

STATE OF WASHINGTON
CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
Tuesday, July 30, 2013 – 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tacoma School District
Central Administration Building
601 South 8th Street
Tacoma, WA 98405

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Dr. Doreen Cato, Trish Millines Dziko, Kevin Jacka, Chris Martin, Dr. Margit McGuire (participated by telephone), Steve Sundquist, and Larry Wright.

Excused: Dave Quall and Cindi Williams

Staff: RaShelle Davis, Policy Advisor

OPENING AND WELCOME

Chair Steve Sundquist called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. Attendance was taken, all Commissioners except for Dave Quall and Cindi Williams were present, and it was determined that a quorum was present to proceed with the meeting. Commissioner Cato participated via telephone until she arrived in-person.

Each Commissioner and staff member made a self-introduction.

Minutes from the May 28, June 3, June 4, June 5, June 7, June 10, June 11, June 12, and June 20 Commission meetings were reviewed and approved – Commissioner Martin moved and Commissioner Wright seconded the approval.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED RULES

Ken Mortland – provided written comment previously in an email. He discussed concerns regarding oversight and specificity. In particular, he was concerned about attrition and trends of spikes that take place before state tests are administered.

Lisa Macfarlane – provided written comment and an overview of the Charter School Association’s written comments. She commented that overall the proposed rule are extremely detailed; questions whether this much detail should be included in the rules or rather the RFP. The rules pertaining to the scoring rubric do not have much detail – the rubric should be included in the RFP.

Matt Elisara – discussed the definition of “at-risk students” and that students who have already dropped out but wish to reenter school should be included.

Melissa Westbrook – brought forward questions regarding conversion schools (will there be a place on the notice of intent to identify a conversion school and will the school district notify the school and community of a conversion?). She also inquired if the public will be allowed to participate and ask questions during the public forum.

Following the public hearing on the proposed rules, a subgroup of Commissioners was identified to review the comments received. The subgroup consisted of Commissioners Sundquist, Wright, and Martin.

REVIEW OF COMMISSION DOCUMENTS

The Commission reviewed the Notice of Intent and made changes to the format so that it would be a one page document. The Commission also reviewed the Strategic Vision.

The Commission decided to wait until the August meeting to vote on the final versions of the Notice of Intent and Strategic Vision.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Debbie Winskill, President of the Tacoma Public Schools' Board, welcomed the Commission and asked several questions regarding whether or not to authorize. She mentioned that it takes approximately 3 years to turn around a school. She also asked what does a successful program look like and how will the Commission measure the success.

Matt Elisara asked about the start date of potential charter schools – most public schools start on September 1 or later. He also inquired about startup funds and whether additional funding will be available for the charter schools.

Melissa Westbrook appreciated that the proposed Strategic Vision includes students and families. She also Googled the 4 candidates for the ED position.

Dexter Gordon inquired about the Commission's relationship with the other authorizing agencies in the event that a school board decides to be part or not part of the authorizing process.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission went into executive session to interview candidates for the Executive Director position.

ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission decided to move forward with reference checks for the candidates.

In addition, the Commission decided to move the meeting in October from Seattle to Yakima.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.