



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Minutes

September Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday September 25, 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](#)

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

Directors Present

B. Scafidi (remote), L. Millan, M. Dudgeon, T. Lowden (remote)

Directors Absent

B. Brockway, C. Good, J. Cole

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 Sep 25, 2024 at 10:04 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

M. Dudgeon made a motion to approve the minutes from August Board Meeting on 08-28-24.

B. Scafidi seconded the motion.

Unanimous consent

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

II. Announcements

A. General Announcements

The SCSC Executive Director provided an update on new SCSC staff and intern hires.

SCSC staff will provide a Charter Schools presentation during the State Board of Education (SBOE) retreat in Brasstown Valley on Tuesday morning (October 1). The SCSC is looking forward to facilitating a "Charter Schools 101" session, discussing changes to the commission structure, and providing updates on HB 318 and HB 409. Chairman Dudgeon will present the annual SCSC update to the SBOE, as required each year.

On October 21 to 23, several SCSC staff members will travel to Houston, TX for the 2024 National Association of Charter School Authorizers Conference (NACSACON)

B. SCSC Trainings

Upcoming SCSC trainings:

- Petitioner Bootcamp – October 9th
- Petition Platform and Budget Webinar – November 7th

C. SCSC Pre-Opening Schools

The SCSC Director of Charter Development provided an update on recently approved schools and the post-approval webinar.

D. Authorizer Evaluation Results

The SCSC Director of Research and Evaluation presented the NACSA authorizer evaluation results.

III. Accountability

A. Academics

An action item recommending adopting the revisions to the academic section of the CPF and renewal standards will be presented.

B. Financial Accountability

The SCSC met with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG), who is responsible for the site where schools post their budgets and audits. They have added all our schools to their system which will make it easier for schools to upload required documents. Annually the SCSC will update them on new state charters, so the CVIOG information will be kept current.

FY24 Financial DE46 final upload and FY24 final amended budget DE46 reports with Superintendent sign-off are both due September 30, 2024. FY25 Budget DE46 final upload with Superintendent sign-off due October 31, 2024.

DE46 reports are submitted to GADOE using its portal system. These reports are required, so please ensure your school completes its submission by the deadline and avoids losing points on the Comprehensive Performance Framework for the 2024-2025 school year.

Audit deadline- Audits for FY 2024 (2024-2025 school year) are due to the SCSC by November 1. Governing Board members should receive the audit before it is sent to the SCSC. If the audit is sent directly by the auditor to the SCSC, ensure the highest-level administrator, the Board Chair and Board Treasurer are included in the email.

Grant Completion Reports are due 30 days after the grant award period ends. Since many federal grants awards for federal fiscal year 2024 end September 30, the completion reports will be due to the GADOE October 30. This includes ESSER funds, as a reminder although ESSER grant funds end September 30, reporting for these funds will continue into the foreseeable future.

C. Operational Accountability

The FY25 monitoring portals for operation and financial monitoring will close for submissions at 11:59 p.m., October 1, 2024 (next Tuesday).

IV. State Charter Schools Foundation

A. Update

The SCSF awarded a new round of CSP subgrants. For the first time in Georgia, SCSF was able to award subgrants to support the expansion of existing high-quality charter schools. Awards include \$750,000 for Ethos Classical, \$500,000 for the International Charter

Academy of Georgia, and \$500,000 for Yi Hwang Academy for Language Excellence to support expansions into middle school. We also awarded \$500,000 to Amana Academy North, a locally authorized charter school, to support an enrollment cap lift approved by Fulton County Schools. We will open the application for newly approved charter schools by end of the calendar year. New schools are eligible for up to \$1.5 million in grant funds.

The Replication and Expansion Cohort program has commenced with strategic planning services provided by Bellwether. The program will be featured in a session led by Bellwether at the NACSA conference, and the USEd CSP team wants to use the cohort programs as an exemplar for other CSP State Entity grantees. The New School Leadership Fellowship commenced last week. Participants include the leaders from Dominion Purpose Academy, the Wright School, and Simple Vue Academy. The Director of New Schools for Liberty Classical Schools will also participate.

All CSP activities will continue throughout the transition, and we are working on integrating functions from the SCSF into the new School Support and Outreach Division.

V. Action Items

A. 2025 SCSC Meeting Calendar

L. Millan made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation that the State Charter Schools Commission approve its 2025 meeting calendar.

B. Scafidi seconded the motion.

- [2025 SCSC Meeting Calendar Recommendation](#)

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

B. Revised CPF Academic Standards

L. Millan 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 Academic section of the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework: 1) remove the district-weighted comparison score calculation for the elementary grade band 2) remove the grade band enrollment weighted, whole school score calculation, and 3) add a "Varied" designation.

T. Lowden seconded the motion.

- [Revised CPF Academic Standards](#)

SCSC Commissioners commended staff on their hard work on this recommendation.

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

C. Renewal Criteria & FY25 Renewal Timeline

L. Millan made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation that the SCSC initiate the 2024-2025 renewal cycle by approving the updated renewal criteria and calendar as presented.

B. Scafidi seconded the motion.

- [New SCSC Renewal Criteria & 2024-2025 Renewal Cycle Timeline](#)
- [New Renewal Criteria & Renewal Petition Timeline](#)

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

D. FY25 Start-up Petition, Priorities & Timeline

L. Millan made a motion to approve SCSC staff recommendation that the State Charter School Commission Board of Commissioners vote to initiate the FY25 start-up petition cycle by approving the timeline, petition, and petition priorities as presented.

B. Scafidi seconded the motion.

- [FY25 Start-Up Timeline, Petition, & Priorities](#)
- [FY25 Start-Up Petition Cycle Timeline](#)

SCSC Commissioners commended staff on their hard work on this recommendation.

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

E. FY25 Replication Petition Priorities & Timeline

L. Millan made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation that the State Charter School Commission Board of Commissioners vote to initiate the FY25 charter replication petition cycle by approving the charter replication petition timeline and petition priorities as presented.

T. Lowden seconded the motion.

- [FY25 Replication Petition Priorities & Timeline](#)
- [FY25 Replication Cycle Timeline](#)

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

F. Governance Training Policy

L. Millan made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation that the SCSC Board of Commissioners adopt the State Charter Schools Governance Training Policy as presented.

B. Scafidi seconded the motion.

- [State Charter School Governance Training Policy](#)

SCSC Commissioners commended SCSC staff on their hard work on this recommendation.

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

VI. Additional Items from Commissioners

A. Update

The SCSC Executive Director provided an update on the new SCSC divisions.

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 10:51 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Dudgeon