

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 16, 2015 | 10:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

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

Attendance:

Trish Millines Dziko, Kevin Jacka, Margit McGuire, Raymond Navarro, Dave Quall, Steve Sundquist, Larry Wright, and Cindi Williams

Absent: Roberta Wilburn

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

Call To Order

Roll Call

Chair Sundquist called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Attendance was taken. The following Commissioners were present: Trish Millines Dziko, Kevin Jacka, Margit McGuire, Raymond Navarro, Dave Quall, Steve Sundquist, and Larry Wright. It was determined a quorum was present to proceed with the meeting.

Approval of the February 12 and March 19, 27 and 30 Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes for the February 12, 2015 Commission meeting were reviewed and approved – Commissioner Quall moved, and Commissioner Wright seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting minutes for the March 19, 2015 Commission meeting were reviewed and approved – Commissioner Wright moved, and Commissioner Dziko seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting minutes for the March 27, 2015 special Commission meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Jacka noted that he had not attended the meeting, and requested that his name be stricken from the attendance and roll call. Commissioner Wright moved to adopt the minutes as amended, and Commissioner McGuire seconded. The motion passed with one abstention: Commissioner Jacka

Meeting minutes for the March 30, 2015 Executive Committee meeting were reviewed and approved – Commissioner Dziko moved, and Commissioner Wright seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Stori Thomas, Case Manager for First Place Scholars, thanked Commission members for visiting First Place Scholars.

Chair Report: Steve Sundquist

Chair Sundquist encouraged Commissioners to attend the Washington State Charter Schools Association (WACHarters) annual conference May 7-8, 2015. He noted that he and Commission Counsel, Aileen Miller, would be participating in panel discussions at the conference.

Chair Sundquist noted that he would be traveling the final week of April 2015. Commissioner Wright agreed to serve as acting-chair in his absence.

Chair Sundquist reported that WACHarters had recently conducted a poll regarding support for the state's new charter school system. Polling results indicated similar results to the passage of Initiative No. 1240, with slightly over 50% of those polled in support of the state's new charter school system.

Executive Director Report: Joshua Halsey

General Updates

Mr. Halsey reported that he and Commission Deputy Director, Cathy Fromme, had met with representatives of the Center for Reinventing Public Education (CRPE) to explore potential research questions regarding high quality authorizing practices.

Update on Legislative Strategy

Mr. Halsey noted that on March 25, 2015 he had met with Representative Eric Pettigrew to provide him with an update regarding First Place Scholars.

Mr. Halsey noted that both the House of Representatives and Senate had released their proposed supplemental and biennium budgets. Both aligned closely to the Commission's budget request, which was submitted in September 2014.

Update on Authorized Schools

Mr. Halsey reported that Excel Public Charter School had acquired a facility, and that he would be visiting this facility soon. Excel's executive director, Adel Sefrioui, had as well engaged in a dialogue with Commission, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and WACHarters representatives regarding harmonizing charter school access to local levies.

Mr. Halsey noted that he and Dr. Fromme had attended SOAR Academy's enrollment lottery on March 21, 2015.

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Mr. Halsey reported that Rainier Prep had acquired a facility in the Highline School District, and would be holding an enrollment lottery on April 17, 2015.

Mr. Halsey noted that on April 27 and 28, school staff from Commission-approved charter schools would be joining Commission and OSPI Staff for two full days of learning designed to support schools opening in the 2015 school year.

2015 RFP Updates

Mr. Halsey reported that Commission staff had hosted full-day RFP Orientations in Pasco and Seattle on March 25 and 31, 2015 respectively. Mr. Halsey noted that most attendees were planning to apply to the 2016 RFP, but found the information presented during the orientations to be useful to their professional development regarding charter schools in Washington State.

First Place Letter of Concern Update

Mr. Halsey noted that he still awaited delivery of the calendar associated with the Special Education (SPED) Compensatory Services Plan as a final component on First Place's corrective action plan. Mr. Halsey added that the deadline for First Place to respond to the Commission's March 31, 2015 Letter of Concern had been extended by five business days to April 21, 2015.

Continue Development of Performance Framework

Initial Dialogue Regarding Academic Framework Weighting

Whitney Spalding Spencer, Director of Authorizer Development for the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA), presented options for weighting the Commission's Academic Performance Framework (APF). Ms. Spencer noted that the Washington State Accountability Index should be a primary component of the APF overall rating. The proposed APF rating percentages are as follows:

Elementary/Middle

- 5% School Specific Indicators
- 40% Student Proficiency
- 55% Student Growth

High School

- 5% School Specific Indicators
- 30% Student Proficiency
- 30% Student College Readiness
- 35% Growth

The Commission engaged in a discussion regarding the APF rating percentages. There was some concern expressed regarding the weight of the Student College Readiness indicators. Ms. Spencer and Commission staff noted that they would integrate these concerns into further drafts of the APF.

Public Comment

Katrice Dennis, Instructional Aid for First Place Scholars, noted that there had been tremendous change at First Place since the hiring of Dr. Linda Whitehead, and that, despite negative press, the children enrolled at the school were learning.

The Commission broke for lunch at 11:45 a.m.

The Commission returned from lunch at 12:23 p.m.

2015 RFP Capacity Interview Performance Task Discussion

Mr. Halsey presented a memo detailing the addition of a performance task to the RFP charter school applicant Capacity Interview. Mr. Halsey noted that the performance task would allow Commission staff and Application Evaluators to evaluate the leadership capacity of the charter school applicant leadership team. Commissioners were extremely receptive to the performance task, and urged Commission staff to proceed with the creation of the performance task.

Commission Officer Elections

Chair Sundquist noted that the Commission's annual officer elections were scheduled to occur at the April 16, 2015 meeting. Chair Sundquist noted that he was willing to stand for Chair again; Commissioner Williams indicated that she was willing to stand for Vice Chair; Commissioner Dziko indicated that she was willing to stand for At-Large again.

Commissioner Wright moved to elect the slate noted above, and Commissioner Quall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commission Standing Committee Assignments

The following Commissioners have been assigned to the following standing committees

Finance Committee:

Commissioner Jacka
Chair Sundquist
Commissioner Wright

Charter School Authorization Committee:

Commissioner McGuire
Commissioner Quall
Commissioner Wilburn
Commissioner Wright

Charter School Performance Committee:

Commissioner Dziko
Commissioner McGuire
Commissioner Navarro
Commissioner Wilburn

Next Steps

The Commission identified the following next steps:

1. Continue Legislative Engagement Regarding Commission Budget
2. Continue Weighting of Academic Framework
3. Continue Oversight of First Place Scholars Letter of Concern Deliverables

The Commission adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

