



# State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

## February Board Meeting

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### **Date and Time**

Wednesday February 28, 2024 at 10:00 AM EST

### **Location**

#### **SCSC Board Room**

1356B Twin Towers East,  
2 Martin Luther King Dr., SE  
Atlanta, GA 30334

### **Virtual Access information:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89177012619?pwd=PaFAzHZMarkVM5O3aUES1DuTNmwom8.1>

**Meeting ID:** 891 7701 2619

**Passcode:** 045768

### **Phone Access Information:**

+1 646 931 3860

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## **State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia**

February 2024 Board Meeting

February 28, 2024 10:00 a.m.

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### **Agenda**

	Purpose	Presenter
<b>I. Opening Items</b>		
A. Record Attendance		Mike Dudgeon
B. Call the Meeting to Order		Mike Dudgeon
<b>II. Approval of SCSC Meeting Minutes</b>		
A. November 15, 2023, Meeting Minutes	Approve Minutes	Mike Dudgeon
B. January 26, 2024, Policy Retreat Min	Approve Minutes	Mike Dudgeon
<b>III. Commissioner Visits to Schools</b>		
A. School Visits	FYI	Donovan Head
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Anchor School</li> <li>• Liberation</li> <li>• Miles Ahead</li> <li>• PEACE</li> <li>• RISE</li> <li>• Sankofa Montessori</li> <li>• Utopian Trillith</li> <li>• ZEST</li> </ul>		
<b>IV. Legislative Update</b>		
A. Update	FYI	Donovan Head
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amended FY24 Budget</li> <li>• HB 318</li> <li>• HB 1122</li> </ul>		
<b>V. Charter Development</b>		

Purpose Presenter

**A. Training** FYI Naquita Smith

- Past Training
- Upcoming Training
  - March 20, 2024 - [New Schools Orientation pt. 2](#)
  - April 17, 2024 - [April Governance Training](#)

Visit the Training Page of the SCSC website for real-time updates and additional information.  
<https://scsc.georgia.gov/school-resources/training-opportunities>

**VI. Pre-Opening Schools**

**A. Update** FYI Tiffany Leach

**VII. Petitions**

**A. Update** FYI Erin Wright

**VIII. Accountability**

- A. Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) Update** FYI Scott Riley
- B. Finance** FYI Carmen Freemire
- C. Operations** FYI Tiffany Leach

**IX. Action Items**

**A. Charter Amendment - Atlanta SMART Academy** Vote Erin Wright  
[Charter Amendment Recommendation – Atlanta SMART Academy \(contract extension\)](#)

**B. Charter Amendment - Northwest Classical** Vote Erin Wright  

- [Charter Amendment Recommendation – Northwest Classical Academy \(Grade Band Completion\)](#)

**C. Charter Amendment - Ethos Classical** Vote Erin Wright  

- [Charter Amendment Recommendation – Ethos Classical \(Grade Band Expansion\)](#)

	Purpose	Presenter
<b>D.</b> Charter Amendment – Yi Hwang Academy of Language Excellence  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Charter Amendment Recommendation – Yi Hwang Academy of Language Excellence (YHALE) (Grade Band Expansion)</a></li> </ul>	Vote	Erin Wright
<b>E.</b> Charter Surrender - Savannah Exploratory Charter Academy  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Charter Surrender Recommendation – Savannah Exploratory Charter Academy (SECA)</a></li> </ul>	Vote	Erin Wright
<b>F.</b> Charter Renewal Recommendation - Pataula Charter Academy  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Pataula Charter Academy Renewal Recommendation</a></li> </ul>	Vote	Katie Manthey
<b>G.</b> Charter Renewal Recommendation - Coweta Charter Academy  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Coweta Charter Academy Renewal Recommendation</a></li> </ul>	Vote	Katie Manthey
<b>H.</b> Charter Renewal Recommendation - Georgia Cyber Academy  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Georgia Cyber Academy Renewal Recommendation</a></li> </ul>		
<b>I.</b> Charter Renewal Recommendation - International Academy of Smyrna  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">International Academy of Smyrna - Renewal Recommendation</a></li> </ul>	Vote	Katie Manthey
<b>J.</b> Charter Renewal Recommendation - International Charter Academy of Georgia  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">International Charter Academy of Georgia Renewal Recommendation</a></li> </ul>	Vote	Katie Manthey
<b>K.</b> Charter Renewal Recommendation - Cirrus Charter Academy  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Cirrus Charter Academy Renewal Recommendation</a></li> </ul>	Vote	Katie Manthey

Purpose Presenter

**L.** Charter Renewal Recommendation - SLAM Academy of Atlanta Vote Katie Manthey

- [SLAM Academy of Atlanta Renewal Recommendation](#)

**M.** Charter Renewal Recommendation - Cherokee Charter Academy Vote Katie Manthey

- [Cherokee Charter Academy Renewal Recommendation](#)

**N.** Charter Renewal Recommendation - Fulton Leadership Academy Vote Katie Manthey

- [Fulton Leadership Academy Renewal Recommendation](#)

**X. Additional Items**

**XI. Public Comment**

To sign up for public comment, please email Crystal Saldana at [crystal.saldana@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:crystal.saldana@scsc.georgia.gov).

