

APPROVED



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Minutes

July Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday July 31, 2024 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

[Meeting Link](#)

Phone Access: +1 305 224 1968

Meeting ID: 827 0113 9499

Passcode: 406288

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

July 2024 Board Meeting

July 31, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

Directors Present

B. Brockway, B. Scafidi, C. Good, J. Cole (remote), 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

M. Dudgeon called a meeting of the board of directors of State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia to order on Wednesday Jul 31, 2024 at 10:05 AM.

II. Approval of SCSC Meeting Minutes

A. June 26, 2024, Meeting Minutes

M. Dudgeon made a motion to approve the minutes from June Board Meeting on 06-26-24.

consent

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

III. Announcements

A. SCSC Personnel Changes

The SCSC Executive Director gave an update regarding several agency personnel changes and division reorganization.

B. Agency Updates

The SCSC is wrapping up its annual authorizer evaluation on the Georgia Principles and Standards of Quality Authorizing with NACSA. Once available, the evaluation results will be shared.

IV. Action Items

A. Amend SCSC Meeting Calendar

B. Scafidi made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve an amendment to the 2024 SCSC Meeting Calendar to add a meeting on August 28 at 10:00 AM and to change the November meeting date from November 6th to November 13th to account for Election Day.

C. Good seconded the motion.

[SCSC 2024 Meeting Calendar.pdf](#)

[Amended Meeting Calendar.pdf](#)

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

B. Zest Preparatory Academy Charter School

B. Brockway made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation that the State Charter Schools Commission grant Zest Preparatory Academy's Emergency School Operations grant request and award the school \$28,713.

B. Scafidi seconded the motion.

The school is required to submit the full grant award to TRS for the June 2024 payment. Within fifteen (15) days of receiving the grant award, the school must submit documentation to the SCSC evidencing a lump sum payment to TRS in the full award amount.

Commissioners asked SCSC staff and a school representative questions regarding the grant and conditions at the school.

[Emergency Ops. Grant - Zest Prep..pdf](#)

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

C. Ethos Classical - Amendment

B. Brockway made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve an amendment to Ethos Classical's charter contract to increase the school's maximum enrollment limit.

B. Scafidi seconded the motion.

A representative from the school spoke in favor of the recommendation.

[Ethos Enrollment Limit Amendment.pdf](#)

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

D. Start-up Petition - Movement School Atlanta

B. Scafidi made a motion to to approve the SCSC staff recommendation that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the petition for Movement School Atlanta, 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 2025-2026 school year.

B. Brockway seconded the motion.

Representatives from the school spoke in favor of the recommendation.

[Petition Approval - Movement.pdf](#)

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

E. Start-up Petition - The Simple Vue Academy

B. Scafidi made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the petition for The Simple Vue 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 2025-2026 school year.

C. Good seconded the motion.

A representative from the school spoke in favor of the recommendation.

[Petition Approval - Simple Vue.pdf](#)

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

F. Start-up Petition - The Wright Community School

B. Scafidi made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the petition for The Wright Community 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 2025-2026 school year.

B. Brockway seconded the motion.

A representative from the school spoke in favor of the recommendation.

[Petition Approval - Wright.pdf](#)

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

V. Trainings

A. Training

All governing board members had until June 30th to complete their annual governance training requirements for FY24. School leaders and governing board chairs should have received information about the Governance Training Certification process earlier this month. That application is due on August 16th.

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

Two new schools are scheduled to open this fall, Excelsior Village Academies in Stockbridge and Rocky Creek Charter Academy in Augusta. Both schools have met critical pre-opening milestones and remain on track for opening this fall.

The newly approved schools, along with the schools that deferred their opening this past year, will be set up to begin working on the FY25 version of the pre-opening checklist in the coming weeks.

VII. Accountability

A. Academics

Georgia Milestones results were published this past Friday. Staff are compiling and analyzing the data. A cursory review suggests state charter schools generally continue to improve performance levels. However, we will present more detailed results at the August board meeting. Additionally, the Value-Added Model (VAM) report is final and posted to our website. The results are the same as already shared with schools in their Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) report and presented at the April board meeting. The report just took a little more time to compile this year because we added some new box and whisker plots to help illustrate the statistical significance levels of school results. We appreciate the continued work with our research partners at Georgia Southern University who carry out the model for us. If there are any questions, feel free to reach out to Katie.

B. Finance

Schools will be notified in August if they will be required to participate in

High-Risk Financial Monitoring (HRFM)- for FY25, which involves completing quarterly financial reporting if a school meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Are in their first year of operations;
- Scores “Does Not Meet Standards” on the financial section of the CPF;
- Significant financial findings from the SCSC or GADOE Financial Review Office;
- Placed on Probationary Status by the SCSC;
- Unrestricted days cash of less than 15 days or has a negative cash balance or;
- Events at the school warn that its ability to manage funds may be compromised.

Allotment Sheets - GADOE has posted updated FY25 state funding allotment sheets. Make sure to go to the GADOE webpage to find your school’s sheet. The SCSC will also be posting a Charter Supplement Detail so schools can see the funding details for their school.

Federal funding allocation- The State Board of Education at its July meeting, approved the FY25 federal grant awards for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Please visit the State Board of Education web page to see your school’s grant award for this school year [View July State Board Meeting: eBoardsolutions](#)

C. Operations

FY 25 Operations & Fiscal Monitoring Timeline

- Monitoring Webinar - August 19, 1:30 pm
- Health and Safety Visit notifications to schools - August 19
- SCSC Administrative Portal opens - August 20
- Document submission window - August 20-October 1 (6 weeks)
- Health and Safety Visit window - September 9- October 31

[FY25 Monitoring Timeline](#)

D. School Probation Announcements

As a condition of probation, SCSC staff has been reviewing interim reports from The RISE Schools to ensure that the school is on track for its second year of operations as a state charter school. The school appears on track to have hired for all teaching positions. It has not located an Executive Director and has a vacant Director of Operations position on its leadership team. The school provided adequate interim plans for covering the obligations of these vacancies until the positions are filled. The school plans to onboard an additional governing board member, bringing the total number of board members to 6. Staff will continue to review interim reports from the school; however, the frequency of reports will likely decrease after the school year gets underway to allow staff to focus more fully on school operations. The school will remain on high-risk financial monitoring.

VIII. Public Comment

A. Dominion Purpose Academy

Elizabeth Keohane-Burbridge, LaTasha Adams, and Zoe Adams spoke in favor of the Dominion Purpose Academy.

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 11:06 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
B. Brockway