

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

State Charter School Commission of Georgia Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday July 29, 2026 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:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84427916648?pwd=Sb7CtaC1vb3hWrKWFyQFAa4GCXIlh2.1>

Meeting ID: 844 2791 6648

Passcode: 965938

Phone Access: 646-931-3860

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter
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I. Opening Items

- A. Call the Meeting to Order
- B. Record Attendance

	Purpose	Presenter
C. Approve Agenda	Vote	Cayanna Good
D. Approve Minutes	Approve Minutes	Cayanna Good
Approve minutes for State Charter School Commission of Georgia Board Meeting on June 30, 2026		
II. Remembering Commissioner Scott Sweeney		
III. State Charter School Spotlight		
A. School Presentation: DeKalb Brilliance Academy	FYI	External Speaker
IV. Division Reports		
A. Executive Director	FYI	Donovan Head
B. New Schools Division	FYI	Kristen Easterbrook
• Pre-Opening Schools (update)		
C. Finance Division	FYI	Annie Chen
• High Risk Financial Monitoring (update)		
D. Operations Report	FYI	Cerrone Lockett
• Epicenter Implementation		
E. CSP SE Grant Update	FYI	Michele Neely
• Announcement of the 2026-27 Replication and Expansion Cohort		
V. School Performance Reviews		
A. PEACE Academy	Discuss	Cayanna Good
B. Sankofa Montessori	Discuss	Cayanna Good

	Purpose	Presenter
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C. Georgia Fugees Academy Charter School	Discuss	Cayanna Good
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VI. Action Items

A. Pilot Academic Grant Approval - Cirrus Academy Charter School	Vote	Henry Siebentritt
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SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve a Pilot Academic Grant for Cirrus Academy Charter School.

B. Pilot Academic Grant Approval - Sankofa Montessori	Vote	Henry Siebentritt
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SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve a Pilot Academic Grant for Sankofa Montessori.

C. New School Petition Timeline & Priorities	Vote	Kristen Easterbrook
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SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the FY27 start-up and replication petition timeline, as presented.

D. Petition Approval Recommendation - Atlantic Connections Academy	Vote	Kristen Easterbrook
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E. Petition Approval Recommendation - Middle Georgia Preparatory Academy	Vote	Kristen Easterbrook
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F. Petition Approval Recommendation - Prestige Preparatory School	Vote	Kristen Easterbrook
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G. Petition Approval Recommendation - Spalding Academy for Innovation and Learning	Vote	Kristen Easterbrook
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VII. Public Comment

VIII. Closing Items

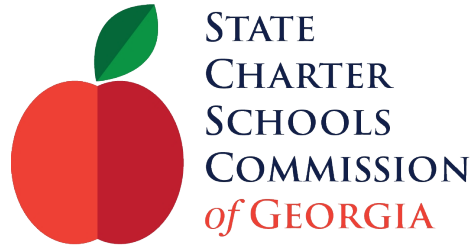
A. Adjourn Meeting	Vote	Cayanna Good
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Coversheet

Approve Minutes

Section: I. Opening Items
Item: D. Approve Minutes
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:
Related Material:
Minutes for State Charter School Commission of Georgia Board Meeting on June 30, 2026

DRAFT



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Minutes

State Charter School Commission of Georgia Board Meeting

VIRTUAL

Date and Time

Tuesday June 30, 2026 at 10:00 AM

Location

Virtual Access Information

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84427916648?pwd=Sb7CtaC1vb3hWrKWFyQFAa4GCXlh2.1>

Meeting ID: 844 2791 6648

Passcode: 965938

Phone Access: 646-931-3860

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

Directors Present

B. Brockway (remote), B. Scafidi (remote), M. Dudgeon (remote), S. Sweeney (remote), T. Lowden (remote)

Directors Absent

C. Good, L. Millan

I. Opening Items

A.

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 Tuesday Jun 30, 2026 at 10:08 AM.

B. Record Attendance

C. Approve Agenda

M. Dudgeon made a motion to approve the agenda for the June 30, 2026, SCSC board meeting.

S. Sweeney seconded the motion.

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

D. Approve Minutes

S. Sweeney made a motion to approve the minutes from State Charter School Commission of Georgia Board Meeting on 04-29-26.

M. Dudgeon seconded the motion.

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

II. State Charter School Spotlight

A. School Presentation: BIA Charter School

Representatives from BIA Charter School presented on the school's achievements.

III. Division Reports

A. Executive Director

The SCSC Executive Director introduced Summer Interns Carter Pannel and William Shan. Additionally, he provided updates on charter school petitions, International Academy of Smyrna's new partnership with the National Heritage Academies, SCSC budget development, Georgia Fugees Academy Charter School's probation status, and school choice progress in other states.

