APPROVED

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Minutes

Called Board Meeting

Virtual

Date and Time
Wednesday November 20, 2024 at 12:00 PM

Location
Virtual Access Information
Meeting Link
+1 309 205 3325
Meeting ID 819 1806 2326
Passcode: 478288

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

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

Directors Absent
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 Nov 20, 2024 at 12:01 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

T. Lowden made a motion to approve the minutes.
C. Good seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Announcements

A. Annoucements

- Hiring Updates- on October 1, we onboarded two new staff members
  - Molly Gassman (School Support & Outreach Specialist, School Support & Outreach Division)
  - Guin Jones (Petitions Coordinator, New Schools Division)
- Next meeting will be on February 26, 2024.

III. Officer Elections

A. Chair

Officer Nominations

Commissioner Brockway nominated Mike Dudgeon as Chair. The nomination was unanimously approved.

B. Vice chair

Dr. Good was nominated by Commissioner Millan and Commissioner Scafidi as Vice Chair. The nomination was unanimously approved.

IV. Charter School Accountability

A. Academic Accountability

- The Research and Evaluation Division presented in the following areas:
  - 2023-2024 Georgia Milestones Results (Math)
  - Graduation Rate Results

SCSC Commissioners asked clarifying questions regarding the scores and data.

B. Financial Accountability

- **The Finance Division presented the following information:**
  - FY24 Audit Update**-** Audits were due from schools on November 1. Forty-one out of 49 schools submitted on or before the deadline, with two schools submitting one week late. The deadline was extended to December 2 for two schools due to issues stemming from the recent hurricanes and another because of lingering issues the school has with separating from their prior ESP. These schools will earn full points if they submit their audits by the new deadline. The SCSC is working with the three remaining schools to submit their audits by December 2 so they can receive partial points on the CPF.

V. SCSC Division Updates

A. School Support & Outreach Division

- **Governance training dates**—Governance training is scheduled for two dates. The first will be held at the Loudermilk Center in Atlanta on February 11th and 12th, and the second will be held at the Classic Center in Athens on April 22nd and 23rd. The first day will take place from 12:30 to 5:00, and training will be focused on new governing board members. The second day will take place from 9:00 to 5:00 for all governing board members. Schools are encouraged to send administrators to participate as well.
- **Governance training guidance—**Guidance on the newly approved SCSC Governance Training Policy will be released this week. The guidance provides definitions for “new” and “tenured” board members, details on required training topics, and instructions on when and how alternate providers may be used.

B. Office of Charter School Compliance

- The Senior Director of the Office of Charter School Compliance is working with the General Counsel, the Director of New Schools, and the team on a draft State Board of Education rule amendment to align state and local charter petition timelines. The Executive Director has also had positive conversations with SBOE Chairman Stan DeJarnett and Charter/Flexibility Committee Chair Scott Sweeney who have been supportive of aligning timelines.

- The objective is to ensure local authorizers make official decisions on start-up charter petitions by June 30. They must have a window to approve/deny charter petitions that is 90 days or less. The petitioner can request an extension from the authorizer if the final board decision is made before June 30. The timeline must be posted on the local authorizer's website by January 1st.
- Staff aims to submit the board rule amendment draft to GaDOE's General Counsel by the end of the year, allowing time for review and consideration by the SBOE at their February meeting for enactment. The revised rule approval vote would take place at the March SBOE meeting after 30 days of public comment has been exhausted.

VI. Action Items

A. Charter Amendment - Scintilla Charter Academy

C. Good made a motion to Approve the staff recommendation to add a statutory enrollment priority for Pre-Kindergarten.
B. Brockway seconded the motion.
Charter Amendment Recommendation

School representatives spoke in favor of the recommendation.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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 12:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Dudgeon