

STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

August 26, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting (Public)



Attendees: Commissioners: Paul Williams -Chairman; Buzz Brockway -Vice Chairman; Carmen Dill; Jose Perez; Tom Lewis; Hunter Hill; and Dr. Lina Millan. SCSC Staff members: Lauren Holcomb – Executive Director; Morgan Felts – Chief Operations Officer; Cerrone Lockett – General Counsel; Kristen Easterbrook – Charter Development Manager; Rennie Laryea – Associate General Counsel; Sarah Beck – Associate General Counsel and Operational Accountability Manager; Terence Washington – Financial Accountability Manager; Darcy Callaway – Business Manager; Danielle Williams – Communications and Outreach Coordinator; and Michele Neely—State Charter Schools Foundation (SCSF) President. Approximately 50 members of the public attended remotely.

- I. **Call to Order** (Chairman Paul Williams)
 - The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m.
 - All commissioners were present.
 - Chairman Williams announced that the SCSC Financial Accountability Manager would be leaving the SCSC to start a new position and thanked him for service to the SCSC. The SCSC Financial Accountability Manager responded briefly.

- II. **Approval of SCSC Meeting Minutes** (Chairman Paul Williams)
 - Chairman Williams called for the approval of the July 29, 2020 meeting minutes. Commissioner Perez motioned. Commissioner Brockway seconded. The July 29, 2020 meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

- III. **School Re-Start Update** (SCSC Executive Director)
 - The Georgia Department of Public Health issued COVID-19 updated guidance, which establishes required and recommended practices for schools and replaces the “Georgia’s Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools” guidance document. Required practices include monitoring for clinical signs and symptoms and notifying local public health departments about positive cases of COVID-19.

- IV. **State Charter Schools Foundation Update** (SCSF President)
 - The SCSCF presented information on its 2020-2021 focus areas and sought support for its continuing efforts to support schools.

- V. **Organizational Development** (SCSC Charter Development Manager)
 - Information about upcoming trainings as well as training materials for past trainings are available on the SCSC website. The SCSC Executive Director announced that the November governance training will be virtual. Additional details are forthcoming.

- VI. **FY20 Administrative Withhold Grant Return Summary** (SCSC Financial Accountability Manager)
 - The SCSC Financial Accountability Manager provided an update on the FY20 administrative withhold return amounts following the FY20 closeout.

- VII. **Action Items**
 - **Fiscal Year 2021 Administrative Withhold Reduction** (Chief Operations Officer)
Recommendation: The SCSC staff recommended that the SCSC direct the Georgia Department of Education to reduce the SCSC’s administrative withhold to **1.48%** of state funding allocated to state charter schools not currently in their first year of operation as authorized by O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2089(b); and the withhold for state charter schools in the first year of operation shall be **0.00%**.

SCSC Action: Chairman Williams called for a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation. Commissioner Lewis motioned. Commissioner Perez seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

- **2020 and 2021 Petition Cycles (General Counsel)**

Recommendation: The SCSC staff recommended that the SCSC resume the 2020 petition cycle and establish the 2021 petition cycle according to the timeline presented by SCSC staff.

Commissioner Hill requested clarification on the application process for new petitioners. The SCSC Executive Director clarified petition requirements for startups versus replications and expansions. Commissioner Millan asked if the resumed petition cycle included required petition updates for pandemic planning and the SCSC Executive Director stated that SCSC staff would consider this as part of interviews.

SCSC Action: Chairman Williams called for a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation as presented. Commissioner Millan motioned. Commissioner Brockway seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote. The SCSC Executive Director announced that the SCSC will host a petitioner bootcamp in October.

- **The Community Academy for Architecture & Design (General Counsel)**

Recommendation: The SCSC staff recommended that the SCSC accept the surrender of the charter authorizing the operation of The Community Academy for Architecture & Design (“TCAAD”). The school surrendered its charter petition after being notified that the SCSC would require another capacity interview based on significant changes made in the pre-opening period.

SCSC Action: The SCSC Chairman called for a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation. Commissioner Millan motioned. Commissioner Brockway seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

VIII. **Additional Items from Commissioners**

- Commissioner Lewis thanked the outgoing SCSC Financial Accountability Manager for his service to the SCSC.

IX. **Public Comment**

- Foothills Education Charter Academy Superintendent Sherrie Gibney-Sherman provided an update on the school’s virtual and in-person learning program.

X. **Adjourn**

- The meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.