

STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY



January 22, 2021 (10:00am) and
January 23, 2021 (9:00am)

Barnsley Resort, 597 Barnsley Gardens Rd, Adairsville, Georgia 30103

January 22, 2021

Attendees: Commissioners: Buzz Brockway – Acting Chairman, Tom Lewis, Hunter Hill, Tony Lowden, Jose Perez, and Dr. Lina Millan. SCSC Staff: Lauren Holcomb – Executive Director, Morgan Felts – Chief Operations Officer, Cerrone Lockett – General Counsel, Katie Manthey – Director of Research and Evaluation, Mu’min Islam – Associate General Counsel, Sarah Beck – Associate General Counsel and Operational Accountability Manager, Darcy Callaway – Business Manager, Erica Acha-Morfaw - Administrative and Communications Coordinator, and Kiara Thompson and Jackson Caruso – SCSC Interns.

A. **Welcome**

- Acting Chairman Buzz Brockway called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.
- A quorum of commissioners was present.

B. **Introduction of New Staff**

- Director Holcomb introduced new staff members Associate General Counsel, Mu’min Islam; Administrative and Communications Coordinator, Erica Acha-Morfaw; and SCSC interns Kiara Thompson and Jackson Caruso.

C. **SCSC History, Mission & Overview** – The SCSC Executive Director presented an overview of SCSC’s history and mission.

D. **Role of the SCSC** – The SCSC General Counsel presented on the role of the SCSC, which included an overview of the SCSC Bylaws. The following amendments to the SCSC Bylaws were proposed: (1) update the provision regarding commissioner term lengths consistent with legislative statutes; (2) specifically permit the Chairperson to create committees; (3) leave the form of all voting to the discretion of the Chairperson; and (4) correct clerical errors and non-substantive inconsistencies within the text of SCSC’s Bylaws. A motion was made by Commissioner Lowden to accept the recommended changes to Bylaws. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Millan. The changes were approved with 5 yes votes.

E. **Board Governance** – The SCSC General Counsel presented on best practices in board governance.

F. **Open Discussion** – The Commissioners discussed topics related to schools operating during the pandemic. In particular, the Commissioners discussed how schools were tracking students access to the educational curriculum, high teacher absences associated with COVID-19 causing a shortage of temporary staffing and the impact the additional year granted to schools would affect SCSC’s charter renewal process.

G. **The meeting adjourned at approximately 5pm.**

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- A. **Welcome** – Acting Chairman Buzz Brockway called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.
- B. **SCSC Growth Considerations** – The SCSC Executive Director presented on SCSC growth management and maximizing school choice options. The SCSC Chief Operations Officer presented a five-year growth projection model.
- C. The Commissioners discussed SCSC’s growth based upon the previous presentation. The discussion entailed assessing how additional SCSC schools are impacting the state budget. Commissioner Brockway recommended the SCSC review the number of applications and subsequent approvals for the past five years for future projections.
- D. A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Perez. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned at 12:48pm.