

**STATE OF WASHINGTON
CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION**

Thursday, February 13, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Community School – Library
1300 W. Knox Ave
Spokane, WA 99205

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Dr. Doreen Cato, Trish Millines Dziko, Kevin Jacka, Chris Martin, Dr. Margit McGuire, Dave Quall, Steve Sundquist

Absent: Cindi Williams, Larry Wright

Staff: Joshua Halsey, Executive Director; Aileen Miller, ATG; and Colin Pippin-Timco, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call

Chair Steve Sundquist called the meeting to order at 10:03. Attendance was taken. The following commissioners were present: Dr. Doreen Cato, Trish Millines Dziko, Kevin Jacka, Chris Martin, Dr. Margit McGuire, Dave Quall, and Steve Sundquist. It was determined a quorum was present to proceed with the meeting.

Dr. Cindy McMahon, Principal of The Community School, proceeded with a presentation regarding the school's collaboration with Big Picture Learning, and a proposed collaboration with the New Tech Network of schools.

Approval of the January 28 and 30 Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes from the January 28, 2014 Special Telephone Meeting were reviewed and approved – Commissioner Cato moved, Commissioner Dziko seconded the approval.

Meeting minutes from the January 30, 2014 meeting were reviewed and approved with changes: page nine, third full paragraph, last sentence, language was removed “charter’s executive salaries, as well as” per Commissioner Dziko’s request – Commissioner McGuire moved, Commissioner Cato seconded the approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mitch Price, outreach and education coordinator for Washington Charter Association thanked the commission for their work this year on behalf of the Washington Charter Association.

Jeanette Vaughn, director of K12 options and innovations for Spokane Public Schools, thanked the commission for holding the current meeting in Spokane. Mrs. Vaughn expanded on the charter applicant process for Spokane public Schools, and expressed gratitude with the shared-learning with the commission.

CHAIR REPORT

Chair Sundquist reported that media interaction on the part of commissioners and staff during the application process had been commendable. Looking towards the future, Chair Sundquist commented

that staff had found rules that would need to be created, and there was as well a need to codify policy for oversight. Chair Sundquist informed the Commissioners that Randy Dorn, Superintendent of Public Instruction, is expected to attend the March 27, 2014 Commission meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Halsey formally welcomed Mr. Pippin-Timco to the Commission staff.

He updated the Commission on the various meetings he had had since the December 9, 2013 meeting, noting his work with ranking legislators from both chambers' Education Committees. Executive Director Halsey commented that during his meeting with Representative Dahlquist, Rep. Dahlquist had volunteered to write and sponsor House Bill 2583, adding the Chief Executive Officer of a charter school to the list of individuals who may file a complaint regarding unprofessional conduct of a certificated school employee. Executive Director Halsey noted that he had testified in support of the bill on January 29, 2014, and that on February 3, 2014 the bill was passed out of committee to Rules for second reading.

Executive Director Halsey informed the Commission that the next biennium is quickly approaching, and the Commission would benefit from identifying its legislative goals. Chair Sundquist supported establishing a legislative subcommittee for the Commission. Commissioners Dziko, Cato, Quall and Sundquist stated interest in serving on a legislative subcommittee.

Executive Director Halsey updated the Commission on the relationship he has developed with The Evergreen State College MPA program. He shared his optimism in having up to four interns engage with the Commission during the upcoming spring quarter.

Executive Director Halsey requested the Commission adopt a policy to empower the Executive Director to submit a Report of Action to the State Board of education and charter school applicants within ten days of the Commission passing approval/denial resolutions. Commissioner McGuire moved, Commissioner Cato seconded the approval. The Commission voted to approve.

Chair Sundquist made a motion to have Executive Director Halsey enumerate the specific empowerments of the Executive Director. Commissioner Dziko seconded the approval. Motion approved.

Executive Director Halsey updated the Commission on his professional development engagements. He has applied to the NACSA Leaders Program, and is awaiting his interview with the NACSA leaders team in early March, 2014.