View the SCSC [public comment procedures](#).

**XII. Closing Items**

**A.** Adjourn Meeting Vote Mike Dudgeon

# Coversheet

## November 15, 2023, Meeting Minutes

**Section:** II. Approval of SCSC Meeting Minutes  
**Item:** A. November 15, 2023, Meeting Minutes  
**Purpose:** Approve Minutes  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** Minutes for November Board Meeting on November 15, 2023

DRAFT



# State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

## Minutes

### November Board Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Wednesday November 15, 2023 at 10:00 AM

#### Location

**SCSC Board Room**  
1356B Twin Towers East,  
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE  
Atlanta, GA 30334

#### Virtual Access Information

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89944861688?pwd=kIxZXfYOFX8n43DaD9W2dT0nyco0hw.1>

Phone: [+1 \(646\) 931-3860](tel:+16469313860) Meeting ID: 899 4486 1688 Passcode: 096675

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### State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

November 2023 Board Meeting  
November 15, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

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#### Directors Present

B. Brockway, B. Scafidi, C. Good, J. Cole (remote), L. Millan, M. Dudgeon

#### Directors Absent

T. Lowden

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## I. Opening Items

### A. Record Attendance

### B. Call the Meeting to Order

B. Brockway called a meeting of the board of directors of State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia to order on Wednesday Nov 15, 2023 at 10:03 AM.

## II. Approval of SCSC Meeting Minutes

### A. September 27, 2023, Meeting Minutes

L. Millan made a motion to approve the minutes from the September Board Meeting on 09-27-23.

M. Dudgeon seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## III. Charter Development

### A. Trainings

The SCSC Director of Charter Development provided an update on past and upcoming SCSC trainings, including governance, petitions, and new school orientation trainings.

Commissioner Dudgeon asked and discussed the in-person attendance of governing board members at governance training.

Visit the Training Page of the SCSC website for real-time updates and additional information.

<https://scsc.georgia.gov/school-resources/training-opportunities>.

## IV. Petitions

### A. Petitions

- **The SCSC start-up petitions portal for the FY24 cycle opened on October 30, 2023.** Petitioners can find a link to the portal on our website.
- For petitioners seeking to replicate, a **Letter of Intent is due December 15, 2023.** To submit a petition for charter replication, schools must submit a letter of intent and meet the SCSC replication eligibility standards. Although the Letter of Intent requests information about the proposed new school, it is not binding for the purposes of the application.
- Petitioners were able to learn more about our start-up and replication process through a petitioner bootcamp on October 4th and petition webinars on November



2nd. Recordings of both are available on our website. Our next training opportunity will be an orientation webinar made available on our website by January 12, 2024.

- The SCSC website now features new webpages for “Start a New School” and “Replicate a School,” each with new resources and documents, including an ESP Agreement Guidance and Checklist. Updated replication guidance is forthcoming.
- SCSC Deputy General Counsel Erin Wright (erin.wright@scsc.georgia.gov) is the point person for new school petitions. SCSC General Counsel Cerrone Lockett (cerrone.lockett@scsc.georgia.gov) is the point of contact for replication and transfer petitions.

## **V. Accountability**

### **A. Schools Placed on Probation**

The SCSC Executive Director provided an update that Atlanta Unbound Academy has been placed on probation status due to facility and finance concerns.

### **B. Academic**

The SCSC Director of Research and Accountability provided an update on the graduation rates of SCSC schools, ESSA Amendment changes, and the renewal process and timeline.

Chairman Brockway expressed he was proud of all SCSC schools for their graduation rates.

Commissioners discussed the reason behind the ESSA amendment and its impact.

### **C. Financial**

- The SCSC is pleased to report that only one school is late in submitting its audit for FY23. The auditor has indicated that the audit for Atlanta Heights Charter School is 95% complete and is pending a final review. Thank you to those schools for getting the audits in on time.
- The following state charters are selected for cross functional monitoring in FY24 by the GADOE Federal Programs office: Amana Academy West, Atlanta SMART Academy, Brookhaven Innovation Academy, Cirrus Academy, DeKalb Brilliance Academy, Destinations Career Academy, Georgia Connections Academy, Georgia Cyber Academy, Northwest Classical Academy, Resurgence Hall Middle Academy, Southwest Georgia STEM Charter, and Statesboro STEAM Academy. Schools should already have been notified by GADOE and provided with information regarding the process for monitoring. Please contact the GADOE grant program manager if you need additional information.

