

STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

June 29, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia Board Room
512 Twin Towers West
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Meeting Link: <https://meet.goto.com/553531837>

Phone: +1 (646) 749-3122 Access Code: 553-531-837



I. Call to Order

- Chairman Brockway called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.
- Chairman Brockway and Commissioners Dudgeon, Perez, and Milan attended the meeting in person. Commissioner Johnson attended the meeting virtually. A quorum was formed.

II. Approval of SCSC Meeting Minutes

- Commissioner Perez motioned to approve the May 2022 meeting minutes. Commissioner Dudgeon seconded the motion. The May 2022 meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote. Commissioner Milan did not participate in this vote.

III. Executive Session

- This agenda item was moved to the end of the meeting.

IV. Organizational Development

- Schools were reminded about Governance training requirements. Specifically, board members are required to attend one in-person session and one virtual session to satisfy their FY22 governance training requirements through the SCSC. Governing board members who did not attend an in-person session and a virtual session were required to complete their training for FY22 through an alternative provider.
- Schools were reminded about the upcoming LEA Reporting Training, which will occur July 13th.

V. Pre-Opening Schools

- On May 13th, all SCSC schools were required to submit projected enrollment for forward funding purposes. This collection is important for pre-opening schools as they plan to open in the fall, as enrollment is the primary source of revenue. Due to enrollment concerns, 3 additional schools will now be opening in Fall 2023. The SCSC is actively working with these school to help them open next fall.

VI. Petitions

- The SCSC recently concluded interviews for seven charter petitioners for the FY22 petition cycle. Schools can expect to receive the SCSC's recommendations for approval or denial within the next two weeks. Staff will make final recommendations to the board at its July meeting.

VII. Authorizer Standards

- The SCSC is in contract negotiations with NACSA to conduct the pilot evaluation of the Georgia Standards and Principals for Quality Charter Authorizing for the SCSC. The SBOE adopted the principles and standards at its December meeting. Last summer, the SCSC joined GaDOE staff in presenting the 15 standards to stakeholders for feedback. The SCSC has since developed a draft evaluation process for assessing charter authorizer performance against the standards. NACSA will

review this plan, ensure alignment with national best practices, and conduct a pilot evaluation of the SCSC that includes input from state charter schools. Results from the pilot evaluation will inform the final evaluation and include options for expanding the evaluation to include GaDOE and local authorizers if they choose to buy-in in the future.

VIII. **Accountability**

- Previously, the USDOE allowed state education agencies to submit an addendum to their ESSA plan for the 2021-22 school year, to account for learning disturbances related to the COVID pandemic. In March, the SCSC presented GaDOE’s proposed updates which included adjustments to state accountability system, the CCRPI. Earlier this month, the USDOE approved Georgia’s proposed updates and the changes will go into effect immediately. Thus, the SCSC can expect to still have CCRPI Content Mastery scores, but no growth/progress scores.
- The 2021-22 school year will serve as a new baseline for generating growth scores in future years. Thus, the SCSC will plan to contract with a university research team to conduct our own growth analysis for state charter schools for the most recent school year.

IX. **Action Items**

- **Strategic Plan Adoption**
 - SCSC staff recommended that the State Charter School Commission approve adoption of an agency-wide Strategic Plan, which the COO discussed in-depth.
 - In response to a question from Commissioner Millan, the COO explained that the strategic plan addresses barriers charter school openings to better prepare new schools.
 - Commissioner Milan motion to approve the staff recommendation. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- **FY23 SCSC Operating Budget**
 - SCSC staff recommended that the SCSC direct the Georgia Department of Education to withhold **1.73%** of state funding allocated to existing state charter schools, and **0.00%** for state charter schools in the first year of operation as authorized by O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2089(b) for SCSC administrative expenses. She further recommended that the SCSC adopt the SCSC FY23 Operational Budget a **total amount of \$6,000,531**.
 - Commissioner Milan motioned to approve the staff recommendation. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

X. **Additional Items from Commissioners**

- None

XI. **Public Comment**

- Ebony Payne Brown – PEACE Academy School Leader
 - Ms. Brown provided public comment on behalf of PEACE Academy. She thanked the SCSC for working with their school and asked for clarification moving forward in the school-opening process. Ms. Brown reiterated that she is committed to working with the SCSC in partnership to ensure success in opening in the future.
 - Commissioner Brockway thanked Ms. Brown for her comments and stated that the SCSC remains 100% behind their school
- Monique Carter-Harper – PEACE Academy Parent
 - Ms. Carter-Harper provided public comment expressing the type of education she desires for her child and how PEACE Academy will provide her child with that type of quality education.
 - Commissioner Brockway thanked Ms. Carter-Harper for her attendance and her positive words.
- Brian King – Liberation Academy Founder

- Mr. King provided public comment on behalf of Liberation Academy asking for more clarity and training throughout the pre-opening phase to ensure that Liberation Academy is on track to enroll students next fall.
- Commissioner Brockway thanked Mr. King for his comments and concerns and reiterated that both the Commissioners and the SCSC staff are fully committed to helping their school open in Fall of 2023.
- Kolt Bloxson – Miles Ahead Founder
 - Ms. Bloxson provided public comment on behalf of Miles Ahead. Ms. Bloxson stated that staff at Miles Ahead have mobilized to ensure that everyone understands for the deferment will affect families as well as next steps and guidance. Many families continue to look forward to the school's opening next fall. Ms. Bloxson asked for the SCSC's support in ensure the school's opening in the Fall of 2023.
 - Commissioner Brockway thanked Ms. Bloxson for her comments and stated that he looks forward to working Miles Ahead for a successful school opening next fall.
- Khaliff Davis – Senior Director at Reinvestment Fund
 - Mr. Davis provided comment on business implications related to recent start-up charter decisions.
 - Commissioner Brockway thanked Mr. Davis for his work.
- Dr. James Bumpus – comment on behalf of Cirrus Charter Academy
 - Dr. Bumpus provided comment about the value and work of Cirrus Charter Academy and expressed his support for the school.
 - Commissioner Brockway thanked Dr. Bumpus for his comments.

XII. **Executive Session**

- Commissioner Dudgeon motioned to enter executive session for the purpose of conducting personnel evaluations and potential litigation. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion. Commissioners Dudgeon, Perez, and Milan voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Johnson did not participate in the vote. The motion passed.
- Commissioner Milan voted to end executive session. Commissioner Dudgeon seconded the motion. Commissioners Milan, Perez, and Dudgeon voted in favor of ending executive sessions. Commissioner Johnson did not participate in the vote. The motion passed.

XIII. **Adjourn**

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.