APPROVED

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Minutes

Rescheduled Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday December 10, 2025 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: +1 646 931 3860
Meeting ID: 844 2791 6648
Passcode: 965938

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

Directors Present
B. Brockway, B. Scafidi, C. Good, L. Millan (remote), M. Dudgeon, S. Sweeney

Directors Absent
T. Lowden

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 Dec 10, 2025 at 10:06 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from September Board Meeting on 09-24-25.
Approved by consent.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Governance Items

A. 2026 Regular Meeting Calendar

The commissioners approved the 2026 board meeting schedule by consent. Meetings will occur on the following dates in 2026:

- **Wednesday, February 25**
- **Wednesday, April 29**
- **Wednesday, June 24**
- **Wednesday, July 29**
- **Wednesday, September 30**
- **Wednesday, November 4***

*Moved to the first Wednesday due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

III. Rulemaking Action Items

A. Staff Recommendation: Repeal SCSC Rules 691-3-.01 through 691-3-.05

S. Sweeney made a motion to Approve the staff recommendation as presented.
B. Scafidi seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. Staff Recommendation: Adopt SCSC Rule 691-3-.01

B. Scafidi made a motion to approve the staff recommendation as presented.
C. Good seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

C. Staff Recommendation: Amend SCSC Rule 691-2-.06

C. Good made a motion to approved the staff recommendation as presented.
S. Sweeney seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Staff Recommendation: Adopt SCSC Rule 691-2-.11, Education Service Providers

B. Scafidi made a motion to table the action item indefinitely.
L. Millan seconded the motion.
Chairman Dudgeon recommended that we establish a working group comprising a diverse range of stakeholders to further discuss this rule. Although the feedback was thoughtful, Chairman Dudgeon and Commissioner Scafidi noted the need for more information to support the rule.

Commissioner Millan agreed with the previous commissioner statements. She noted that concerns appear when a board lacks the capacity to oversee the ESP.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

IV. Policy Action Items

A. Staff Recommendation: Adopt Revised SCSC Governance Training Policy

B. Scafidi made a motion to approve the motion as presented.
C. Good seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Staff Recommendation: Approve SCSC Emergency School Operations Grant

C. Good made a motion to approve the recommendation as presented.
B. Scafidi seconded the motion.
The Chairman mentioned that the definition of the emergency circumstances in the previous operations grant was the subject of concern. Thus, clarification is helpful.
Commissioner Scafidi asked whether the SCSC had sought feedback on this policy. The Senior Director of School Support & Outreach responded that, because this is a policy rather than a rule change, there was no public comment period.

Chairman Good noted that this grant is not available more than once in a two-year time span, without advance approval. She wants to ensure that schools understand this component of the grant.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

V. CSP SE Grant Action Items

A. Staff Recommendation: Accept the Transfer of the FY2022 CSP State Entity Grant

S. Sweeney made a motion to approve the recommendation as presented.
B. Scafidi seconded the motion.

At Chairman Dudgeon's request, the Senior Director for School Support and Outreach explained that the State Charter Schools Foundation had initially applied for the grant and had been operating for the last few years. The State Charter Schools Foundation and State Charter Schools Commission chose to transfer the grant to the State Charter Schools Commission to consolidate processes and supports.

The application for the grant award was submitted this summer and was approved on Friday, December 4, 2025. The staff is fully prepared to implement the grant at the commission.

Chairman Dudgeon added that this transfer will enable efficiencies by eliminating duplicated efforts and allow all state charter school stakeholders to work in the same direction.

This transfer includes over $12.5 million of awards requested and awarded during the transfer period. It will support tutoring and CTAE. An additional grant waiver request is pending US. Ed. consideration. If approved, it will dramatically reduce administrative costs for all entities.

