



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

July Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday July 30, 2025 at 10:00 AM EDT

Location

SCSC Board Room

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

Virtual Access Information

[Meeting Link](#)

Phone: +1 646 931 3860

Meeting ID: 844 2791 6648

Passcode: 965938

1356 Twin Towers East,
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Agenda

Purpose

Presenter

I. Opening Items

	Purpose	Presenter
A. Record Attendance		Mike Dudgeon
B. Call the Meeting to Order		Mike Dudgeon
C. Approve Minutes	Approve Minutes	Mike Dudgeon
Approve minutes for June Board Meeting on June 25, 2025		
II. Division Reports		
A. Executive Director	FYI	Donovan Head
B. SCSC Operations	FYI	Cerrone Lockett
C. New Schools Division	FYI	Kristen Easterbrook
D. Legal Division	FYI	Tiffany Leach
E. School Support & Outreach Division		Michele Neely
F. Finance Division		Carmen Freemire
III. Action Items		
A. Petition Approval Recommendation - The Meliora School	Vote	Kristen Easterbrook
B. Petition Approval Recommendation - Northwest Georgia Charter Academy	Vote	Kristen Easterbrook
C. Petition Denial Recommendation - Harvest Academy	Vote	Kristen Easterbrook
IV. Public Comment		
V. Executive Session		
VI. Closing Items		
A. Adjourn Meeting	Vote	

Coversheet

Approve Minutes

Section:	I. Opening Items
Item:	C. Approve Minutes
Purpose:	Approve Minutes
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Minutes for June Board Meeting on June 25, 2025

APPROVED



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Minutes

June Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday June 25, 2025 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

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Directors Present

B. Brockway, B. Scafidi (remote), C. Good, L. Millan (remote), M. Dudgeon, S. Sweeney

Directors Absent

T. Lowden

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 Wednesday Jun 25, 2025 at 10:06 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

M. Dudgeon made a motion to approve the minutes from April Board Meeting on 04-30-25.

S. Sweeney seconded the motion.

Minutes were approved by unanimous consent of the board.

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

II. School Performance Reviews

A. School for Arts Infused Learning (SAIL)

Representatives from the School for Arts Infused Learning presented on how the school will improve its academic and financial performance.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions on how the board will address future academic and financial concerns.

B. Statesboro STEAM College, Careers, Arts and Technology Academy

Representatives from Statesboro STEAM presented on how the school will improve its academic performance.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions regarding teacher retention, school operations, and financial oversight.

III. Division Reports

A. Executive Director's Report

- The Executive Director introduced the new Chief of Staff of the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), Christy Todd. Ms. Todd spoke on the SCSC and GaDOE collaboration.
- The SCSC's summer interns, Zaina Bamidele, Adoris Gibbs, Gabriel Olmeda, Madison Tilton, and Katie Tokos, were introduced.
- An update on local charter authorizers and Senate Bill 82 was provided.

- Guin Jones and Kristen Easterbrook were commended for their hardwork on the FY25 petition cycle.
- Three SCSC staff members will attend the National Charter Schools Conference next week.

B. New Schools Division: Pre-Opening Schools

An update on the progress of new SCSC schools was provided.

C. New Schools Division: FY25 Petition Process

An update on the FY25 petition cycle was provided. The Commission will begin voting on staff recommendations at the July meeting.

D. Operations Report

- An update on the Charter School Program (CSP) grant was provided.
- The SCSC concluded the RFP process for the data management system solution and awarded the National Charter Schools Institute's EpiCenter with the bid. Commissioners asked questions regarding the new data management system.

IV. Strategic Plan Update

A. Strategic Plan Update

An update on the SCSC's strategic plan was provided.

Commissioners commended the SCSC's progress on completing its strategic plan.

V. Action Items

A. Staff Recommendation: CPF Revisions (Operations)

B. Brockway made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the following amendments to the Operations section of the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework: 1) Increase points for the 'Approaches Standard' designation, 2) Modify on-time data reporting standards, 3) Modify governance training standards, 4) Merge Measure 2e into Measure 2b, 5) Adjust points for the 'Meets Standard' in measures within Indicators 1, 2, 4 and 6, and 6) Move compliance with authorizer intervention requirements from 6a to 6b.

S. Sweeney seconded the motion.

[Operations CPF Amendment Rec 2025.pdf](#)

Commissioners asked clarifying questions regarding the recommendation and stakeholder feedback.

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

B.

Staff Recommendation: CPF Revisions (Finance)

B. Brockway made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the recommendation to make the following amendments to the Finance section of the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework: 1) use the data of Unrestricted Cash as calculated and provided by the audit firms participating in the approved auditor program 2) acknowledge the “building related debt”, and 3) change the total points for the late submission of the annual financial audit report from 10 to 5 points.