B. New Schools Division

The SCSC Director of New Schools provided an update on the FY26 Start-Up Petitions Cycle and pre-opening schools.

C. Finance Division

The SCSC Financial Operations Manager provided an update on the FY26 Approved Auditor Program.

D.

Operations Division

The SCSC Chief Operating Officer provided an update on the SCSC's strategic plan.

E. School Support and Outreach Division

The SCSC Director of School Support and Outreach provided an overview of progress on the CSP SE Grant and approved waivers and amendments.

IV. Action Items

A. CSP SE Grant Requests for Application

S. Sweeney made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve three Requests for Application (RFAs) for subgrants for the CSP SE Grant as presented.

B. Scafidi seconded the motion.

The subgrants are intended for the following purposes:

1. Supporting new, replicating, and expanding charter schools;
2. Supporting high-dosage tutoring at 10 charter schools; and
3. Supporting the implementation of new or expanded CTAE programming at 5 charter high schools.

[Board Action Item - CSP RFAs 06302026.pdf](#)

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

B. CSP SE Subgrant Supplemental Fund Awards

M. Dudgeon made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve supplemental fund awards for existing CSP SE Subgrantees as presented.

S. Sweeney seconded the motion.

[Board Action Item - CSP Supplemental Awards 06302026.pdf](#)

Representatives from Tapestry Public Charter School, Simple Vue Academy, and Academy for Innovation in Medicine spoke in favor of the recommendation. Additionally, The Anchor School submitted written comment in support of the recommendation. The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. FY27 Budget Approval

B. Scafidi made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve: the adoption of SCSC FY2027 Administrative Withhold; the adoption of SCSC FY2027 Operational Budget; and the return of FY2027 Administrative Withhold Funds.

M. Dudgeon seconded the motion.

[Action Item - FY27 Budget Adoption.pdf](#)

Commissioners commended staff for their work on the budget.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. CPF Revisions (Finance)

T. Lowden made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the adoption of the proposed changes to the Financial CPF score to a single score for both indicators.

S. Sweeney seconded the motion.

[CPF - Finance Board Action Item.pdf](#)

Commissioners emphasized the importance of charter schools having a clean audit.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Charter Contract Amendment - International Academy of Smyrna/Jonquil Preparatory Academy

S. Sweeney made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve an amendment to the Jonquil Preparatory Academy (formerly International Academy of Smyrna) charter contract to revise its school name, mission, essential and innovative features, mission-specific goals, and provisions related to personnel to be consistent with legal requirements.

M. Dudgeon seconded the motion.

[IAS Recommendation.pdf](#)

Logan Leslie, Board Chair of Jonquil Preparatory Academy, spoke in support of the recommendation.

Commissioners commended the new partnership between the school and the National Heritage Academies.

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

F. Renewal Timeline Approval

M. Dudgeon made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the charter renewal timeline as presented for contracts ending on June 30, 2027.

T. Lowden seconded the motion.

[Renewal Timeline Board Item 2026.pdf](#)

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

V. Public Comment

A. Rodriguez Johnson - Achievement Preparatory Academy

Rodriguez Johnson spoke in support of the Achievement Preparatory Academy petition.

B. School of Curious Minds Representatives

Tamara Pettis, Meiling Jabbaar, and Akilah Willians spoke in support of the School of Curious Minds petition.

C. Prestige Preparatory School

Angela Hargrove Holder and Nick Bajalia spoke in support of the Prestige Preparatory School petition.

VI. Executive Session

A. Vote

M. Dudgeon made a motion to enter executive session for personnel discussion.

T. Lowden seconded the motion.

Commissioners entered executive session at 11:52 am.

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

Roll Call

L. Millan Absent

C. Good Absent

B. Scafidi made a motion to exit executive session.

M. Dudgeon seconded the motion.

Commissioners exited executive session at 12:36 pm.

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

VII. 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 12:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

B. Brockway

Coversheet

Pilot Academic Grant Approval - Cirrus Academy Charter School

Section:	VI. Action Items
Item:	A. Pilot Academic Grant Approval - Cirrus Academy Charter School
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Action Item - Academic Grant Approval (Cirrus).pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

July 29, 2026, Board Meeting

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

Board Action Item | Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Approve the SCSC Academic Support Pilot Grant as presented.

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners grant Cirrus Academy Charter School the Academic Support Pilot Grant and award the school \$10,000.

