



MINUTES

**Tennessee Public Charter School Commission
Meeting**

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 | 1:00 p.m. CT

Video Recording:

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tn-public-charter-school-commission/documents/meetings/2021-meetings/9-22-special-called-meeting/TN%20Charter%20Commission%20Special-Called%20Meeting-20210922%201802-1.mp4>

Note: These minutes correspond to the video recording. Each item has a minute counter assigned to the subject location in the audio file.

Welcome and Call-to-Order

00:00:00-00:04:51

Tom Griscom, Commission Chairman, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Action of the Commission

Roll Call/Quorum	
Dave Hanson	Present
Alan Levine	Present
Terence Patterson	Present
Chris Richards	Present
Derwin Sisnett	Present
Eddie Smith	Absent
Wendy Tucker	Absent
Jamie Woodson	Absent
Tom Griscom	Present
Outcome: 6 of 9 present; quorum established.	

Approval of Agenda

Action of the Commission

Approval of Meeting Agenda	
Motion made by: Derwin Sisnett Seconded by: Dave Hanson	
Dave Hanson	Yes
Alan Levine	Yes
Terence Patterson	Yes



Chris Richards	Yes
Derwin Sisnett	Yes
Eddie Smith	Absent
Wendy Tucker	Absent
Jamie Woodson	Absent
Tom Griscom	Yes
Outcome: 6 of 9 voting; agenda approved	

Approval of Prior Minutes

Action of the Commission

Approval of Prior Minutes for July 13, 2021	
Motion made by: Dave Hanson Seconded by: Alan Levine	
Dave Hanson	Yes
Alan Levine	Yes
Terence Patterson	Yes
Chris Richards	Yes
Derwin Sisnett	Yes
Eddie Smith	Absent
Wendy Tucker	Absent
Tom Griscom	Yes
Jamie Woodson	Absent
Outcome: 6 of 9 voting; minutes approved	

Public Comment

00:04:51-00:09:45

Bob Nardo, with Libertas School of Memphis, personally appeared to present public comment.

Chairman Comments

00:09:45-00:12:40

Tom Griscom, Chairman, reminded Commission members to submit self-evaluations, and send feedback on the strategic plan that is part of the retreat in December 2021.

Charter Agreement for KIPP Antioch College Prep High School

00:12:40-00:15:10

Ashley Thomas, General Counsel, presented a charter agreement for KIPP Antioch College Prep High School for consideration to the Commission.

Action of the Commission

Approval of Charter Agreement for KIPP Antioch College Prep High School	
Motion made by: Derwin Sisnett Seconded by: Dave Hanson	
Dave Hanson	Yes

Alan Levine	Yes
Terence Patterson	Yes
Chris Richards	Yes
Derwin Sisnett	Yes
Eddie Smith	Absent
Wendy Tucker	Absent
Jamie Woodson	Absent
Tom Griscom	Yes
Outcome: 6 of 9 voting; motion approved	

LEA Policies 4206 and 4212

00:15:10-00:21:27

Ashley Thomas, General Counsel, presented LEA Policies 4206 and 4212 on first and final reading to the Commission.

Action of the Commission

Approval of LEA Policies 4206 and 4212 on first and final reading	
Motion made by: Terence Patterson Seconded by: Alan Levine	
Dave Hanson	Yes
Alan Levine	Yes
Terence Patterson	Yes
Chris Richards	Yes
Derwin Sisnett	Yes
Eddie Smith	Absent
Wendy Tucker	Absent
Jamie Woodson	Absent
Tom Griscom	Yes
Outcome: 6 of 9 voting; motion approved	

Achievement School District Authorization Emergency Rule

00:21:27-00:24:55

Ashley Thomas, General Counsel, presented the Achievement School District Authorization Emergency Rule to the Commission.

Action of the Commission

Approval of the Achievement School District Authorization Emergency Rule	
Motion made by: Terence Patterson Seconded by: Alan Levine	
Dave Hanson	Yes
Alan Levine	Yes
Terence Patterson	Yes
Chris Richards	Yes
Derwin Sisnett	Yes



Eddie Smith	Absent
Wendy Tucker	Absent
Jamie Woodson	Absent
Tom Griscom	Yes
Outcome: 6 of 9 voting; motion approved	

Charter Amendment Application and Rubric

00:24:55-00:27:19

Tess Stovall, Executive Director, presented the Charter Amendment Application and Rubric on the first and final reading to the Commission.