SOAR ACADEMY RESOLUTION CONDITION 3 REVIEW

Commissioner Dziko led the Commission in a review of the revised SOAR Academy application. She noted that SOAR had met the Commission's request in:

1. Revising the organizational plan to devote more support to the school's CEO: The school has noted support from University of Washington Tacoma (UWT), as well as contracted clerical support;
2. The school's board increasing its membership of Tacoma citizens: SOAR had noted in its original application inroads with Tacoma residents as potential board members; and

3. A reduction in the school's administrative staff: SOAR reorganized the at-capacity structure to include two deans rather than three as well as a Chief Operating Officer (COO) to assist the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Commissioner Dziko as well noted that the cost per student was reasonable, and moved to indicate that SOAR had met Resolution Condition 3. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion; it was approved with two abstentions.

COMMISSIONER MARTIN RECOGNITION

The Commission thanked outgoing Commissioner Martin for his service. Chair Sundquist noted that Commissioner Martin had been a consistent voice for students, with a passion for highly capable students. As well, Commissioner Martin had not been shy about asking difficult questions, and pushing the Commission to deliberate in public.

The Commission broke for lunch at 12:45 p.m.

The Commission returned from lunch at 1:17 p.m.

DEBRIEFING INAUGURAL SOLICITATION PROCESS

Executive Director Halsey engaged the Commission in debriefing the inaugural solicitation process. He shared the staff's findings, and the Commission created a spreadsheet of their own to guide them through the upcoming solicitation process.

RULE MAKING

Public Records

Executive Director Halsey presented draft rules, and noted that the staff was ready to move forward with a CR102 to establish public records rules for the Commission. Commissioner Dziko moved to adopt the rules as written, Commissioner McGuire seconded the approval. The motion carried with three abstentions.

Oversight and Corrective Action

Executive Director Halsey presented draft rules, noting that the renewal process for schools begins in their fourth year. Mrs. Miller noted that there was a fair amount of due process in the renewal process to meet the requirements of the statute. Mrs. Miller suggested adding language at 108-80-010 to read 'Nothing in these rules prevent the commission to engage in contingency planning.' Chair Sundquist suggested changing any language reading 'Charter Management Organization' to read 'Educational Service Provider.' Commissioner Martin moved to adopt the rules as amended, Commissioner Dziko seconded the motion; it was approved with two abstentions.

Commissioner Cato departed at 3:00 p.m.

CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT UPDATES

Executive Director Halsey presented contract feedback received by applicants. All insertions and deletions indicated on the contract were accepted as written with the following exceptions:

1. Section 4.9.5: Additional information is required to ensure that compliance with the BECCA bill occurs;

2. Section 4.12.3: Questions arose around whether an annual audit is legally required, or whether this component could be a financial review. Further, there is a need to ensure the school is required to meet its legal obligations as a non-profit, and there was a need to determine whether the audit requirements of such an organization under current law are duplicative;

3. Section 4.14.2: Questions arose, as the IRS has not issued a ruling authorizing such a condition; and

4. Section 6.1.3: Revised to read, 'Should the School choose to terminate this Contract before the end of the Contract term, it must provide the Commission with notice of the decision immediately after it is made, but no later than ninety days before the closure of the school year. Notice shall be made in writing to the Commission. The School must comply with the Commission's termination protocol.

Commissioner McGuire moved to adopt the contract as amended, Commissioner Jacka seconded. The motion carried with two abstentions.

COMMISSIONER TRANSITIONS

A proposal of establishing a Communication Team to focus on the proactive education of the public regarding the Commission's actions was slated for a future meeting. Commissioner Williams was nominated to head this team. Chair Sundquist suggested that the onboarding process of a new commissioner should be headed by the Executive Committee, and commissioners agreed.

CALENDAR PLANNING

Executive Director Halsey discussed a proposal from NACSA for the Commission to engage in strategic planning. Mr. Halsey noted that the commission would need to make a long-term plan for its portfolio to inform the commission's staffing model, to establish a communications plan, as well as maintain a positive relationship with the legislature in the coming biennium. Commissioners Jacka, McGuire and Sundquist volunteered to serve on an ad-hoc committee to develop a scope of work and identify potential consultants to be engaged by the Commission to help facilitate its strategic planning.

Executive Director Halsey presented the solicitation dates for the upcoming charter school solicitation process.

NEXT STEPS

1. Establish a draft Commission communication plan by the March 27, 2014 meeting;

3. Find speaker for an upcoming meeting to speak to leadership and talent-management challenges of establishing a new charter.

The meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.