

STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

September 29, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Virtual Access: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/327446557>

Phone: +1 (312) 757-3121 Access Code: 327-446-557



Attendees: Commissioners: Buzz Brockway-Chairman; Tony Lowden-Vice Chairman; Fitz Johnson; Jose Perez; Hunter Hill; and Mike Dudgeon. SCSC Staff: Lauren Holcomb – Executive Director; Morgan Felts – Chief Operations Officer; Cerrone Lockett – General Counsel; Kathy Schieber – Financial Analyst; Katie Manthey – Director of Research and Evaluation; Kristen Settlemire – Associate General Counsel; Kiara Thompson – Program Coordinator; Erica Acha-Morfaw – Administrative and Communications Coordinator; and DeShantis Huff – SCSC Intern.

I. Call to Order (Chairman Brockway)

- Chairman Brockway called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.
- The following Commissioners attended the meeting: Commissioners Brockway, Lowden, Perez, Johnson, Hill, and Dudgeon. A quorum was formed.

II. Approval of SCSC Meeting Minutes (Chairman Brockway)

- Commissioner Perez made a motion to approve the August 25, 2021, and September 9-10, 2021, policy retreat meeting minutes. Commissioner Dudgeon seconded the motion. The August 25, 2021, and September 9-10, 2021, policy retreat meeting minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.
 - Commissioners Lowden and Johnson were not present for this vote.

III. Commissioner School Visits (SCSC Executive Director)

- Next month, commissioners will be visiting the following schools up for renewal: Cirrus Charter Academy, Statesboro STEAM, Atlanta Heights Charter School, and Georgia Connections Academy.

IV. School COVID Update (SCSC Executive Director)

- Updated Public Health Guidance
 - DPH is offering free COVID testing to schools.
 - Additionally, the SCSC is coordinating a Pfizer vaccine booster clinic with its health partner, GHC3. More information will be provided to schools once available.
- Remote Learning Waiver
 - Again, the SCSC approved thirteen schools for the remote learning waiver, allowing these schools to have up to 25% of students opt into virtual learning.
 - Commissioners previously requested updates about the number of students participating in the remote learning waiver and the academic achievement of those students. Participating schools will be contacted for data in October, and SCSC staff will provide an update for commissioners at the October Board meeting.

- As a reminder, the remote learning waiver expires on December 31, 2021.

V. Organizational Development (SCSC Executive Director)

- Upcoming Trainings
 - Petitioner Bootcamp will take place virtually on October 12, 2021.
 - The SCSC will be holding additional webinars to provide petitioners with specific application and budget information. The webinars will take place on October 27, 2021, and November 3, 2021.
 - FY22 Governance training dates are on the SCSC website. Governance training will be done in two parts this year. As a reminder, board members of state charter schools must complete Governance training, either through the SCSC or an alternative provider.

VI. Closure Update (SCSC General Counsel)

- SCSC staff has been regularly meeting with representatives from the Harriet Tubman School of Science and Technology to ensure that the school is satisfying its closure obligations.
- The school is continuing to prepare for asset re-distribution, which the SCSC hopes will be accomplished in October.

VII. Accountability

- 2021-22 Onsite School Monitoring (**SCSC General Counsel**)
 - SCSC staff began annual onsite monitoring for schools this week. Monitoring will continue through October and conclude in early November.
- Audit Deadline (**SCSC Financial Analyst**)
 - Schools are reminded that the audit deadline is on November 1, 2021.
- Georgia Milestones Assessment Results (**SCSC Director of Research and Evaluation**)
 - The SCSC Director of Research and Evaluation presented on Georgia Milestones assessment results and proposed 2020-21 academic standards. She encouraged schools to provide written feedback on the proposed standards by October 12, 2021, and noted that the final recommendation will be brought to the Board at the October meeting.

VIII. Action Items

- Chairman Brockway noted that Commissioners approved the following vision statement at the September policy retreat: “Innovative and superior charter schools advancing education in every community.”
- **2022 State Charter School Renewal Timeline (SCSC Director of Research and Evaluation)**
 - The Director of Research and Evaluation recommended that Commissioners approve the 2022 state charter school renewal timeline.
 - Commissioner Lowden made a motion to approve the 2022 state charter school renewal timeline, as stated. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Commissioner Johnson was not present for this vote.

- **2022 Start-up Charter School Petition Timeline (SCSC General Counsel)**
 - The General Counsel recommended that Commissioners approve the 2022 start-up charter school petition timeline.
 - Commissioner Lowden made a motion to approve the 2022 start-up charter school petition timeline, as stated. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Commissioner Johnson was not present for this vote.
- **2022 Petition Priorities (SCSC General Counsel)**
 - The General Counsel recommended that Commissioners approve the 2022 petition priorities.
 - Commissioner Dudgeon made a motion to approve the 2022 petition priorities, as stated. Commissioner Lowden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Commissioner Johnson was not present for this vote.
- **SCSC Replication and Expansion Policy (SCSC General Counsel)**
 - The General Counsel recommended that Commissioners approve the SCSC Replication & Expansion policy.
 - Commissioner Dudgeon made a motion to approve the SCSC Replication & Expansion policy, as stated. Commissioner Lowden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Commissioner Johnson was not present for this vote.
- **SCSC Grade Band Policy (SCSC General Counsel)**
 - The General Counsel recommended that Commissioners approve the SCSC Grade Band policy.
 - Commissioner Lowden made a motion to approve the SCSC Grand Band policy, as stated. Commissioner Dudgeon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Commissioner Johnson was not present for this vote.
- **SLAM Academy (SCSC Associate General Counsel)**
 - The Associate General Counsel recommended that Commissioners approve the request from SLAM Academy for a temporary remote learning waiver.
 - Commissioner Dudgeon made a motion to approve SLAM Academy's request for a temporary remote learning waiver, as stated. Commissioner Lowden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Following the vote, Commissioner Lowden encouraged SLAM Academy to develop a relationship with the Westside Future Fund (Fund), as the Fund is heavily involved in efforts to revitalize the Greenbriar area. He also suggested that other schools be intentional in making connections with local community organizations, who can assist them in their strategic efforts.

IX. Additional Items from Commissioners

- None

X. Public Comments

- There was no public comment.

XI. Adjourn

- Commissioner Perez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.