C. Good seconded the motion.

[CPF - Finance Amendment June 2025 final.pdf](#)

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

C. Staff Recommendation: FY26 Budget Approval

S. Sweeney made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation that (1) the State Charter Schools Commission approve the FY26 annual operating budget, as presented (\$8,868,924), and direct the Georgia Department of Education to withhold the following amounts of state charter school funding for SCSC administration: • 1.7% of the state funding allocation to state charter schools, and, • .7% of the state funding allocation for state charter schools in the first year of operation, and (2) the State Charter Schools Commission directs the Georgia Department of Education to return the unexpended portion of the SCSC’s FY25 administrative withhold to state charter schools based on a pro rata share, and upon the SCSC Chairman’s approval, the Executive Director may designate the use of returned funds to address concerns identified in the Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF).

B. Brockway seconded the motion.

[Action Item - FY26 Budget Adoption.FINAL.pdf](#)

[FY26 Budget Presentation.pdf](#)

The Executive Director provided a presentation on the FY26 budget.

Commissioners commended SCSC staff on the FY26 budget.

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

VI. Public Comment

A. Public Comment

Yvonne Jean Obei, Zenat Mahmuda, Christine Keck, and Dana Jackosn spoke in support of The Meliora School.

Camdon Jones spoke in support of the Atlanta Connections Academy.

VII. Executive Session

A. Executive Session

B. Brockway made a motion to go into executive session for personnel discussion.

S. Sweeney seconded the motion.

The board voted to enter executive session at 12:24 pm.

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

S. Sweeney made a motion to come out of executive session.

B. Brockway seconded the motion.

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

VIII. 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 1:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

M. Dudgeon

Coversheet

Petition Approval Recommendation - The Meliora School

Section:	III. Action Items
Item:	A. Petition Approval Recommendation - The Meliora School
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Action Item - Petition Approval (Meliora).pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Action Item – Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Approval of State Charter School Petition for The Meliora School.

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the petition for The Meliora School, authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a charter contract for the operation of a state charter school for an initial term of five (5) years starting with the 2026-2027 school year.

Rationale

The petition and information provided by The Meliora School meet all requirements of rule and law and indicate that the school can operate as a high-quality charter school consistent with the SCSC's mission and the education goals of Georgia. The petition demonstrated the school's ability to operate as an LEA and the governing board's capacity to oversee the school's LEA obligations. The proposed budget demonstrates fiscal feasibility. If approved, the school will be authorized to serve students in grades 6-12.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Objective: Expand middle and high charter school choice.

Coversheet

Petition Approval Recommendation - Northwest Georgia Charter Academy

Section:	III. Action Items
Item:	B. Petition Approval Recommendation - Northwest Georgia Charter Academy
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Action Item - Petition Approval (NWGA Charter).pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Action Item – Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Approval of State Charter School Petition for Northwest Georgia Charter Academy.

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the petition for Northwest Georgia Charter Academy, authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a charter contract for the operation of a state charter school for an initial term of five (5) years starting with the 2026-2027 school year.

Rationale

The petition and information provided by Northwest Georgia Charter Academy meet all requirements of rule and law and indicate that the school can operate as a high-quality charter school consistent with the SCSC's mission and the education goals of Georgia. The petition demonstrated the school's ability to operate as an LEA and the governing board's capacity to oversee the school's LEA obligations. The proposed budget demonstrates fiscal feasibility. If approved, the school will be authorized to serve students in grades K-12.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Objective: Increase charter school choice in communities with few or no options.

Coversheet

Petition Denial Recommendation - Harvest Academy

Section:	III. Action Items
Item:	C. Petition Denial Recommendation - Harvest Academy
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Action Item - Petition Denial (Harvest).pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Action Item – Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Denial of State Charter School Petition for Harvest Academy.

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners deny the petition for Harvest Academy.

Rationale

The petition and information provided by the Harvest Academy did not indicate that the school can operate as a high-quality charter school consistent with the SCSC's mission and the education goals of Georgia.

SCCS staff finds that the petition and interview did not demonstrate:

1. The board's capacity to operate a charter school consistent with state education goals, including providing the highest academic quality to increase student achievement and positive outcomes;
2. The board's capacity to govern and oversee the School;
3. The school's capacity to gain the level of enrollment projected; or
4. The governing board's ability to operate the School in a fiscally sound manner.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Objective: Develop and maintain a strong internal foundation that aligns with and supports the SCSC's mission and vision.