APPROVED

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Minutes

State Charter School Commission of Georgia Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday February 25, 2026 at 10:00 AM

Location
SCSC Board Room
1356B Twin Towers East,
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE
Atlanta, GA 30334

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Virtual Access:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84427916648?pwd=Sb7CtaC1vb3hWrKWFyQFAa4GCXIlh2.1
Meeting ID: 844 2791 6648
Passcode: 965938
Phone Access: 646-931-3860

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

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 Feb 25, 2026 at 10:09 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes by consent. Rescheduled Board Meeting on 12-10-25.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Officer Elections

Motion to Nominate Dr. Cayanna Good as the Chair of the State Charter Schools Commission.
B. Brockway seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
L. Millan made a motion to Nominate Buzz Brockway as Vice Chair of the State Charter Schools Commission (SCSC).
T. Lowden seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Division Reports

A. Executive Director

SCSC Executive Director Donovan Head provided an update on several charter-related bills currently under consideration by the legislature. Generally, the SCSC is monitoring movement on its clean-up bill, legislation requiring LEAs to undergo annual financial audits, legislation allowing cyber students to participate in athletics, and several facility-related bills. He also mentioned the salary supplement for state employees currently under review by the General Assembly.

The Executive Director noted two recent local approvals, including one in Cobb County after 15 years without one. A total of five (5) local charter school approvals have been issued following the passage of Senate Bill 83.

B. New Schools Division

The deadline for petition submissions is March 13. Capacity interviews will begin the first week in June.

III. State Charter Schools Commission - Action Items

A. School Closure Grant Application

M. Dudgeon made a motion to to approve the recommendation as presented.
B. Scafidi seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. SCSC Budget Amendment - Add FY26 CSP Budget

S. Sweeney made a motion to approve the motion as presented.
B. Brockway seconded the motion.
Chairman Scafidi applauded the low administrative costs associated with the CSP grant.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. SCSC Agenda Amendment

B. Brockway made a motion to amend the agenda and approve the minutes from January 26-27 Policy Retreat on 01-26-24.
M. Dudgeon seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

IV. SCSC Schools - Action Items

A. Charter Renewal Recommendation: SLAM Academy

S. Sweeney made a motion to approved the state recommendation as presented.
M. Dudgeon seconded the motion.
Chairwoman Good applauded the school for taking its course correction seriously. Dr. Good visited the school and noted that the improvements were noticeable on her last visit.

A representative from the school thanked the SCSC and its team for their work with the school and for providing them with another opportunity. He explained that the school just lost a student, demonstrating the need in the community. He believes the school has the potential to change the community.

The Chair voted in support of the school.

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

B. Charter Renewal Recommendation: Atlanta SMART Academy

B. Brockway made a motion to approve the recommendation as presented.
M. Dudgeon seconded the motion.

The was no comment from commissioners. School representatives, Patrice Meadows and Jocelyn Scott, thanked the SCSC and staff. They noted that the school started during the pandemic, and it was a great opportunity to continue to serve its students.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. Charter Renewal Recommendation: Liberty Tech Charter School

S. Sweeney made a motion to to approve the recommendation as presented.
M. Dudgeon seconded the motion.
Chairwoman Good noted that the school met SCSC standards in all years. The Board Chair, Executive Director, and Director of Operations spoke on behalf of the school. The board chair noted that the school has come a long way in the last 10 years. The school views the renewal as a deliberate step forward on the path to charter replication, when that time comes.

He thanked the commissioners and complimented SCSC staff on their assistance.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Charter Renewal Recommendation: Northwest Classical Academy

B. Scafidi made a motion to approve the staff recommendation as presented.
M. Dudgeon seconded the motion.
The NCA 11th-grade Student Body President and 11th-grade Representative spoke on behalf of the school, explaining that the renewal represents five more years of rich education, stability, opportunity, and offering families and the community a valuable choice. The Student Body President thanked commissioners and staff for their support.

Chairman Dudgeon discussed how often the classical school model comes up in his legislative work. He noted that voters mention the model by name.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Charter Contract Amendment: Atlanta Heights Charter School

B. Brockway made a motion to approve the recommendation as presented.
M. Dudgeon seconded the motion.
Jeremy Berry, with National Heritage Academies, the school's partner, thanked the SCSC for allowing the school to expand its attendance zone.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

F. Charter Contract Amendment - Rocky Creek Charter Academy

S. Sweeney made a motion to approve the staff recommendation as presented.
B. Brockway seconded the motion.
There was no discussion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

G.

Charter Surrender - Zest Preparatory Academy

M. Dudgeon made a motion to approve the staff recommendation as presented.
B. Brockway seconded the motion.
The school's board chair, Brandon Jones, spoke on behalf of the school. He explained that the board had to make a tough, emotional decision about surrendering the charter. He thanked the school's entire team for providing a safe and impactful environment for its students and community.

He noted that facilities were a challenge. He urged new schools to carefully evaluate facility leases to ensure continuity of services and supports. He noted that he was saddened to ask the commission to accept the surrender of the charter contract.

Commissioner Dudgeon noted that the school's team worked very hard and acknowledged that, on some occasions, it does not work out. He thanked the team for their work.

Commissioner Lowden noted that it is tough to make the right choice for students. He noted that the school is making the right decision for the students, but urged the school's team to continue pursuing their passion for serving in education.

Commissioner Scafidi noted that there is an impressive group of people running the school.

Chairwoman Good noted SLAM's turnaround. She noted that some of the leaders on the SLAM team had previously served charter schools. She noted that the right choice is incredibly difficult, including tough conversations with various stakeholders. More tough decisions are ahead. The school is commended for its leadership in making the right decision at the right time.

Commissioner Lowden noted that the school leader from a previous charter school that surrendered its charter now runs a very successful charter school.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

H. FY25 Petition Denial Recommendation - Soar Discovery Charter Academy

B. Brockway made a motion to approved the recommendation as presented.
S. Sweeney seconded the motion.
There was no discussion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

B. Scafidi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:09 am.

B. Brockway seconded the motion.
Commissioner Lowden noted that, in recognition of Black History Month, he congratulated Chairwoman Good as the first African-American Chair of the State Charter Schools Commission.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 11:09 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
C. Good