# Charter School Commission MEETING MINUTES

**Thursday, May 19, 2016 │ 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

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

## Attendance:

Jack Archer, Trish Millines Dziko, Dan Grimm, Dr. Margit McGuire, Raymond Navarro, Dave Quall, Steve Sundquist, and Cindi Williams.

Absent: Dr. Stacy Hill

Leadership Team: Joshua Halsey, Executive Director; Aileen Miller, Assistant Attorney General; Sandy Green, Executive Assistant.

Guest Speakers: William Haft (NACSA), Whitney Spalding Spencer (NACSA)

## 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: Jack Archer, Trish Millines Dziko, Dan Grimm, Dr. Margit McGuire, Raymond Navarro, Dave Quall, Steve Sundquist, and Cindi Williams. It was determined a quorum was present to proceed with the meeting. Commissioners McGuire and Williams left at 1:00 p.m.

**Approval of the April 13, 2016 Special Commission Meeting Minutes**

Meeting minutes for the April 13, 2016 Commission meeting were reviewed and approved. Trish Millines Dziko moved. Dave Quall seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes and no abstentions.

## Public Comment

Melissa Westbrook, Blogger with Seattle Schools Community Forum, provided comment.

Dr. Thelma Jackson, Board Chair of SOAR Academy, provided comment.

Mitch Price, Washington State Charter School Association, provided comment.

Jessica Garcia, parent of a child at Green Dot Destiny Middle Charter School, provided comment.

Amouret Lara, parent of a child at Green Dot Destiny Middle Charter School, provided comment.

## Chair Report – Steve Sundquist

Chair Sundquist reported that the new law’s appointing process is moving forward and that appointments are to be completed by July 1. The Governor reappointed Stacy Hill, Raymond Navarro and himself. The Senate Democratic Caucus process is in place to reappoint Trish MIllines Dziko, Dave Quall, and Margit McGuire. The Senate Republican Caucus is expected to reappoint Cindi Williams. Jack Archer is the State Board of Education’s (SBE) designee to the Commission, and Dan Grimm is the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction’s (OSPI) designee to the Commission. Larry Wright has chosen to not be reappointed.

Chair Sundquist stated that the Commission will seek to hold their meetings in charter schools when possible as a way for Commissioners to see the schools.

Chair Sundquist reported that although the budget for Professional Development is not known yet, there will be more training for new Commissioners in the future. The 2016 National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) Conference, which is a good conference for authorizers to attend, will be held in Atlanta, Georgia on October 24-27.

Chair Sundquist noted that there will be no Commission meeting in July.

**Charter Contract Review**

Joshua Halsey went over the basics on charter contracting and then went through the Sample 2016 Contract, addressing each section that was either added or updated to reflect the new charter school act requirements and lessons learned during the past eight months. Multiple sections of the contract align to state public education law. Two important components are the Pre-Opening Conditions for schools to open and Performance. The Pre-Opening Conditions and Statement of Assurances were also updated.

**Review of Materials Submitted by Authorized Schools**

Prior to talking about re-executing charters for previously Commission-authorized charter schools (schools), Commissioners were asked to bring up any conflicts of interest they have or potentially might have with any of the schools that were going to be discussed. There being no conflicts of interest, the Commission moved forward with a discussion of the materials that were submitted by schools in response to the Commission’s April 13, 2016 *Steps for Executing New Charter Contracts* document that was presented at the April Commission Meeting. The document required schools to provide the Commission with an updated 5-year budget, updated board roster, and an updated Education Program Terms and Design Elements. After discussion, the following resolutions were made. First Place Scholars did not submit materials.

**SOAR Academy Charter School**

Trish Millines Dziko moved to execute a new charter contract with SOAR Academies for the purpose of operatingSOAR Academy Charter School; the contract should have the same or substantially the same conditions as were in effect on December 1, 2015; and authorize Steve Sundquist, chair of the Commission, to sign the contract on the Commission’s behalf. Cindi Williams seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes and no abstentions.

**Summit Public School: Atlas**

Trish Millines Dziko moved to execute a new charter contract with Summit Public Schools Washington for the purpose of operatingSummit Public School: Atlas; the contract should have the same or substantially the same conditions as were in effect on December 1, 2015; and, if by June 2 Summit brings its Board into compliance with its Board Bylaws, authorize Steve Sundquist, chair of the Commission, to sign the contract on the Commission’s behalf. Jack Archer seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes and no abstentions.

**Summit Public School: Olympus**

Jack Archer moved to execute a new charter contract with Summit Public Schools Washington for the purpose of operatingSummit Public School: Olympus; the contract should have the same or substantially the same conditions as were in effect on December 1, 2015; and, if before June 2 Summit brings its Board into compliance with its Board Bylaws, authorize Steve Sundquist, chair of the Commission, to sign the contract on the Commission’s behalf. Dave Quall seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes and no abstentions.

**Summit Public School: Sierra**

Trish Millines Dziko moved to execute a new charter contract with Summit Public Schools Washington for the purpose of operatingSummit Public School: Sierra; the contract should have the same or substantially the same conditions as were in effect on December 1, 2015; and, if before June 2 Summit brings its Board into compliance with its Board Bylaws, authorize Steve Sundquist, chair of the Commission, to sign the contract on the Commission’s behalf. Raymond Navarro seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes and no abstentions.

