

STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEETING

November 19, 2014, 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 Commission Chair Charles B. Knapp. Chairman Knapp verified that a quorum existed and that all members of the commission were present except Commissioner Jennifer Rippner who had an excused absence.
2. Also present were Commission staff members Bonnie Holliday—Executive Director, Gregg Stevens—General Counsel and Petitions Manager, Lauren Holcomb—Director of Organizational and Resource Development, and Katie Manthey—Business and Operations Manager.
3. Approximately 15 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. A motion was made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner Lewis to approve the meeting minutes from the October 29th SCSC meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.
5. Director Holliday announced that the SCSC has selected a logo design after taking a vote of several options among commissioners and staff. The new logo design will be used on the SCSC website and on official SCSC materials.
6. Director Holliday then announced that the SCSC hired two new staff members. Katie Manthey, formerly a SCSC intern, replaced Daniela Belton as the Business and Operations Manager. Morgan Felts, currently a staff attorney in the Georgia Department of Education Charter Division, will join the SCSC staff in January as the Associate General Counsel.
7. Next, Director Holliday provided an update on the staff's progress with regard to topics covered at the SCSC's Governance and Policy Retreat that took place on September 4-5, 2014 at Brasstown Valley Resort. She announced that the SCSC finalized a contract for a virtual school impact study with Public Impact and NACSA. The results of the study should be available in February 2015.
8. Next, Lauren Holcomb provided an update on organizational development. She reviewed the monthly newsletter and provided an overview of the SCSC trainings. Recent trainings included the first installment of the financial management certification program training on Nov. 6th. Ms. Holcomb also announced upcoming trainings, including a New School Boot Camp for newly approved state charter schools (Dec. 2nd), two Petitioner Boot Camps for prospective petitioners (Dec. 11th and Jan. 27th), and the second school Governance Training (Feb. 5th-6th) at Callaway Gardens. Ms. Holcomb reminded all who were present that attendance at the school governance training is statutorily required for all state charter school governing board members. Lastly, Ms.

Holcomb clarified that while the State Board of Education recently enacted a new rule requiring training for charter schools, this rule only applies to locally approved charter schools and does not impact state charter schools.

9. Chairman Knapp then asked for an update on financial and operational accountability. Gregg Stevens provided this update in Terence Washington's absence. Mr. Stevens announced that SCSC staff were planning to make two additional compliance monitoring visits to state charter schools before the end of 2014. In order to fulfill the agency's monitoring duties, these visits will continue through the spring. Director Holliday added that the staff is working to develop options for progressive school sanctions that will result from repeated incidents of non-compliance with the law and/or the contractual obligations set forth within the school's charter.
10. At this point, Chairman Knapp inquired whether SCSC staff would continue to coordinate commissioner visits to schools on an ongoing basis, as commissioners visited all SCSC schools in the SCSC's first full academic year of operations. Several commissioners affirmed interest in continuing commissioner visits to schools. Commissioner Perez expressed a desire to develop a comprehensive understanding of the materials presented to schools as part of the SCSC training program. Ms. Holcomb stated that all training materials are available on the Training Presentations and Materials section of the SCSC website and are publicly available to anyone who is interested. Chairman Knapp said that some commissioners may want to attend trainings on occasion as an expression of interest, but he advised a caution about not overstepping the board's oversight role. Director Holliday recommended that the site visits attended by commissioners be conducted separately from the staff-led compliance monitoring visits.
11. Chairman Knapp called for additional items from the commissioners and there were none.
12. There being no public comment and no further business before the SCSC, Chairman Knapp asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hogg offered a motion and Commissioner Lewis provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.