



CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 19, 2018 | 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Spokane Community College | Sasquatch/Bigfoot Room
1810 N. Greene Street, Spokane, Washington 99217

Attendance:

Betsy Cohen, Jessica Garcia, Dan Grimm, Kaaren Heikes, Dr. Gil Mendoza, Steve Sundquist and Cindi Williams.

Leadership Team: Joshua Halsey, Executive Director; Paula Kitzke, Deputy Director; Dr. Cathy Fromme, New School Application Director; Alyce McNeil, Communications Director; Krystal Starwich, CSP Grant Manager; Aileen Miller, Assistant Attorney General and Amanda Martinez, Executive Assistant.

Call To Order

Roll Call

Chair Sundquist called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. The following Commissioners were present: Betsy Cohen, Jessica Garcia, Dan Grimm, Kaaren Heikes, Dr. Gil Mendoza and Steve Sundquist. Kaaren Heikes and Cindi Williams attended the meeting via Zoom video conference. It was determined that a quorum was present to proceed with the meeting. Commissioner Heikes left the meeting at 1:20 p.m. Commissioner Williams left the meeting at 2:05 p.m. Commissioner Grimm left the meeting at 2:20 p.m., and it was determined that a quorum was no longer present. No action was taken after Commissioner Grimm's departure.

Consideration of the March 15, 2018 Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes for the March 15, 2018 Commission Meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Sundquist moved to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Mendoza seconded. Motion carried, with no opposes; Commissioner Williams abstained.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

Chair Report

Chair Sundquist provided an update on the open Commissioner position and two potential candidates from the Yakima area. Chair Sundquist will continue to work with the Governor's office during the appointment process.

Chair Sundquist gave an update on the Executive Director's compensation and re-banding. Washington State HR's recommendation is to place the Executive Director position in salary band 4 with a maximum salary of \$135,264, less than the \$137,500 that the Commission approved at the March meeting. Commissioner Grimm moved to increase the Executive Director salary to the top of salary band 4 and to pursue a legislative fix for the future. Commissioner Cohen seconded. Motion carried, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Chair Sundquist provided a reminder to Commissioners to file their annual F-1 Form if they have not yet submitted it for 2018.

Executive Director Report

General Updates

Executive Director Halsey referred Commissioners to the memo provided in March regarding the Washington State Charter Schools Association annual conference and the risks associated with Commissioners attending the conference.

Executive Director Halsey provided updates surrounding SOAR Academy's request to co-locate with Green Dot: Destiny Middle School. SOAR Academy has submitted materials and Executive Director Halsey expects to update the Commission regarding his decision at the May 24, 2018 monthly meeting.

Executive Director Halsey provided updates on the State Education Agency (SEA) Charter School Program (CSP) Grant. The CSP received three (3) subgrant applications through the New School Application process. CSP Grant Coordinator, Krystal Starwich, will be an evaluator as a representative of Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for both Spokane Public Schools and the Commission's New School Applications.

Lawsuit Challenging Constitutionality of Charter Schools

Executive Director Halsey gave a brief update on the status of the lawsuit. The Washington State Supreme Court has accepted direct review of the appeal for this matter and oral argument is scheduled for May 17, 2018.

Communications Update

Alyce McNeil, Communications Director, presented a summary of the Goodwill Tours. Feedback from participants of the Goodwill Tours, including Commissioners, staff, guests and school personnel was positive and there is interest in continuing to schedule and facilitate Goodwill Tours next school year.

Communications Director McNeil presented a timeline regarding the development of the Commission's legislative priorities. At the May 24, 2018 monthly meeting, Director McNeil will present a draft list of 2019 Commission legislative priorities and seek Commissioner feedback.

New Schools Application Updates

Dr. Cathy Fromme, New School Application Director, provided an update to the 2018 Application Solicitation. Of the four (4) Notices of Intent (NOI's) to apply, three (3) applications were received. Only two (2) of these applications moved forward after Completeness Review and will be evaluated;

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Whatcom Intergenerational High School proposed for the Bellingham/Ferndale area, and Ashé Preparatory Academy proposed for the Skyway/West Hill area.

Standing Committee Updates

Charter School Performance Committee

Executive Director Halsey provided a brief overview of the Charter School Performance Committee meeting on April 11, 2018. The content of the meeting will be presented by consultant Lyria Boast of Public Impact.

Charter School Performance Updates

Academic Performance Framework Updates

Lyria Boast of Public Impact presented the proposed updates for the Commission’s Academic Performance Framework (APF). These updates include:

- Combining State and Federal Accountability Indicators and using the Washington School Improvement Framework as the measure for these indicators;
- Removing the Washington State Achievement Index measure; and
- Adding the four additional Geographical Comparison indicators that are now included in the state accountability system (English Learner Progress, Regular Attendance, 9th Graders on Track (HS) and Dual Credit (HS)).

Commissioner Cohen moved to adopt the Academic Performance Framework with the State Accountability standards to include 8, 9 and 10 in “Exceeds Standards”. Commissioner Mendoza seconded. Motion carried, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Strategic Planning

Executive Director Halsey and Chair Sundquist presented the Strategic Priorities and Outcomes as drafted by the Strategic Planning Guide Team (with additional attendees Commissioners Heikes and Mayer) at their April 11, 2018 meeting.

Chair Sundquist moved to approve the Strategic Priorities as drafted. Commissioner Garcia seconded.

Commissioner Cohen amended the motion and moved that Strategic Priority A change to “Become a highly effective State agency and an emerging national model for charter school authorizing and oversight in order to improve educational opportunities for systemically marginalized and at-risk students in Washington State.” Commissioner Mendoza seconded. Amendment to the motion carried unanimously, with no opposes. The amended motion then passed unanimously with no opposes; no abstentions.

Chair Sundquist moved to approve the Outcomes for Strategic Priority A and change the second bullet to read “Boost the number of charter school applications proposing schools designed to effectively educate systematically marginalized and at-risk youth in innovative ways.” Commissioner Cohen seconded. Motion carried, with no opposes; no abstentions.

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Chair Sundquist moved to approve the Outcomes for Strategic Priority B and change the first outcome to remove the bolding and underline of “facts”. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Motion carried, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Chair Sundquist moved to approve the Outcomes for Strategic Priority C. Commissioner Cohen seconded. Motion carried, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Alternative Education Program Engagement

Next Generation Zone Presentation

Dr. Trina Clayeux presented an introduction to Next Generation Zone, a Spokane-area re-engagement program.

Next Steps

The following next steps were identified:

1. Complete Open Commissioner Appointment
2. Public Disclosure Commission’s Annual F-1 Filing for 2018 by all Commissioners
3. SOAR/Green Dot Co-location Request
4. Strategic Plan Development
5. Review School Growth Data
6. Review School Financial Statement Audits
7. Process Update with re-banding of the Executive Director Salary
8. Racial Equity Professional Development and Policy Development
9. 2018 New Charter School Application Cycle

Meeting Adjournment

Chair Sundquist adjourned the meeting at 3:39 p.m.

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