

**STATE OF WASHINGTON
CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 14, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

TAF Bethaday Community Learning Space
Multipurpose Room 605
SW 108th Street
Seattle WA 98146

Attendance:

Trish Millines Dziko, Dr. Margit McGuire, Raymond Navarro, Dave Quall, Steve Sundquist, Dr. Roberta Wilburn, and Cindi Williams.

Absent: Kevin Jacka and Larry Wright

Staff: Joshua Halsey, Executive Director; Aileen Miller, Assistant Attorney General; Colin Pippin-Timco, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call

Chair Sundquist called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. Attendance was taken. The following Commissioners were present: Trish Millines Dziko, Kevin Jacka (via telephone), Dr. Margit McGuire, Raymond Navarro, Dave Quall, Steve Sundquist, Dr. Roberta Wilburn, and Cindi Williams. It was determined a quorum was present to proceed with the meeting.

Approval of the November 13, December 11 and December 18 Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes for the November 13 Commission meeting were reviewed and approved – Commissioner Dziko moved, and Commissioner Quall seconded. The motion passed with one abstention: Commissioner Quall.

Meeting minutes for the December 11 Commission meeting were reviewed and approved – Commissioner McGuire moved, and Commissioner Quall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting minutes for the December 18 Commission meeting were reviewed and approved – Commissioner Dziko moved, and Commissioner Quall seconded. The motion passed with two abstentions: Commissioners McGuire and Williams.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Seeing no public comment, the Commission moved forward in the agenda.

CHAIR REPORT – STEVE SUNDQUIST

Chair Sundquist briefed the Commission on the reappointment process for Commissioners with expiring terms. For Commissioners Dziko and Williams, Chair Sundquist had submitted letters in support of their reappointment to the appropriate appointing entities. As of the January 14, 2015 Commission meeting, Commissioner Navarro had completed the online application for his reappointment.

Chair Sundquist noted that he would be speaking at a Washington State Charter Schools (WACHarters) engagement, as well as a Seattle Rotary Club event in the coming month.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – JOSHUA HALSEY

Update on Authorized Schools

Mr. Halsey reported that he had met school leader Adel Sefrioui of Excel Public Charter School. The two had spoken about several charter contract amendments designed to bring Excel's charter contract into close alignment with Green Dot South Seattle's recently approved contract. Mr. Halsey noted that he would be prepared with these amendments for consideration at the March 19, 2015 Commission meeting.

Mr. Halsey reported that both Summit Sierra (Seattle) and Olympus (Tacoma) had acquired facilities, and each was situated close to central transit lines in their respective city.

Mr. Halsey reported that Green Dot Tacoma was moving forward with both teaching and support staff recruitment.

Update on First Place Corrective Action

Mr. Halsey presented a compliance calendar for use by First Place, as well as other Commission-authorized charter schools. Mr. Halsey presented a reporting schedule developed by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for use by First Place, as well as other Commission-authorized charter schools.

Mr. Halsey reported that First Place scholars was in compliance with all elements of the Corrective Action. He also noted that certain dates had been moved at the request of the school. Finally, Mr. Halsey noted that the Commission had contracted with Ms. Valerie Lynch to support First Place as it reviews the Individualized Education Program (IEP) student services provided by First Place to date.

Mr. Halsey presented two amendments to First Place's contract for Commission approval:

Amendment 3: To change the school board of directors composition from 15-21 members to 11-15 members. Commissioner Williams moved to accept the amendment, and Commissioner Dziko seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Amendment 4: To require the school to submit quarterly financial reports to the Commission. Commissioner McGuire moved to accept the amendment, and Commissioner Wilburn seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Halsey noted that it had come to his attention that two members of First Place's board of directors were relatives. Though there is no legal prohibition of such an occurrence, Mr. Halsey noted that this was not a generally accepted best practice. The Commission requested Mr. Halsey to consult WACHarters, Charter Board Partners, and the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) and provide the Commission with policy options at its monthly meeting in February.

Update on Legislative Strategy including Governor's Proposed Budget

Mr. Halsey reported that the Commission's budget requests had been included in the Governor's proposed budget package.

Mr. Halsey noted that he had received some questions regarding the bill that would provide the Commission statutory authority to receive gifts and grants. After conversations with the stakeholders, Mr. Halsey continues to recommend that the bill be pursued.

Mr. Halsey noted that on January 15, 2015 he and Chair Sundquist would be presenting to the State House Education Committee.

Welcome Commission Deputy Director Cathy Fromme

Mr. Halsey welcomed Deputy Director Dr. Cathy Fromme to the Commission staff. Dr. Fromme was one of nine applicants for the position. Dr. Fromme was scheduled to begin work January 16, 2015.

