APPROVED

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Minutes

August Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday August 30, 2023 at 10:00 AM

Location

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

Virtual Access Information:
https://meet.goto.com/SCSCGA/2023augustboardmeeting
Phone Access:
+1 (571) 317-3112//922-231-349

State Charter Schools Commission *of* Georgia

August 2023 Board Meeting
August 30, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

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

Directors Absent
None

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 Aug 30, 2023 at 10:02 AM.

II. Approval of SCSC Meeting Minutes

A. July 26, 2023 Meeting & August Policy Retreat Minutes

J. Cole made a motion to approve the minutes from July Board Meeting on 07-26-23.
T. Lowden seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

III. Organizational Development

A. Organizational Development

The GaDOE Data Collections conference was held August 22-24, 2023.

IV. Petitions

A. Petitions

The SCSC is continuing to work through the FY23 petition cycle with two more recommendations on the agenda today. Apart from those two petitions, only one petition remains. SCSC's authority to act on that remaining petition is subject to the local district's decision, which is anticipated to be next Spring. Due to the local district's timeline, SCSC staff are recommending an exception to the SCSC FY23 Start-Up Petition Timeline later in today's meeting.

V. Accountability

A. Academics

On July 28, 2023, the Georgia Department of Education released Georgia Milestones results. On average, SCSC schools are performing near or above pre-pandemic levels in the elementary and high school grade bands. Middle school students made progress towards resuming pre-pandemic performance levels. A majority of SCSC schools are outperforming the district in which they are located.

View the presentation here.

SCSC commissioners and staff discussed how this data impacts schools up for charter renewal this year and how COVID-19 impacted these results.

B. Financial

The 2023-2024 school year is the last full school year for schools to use their remaining ESSER 3 dollars. Funds are available through September 30, 2024; schools should ensure their budgets are submitted to the Georgia Department of Education. GaDOE has an ESSER webpage that provides resources regarding submitting budgets, allowable uses of funds, and other helpful information. It also holds monthly ESSER Open Office Hour sessions. The next open office session is September 14 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Schools can register from the ESSER webpage.

C. Operations

- Monitoring Update **-** The SCSC Administrative Portal opened for Operations Monitoring and Fiscal Monitoring on August 15, 2023. The monitoring document submission will close Monday, September 18, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. Schools may consult the monitoring webinar recording, FY24 monitoring handbook, and the SCSC Administrative Portal monitoring resources page for additional support with completing their monitoring submission. Health and safety visits will begin September 5, 2023. All schools receiving a health and safety visit this monitoring cycle were informed of their visit date and time via email on August 15, 2023.

- Unified Enrollment System - As a reminder, the UES survey has closed, and the SCSC has completed the review of responses and feedback. The next steps in our information gathering include listening sessions that have begun in partnership with Kelly Cadman of Hive180. Families, schools, and other stakeholders have been contacted by Kelly to participate either virtually or in person.

VI. Strategic Plan Update

A. Measuring Success

The SCSC Chief Operations Officer provided an update on the SCSC's strategic plan. View the presentation here.

VII. State Charter Schools Foundation

A. Presentation

The SCSF President provided an update on the SCSF's efforts to expand charter schools throughout Georgia through grants and other supports.

View the presentation here.

VIII. Action Items

A. Adoption of Renewal Cycle Timeline

T. Lowden made a motion to approve the staff recommendation that the SCSC initiate the 2023-2024 renewal cycle by approving the calendar as presented.
C. Good seconded the motion.
View the recommendation here.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Georgia Leadership Academy

T. Lowden made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve an exception to the FY23 Start-Up Petition Timeline for Georgia Leadership Academy's petition.
C. Good seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

C. Petition Decisions

T. Lowden made a motion to Deny the SCSC staff recommendation that the SCSC Board of Commissioners deny the petition for Four Points Preparatory Academy.
M. Dudgeon seconded the motion.
Representatives from the school and community members provided public comments in support of the SCSC approving the petition.

Commissioner Lowden spoke in favor of the SCSC approving the petition.

Commissioner Milan clarified that if the petition is not approved today, then the petitioners can reapply for consideration in subsequent years.

Commissioner Good stated that after sitting on the petition interview panel, she has concerns about the capacity of the school's governing board, as referenced in the SCSC staff recommendation letter.

Additionally, SCSC staff and commissioners discussed the start-up petition application timeline as it relates to the denial of the Four Points petition.

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

Roll Call

M. Dudgeon	Aye
B. Scafidi	No
B. Brockway	Aye
T. Lowden	Aye
J. Cole	Aye
L. Millan	No
C. Good	No

T. Lowden made a motion to approve the Four Points Preparatory Academy petition.
B. Brockway seconded the motion.
Commissioner Brockway stated that he is doing something unprecedented by disagreeing with the SCSC staff recommendation, so the school needs to get this right.

Commissioners Lowden and Brockway commended SCSC staff for their hard work in reviewing petitions and clarified that voting against the staff recommendation is not a reflection of the staff's quality of work.

Commissioner Milan stated that the school better pull through.

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

Roll Call

C. Good	No
L. Millan	Aye
B. Brockway	Aye
J. Cole	Aye
M. Dudgeon	Aye
B. Scafidi	No
T. Lowden	Aye

C. Good made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation that the SCSC Board of Commissioners deny the petition for Virtual Preparatory Academy of Georgia.
B. Scafidi seconded the motion.

Representatives from Virtual Preparatory Academy (VPA) spoke in favor of the SCSC approving the petition.

Commissioner Scafidi stated that he was disappointed in VPA's petition interview given that this is the petitioner's third year applying to the SCSC.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
M. Dudgeon	Aye
T. Lowden	Aye
L. Millan	Abstain
C. Good	Aye
J. Cole	Aye
B. Brockway	Aye
B. Scafidi	Aye

IX. Additional Items from Commissioners

A. Meeting Update

The SCSC Executive Director provided an update on the SCSC board meeting calendar for the rest of 2023.

X. Public Comment

A. Public Comment

Reverand Dr. James Bumpus, representing Cirrus Charter Academy, spoke about concerns regarding the school's governing board members. He stated he remains committed to supporting the school.

Holly Terrie stated that she wants the SCSC to provide additional choices of virtual schools since the current Georgia virtual schools have waiting lists.

XI. 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 12:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Dudgeon