Commissioners applauded the Senior Director for School Support & Outreach's efforts in getting the grant approved.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Staff Recommendation: Approve CSP SE Subgrant Awards

B. Scafidi made a motion to approve the staff recommendation as presented.
S. Sweeney seconded the motion.

- Cherokee Classical Academy (Dr. James Keller, Director of Public Programs, Grants, and Revenue) thanked the SCSC for the grant award. Noting that the school is already open, with a waitlist of 450 students. The school has achieved great community engagement through multiple events, including Curriculum Night. It has purchased the building and plans to make updates to the campus in the future.
- Academy for Innovation in Medicine (AIM) (Dr. Kristi Beam) will open July 29, 2026. She thanked the SCSC for enabling the school to open and serve its community through access to CSP funds. The funds will ensure that students can be equipped with what they need from day one.
- Christine Keck (Meliora School) expressed that she was honored to be granted this award. She recognized the team that had supported her and the school during this phase. She thanked the SCSC for believing in the school.
- Northwest Georgia Charter School (Cassie Potts, Co-Founder and Board Secretary) thanked the SCSC for awarding the school the maximum amount available to the school.

Chairman Dudgeon congratulated Tapestry on their award. He noted that we are addressing needs that have long been identified.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

C. Staff Recommendation: Approve Amended SCSC FY26 Budget to Add CSP Funds

This item was removed from the agenda for future discussion by the Chairman.

VI. Division Reports

A. Finance Division

All charter schools submitted their FY25 audits on time. Commissioner Dudgeon thanked commissioners for getting tough on audit submissions. He noted that it appears to be working. Vice Chairman Good celebrated all schools meeting the deadline, noting that this has always been the expectation.

B. Research & Evaluation

The Director of Research & Evaluation noted that we received CCRPI data a month earlier than last year. The team has already calculated academic scores for renewal schools; however, they are still awaiting the release of additional data from GaDOE.

The additional data is not expected to impact renewal considerations.

Renewal recommendations will be sent to schools on February 11. The Commission will vote on these recommendations at the February SCSC meeting.

C. Office of Charter School Compliance

The Senior Director for the Office of Charter School Compliance (OCSC), Allen Mueller, noted the efforts the SCSC has been making to streamline charter petition processes statewide.

He noted that we have already streamlined the petition submission process. We have now further streamlined the evaluation process by gaining SBOE approval for a Local Charter Performance Framework (LCPF). The LCPF was made possible through intense collaboration with the OCSC and staff across SCSC divisions, including Robert Watts (New Schools) and Annie Chen (Finance).

Later this month, the OCSC will present additional recommendations to the State Board of Education.

Commissioner Dudgeon expressed excitement about the movement on these items.

VII. Charter Contract Action Items

A. Movement School Athens: Charter Surrender

B. Scafidi made a motion to approve motion as presented.
S. Sweeney seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. Excelsior Village Academies: Attendance Zone Expansion

C. Good made a motion to approve the recommendation as presented.
S. Sweeney seconded the motion.
Michele Flowers from Excelsior Village Academies thanked the SCSC for considering its request. The expansion represents access to opportunities for families seeking this type of education.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

C. Spring Creek Charter School: Enrollment Limit Increase & Non-Profit Entity

S. Sweeney made a motion to approve the recommendation as presented.
B. Brockway seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Liberation Academy, Miles Ahead Charter School, PEACE Academy and ZEST Preparatory Academy: Extend Charter Term (1-Year Deferral)

Motion to approve as presented.
Chairman Dudgeon inquired about the possibility of automating these types of amendments. The General Counsel agreed to look into this inquiry.

The Vice Chair asked about the timing of these extensions. The Director of New Schools noted that these schools were part of the pre-opening cohort in which the SCSC initiated its enrollment verification process.

As a result of the enrollment verification process, several start-up schools deferred their opening due to concerns about low enrollment.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

VIII. Executive Director Comments

A. SCSC Staff

The Executive Director recognized two staff promotions:

- Molly Gassman was promoted from School Support & Outreach Specialist to School Support & Outreach Manager.
- Guin Jones was promoted from Petitions Coordinator to Petitions Specialist.

The Executive Director thanked Annie Chen and Molly Gassman for their continued work on the Charter School Program (CSP) grant.

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 11:05 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Dudgeon