Rationale

The SCSC Academic Support Pilot Grant allows the SCSC to provide targeted financial support for the creation or expansion of an academic program for schools that did not meet academic standards on the 2024-2025 Comprehensive Performance Framework. Cirrus Academy Charter School's application demonstrated a promising, well thought out proposal with clear, measurable goals that directly target the improvement of math and/or ELA teaching and learning. SCSC staff independently reviewed and scored Cirrus Academy Charter School's application; it exceeded the minimum score of 70 and was one of the two highest scoring applications.

Coversheet

Pilot Academic Grant Approval - Sankofa Montessori

Section:	VI. Action Items
Item:	B. Pilot Academic Grant Approval - Sankofa Montessori
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Action Item - Academic Grant Approval (Sankofa).pdf



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July 29, 2026, Board Meeting

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Board Action Item | Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Approve the SCSC Academic Support Pilot Grant as presented.

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners grant Sankofa Montessori the Academic Support Pilot Grant and award the school \$10,000.

Rationale

The SCSC Academic Support Pilot Grant allows the SCSC to provide targeted financial support for the creation or expansion of an academic program for schools that did not meet academic standards on the 2024-2025 Comprehensive Performance Framework. Sankofa Montessori's application demonstrated a promising, well thought out proposal with clear, measurable goals that directly target the improvement of math and/or ELA teaching and learning. SCSC staff independently reviewed and scored Sankofa Montessori's application; it exceeded the minimum score of 70 and was one of the two highest scoring applications.

Coversheet

New School Petition Timeline & Priorities

Section:	VI. Action Items
Item:	C. New School Petition Timeline & Priorities
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Action Item - FY27 Petition Timeline and Priorities.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

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Board Action Item | Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Adoption of the FY27 Petition Timeline & Start- Up Petition Priorities

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the State Charter School Commission Board of Commissioners vote to initiate the FY27 start-up petition cycle by approving the start-up and replication timeline and start-up petition priorities as presented.

Rationale

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC approve the FY27 start-up and replication petition cycles as follows:

- Letter of Intent Available: September 1, 2026
- Petition Portal Opens: October 1, 2026
- Letter of Intent Deadline: December 31, 2026
- Petition Portal Closes (Submission Deadline): February 25, 2027, by 5:00 p.m.
- Interviews Begin: June 1, 2027
- Recommendation: Beginning at the July 2027 SCSC Commission Meeting

Additionally, SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC approve the FY27 start-up petition priorities as follows:

“Priority Area” is a location more than five miles from any operational charter school authorized to serve all or some of the same grade band(s) as the petitioner’s proposed school, calculated as the most direct route measured in a straight line. If approved, a petition that plans to locate a charter school in a Priority Area must locate and serve students within a Priority Area during its first operational school year.

Coversheet

Petition Approval Recommendation - Atlantic Connections Academy

Section:	VI. Action Items
Item:	D. Petition Approval Recommendation - Atlantic Connections Academy
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Action Item - Petition Approval (ATCA).pdf



State Charter Schools Commission *of* Georgia

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Board Action Item | Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Approval of State Charter School Petition for Atlantic Connections Academy

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the petition for Atlantic Connections 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 2027-2028 school year.

Rationale

The petition and information provided by Atlantic Connections 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 6-12.

Coversheet

Petition Approval Recommendation - Middle Georgia Preparatory Academy

Section:	VI. Action Items
Item:	E. Petition Approval Recommendation - Middle Georgia Preparatory Academy
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Action Item - Petition Approval (Middle GA Prep).pdf



State Charter Schools Commission *of* Georgia

July 29, 2026, Board Meeting

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Board Action Item | Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Approval of State Charter School Petition for Middle Georgia Preparatory Academy

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the petition for Middle Georgia Preparatory 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 2027-2028 school year.

Rationale

The petition and information provided by Middle Georgia Preparatory 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-8.

Coversheet

Petition Approval Recommendation - Prestige Preparatory School

Section:	VI. Action Items
Item:	F. Petition Approval Recommendation - Prestige Preparatory School
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Action Item - Petition Approval (Prestige Prep).pdf



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Board Action Item | Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Approval of State Charter School Petition for Prestige Preparatory School

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the petition for Prestige Preparatory 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 2027-2028 school year.

Rationale

The petition and information provided by Prestige Preparatory 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 K-8.

Coversheet

Petition Approval Recommendation - Spalding Academy for Innovation and Learning

Section:	VI. Action Items
Item:	G. Petition Approval Recommendation - Spalding Academy for Innovation and Learning
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Action Item - Petition Approval (Spalding Academy).pdf



State Charter Schools Commission *of* Georgia

July 29, 2026, Board Meeting

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Board Action Item | Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Approval of State Charter School Petition for Spalding Academy for Innovation and Learning

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the petition for Spalding Academy for Innovation and Learning, 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 2027-2028 school year.

Rationale

The petition and information provided by Spalding Academy for Innovation and Learning 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-8.