### **D. Operational**

The compliance team is reviewing monitoring data and generating monitoring results. We expect to have initial monitoring results for schools in January. Please remember that any

appeals or disputes must be submitted through the monitoring portal within seven days of the issuance of monitoring results. Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) are due six weeks after issuing monitoring results and must be submitted in the SCSC Administrative portal. Monitoring letters will specify the applicable deadlines.

## VI. Action Items

### A. Officer Election

The elected officers of the Commission shall be a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, each of which shall be elected by a majority vote of the members of the Commission to a term of one (1) year each.

Chairman Brockway announced he will not be seeking reelection as Chair.

Commissioner Scafidi nominated Commissioner Dudgeon for Chairman of the SCSC. L. Millan made a motion to elect Commissioner Dudgeon as the next Chairman of the SCSC.

C. Good seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

#### Roll Call

C. Good     Aye  
B. Brockway   Aye  
J. Cole       Aye  
M. Dudgeon   Aye  
L. Millan     Aye  
T. Lowden    Absent  
B. Scafidi    Aye

Chairman Brockway nominated Commissioner Milan for Vice Chair of the SCSC.

M. Dudgeon made a motion to elect Commissioner Milan as the next Vice Chair of the SCSC.

B. Brockway seconded the motion.

Commissioner Cole texted his vote to approve the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

#### Roll Call

L. Millan     Aye  
C. Good       Aye  
T. Lowden    Absent  
M. Dudgeon   Aye  
B. Brockway   Aye  
B. Scafidi    Aye  
J. Cole       Absent

### B. 2024 Meeting Calendar

M. Dudgeon made a motion to approve the 2024 SCSC board meeting calendar.

B. Scafidi seconded the motion.

Chairman Brockway stated the reason for reducing the occurrence of meetings in 2024 is to promote the efficiency of board meetings. Commissioners clarified that June and July meetings are back to back because it is a busy time for petition action items.

Commissioner Cole texted his vote to approve the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

M. Dudgeon Aye  
C. Good Aye  
B. Brockway Aye  
L. Millan Aye  
J. Cole Absent  
B. Scafidi Aye  
T. Lowden Absent

**VII. Public Comment**

**A. Fulton Leadership Academy Representatives**

Representatives from Fulton Leadership Academy spoke in favor of the school by expressing how much the school has positively impacted them.

**VIII. SCSF Update**

**A. State Charter Schools Foundation Update**

The SCSF President provided an update on the CSP grant. The application for the CSP subgrant for charter schools wanting to expand or replicate is now open. Go to <https://scsfga.org/> or <https://findagacharter.org/> for more information.

**IX. Closing Items**

**A. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
B. Brockway

# Coversheet

## January 26, 2024, Policy Retreat Min

**Section:** II. Approval of SCSC Meeting Minutes  
**Item:** B. January 26, 2024, Policy Retreat Min  
**Purpose:** Approve Minutes  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** Minutes for January 26-27 Policy Retreat on January 26, 2024

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# State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

## Minutes

### January 26-27 Policy Retreat

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#### Date and Time

Friday January 26, 2024 at 8:00 AM

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#### State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

2024 Winter Policy Retreat  
January 26-27, 2024

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#### Directors Present

B. Brockway, B. Scafidi, C. Good (remote), J. Cole, L. Millan, M. Dudgeon

#### Directors Absent

T. Lowden

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#### I. Opening Items

##### A. Record Attendance

##### B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Dudgeon called a meeting of the board of directors of State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia to order on Friday Jan 26, 2024 at 9:53 AM.

#### II. Day 1 - January 26, 2024

##### A.

## **Welcome**

### **B. Renewal Process & Timeline Review**

**SCSC commissioners and staff reviewed and discussed the process and timelines for charter schools scheduled for renewal.**

### **C. School Profile Reviews**

**SCSC commissioners and staff reviewed and discussed the school profiles for charters scheduled for renewal. Discussions included reviewing charter renewal summaries.**

### **D. Lunch**

### **E. School Profile Reviews (Continued)**

**SCSC commissioners and staff reviewed and discussed the school profiles for charters scheduled for renewal. Discussions included reviewing charter renewal summaries.**

### **F. Concluding Remarks - Recess**

**Chairman Dudgeon called a recess after Day 1 presentations concluded at 4:42 PM.**

## **III. Day 2 - January 27, 2024**

### **A. School Profile Reviews (Continued)**

The meeting resumed at 9:04 am.

**SCSC commissioners and staff reviewed and discussed the school profiles for charters scheduled for renewal. Discussions included reviewing charter renewal summaries.**

### **B. Lunch**

### **C. Education Service Provider (ESP) Communication Process**

**SCSC commissioners and staff discussed the ESP Communication Process.**

### **D. Concluding Remarks**

## **IV. Closing Items**

### **A. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
M. Dudgeon