next, Ms. Manthey provided an operational accountability update for the 2016-2017 academic school year. Operating state charter schools increased performance from previous years; 13 of 23 schools met operational accountability measures. Ms. Beck provided additional comment regarding compliance trends with the GaDOE LUA manual and training on the reporting of child abuse and neglect.
11. Ms. Manthey then discussed the next steps. Schools will participate in the SCSC annual performance review scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup> and June 27<sup>th</sup>. Schools will discuss their results on the CPF and their next steps towards meeting performance standards. SCSC staff will also host a webinar on school performance on April 27<sup>th</sup> for SCSC schools.
12. Next, Ms. Manthey highlighted the academic, finance, and human capital supports the SCSC staff provides schools. Lastly, Ms. Manthey discussed upcoming charter renewals. Three SCSC schools are up for renewal during spring 2019.
13. Next, Chairman Lewis called on Mr. Washington for a financial accountability update. The SCSC released the request for proposals for approved auditors to conduct the audits of state charter schools. The approved auditors program seeks to provide for highly qualified auditors for schools. Proposal submissions are due on April 17<sup>th</sup>.
14. Chairman Lewis then called on Ms. Felts to provide an update on the 2018 application cycle. Petitions for new schools are due April 6<sup>th</sup>. The application which can be found on the SCSC website. Interviews are scheduled for the week of June 11<sup>th</sup> and June 18<sup>th</sup>.
15. Chairman Lewis called on Mr. Stevens to introduce two action items. The first action item returns a portion of the SCSC FY2018 2% administrative withhold to state charter schools. The second action item reduces the SCSC's FY2019 administrative withhold from 3% to 2% for existing schools and 3% to 1% for new schools. Chairman Lewis called for a motion to accept the SCSC action items. Commissioner Lowden made a motion to approve the SCSC action items. Commissioner Perez made a second. The action items were unanimously approved.

16. Chairman Lewis asked if anyone signed up for public comment. Craig Carson from Dubois Integrity Academy requested public safety guidance from the SCSC. Chairman Lewis highlighted the need for the SCSC to develop guidance for schools on this topic.

17. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:04am.

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