

STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEETING

September 26, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

SCSC Meeting Room

West Twin Tower, 5th Floor Atlanta, GA 30334

Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Paul Williams at approximately 10:04 am.
2. Commissioners Tony Lowden, Carmen Dill, Paul Williams, Jose Perez, and 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, Terence Washington—Financial Accountability Manager, Katie Manthey—Academic Accountability Manager, Sarah Beck—Operational Accountability Manager, Lauren Holcomb—Chief Communications Officer were present.
3. Approximately 22 members of the public were also present, including charter school staff and representatives, families of students attending state charter schools, charter school business representatives, local school district representatives, and Georgia Charter Schools Association representatives.
4. Commissioner Williams called for an approval of the meeting minutes from the July 25, 2018 and August 30, 2018 meeting. Commissioner Perez made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Keith provided a second. The minutes were unanimously approved.
5. Katie Manthey, Academic Accountability Manager, provided data regarding recent release of graduation rates data and CCPRI scores. Ms. Manthey also provided an estimated release date for new CCRPI data.
6. Sarah Beck, Operational Accountability Manager, began by talking about the annual school monitoring visits. Ms. Beck described the operational compliance of schools and said that the visits have been showing signs of improvement over previous years. Ms. Beck said that monitoring letters will be sent out in November.
7. Terrance Washington, Financial Accountability Manager, reported on the funds that were given back to schools in August. Mr. Washington described how the funds are to be used and how the SCSC monitors this process. Mr. Washington also mentioned the SCSC's reporting deadlines calendar and that the schools' audit reports and the DE46 reports were due in mid-September. If schools failed to submit on time they would lose operational points in the CPF.
8. Ms. Manthey then reported on the various upcoming trainings opportunities. Ms. Manthey highlighted the Academic Summit which was occurring that day and the Petitioner Boot Camp which is scheduled for October 30th.
9. Commissioner Williams then called on Ms. Morgan Felts for the action item. Ms. Felts began by giving an explanation of the replication process and then talked specifically about the replication application for Spring Creek Charter Academy. Ms. Felts then proceeded to read the recommendation for approval for Spring Creek Charter Academy.
10. Commissioner Williams highlighted that public comment related to Spring Creek Charter Academy would occur before the vote. Commissioner Keith made a motion to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Dill provided the second. The commissioners opened the discussion up to the public.

11. At approximately 10:32 am the panel began with public comment. The Commission heard from Tim Cochran, the Superintendent of Decatur County School, regarding his concern about the impact that this school would have on the three counties they propose to serve. He also highlighted Pataula Charter Academy's track record compared to the district and issues related to diversity. Then the Commission heard from James Phillips, the Superintendent of Miller County Schools, who echoed the sentiment of the Decatur County Superintendent. Then the Commission heard from Brinson Register, the Superintendent for Seminole County Schools, who also echoed the points from Mr. Cochran and urged the Commission to be diligent in their pre-opening monitoring of Spring Creek if the school is approved. Finally, the Commission heard from Kylie Holley, the current school leader at Pataula Charter Academy regarding the Spring Creek replication application and why they felt the need to pursue a replication into these specific counties. She also highlighted their marketing plan for Spring Creek Charter Academy and reassured the Commission that they would be very intentional about their recruitment efforts for the school.
12. Commissioners discussed the feedback given by the local districts as well as representatives from Spring Creek. At approximately 11:15 Commissioner Lowden called for a vote. Commissioners Keith, Lowden, Williams, and Dill voted in favor of approval. Commissioner Perez abstained. The motion passed.
13. Commissioner Williams then opened up the meeting for any additional public comment. Beth McCamy and Marcella Paul, both GCA parents, praised the quality of education provided by GCA and urged the commission to consider their perspective during renewal. Jason Allen, the chair for Ivy Prep Academy, spoke about their enrollment at both Ivy schools and highlighted that their board was in discussion regarding their Gwinnett campus.
14. Commissioner Williams adjourned meeting at 11:29am.