



CHARTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Stanhope Room, Renaissance Atlanta Waverly, 2450 Galleria Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30339

December 2, 2016

MINUTES

1. Charter Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair Mark Whitlock called the meeting to order at 9:06 A.M.
2. Mr. Whitlock and CAC members David Moeller, Brian Cooksey, Kenneth Zeff, and Allen Mueller were present. Preston Howard joined the meeting in progress.
 - Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) staff present included Associate State Superintendent for Policy, Charter Schools, District Flexibility, and Governmental Affairs Louis Erste; and District Flexibility and Charter Schools (DFCS) Petition Manager and Staff Attorney Janelle Cornwall. Director of Consolidated Federal Initiatives Shaun Owen was also present.
 - Irene Munn, General Counsel and Director of Policy for Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle, was present.
 - GaDOE charter system consultant Dr. Sherrie Gibney-Sherman was present. Linda Zechmann, former chair of State Board of Education's Charter Committee and original CAC member joined the meeting in progress.
 - Former Senator Dan Weber and Pam Tallmadge of the Charter System Foundation were also present.
3. Mr. Whitlock requested and received a motion, from Mr. Mueller, to approve the Agenda. Mr. Zeff seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved 5-0.
4. Mr. Whitlock requested and received a motion, from Mr. Cooksey, to approve the Minutes for the October 14, 2016 CAC Regular Meeting. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved 5-0.
5. Mr. Whitlock requested and the Department provided several updates, including the following:
 - Ms. Owen and Sen. Weber presented an update on the Department's Title I Consolidation of Funds Pilot Program. Ms. Owen responded to questions from CAC members about the pilot program.
 - Mr. Erste presented an update on the Department's Charter System Annual Report. Mr. Erste responded to questions from CAC members about the report.
6. Mr. Whitlock requested and received a motion, from Mr. Zeff, to move up on the Agenda the CAC Recommendations to the SBOE. Mr. Cooksey seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously 5-0.

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7. Mr. Whitlock requested and received a motion, from Mr. Howard, that the CAC recommend to the State Board of Education (SBOE) that they approve a charter system renewal for the Madison County School District for a five-year term beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2022. Mr. Cooksey seconded the motion.
 - At Mr. Whitlock's request, Mr. Erste, Mr. Mueller, Mr. Howard, and Ms. Cornwall provided information on the system's charter renewal process and petition.
 - Mr. Erste also presented the Department's decision to recommend that the SBOE approve only five-year charter system renewals since the state accountability system the Department will be submitting to USED as part of Georgia's new ESSA State Plan is based primarily on district performance contracts – and that Plan must be based on a five-year accountability timeline. After discussion, the CAC expressed support for all charter system renewal contracts being only five years.
 - In addition, Mr. Erste indicated that the Department will be seeking amendments from the 11 districts that have already received 10-year renewals during the past three years – including Barrow County, Cartersville City, City of Decatur, Dawson County, Gainesville City, Gordon County, Marietta City, Morgan County, Putnam County, Warren County, and White County – to change their existing charter contract terms to five years.
 - After discussion by CAC members, Mr. Whitlock called for a vote on Madison County's charter renewal. The CAC agreed unanimously by a vote of 6-0 (including Mr. Howard) to recommend approval to the State Board of Education.
8. Mr. Whitlock requested and the Department provided additional updates, including the following:
 - Mr. Erste presented an update on the 2016-17 pipeline report and the State Board of Education District Flexibility and Charter Schools Committee. Mr. Erste also shared an update on the recent work of the State Charter Schools Commission.
9. Mr. Whitlock requested and Mrs. Munn shared information on the upcoming legislative session, including the introduction of the Governor's new K-12 funding formula. Mr. Erste also shared information on the upcoming legislative session, including potential revisions to O.C.G.A. § 20-14-41.
10. Mr. Whitlock requested and Sen. Weber and Ms. Tallmadge delivered a Charter System Foundation (CSF) report, including the proposed CSF initiatives for 2017 and upcoming events.
11. Mr. Whitlock requested and received a motion, from Mr. Cooksey, to amend the Agenda to add an Action Item regarding charter system support contracts. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously 6-0.
12. Mr. Whitlock requested and received a motion, from Mr. Cooksey, that the CAC approve renewals of charter system support contracts for the Charter System Foundation (\$100,000), Dr. Gibney-Sherman (approximately \$48,000), and Dr. Lynn Plunkett (approximately \$24,000). Mr. Howard seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously 6-0.
13. Mr. Whitlock requested and received a motion, from Mr. Howard, to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cooksey seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously 6-0. Mr. Whitlock adjourned the meeting at 10:52 A.M.