

## STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEETING

October 25, 2017, 10:00 a.m.

Oak Board Room, Department of Early Care and Learning Conference Room, Suite  
East Twin Tower, Room, Atlanta, GA 30334

### Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Lewis at approximately 10:00 am. All Commissioners were present.
2. Also present were Commission staff members Bonnie Holliday—Executive Director, Gregg Stevens—Deputy Director and General Counsel, Lauren Holcomb—Chief Communications Officer, Terence Washington—Financial and Operational Accountability Manager, Morgan Felts—Associate General Counsel and Petitions Manager, Kristen Easterbrook—Business Manager, Katie Manthey— Academic Accountability Manager, Sarah Beck—Operational Accountability Manager, and Rennie Laryea—Organizational Resources Manager.
3. Approximately 20 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 August 30, 2017, SCSC meeting. Vice Chairman Williams made a motion to approve the minutes, and Commissioner Hogg provided a second. The minutes were unanimously approved.
5. Chairman Lewis asked Director Bonnie Holliday to make an announcement. Director Holliday re-introduced new SCSC staff members. Lauren Holcomb, formerly SCSC Director of Organizational Development, was promoted to Chief Communications Officer. Ms. Rennie Laryea, former SCSC intern, was hired to fulfill the duties of Ms. Holcomb's previous role as Organizational Development Manager.
6. Next, Chairman Lewis requested that Director Holiday provide an update on the recent SCSC informal site visit to Resurgence Hall. Director Holliday shared that Resurgence Hall, which is located in Atlanta, is in its first year of operation. Resurgence Hall's elementary and middle school program has a unique model for kindergarten and sixth grade. Commissioners Clara Keith and Jose Perez attended the site visit. Commissioner Perez was impressed by the schools' number-based classroom management plan at the elementary school and use of technology at the middle school. Director Holliday shared that a site visit to SAIL is scheduled in November.
7. Chairman then asked Rennie Laryea to provide an organizational development update. First, Ms. Laryea discussed the Petitioner Boot Camp at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Hotel. Secondly, 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. Future trainings have been

posted on the SCSC website and the SCSC October newsletter. Chairman Lewis strongly encourages participation in these trainings.

8. Chairman Lewis then requested an update on the SCSC Accountability website from Katie Manthey. Ms. Manthey shared that the SCSC staff have been working with Georgia Technology Authority (GTA) to build an accountability website for the past year. The new SCSC website is expected to go live next week and will be accessible through the SCSC webpage. The website will show SCSC schools' CPF performance from multiple years. The goal for the website is to provide transparency and accessibility to the public, schools, parents, and students.
9. Chairman Lewis then asked Gregg Stevens to discuss any new school updates. First, Mr. Stevens announced that of the newly opened schools, three are experiencing financial difficulties due to under enrollment. International Academy of Smyrna, Genesis Innovation Academy for Boys, and Genesis Innovation Academy for Girls are significantly under enrolled. These three schools are working collaboratively with the SCSC and are submitting monthly reports and budgets for monitoring. SCSC staff have been attending their governing board meetings. Secondly, the newly approved schools, International Charter Academy of Georgia and SLAM Academy are working closely with contracted implementation specialist to meet all SCSC requirements and are in the process of finalizing facilities. Additionally, DREAM Academy, which was approved in 2016 but deferred opening due to facilities concerns, is also in the process of finalizing their facilities. Furthermore, Terence Washington reported that schools are faring well on their audit completion. Finally, SCSC staff have started conducting their on-site monitoring visits.
10. Chairman Lewis then requested an update on the 2018 State Charter School Petition Review Process from Morgan Felts. Ms. Felts shared that a total of nine schools are up for renewal. The projected release date of the petition renewal application is November 1. The projected application deadline will be January 8, 2018 or January 26, 2018 –depending on availability of data. The anticipated renewal interview dates are January 22-26, 2018 or February 12-16, 2018. Furthermore, votes for staff recommendations are anticipated to occur during the February 18, 2018 meeting or during a March 2018 called meeting. Commissioner Tony Lowden made a motion to approve the 2018 State Charter School Petition Application, and Commissioner Perez provided a second. The 2018 State Charter School Petition Application was unanimously approved.
11. Chairman Lewis directed Director Holliday to provide any additional items. Director Holliday discussed the 2017 National Charter School Authorizer Leadership Conference. Commissioner Perez also attended the conference. Secondly, Director Holliday highlighted three of the SCSC schools exceeding district and state average graduation rates. Statesboro STEAM's graduation rate is 95.2% (top 11%), Pataula Charter Academy's graduation rate is 92.5% (top 21%), and Fulton Leadership Academy's graduation rate is 88%. The state's graduation average is 86%. Director Holliday also stated that a date for the SCSC Governance and Policy Retreat is forthcoming, but will be held in January 2018.

12. Chairman Lewis then introduced Ms. Laura Bollman who was recently hired as the new Managing Director of the State Charter Schools Foundation.
13. Chairman Lewis announced that the November meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2017.
14. Chairman asked Ms. Easterbrook if there was anyone signed up for public comment. No one signed up for public comment.
15. Chairman Lewis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Perez provided a second. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:50 a.m.