Action of the Commission

Approval of the Charter Amendment Application and Rubric on the first and final reading	
Motion made by: Derwin Sisnett Seconded by: Terence Patterson	
Dave Hanson	Yes
Alan Levine	Yes
Terence Patterson	Yes
Chris Richards	Yes
Derwin Sisnett	Yes
Eddie Smith	Absent
Wendy Tucker	Absent
Jamie Woodson	Absent
Tom Griscom	Yes
Outcome: 6 of 9 voting; motion approved	

Inter-Agency Agreement for GEER Funds

00:27:19-00:31:30

Melanie Harrell, Director of Finance and Operations, presented the Inter-Agency agreement for GEER Funds.

Action of the Commission

Approval of the Inter-Agency Agreement between the Charter Commission and the Tennessee Department of Education	
Motion made by: Alan Levine Seconded by: Chris Richards	
Dave Hanson	Yes
Alan Levine	Yes
Terence Patterson	Yes
Chris Richards	Yes
Derwin Sisnett	Yes
Eddie Smith	Absent
Wendy Tucker	Absent
Jamie Woodson	Absent

Tom Griscom	Yes
Outcome: 6 of 9 voting; motion approved	

ASD Update

00:31:30-00:53:42

Tess Stovall, Executive Director, presented an update on implementation of the Commission’s part of Public Chapter 490, which governs the ASD operator exit process, to the Commission.

New Start Appeals Training

00:53:42-01:36:45

Tess Stovall, Executive Director, and Ashley Thomas, General Counsel, conducted a training session for the new start appeals to the Commission.

Closing Discussion and Adjournment

01:36:45-01:39:06

Action of the Commission

Motion to adjourn meeting	
Motion made by: Alan Levine Seconded by: Derwin Sisnett	
Dave Hanson	Yes
Alan Levine	Yes
Terence Patterson	Yes
Chris Richards	Yes
Derwin Sisnett	Yes
Eddie Smith	Absent
Wendy Tucker	Absent
Jamie Woodson	Absent
Tom Griscom	Yes
Outcome: 6 of 9 voting; motion approved	

Chairman Griscom adjourned the meeting.

Public Comment provided Bob Nardo

“Today as a forthcoming applicant, under the new procedure eventually adopting later today, I just want to share a couple things for us, a little bit of news about our school. We're delighted that despite all the challenges of the pandemic and what a serious academic threat that is to kids in our state, our school have really had a lot of success last year. We were once again a level five school, the highest designation for academic growth in the state. Our school is the highest performing school achievement school district in every grade and every subject. We have served over 25 percentile and state rankings over our schools, and most importantly to me, at risk children in our school are doing particularly well. African American students, who are the vast majority of our kids, are now in the top half of the state, and our special education students, of which we have the largest population the ASD are in the top 15% of the state. So, we're incredibly thankful for the support of



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the Department of Education and the governor for everything we've been able to do as an ASD school, and we're excited to move forward in your process to continue this work. Really Chairman, the main thing I wanted to say today with gratitude, over the last couple of months, your team TAs, Kelly, Melanie, Chase, DreJean and others have been incredibly engaging to us. They've given us a lot of useful information. They've been open to our perspective. The materials they're presenting you today, they've incorporated some of our feedback and that means a lot to us as school operators that the LEA is hearing our view. But another thing I want to thank them for is, even when they were not willing to take our input, they explained why, and they educated us about other issues you're dealing with us and helped us to figure out how to engage with you better. So, I'm really grateful for the team that you all have assembled, and we're really looking forward to working with you. I'll just mention two other things very briefly if I might. There's some work. One of the really important things that's going to have to be figured out is, if some ASD schools will be joining your portfolio, is the issue around federal funding allocations. I think your team has informed you that these dollars, which are a big part of what supports schools that serve children in poverty, allocated on a lag basis, and with the growth of your district, this will be a challenge for schools like ours if we're not able to access some of those federal funds because we're only funded a year later rather than on the current year. I want to thank your team for what they're already doing strategically to address that issue in advance. We've also approached the state about it and we're hoping that there'll be some creative ways for them to ensure that schools don't have disruption in their federal funding. Similarly, I've spoken with your staff. They've been very receptive around this question of special education and how the charter commission as an LPA can be strategic about ensuring that the right amount of money follows the child and knowing that school choice is not meaningful if you have a disability, and the school funding doesn't reflect what is needed to serve that disability. I want to thank your team again for being open to those conversations and being very strategic for how that can be addressed moving forward. Likewise, with issues of the performance framework. I'm about to say, we're really excited about the opportunity in the coming months to move forward with our application, and I couldn't be more excited about working with the team that you have put together so that we can continue to give meaningful opportunities and school choices to kids in our community and others across the state. Thank you so much for your time."