**EXCEL Public Charter School**

Cindi Williams moved to execute a new charter contract with Excel Public Charter School for the purpose of operatingExcel Public Charter School; the contract should have the same or substantially the same conditions as were in effect on December 1, 2015; and authorize Steve Sundquist, chair of the Commission, to sign the contract on the Commission’s behalf. Margit McGuire seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes and no abstentions.

**Green Dot Destiny**

Raymond Navarro moved to execute a new charter contract with Green Dot Public Schools Washington State for the purpose of operatingGreen Dot Destiny; the contract should have the same or substantially the same conditions as were in effect on December 1, 2015; and authorize Steve Sundquist, chair of the Commission, to sign the contract on the Commission’s behalf. Trish Millines Dziko seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes and no abstentions.

**Green Dot Seattle**

Margit McGuire moved to execute a new charter contract with Green Dot Public Schools Washington State for the purpose of operatingGreen Dot Seattle; the contract should have the same or substantially the same conditions as were in effect on December 1, 2015; and authorize Steve Sundquist, chair of the Commission, to sign the contract on the Commission’s behalf. Raymond Navarro seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes and no abstentions.

**Rainier Prep Charter School**

Jack Archer moved to execute a new charter contract with Rainier Prep for the purpose of operatingRainier Prep Charter School; the contract should have the same or substantially the same conditions as were in effect on December 1, 2015; and authorize Steve Sundquist, chair of the Commission, to sign the contract on the Commission’s behalf. Trish Millines Dziko seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes and no abstentions.

**Willow Public School**

Jack Archer moved to execute a new charter contract with Innovation Schools for the purpose of operatingWillow Public School; the contract should have the same or substantially the same conditions as were in effect on December 1, 2015; and authorize Steve Sundquist, chair of the Commission, to sign the contract on the Commission’s behalf. Dave Quall seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes and no abstentions.

The above schools will be offered the opportunity to re-execute a new 5-year contract, which will need to be executed by the statutory June 2 deadline. Contracts will be binding on the first day of school.

After discussions around re-executing charter contracts, Commissioner Williams asked if a future meeting could include a discussion on funding options for charter schools. Commissioner Navarro suggested Excel Public Charter School present to the Commission information on why they chose the education service provider model over having a special education teacher. Both items will be added to an agenda for a future meeting.

**Performance Framework Updates and Next Steps**

The Commission invited guest speakers William Haft and Whitney Spalding Spencer, both from the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA), to provide an overview of the Commission’s Performance Framework, which includes a Financial, Organizational, and Academic component. NACSA has national expertise and experience in the field of charter school authorizing and has supported the Commission for three years as it has developed its Performance Framework. The Commission monitors charter schools in relation to the indicators, measures, metrics, and targets set out in the Performance Framework, and they provide a critical input upon which the Commission bases its decision to renew, revoke, terminate, or take other action regarding a school. The Financial and Organizational Frameworks have already been adopted and are aligned with best practices, NACSA, Washington laws and rules, and the charter contract. The Commission was working on identifying indicators, metrics and methodologies for the Academic Framework; however, the September court ruling interrupted the work that was being done.

After discussion on indicators and measures for the Academic Framework, the Commission voted on whether or not to adopt them. Dan Grimm moved to adopt the indicators and measures contained within the draft Academic Framework, as may be refined by the Executive Director. Trish Millines Dziko seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes and no abstentions.

Once the Academic Framework is finalized, the next step will be for the Commission to conduct a trial run on the 2015-16 Smarter Balance assessment results in the fall after the data is available, and then approve and weight targets in the winter.

**Executive Session**

Chair Sundquist adjourned Open Session at 2:40 p.m. After a short break, an Executive Session was held at 2:50 p.m. pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1) to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency. The Executive Session adjourned at 3:01 p.m. and Chair Sundquist reconvened the Commission to Open Session at 3:05 p.m. No final action was taken during the Executive Session.

**Open Session**

Chair Sundquist informed the Commission that new officer elections will take place in the fall. Aileen Miller will research how the new charter school law impacts term limits.

Chair Sundquist informed Commissioners that, under the new law, each appointed Commissioner must file a personal affairs statement (F-1 Form) with the Public Disclosure Commission. Commissioners Dan Grimm and Jack Archer are exempt from filing an F-1, since they were not appointed to the Commission. They are OSPI and SBE designees.

Chair Sundquist stated that charter schools and the Commission may be subjected to another lawsuit and that, in order to have a coordinated front, the protocol has been that the Executive Director or Chair is the spokesperson.

## Next Steps

The following next steps were identified:

1. Release the June 1 hold for telephonic meeting.
2. Joshua will complete the Charter School Program (CSP) grant due June 1, which, if approved, would bring $14 million to the State, with a significant amount going to start-up charter schools.
3. Next Commission meeting is June 16. If not sufficient subject matter, hold a telephonic meeting.
4. There is no Commission meeting in July.
5. Complete the Appointment process by July 1.
6. Joshua will continue working on the Pre-Opening Conditions.
7. Onboard new Commissioners.
8. Elect officers in the fall.
9. Setup standing committees, if needed.
10. Charter School Application process: New School Solicitation will start early in 2017.
11. Aileen will provide a high-level memo to Commissioners regarding using a *New School Solicitation* rather than *RFP*.
12. Commission will host public forums.
13. Resolution meetings regarding new charter schools applications.

**Commission adjourned at 3:37 p.m.**