Recognition of Intern Dan Frank

Mr. Halsey thanked Commission intern Dan Frank for his dedication to the Commission for the past 11 months. Mr. Frank recently accepted a position with the State of Washington Consolidated Technology Services and would be ending his internship with the Commission on January 30, 2015.

APPROVE ORGANIZATIONAL AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

Organizational Framework

Having thoroughly vetted the Organizational Framework (OF) in previous meetings, Mr. Halsey recommended the Commission approve the OF. Commissioner Dziko moved to approve the OF, and Commissioner Navarro seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Academic Framework

Whitney Spencer, Director of Authorizer Development with NACSA, presented options for methodologies of measures to be included in the Academic Framework:

Measure 1: Schools students might otherwise attend

Option A: District Comparison

Option B: Assigned School Comparison

Measure 2: Schools serving similar student populations

Option A: Comparable School Matching

Option B: Regression Analysis

Ms. Spencer presented the pros and cons for each methodology. After much discussion, a majority of the Commission urged Ms. Spencer and Commission staff to move forward with Option A: District Comparison for Measure 1: Schools students might otherwise attend; and Option A: Comparable School Matching for Measure 2: Schools serving similar student populations.

The Commission broke for lunch at 1:00 pm.

The Commission returned from lunch at 1:40 pm.

REVIEW AND AMEND NACSA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Mr. Halsey presented a draft scope of work regarding the support NACSA can provide the Commission in 2015. The scope of work outlined supports NACSA would offer the Commission, including organizational planning, capacity building, policy and practice guidance, and communications and external relations guidance. Commissioner Dziko moved to codify the MOU, and Commissioner Williams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

INITIAL REVIEW OF CHANGES TO 2015 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Organizations Operating Multiple Schools in Washington Dialogue

The Commission engaged in a dialogue regarding adding extra criteria for nonprofits seeking authorization for additional charters while having not yet opened their first school. Commissioner Dziko expressed concern that such authorization presumed success with a Washington-based school, and that the Commission would be better served by confirming the successful opening of a school in our state before approving or opening additional schools. Mr. Halsey noted that staff would return with model language of such criteria for consideration at the February 12, 2015 meeting.

Commissioner Dziko departed at 2:25.

RFP and Rubric Changes

Mr. Halsey presented a draft 2015 RFP and Rubric for schools opening in the 2016-17 school year. Mr. Halsey noted that staff had identified elements that required further clarity, and subsequently altered language so that applicants may better understand the Commission's expectations. Mr. Halsey noted that a large amount of language had been incorporated into the Introduction regarding Cultural Responsiveness, as well as throughout the RFP.

Application Process Changes

Mr. Halsey presented the following changes to the Application Process for 2015:

1. Staff to lead in Application review and Capacity Interview
2. Inclusion of a performance task during the interview
3. Increasing the number of Application evaluators
4. Incorporating the Commission Resolution Meeting into the RFP
5. Commission staff actively pursuing high-quality translation services

The Commission discussed increased Commissioner / Applicant interaction at public forums. Mr. Halsey suggested shifting the purpose of the public forums away from presenting to the Commission, and more towards communicating with the affected community. Mr. Halsey noted that he would return to the February 12, 2015 Commission meeting with a recommendation on this issue.

COMMISSION STANDING COMMITTEES UPDATE

Commissioner Dziko returned at 3:41 pm.

Mr. Halsey reviewed the roles and duties of the newly developed Finance, Charter School Authorization, and Charter School Performance committees. Mr. Halsey noted that a Charter School Authorization Task Force would need to be created in lieu of the development of the committee, as the 2015 RFP would need to be reviewed and recommended changes developed before the Commission's February 12, 2015 meeting. Commissioners McGuire and Quall volunteered for this task force.

REVIEW CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

The Commissioners reviewed all existing conflicts of interest. Commissioner Dziko noted that she had recused herself from decisions regarding Summit Public Schools Washington State, as she and the Executive Director of the Summit schools network had been engaged in a professional development opportunity together. The Professional development opportunity had since ended, and Commissioner Dziko believed a conflict of interest no longer existed. Commissioner Williams moved to remove Commissioner Dziko's conflict of interest sanction, and Commissioner Wilburn seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Sundquist adjourned open session at 4:00 pm. An executive session was held pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) and (i).

RECONVENTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AND COMMISSION ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sundquist reconvened the Commission from executive session at 5:29 pm, provided a brief report-out, and adjourned the Commission meeting.