

# STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION INTERVIEW PANEL MEETING

January 22, 2018, 8:20 a.m.

State Charter Schools Commission Conference Room  
East Twin Tower, Room 1470B, Atlanta, Georgia 30334

## Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting convened at approximately 8:20 am. The interview panel included: Commissioner Clara Keith, Commissioner Carmen Dill, Commissioner Paul Williams, Executive Director Bonnie Holliday, Gregg Stevens—Deputy Director and General Counsel, Morgan Felts—Associate General Counsel and Petitions Manager, Terence Washington—Financial Accountability Manager, and Katie Manthey—Academic Accountability Manager. Representatives of the Georgia Charter Schools Association and members of the public were also present.
2. The interview panel met with representatives from Ivy Preparatory Academy at Kirkwood (Ivy Kirkwood). The interview panel questioned Ivy Kirkwood's governing board to determine the possibility of renewal. The panel discussed Ivy Kirkwood's academic and financial accountability to determine whether Ivy Kirkwood's existing structures would achieve stability in the near future. Representatives from Ivy Kirkwood highlighted the school's educational programs, academic improvements, hiring and training processes, and professional development. The interview panel expressed concerns regarding Ivy Kirkwood's financial and academic sustainability, and its capacity to manage debt. The representatives from Ivy Kirkwood asserts that they are aware of the steps necessary for improvement and are actively pursuing those steps.
3. At approximately 9:50 am the interview panel met with the governing board of Ivy Preparatory Academy at Gwinnett (Ivy Gwinnett) to discuss the relationship between Ivy Kirkwood and Ivy Gwinnett and the ability for each school to function independently. The interview panel indicated that they were concerned about the downward trajectory of Ivy Gwinnett, especially in the areas of academic and financial accountability and enrollment. The representatives from Ivy Gwinnett are requesting a deferred opening year to transition to a new campus and implement necessary changes and improvements to Ivy Gwinnett.
4. At approximately 1:20 pm the interview panel met to discuss the possibility of charter renewal for Graduation Achievement Charter High School (GACHS). The representatives from GACHS originally were not be seeking renewal; however, they feel that they serve a very important function to transient student populations in the state of Georgia. The representatives from GACHS then discussed the GACHS's matrix to track the progress of its students. The interview concluded at approximately 2:40 pm.