



State Charter Schools Foundation

Board of Directors

CALLED MEETING AGENDA

April 1, 2020, 1:00 p.m.

Via Conference Call

888-808-6929, code: 5206746#

State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia
508 Twin Towers West, 205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30334

I. **Welcome, Johnna Robinson**

- a. Call to order

II. **Board Governance, Johnna Robinson**

- a. Resignation of Board Chair, J. Robinson, end of day April 1, 2020
- b. **Vote** to approve Chris Sears as Board Chair, effective April 2, 2020
- c. **Vote** to approve Shyam Kumar as Vice Chair, effective April 2, 2020
- d. **Vote** to approve Lisa Olens as a Board Member, effective April 2, 2020
- e. Discussion of open Treasurer position

III. **SCSF Response to COVID-19, Michele Neely**

- a. Description of actions to support state charter schools to date and recommendations (see SCSF COVID-19 Response document)
- b. Description of top four school needs
 1. Electronic devices for low-income students
 2. Internet access for low-income students
 3. Remote tutoring for at-risk students
 4. Funds to compensate for lost revenue and unanticipated expenses
- c. Determination of need (see attachment)
- d. Plan for support and fundraising
 1. Request funds for electronic devices, Internet access, and remote tutoring
 2. Apply for grants from foundations and other funders across the state
 3. Launch individual fundraising campaign
 4. Develop COVID-19 Response Fund and grant process for schools to apply for support

IV. **New Business, Johnna Robinson**

- a. **Vote** to approve the SCSF COVID-19 Relief Fund and related strategy and fundraising efforts
- b. **Vote** to transfer \$4,000 of current cash on hand from General Funds to SCSF COVID-19 Relief Fund

V. **Adjournment**

Chair Nomination

April 1, 2020



Chris Sears has been nominated to serve as Chair of the Board of Directors for the State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia by Lauren Holcomb, effective April 2, 2020.

Biographical Information

Chris Sears has faithfully served the SCSF board as Treasurer and a member of the Executive Committee. He is a Senior Vice President and SBIC Investment Director with Truist Community Capital, LLC. Mr. Sears has experience in commercial banking, NMTC investments, Small Business Investment Company investments, Low Income Housing Tax Credit investments and Historic Tax Credit investments. He previously served as the President of the Board of Directors at the Atlanta Community ToolBank, a local Atlanta-area non-profit, a Board Member of the Wake Forest University Alumni Board, and a Financial Advisory Board Member for Patriot Capitol LP. Mr. Sears received his Bachelor of Science degree in business from Wake Forest University in 2001.

Vice Chair Nomination

April 1, 2020



Shyam Kumar has been nominated to serve as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for the State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia by Chris Sears, effective April 2, 2020.

Biographical Information

Shyam Kumar is the Founder of NorthStar Education Partners, a team of education consultants that support school districts and charter networks to design and implement world class talent management systems. NorthStar Education Partners proudly partners with over 15 urban school districts and charter networks nationally to increase the effectiveness of teacher and leader recruitment, selection, development and retention.

Prior to founding NorthStar, Shyam served as the head of talent and strategy for KIPP Metro Atlanta where he led a wide range of strategic initiatives, from developing career pathways to improving hiring processes and performance management.

Prior to working with KIPP, Shyam served as the Executive Director of Teach For America - Atlanta. In this role, Shyam was responsible for expanding the impact of 400 Teach For America teachers and 600 Teach For America alumni placed across four Metro Atlanta School Districts. While at Teach For America, Shyam led initiatives to increase teacher observation and feedback, improve teacher selection and hiring practices and broaden the impact of Teach For America's alumni in the Metro Atlanta community.

Before beginning his career in public education, Shyam worked as an internal management consultant at GE. Working in GE business units across India, Ireland, the UK and United States, Shyam led global project teams to solve a wide range of strategic business challenges.

Shyam holds degrees in Management and Curriculum and Instruction.

Board Member Nomination

April 1, 2020



Lisa Olens has been nominated to serve a three-year term as a member of the Board of Directors for the State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia by Johnna Robinson, effective April 2, 2020.

Biographical Information

Lisa Olens is passionate about education. As the education manager for Georgia Power's Community & Economic Development organization, Lisa heads up Learning Power, Georgia Power's hands-on, STEM-based energy and energy efficiency program that provides lessons in classrooms around the state. These lessons align with the Georgia Standards of Excellence and make parents, teachers, and students aware of STEM opportunities and careers. Lisa provides leadership, strategy, and support to the team, developing talent, enhancing the brand, and fostering strategic internal and external partnerships that further the education system in Georgia.

Lisa started her career with Georgia Power in 1982, holding numerous positions in the sales and marketing organizations, including supervision and management. Ten years later, she took an extended leave to raise her family and returned to Georgia Power in 2010 as a sales executive, responsible for commercial and industrial customers in the northern Atlanta suburbs. She joined the economic development team in 2014. She is involved with the Cobb Chamber of Commerce and is a 2015 graduate of Leadership Cobb. Lisa is also on the board of the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust and has volunteered with FurKids in Atlanta.

Lisa graduated from Duke University with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering, majoring in mechanical engineering and material science. She completed her Master of Business Administration in finance from Georgia State University.

