

STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEETING

July 30, 2014, 10 a.m.

**Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning Conference Room
East Twin Tower, Room 854, Atlanta, Georgia 30334**

Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Charles B. Knapp. Chairman Knapp verified that a quorum existed and that all members of the commission were present.
2. Also present were Commission staff members Bonnie Holliday—Executive Director, Gregg Stevens--General Counsel, Daniela Belton—Business and Operations Manager, Terence Washington—Accountability Manager.
3. Approximately 10 members of the public also attended the meeting including charter school staff and representatives and charter school business representatives. Representatives from GCSA were also present.
4. A motion was made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner Perez to approve the meeting minutes from the June 25th SCSC meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.
5. Chairman Knapp then announced the need to amend the agenda so as to approve the minutes from the July 28th and July 29th SCSC petitioner interview panels which were conducted as open meetings. A motion was then made by Commissioner Lowden to amend the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Perez, and carried by a unanimous vote. Subsequently, Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the minutes from the July 28th and July 29th interview panels, Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.
6. Executive Director Holliday provided an update on the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) Evaluation. She explained that NACSA representatives sent a draft to SCSC staff for review. In turn, the staff provided feedback as requested, and a revised draft from NACSA is forthcoming. Chairman Knapp then requested that Director Holliday provide an overview of evaluation findings at the August 27th SCSC meeting.
7. Next, Director Holliday reminded commissioners that the SCSC Governance and Policy Retreat will take place on September 4-5, 2014 at Brasstown Valley Resort. She also explained that Lauren Holcomb, Organizational and Resource Development Director, was in the final stages of evaluating potential facilitators for the retreat.
8. Gregg Stevens, Petitions Manager, updated the Commissioners on the Petition Review Process. He announced that the interviews with new petitioners are currently underway and will continue through August 1st. Next, Mr. Stevens explained that the staff will synthesize information and feedback provided by interview panelists after interviews conclude. This information, along with staff analysis, will form the basis of the forthcoming recommendations

to approve, deny, or request supplemental information from petitioners. Mr. Stevens also announced that recommendations for those petitioners from whom supplemental information is being requested will come before the commission in September; however, the rest of the recommendations will be ready for action at the August meeting. Chairman Knapp voiced support for bringing some recommendations in August since it will provide an extra month of preparation to any petitioning group that gains approval.

9. Next, Lauren Holcomb provided an update on organizational development. She reviewed the nine state charter schools that opted into the strategic planning opportunity provided by the SCSC and conducted by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, and she briefed commissioners on the nine schools that opted into the budget and financial review opportunity provided by the SCSC and conducted by the Georgia Charter Schools Association.
10. Terence Washington, Accountability Manager, updated the Commissioners with the end-of-year closeout proceedings for Heritage Prep and Scholars Academy. Mr. Washington explained that Clayton County and Atlanta Public Schools had been helpful in terms of dealing with the transfer of student records.
11. Mr. Washington also noted that SCSC staff had notified each state charter school of how much funding it would receive as a result of the SCSC's vote to return any remaining funds to schools at the close of the 2014 fiscal year.
12. Commissioner Perez then noted that he was impressed with the SCSC's 2014 petitioner interview process. He explained that gauging petitioners' capacity to implement the plans put forth in their petitions is a critical step in the review cycle.
13. During the public comment portion of the meeting, Monica Henson, Head of School at Provost Academy, thanked commissioners for voting to return funds to state charter schools at the end of the 2014 fiscal year. She noted that Provost intends to spend the funds it received on additional technology to students. Dr. Henson also announced an August 13th open house at their Marietta learning center campus.
14. There being no further business before the SCSC, Chairman Knapp asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams offered a motion and Commissioner Hogg provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m.