

## CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEETING

November 15, 2017, 10:00 a.m.

Georgia Department of Community Supervision 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 10:02 am. All Commissioners were present.
2. Also present were Commission staff members Bonnie Holliday—Executive Director, Gregg Stevens—Deputy Director and General Counsel, Morgan Felts—Associate General Counsel and Petitions Manager, Kristen Easterbrook—Business Manager, Katie Manthey—Accountability Manager, Sarah Beck—Operational Accountability Manager, Rennie Laryea—Manager of Organizational Development, and Lauren Holcomb—Chief Communications Officer.
3. Approximately 10 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 October 25, 2017, SCSC meeting. Commissioner Vice Chairman Williams made a motion to approve the minutes, and Commissioner Hogg provided a second. The minutes were unanimously approved.
5. Next, Chairman Lewis asked Director Bonnie Holliday and Commissioner Hogg to provide an update on a recent informal site visit to the School for Arts-Infused Learning (SAIL) on November 14, 2017. Director Holliday and Commissioner Hogg toured the SAIL facility, and spoke with faculty. Faculty from SAIL mentioned that they would appreciate a training on due process and school discipline, as well as financials and record keeping. Commissioner Hogg was impressed with SAIL's new building, staff, and integrated curriculum.
6. Chairman Lewis then asked Rennie Laryea to provide an organizational development update. First, Ms. Laryea discussed the upcoming SCSC Governance trainings scheduled for November 28-29, 2017 in Athens, GA at the UGA Center for Continuing Education and Hotel and February 8-9, 2018 at the Lake Lanier Legacy Lodge in Buford, GA. Secondly, Ms. Laryea discussed the SCSC online training calendar and supports for FY 18.
7. Chairman Lewis then asked Katie Manthey to provide an academic accountability update. Ms. Manthey discussed the most recent CCRPI score results and provided some highlights relating to the performance of SCSC schools. 10 of 23 SCSC schools met SCSC's academic expectations; last year, only six of 19 SCSC schools met academic expectations. Ms. Manthey also discussed CCRPI achievement relating to college readiness and graduation rates. Three additional SCSC schools outperformed comparison districts since last year. Two SCSC schools earned partial points—SCSC schools outperforming comparison districts in some grade bands, but not all grade bands. Ms. Manthey also discussed CCRPI progress. Seven of the SCSC schools outperformed comparison

districts in all grade bands; last year, only six of the SCSC schools outperformed comparison districts in all grade bands. Next Ms. Manthey discussed CCRPI single scores. Five SCSC schools outperformed comparison districts; last year only two SCSC schools outperformed comparison districts. Ms. Manthey then discussed the SCSC school's progress toward renewals.

8. Chairman Lewis asked Sarah Beck to provide an operational accountability update. SCSC staff have monitored seven SCSC schools and will monitor the remaining 22 SCSC schools in the upcoming fall and winter months. In the meantime, SCSC staff members hope to clarify policies and procedures relating to due process, mandated reporting, and special education. SCSC staff have also sent out monitoring letters to address trends uncovered in monitoring site visits.
9. Chairman Lewis then asked Gregg Stevens to discuss new school updates. First, Mr. Stevens discussed Genesis Innovation Academy –Boys and Girls– and International Academy of Smyrna's under enrollment. The Georgia Department of Education has calculated adjusted projections and allotments for these schools; these projections and allotments will go into effect in December 2017. Genesis Innovation Academy –Boys and Girls– and International Academy of Smyrna are recommended to adjust operations. Mr. Stevens also provided a financial update. November 1, 2017 is the revised audit deadline. All but one school submitted an audit on time. GSIC did not submit on time due to a misunderstanding how to interpret funds for afterschool programs.
10. Chairman Lewis then requested an update on the 2018 state charter school petition review process from Morgan Felts. SCSC staff will be hosting two webinars for petition applicants. The first will be on Dec. 7 and will cover general information and the second will be on and Dec. 14 and will cover the budget template. SCSC staff is also launching the early feedback program this year. This program is open to anyone wanting to participate and is posted on the SCSC website. Next, Ms. Felts discussed the petition application timeline. The petition application is expected to be released early this year –on November 29, 2017, to allow petitioners to submit applications early– pending the SCSC board's approval. Final applications are due April 6, 2018. Petitioner interviews are scheduled for June 11-22, 2018 –proceeded by post-interview actions. Recommendations for decisions are scheduled for the July 2018 SCSC meeting. Next, Ms. Felts discussed changes to the petition application. The changes include clarifications relating to academic programs, partnerships, LEA responsibilities; and a policy relating to family members serving on the same governing boards. Ms. Felts proceeded to provide an overview of the petition application. Commissioner Perez made a motion to approve the 2018 SCSC Application for New Petitioners. Commissioner Dill provided a second. The motion was passed unanimously.
11. Chairman Lewis asked commissioners if there were any additional items to discuss. None of the commissioners had any additional items to discuss.
12. Chairman asked Ms. Easterbrook if anyone signed up for public comment. No one signed up for public comment.
13. Chairman Lewis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Perez provided a second. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15am.