APPROVED

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Minutes

January Board Meeting*

Date and Time
Wednesday January 25, 2023 at 9:00 AM

Location
**Has been rescheduled to 9 AM due to the Governor's State of the State Address.*

504 Twin Towers West,
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Dr., SE
Atlanta, GA 30334

Virtual Access Information:
https://meet.goto.com/SCSCGA/january_25_2023_boardmeeting
You can also attend by phone:
+1 (872) 240-3311//766-197-549

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

January 2023 Board Meeting
January 25, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

Directors Present
B. Brockway, C. Good (remote), F. Johnson, L. Millan (remote), M. Dudgeon, T. Lowden (remote)

Directors Absent

None

Guests Present
K. Thompson

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 Jan 25, 2023 at 9:11 AM.
Chairman Brockway welcomed SCSC's new commissioner, Cayanna Good.

Governor Brian Kemp has issued a proclamation for National School Choice Week, which is January 22-28, 2023.

Lauren Holcomb announced she will be stepping down as SCSC Executive Direction after the conclusion of the 2023 Legislative Session.

II. Executive Session

A. Personnel

M. Dudgeon made a motion to enter executive session for personnel discussion.
F. Johnson seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
L. Millan made a motion to end executive session.
F. Johnson seconded the motion.
No action was taken in executive session. Commissioner Lowden joined the meeting and Commissioner Johnson left the meeting at 9:56 am.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

III. Dissolution of Early Intervention Sub-Committee

A. Dissolution of Early Intervention Sub-Committee

Chairman Brockway dissolved the Early Intervention Sub-Committee.

IV. Approval of SCSC Meeting Minutes

A. November 30, 2022 Meeting Minutes

T. Lowden made a motion to approve the minutes from the November Board Meeting on 11-30-22.

L. Millan seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

V. Commissioner School Visits

A. Commissioner School Visits

Commissioners will be visiting Genesis Innovation Academy for Boys & Girls, Atlanta Unbound Academy, Atlanta Smart Academy, Ethos Classical (Atlanta), Delta STEAM Academy, and Georgia Fugees Academy this school year.

VI. Legislative Update

A. Legislative Update

The SCSC Executive Director presented the Governor's Budget recommendations for Amended Fiscal Year 23 and Fiscal Year 24.

VII. Organizational Development

A. The Director of Charter Development announced past and upcoming trainings.

SCSC hosted its first New Schools Orientation of the year. Upcoming trainings include Governance Training, the second New Schools Orientation, and GEER Roadshow.

VIII. Pre-Opening Schools

A. Pre-Opening Schools

There are seven new schools and two replication schools in the pre-opening pipeline. One of those replication schools, Georgia School of Innovation and the Classics, elected to defer its opening until Fall 2024. As of December 16th, all pre-opening schools still pursuing a Fall 2023 opening were required to submit a copy of their draft lease agreement as a part of the pre-opening checklist. To date, the SCSC has received five executed lease agreements.

IX. Petition Update

A. Petition Update

The start-up charter school petition application is currently open. These petitions are due by March 17, 2023. In addition, the SCSC had several groups submit enrollment forms to the Early Feedback Program. The SCSC is currently reviewing those forms with the goal of scheduling Early Feedback calls with eligible groups the week of February 13th.

X. Accountability

A.

Academic Accountability

The Research Analyst presented on the Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) schools. View the presentation here.

B. Operational Accountability

Schools received monitoring results on January 6, 2023. Appeals were due by 11:59 pm on January 20, 2023. Responses to appeals are in progress. Corrective Action Plans are due by 11:59 pm on February 17, 2023, and review is in progress as CAPS are received. Corrective Action Plans must be submitted through the SCSC Administrative Portal.

C. Financial Accountability

The Chief Operations Officer gave an audit update. See the presentation here.

XI. School Renewal Process and Timeline Update

A. School Renewal Process and Timeline Update

Five schools are currently going through the renewal cycle: Genesis Innovation Academy for Boys, Genesis Innovation Academy for Girls, Resurgence Hall Charter School, SAIL-School for Arts- Infused Learning, and Scintilla Charter Academy. All schools submitted their renewal application by the Jan. 3, 2023, deadline, and renewal interviews are taking place this week. The SCSC plans to share renewal recommendations with schools by Wednesday, Feb. 8th, post them publicly to our website on Wednesday, Feb. 15th, and bring them before the board for a vote at the February 22 SCSC meeting.

XII. Authorizer Standards

A. Authorizer Standards

The SCSC has been working with NACSA to conduct a pilot evaluation of the SCSC's authorizing practices in alignment with the 15 standards and principles of quality charter authorizing in Georgia that were adopted by the SBOE in December 2021. The evaluation process included interviews with SCSC staff and commissioners, school feedback through survey submissions, and documentation collection and review. The SCSC is in the final stages of reviewing the feedback from the evaluation team and plans to share results and next steps, including the SCSC's first formal evaluation that is planned to take place this summer.

XIII. Strategic Plan Update

A. The Chief Operations Office gave a strategic plan update.

View the presentation here.

XIV. Action Items

A. Odyssey Charter School

M. Dudgeon made a motion to approve the staff's recommendation to deny Odyssey Charter School’s request to amend its attendance zone from defined to statewide.
T. Lowden seconded the motion.
Scot Hopper, Odyssey's school leader, discussed the need for the school to have a statewide attendance zone. The school currently has enrollment interest in several counties outside of its current attendance zone.

SCSC staff and commissioners discussed how amending the school's charter contract to include a statewide attendance zone would not be aligned with SCSC's Replication and Expansion policy based on the evidence the school has provided.

View the recommendation here.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
T. Lowden made a motion to add Carroll, Douglas, Fayette, Herd, Troup, and Fulton counties to the schools attendance zone of Coweta and Meriwether county.
M. Dudgeon seconded the motion.
Instead of amending Odyssey's contract to have a statewide attendance zone, commissioners agreed to add counties the school currently has enrollment interest in to the school's attendance zone.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

M. Dudgeon	Aye
L. Millan	Absent
B. Brockway	Aye
T. Lowden	Aye
F. Johnson	Absent
C. Good	Aye

B. Rules Package

T. Lowden made a motion to initiate rulemaking procedures in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4 to amend SCSC rule 691-2-.06 State Charter School Sites and Facilities and to adopt rule 691-2-.10 Suspension and Probation.
L. Millan seconded the motion.
View the recommendations here.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. Communications Policy for State Charter Schools

T. Lowden made a motion to adopt the “State Charter Schools Communication” policy.
M. Dudgeon seconded the motion.

View the recommendation here.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Communications Policy for SCSC Commissioners

T. Lowden made a motion to adopt the Communications Policy for Commissioners.
L. Millan seconded the motion.
Commissioner Dudgeon stated that this is to amend the current communications policy to add flexibility in speaking to stakeholders.

View the policy here.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

XV. Public Comment

A. Liza Park and Rob Fortson from YHALE

Liza Park and Rob Fortson from Yi Hwang Academy for Excellence discussed the school's expansion to middle school. The school expressed it wished it had the opportunity to expand its grade band this year.

SCSC staff and commissioners discussed why the school is not eligible for grade band expansion at this time.

XVI. 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 11:10 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
B. Brockway