

## **STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEETING**

**May 27, 2015, 10 a.m.**

**Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning Conference Room  
East Twin Tower, Room 854, Atlanta, Georgia 30334**

### Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jennifer Rippner. Chairman Rippner verified that a quorum existed. Commissioner Jose Perez joined the meeting late.
2. Also present were Commission staff members Bonnie Holliday—Executive Director, Gregg Stevens—General Counsel, Terence Washington – Finance and Operational Accountability Manager, Morgan Felts – Associate General Counsel and Petitions Manager, Lauren Holcomb – Director of Organizational and Resource Development, and Katie Manthey – Business and Operations Manager.
3. Approximately 20 members of the public also attended the meeting including charter school staff and representatives and charter school business representatives. Representatives from GCSA were also present.
4. After calling the meeting to order, Chairman Rippner called for approval of the meeting minutes from the April 29th SCSC meeting. Commissioner Lowden made a motion to approve the minutes, and Commissioner Williams provided a second. There was no discussion, and the minutes were unanimously approved by those present.
5. Chairman Rippner then called for approval of the meeting minutes from the May 12 & 13 SCSC Governance and Policy Retreat. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes, and Commissioner Lowden provided a second. There was no discussion, and the minutes were unanimously approved by those present.
6. Chairman Rippner then asked Director Holliday to review the portion of the agenda pertaining to agency-wide updates. Director Holliday noted the remaining quarterly site visits to state charter schools in 2015:
  - 3rd Quarter Visit: August 2015 (Date TBD), Ivy Prep Young Men’s Leadership Academy in Atlanta
  - 4th Quarter Visit: November 2015 (Date TBD), Utopian Academy for the Arts in RiverdaleDirector Holliday mentioned that Commissioners Lowden, Rippner, and Werner were planning on attending the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter visit to Ivy Prep Young Men’s Leadership Academy and Commissioners Perez and Hogg were planning on attending the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter visit to Utopian Academy for the Arts.
7. Next, Lauren Holcomb provided an update on recent SCSC trainings. She announced that the third installment of the Charter School Financial Certification Program took place on May 6-7 and participants from 12 schools attended. The training covered Budgeting and Purchasing for Charter Schools. Mrs. Holcomb then pointed out that a special TKES/LKES sustainability training for state

charter schools will take place June 15-19. She noted that continued strategic planning and budget prep/review opportunities are available to schools as listed on the website.

8. Katie Manthey then provided an update on SCSC research. Ms. Manthey explained that SCSC staff spoke with researchers from Public Impact and NACSA and determined the most appropriate approach to Phase II of the virtual school study. She mentioned that SCSC staff will receive a proposed timeline and budget for the work in the upcoming week.
9. Chairman Rippner then asked for an update on academic accountability. Director Holliday provided a recap of the discussion between SCSC staff and commissioners at the 2015 SCSC Governance and Policy Retreat held on May 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. The retreat focused on the SCSC comprehensive performance framework for state charter schools, and commissioners reiterated their commitment to upholding the SCSC mission for state charter schools to provide better opportunities to students than they would otherwise be afforded in traditional schools. Director Holliday stated that the framework has been tweaked based on commissioners' guidance from the retreat, will soon be shared with state charter schools, and is anticipated to be adopted this fall.
10. Chairman Rippner then asked for an update on the 2015 petition process. Morgan Felts stated that the deadline for submission was May 15 and that the SCSC received 15 petitions this year. A list of the petitioning schools was projected on the screen for all attendees to view. Ms. Felts detailed the locations and attendance zones proposed in the petitions. She explained that SCSC staff are currently reviewing the petitions. Ms. Felts noted that petitioner interviews are scheduled for the week of July 20<sup>th</sup> and SCSC staff will begin contacting interview panelists soon.
11. Gregg Stevens then provided an update on new state charter school openings for the fall of 2015. Mr. Stevens explained that to date, five of the seven state charters approved in the 2014 petition cycle are scheduled to open in August 2015. Two schools—Cirrus Academy Charter School and Byron-Peach Charter High School—have deferred their openings a year. He detailed the various reasons why the schools have delayed openings. Mr. Stevens stated that the SCSC anticipates a formal request from the schools to amend their charter in accordance with a delaying opening.
12. Chairman Rippner then called for additional items from commissioners. There were none. Next, Chairman Rippner called for public commit. There were none.
13. Next, Chairman Rippner asked for a motion to convene an executive session to discuss performance evaluations of the SCSC staff. Commissioner Perez offered a motion, and Commissioner Lowden provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved by those present, and the executive session was convened at approximately 10:25 a.m.
14. The executive session concluded at approximately 11:00 a.m., and the meeting was again opened to the public. There being no further business before the SCSC, Chairman Rippner asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Perez offered a motion, and Commissioner Williams provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved by those present, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:32 a.m.