COVID-19 Response to Support State Charter Schools



The State Charter Schools Foundation (SCSF) is providing support and funding to state charter schools throughout Georgia, including 31 brick and mortar schools located throughout the state, who serve over 20,000 students. State charter schools are public schools authorized by the State Charter Schools Commission and act as independent school districts, receiving only state funding. Schools are providing distance learning to students while they are closed, and ensuring equitable access is crucial.

Needs

The following represent state charter schools' most urgent needs in relation to school closures due to COVID-19, as determined through communication with schools.

- Electronic devices for low-income students* to engage in distance learning
- Internet access for low-income students* to engage in distance learning
- Remote one-on-one tutoring for at-risk students** to support continued academic growth/retention of academic progress achieved this school year
- Funds to replace lost supplemental revenue and cover unanticipated expenses
- Information about resources and guidance, training, partnerships with service providers

*The SCSF has determined that approximately 3,367 low-income students need electronic devices and access to the Internet to participate in distance learning. The low-income student count was determined by using 2019 data of number of students determined "Economically Disadvantaged" by GaDOE OR number of students receiving direct assistance OR number of students receiving Free and Reduced Lunch (Fall 2019) - whichever number is highest. The count was prorated at 30% to estimate need for access to devices and Internet.

**The SCSF has determined that approximately 2,107 at-risk students need remote one-on-one tutoring to support continued academic growth/retention of academic progress achieved this school year and ensure that they are prepared for academic success in the 2020-21 school year. The at-risk student count was determined by using school Fall 2019 FTE count for students coded as receiving Special Education services OR EIP services OR Remedial Services. The count was prorated at 50% to estimate highest need for remote tutoring services. Without this additional support, these students will not be able to access educational opportunities fully in this distance learning environment.

SCSF Response

Communication, Resources, Training

- The SCSF created a Coronavirus channel on the SCSF Slack communications site. All school leaders and board chairs, in addition to any other staff requested, were given access to the site. All GaDOE and USEd guidance has been posted, as well as information about resources and partnerships. A resource spreadsheet was also created, and it is updated regularly.
- The SCSF has developed relationships with multiple vendors and services providers to streamline pricing the purchasing process and leverage group pricing. This information is provided through Slack and as needed by individual schools.
- The SCSF is working with Georgia Cyber Academy and Georgia Connections to provide a webinar in conjunction with the SCSC on distance learning best practices.

SCSF COVID-19 Relief Fund

The SCSF is creating the SCSF COVID-19 Relief Fund to offer schools the opportunity to apply for the following:

- Electronic devices (Chromebooks and/or tablets) AND/OR
- Internet access fees (equivalent of 3 months per student) AND/OR
- Remote tutoring (equivalent of 2 hours per student per week for 6 weeks)

Based on the demonstrated need and making certain assumptions, the total need to fund the initiative fully is more than \$1.4 million.

Need	Students Served	Per Unit Cost	Unit Type	Quantity	Total
Electronic devices (Chromebooks, Tablets, and/or Hotspots) for low-income	3367	\$ 350.00	devices	1341	\$ 469,350.00
Monthly fees for 3 months for Internet access for low-income students*	3367	\$ 40.00	total months (3 X number students)	10100	\$ 404,004.67
Tutoring for at-risk students**	2107	\$ 22.00	total hours (2 hours x 6 weeks)	25278	\$ 556,116.00
				TOTAL	\$ 1,429,470.67

Distributing Resources to Schools

Once funds have been received, the SCSF shall open up a grant process for schools. Schools will be invited to apply based on restrictions placed by donors (i.e. region) for devices, Internet access, and tutoring based on their real-time actual needs. The SCSF will review applications and will apply a priority ranking to applications based on the percentage of at-risk and low-income students; current ability to serve low-income and at-risk students; and funding/devices received from other organizations.

- For applications for devices and Internet access, schools will be required to submit a plan for managing/maintaining any devices; distribution of devices (and prioritization); activating and maintaining Internet service; providing assistance to parents and students on device usage; and demonstrating plans for distance learning.
- For applications for remote tutoring services, schools will be required to submit a plan for coordination with the tutoring service provider (including a primary point of contact); a method for prioritizing students and determining needs based on previously-conducted benchmark testing or teacher data; a plan for assessment for effectiveness; an outreach plan to parents and students for using remote tutoring; and report analysis for attendance and progress.

The SCSF will procure goods and services in order to obtain "bulk pricing" discounts. The SCSF shall consider reimbursement of expenses incurred, encumbered, or committed for device procurement or Internet access fees for students or teachers since March 13 and/or fees for remote tutoring under previously-established contracts or relationships.

Procurement

The SCSF has created relationships with Verizon Wireless, Sprint Wireless, and BuyQ for the procurement of devices. The SCSF has developed a relationship with FEV Tutor for remote tutoring services (<https://www.fevtutor.com/>). Other relationships are being considered for device procurement, including providers of refurbished devices.

Partnerships

The SCSF is working closely with the Foundation for Public Education, the State Charter Schools Commission, the GaDOE, and other organizations in order to ensure coordination of effort to reach the highest number of vulnerable students possible. Several additional partnerships are being pursued and are in the works.