

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 17, 2015 | 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

STAR Center
Voyage Studio
3873 S 66th Street
Tacoma, WA 98409

Attendance:

Trish Millines Dziko, Dr. Stacy Hill, Kevin Jacka, Margit McGuire, Dave Quall, Steve Sundquist, Cindi Williams, and Larry Wright

Absent: Raymond Navarro, Jr.

Leadership Team: Joshua Halsey, Executive Director; Cathy Fromme, Deputy Director; Ebonee Jackson, School Quality & Accountability Director; Aileen Miller, Assistant Attorney General; Colin Pippin-Timco, Executive Assistant

Call To Order

Roll Call

Chair Sundquist called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Attendance was taken. The following Commissioners were present: Trish Millines Dziko, Dr. Stacy Hill, Kevin Jacka, Margit McGuire, Dave Quall, Steve Sundquist, Cindi Williams, and Larry Wright. It was determined a quorum was present to proceed with the meeting.

Approval of the August 13 and September 9 Commission Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting minutes for the September 9 Special Commission meeting were reviewed and approved – Commissioner Wright moved, and Commissioner Hill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Public comment in support of public charter schools in Washington was heard from the following individuals:

- Amy Van, Project Manager, Washington State Charter Schools Association (WA Charters)
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- Libuse Binder, Executive Director, Charter Board Partners Washington State (CBP)
- Elena Gomez, Program Associate, CBP
- Roland Bradley, grandparent of Excel Public Charter Academy student
- William Haft, Vice President of Authorizer Development, National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA)
- Kellie Richardson, parent of Green Dot Destiny Middle School student
- Bree Dusseault, Executive Director, Green Dot Public Schools Washington
- Mitch Price, Director of Policy and Government Relations, WA Charters
- Maggie Meyers, Manager of Communications and Strategic Relations, WA Charters
- Shirline Wilson, parent of Rainier Prep student
- Dr. Thelma Jackson, School Board President, SOAR Academy
- Jessica Garcia, parent of Green Dot Destiny Middle School student
- Rekha Bhatt, Director of School Services, WA Charters
- Natasha Lemke, parent of SOAR Academy student
- Dianne Hilburn, parent of Excel Public Charter Academy student
- Moana Trammel, grandparent of SOAR Academy student
- Calyn Holdaway, Founder and President, Ducere Group
- Lynn Gilliland, parent of Summit Sierra student
- Dr. Linda Whitehead, School Leader, First Place Scholars

Print version of most public comments may be found [here](#).

Executive Session

Chair Sundquist adjourned open session at 11:24 a.m. An executive session was held pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

Chair Sundquist reconvened the Commission from executive session at 12:30 p.m.

Action from Executive Session

There was no action from the executive session.

Chair Report – Steve Sundquist

Chair Sundquist noted that the Commission remained committed to serving the over 1,200 Washington families with students enrolled in public charter schools.

Chair Sundquist reminded the Commission that Commissioner Quall, Commissioner Wright and himself had terms expiring in 2016.

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Executive Director Report – Joshua Halsey

Authorized School Updates

Mr. Halsey noted that all Commission-authorized schools had opened on-time and at full capacity, and that many had potential students on waitlist. All schools were in session with student engagement and learning occurring at high levels. Of note, SOAR Academy had already assessed each student, with the teaching staff meeting regularly to develop and implement specific instructional strategies for each student.

Mr. Halsey noted that all Commission-authorized schools had held rallies in their communities demonstrating support for the schools and calling upon lawmakers to act quickly in order for public charter schools to remain an option for families across the state.

Mr. Halsey noted that the Commission’s leadership team was working closely with WA Charters, supporting the schools during this time of upheaval to explore options available to schools to continue operations in the event the Supreme Court’s mandate invalidating the Charter Schools Law was finalized. The Commission’s leadership team had also been working closely with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education to understand the various options available to schools that will allow them to continue serving students throughout the school-year:

- The State Board indicated that they were willing to call an emergency board meeting in the event that charter schools wanted to become independent schools;
- OSPI convened the districts in which the charter schools are sited to determine whether these districts were interested in entering into Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) contracts with the charter school nonprofits. Mr. Halsey had also spoken with Commissioner Jacka in regards to the Mary Walker School District entering in ALE contracts with the charter school nonprofits.

Mr. Halsey noted that Ms. Miller and he had met with the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools Charter School Lawyer Network to discuss the ruling and explore strategies moving forward.

Draft Commission Position Statement RE: Supreme Court Ruling

Mr. Halsey presented and read the Commission’s official Position Statement regarding the Supreme Court’s decision to invalidate the Charter Schools Law, available [here](#).

Referencing Joel Klein, New York City School Chancellor 2002-10, Mr. Halsey noted that choice in education is usually only afforded to the affluent. Mr. Halsey noted that he would send his children to any of the Commission-authorized charter schools; each was a high-quality option for public education. He noted that he found the Supreme Court’s decision heartbreaking.

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Public Records Training

Ms. Miller noted that in the event that the Commission began to wind-down its operations, Commissioners would be responsible for returning public records created while conducting Commission business to Mr. Pippin-Timco. Mr. Pippin-Timco noted that he would coordinate with Commissioners over the coming weeks to retrieve these public records.

Next Steps

The following next steps were identified:

1. Develop advocacy plan for legislative session
2. Set targets for Academic Performance Framework
3. Initiate Executive Director annual review
4. Engage SBE to develop public and legislative yearly reports
5. Engage in lessons learned from 2015 oversight responsibilities
6. Engage in further development of charter school application process
7. Develop Commission 2016 public meetings calendar
8. Engage National Governor's Association if appropriate

Reception Welcoming Dr. Stacy Hill & Ebonee Jackson

The commission held a brief reception welcoming Dr. Stacy Hill and Ms. Jackson.

The Commission adjourned at 1:44 p.m.