

# STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION

## MEETING MINUTES

October 27, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

SCSC Board Room, 512 Twin Towers West

**Virtual Access:** <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/954150949>

**Phone:** +1 (872) 757-3121 **Access Code:** 954-150-949



**Attendees:** Commissioners: Buzz Brockway-Chairman; Fitz Johnson; Jose Perez; Hunter Hill; Lina Millan; and Mike Dudgeon. SCSC Staff: Lauren Holcomb – Executive Director; Morgan Felts – Chief Operations Officer; Cerrone Lockett – General Counsel; Katie Manthey – Director of Research and Evaluation; Kristen Easterbrook – Charter Development Manager; Kristen Settlemire – Associate General Counsel; Kiara Thompson – Program Coordinator; Erica Acha-Morfaw – Administrative and Communications Coordinator; and DeShantis Huff – SCSC Intern.

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### I. Call to Order (Chairman Brockway)

- Chairman Brockway called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
- The following Commissioners attended the meeting: Commissioners Brockway, Millan, Perez, Johnson, Hill, and Dudgeon. A quorum was formed.

### II. Approval of SCSC Meeting Minutes (Chairman Brockway)

- Commissioner Dudgeon made a motion to approve the September meeting minutes. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion. The September meeting minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.
  - Commissioners Millan was not present for this vote.

### III. Commissioner School Visits (SCSC Executive Director)

- Over the past month, commissioners visited the following schools up for renewal: Cirrus Charter Academy, Statesboro STEAM, Atlanta Heights Charter School, and Georgia Connections Academy.
- Commissioners Brockway, Dudgeon, and Johnson praised the work being done by these schools.

### IV. School COVID Update (SCSC Executive Director and SCSC General Counsel)

- Updated Public Health Guidance (SCSC Executive Director)
  - As a reminder, the SCSC is coordinating a vaccine booster clinic at Ivy Preparatory Academy on November 6, 2021, from 12:30 pm to 4:30pm for faculty and staff of SCSC schools.
- Remote Learning Waiver (SCSC General Counsel)
  - The General Counsel shared the results of the SCSC poll regarding use of the SCSC virtual learning waiver.

### V. Organizational Development (SCSC Charter Development Manager and SCSC Program Coordinator)

- Past Trainings (SCSC Charter Development Manager)
  - SCSC Petitioner Bootcamp was held virtually on October 12, 2021.

- **Upcoming Trainings (SCSC Charter Development Manager)**
  - Petitioner Webinar Series Part 1: Overview of Application is scheduled for October 27, 2021.
  - Petitioner Webinar Series Part 2: Overview of Funding and Budget Template is scheduled for November 3, 2021.
  - The first round of Governance Training is scheduled to take place in-person on November 10, 2021, at Callaway Gardens. The SCSC is also including a virtual component in Session One, which is scheduled for December 7, 2021. This design is intended to promote flexibility while having an in-person opportunity to facilitate dialogue and ideas among participants.
- **Governance Training Certification (SCSC Program Coordinator)**
  - For FY21, 26 schools completed their governance training requirements and 9 did not (approximately 25%). These numbers do not include schools in their first year of operation or schools that are no longer under SCSC authorization.
  - The SCSC continues to encourage all school governing board members to either attend the SCSC's governance training, which is available to schools free of charge, or to reach out to an approved alternate provider to schedule their FY22 training sessions.

**VI. Petitions (SCSC General Counsel)**

- SCSC staff is finalizing updates to the FY22 start-up charter application. The petition portal will open at 5:00 p.m. on November 1, 2021. FY22 Charter petitions are due on April 16, 2022. Interviews for eligible petitioners will begin the week of June 20, 2022. Staff will begin making recommendations to the SCSC board in July 2022.
- The SCSC will accept replication petitions on a rolling basis beginning November 1, 2021, through July 15, 2022. Capacity interviews and recommendations will occur on a rolling basis through December 31, 2022.
- All approved petitions may be required to open on a deferred timeline depending on the approval date.

**VII. Pre-Opening Schools (SCSC Charter Development Manager)**

- There are currently eight new schools and one replication school scheduled to open next fall.
- As in prior years, all pre-opening schools are required to follow the SCSC's Pre-Opening checklist to ensure that they are on track for a successful opening. The first round of items from that checklist are due in early November.

**VIII. Closure Update (SCSC Charter Development Manager)**

- 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 has officially vacated its facility and is currently completing its final inventory process. Once items are ready to be redistributed, the school will reach out to other eligible school to let them know how they can claim the items.

- IX. Authorizer Standards (SCSC Director of Research & Evaluation)**
- The SCSC and GaDOE are finalizing the authorizer standards, which are expected to be on the December SBOE meeting agenda for adoption.
- X. Accountability**
- **2021 Graduation Rates (SCSC Director of Research & Evaluation)**
    - The SCSC Director of Research & Evaluation presented the 2021 graduation rates for SCSC schools.
  - **2021-22 Onsite School Monitoring (SCSC General Counsel)**
    - SCSC staff is about halfway complete with annual onsite monitoring. Onsite monitoring is scheduled to conclude on November 15, 2021.
  - **Audit Deadline (SCSC Chief Operations Officer)**
    - Schools are reminded that they must submit their annual audit to Morgan Felts by November 1, 2021.
- XI. Action Items**
- **2020-2021 Academic Accountability Measures (SCSC Director of Research and Evaluation)**
    - The Director of Research and Evaluation presented the agency's rationale for updating the 2020-2021 Academic Accountability Measures and recommended that Commissioners approve said measures.
    - Commissioner Perez made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 Academic Accountability Measures, as stated. Commissioner Millan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
  - **2020-2021 Financial Accountability Measures (SCSC Chief Operations Officer)**
    - The Chief Operations Officer recommended that Commissioners approve the proposed update to Measure 1c in the finance section of the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework for generating state charter school financial accountability scores for the 2020-2021 school year.
    - Commissioner Dudgeon made a motion to approve the proposed update to Measure 1c, as stated. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- XII. Additional Items from Commissioners**
- None
- XIII. Public Comments**
- There was no public comment.
- XIV. Adjourn**
- The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.