



## CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 18, 2017 | 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

STAR Center | Voyage Room  
3873 S 66<sup>th</sup> Street, Tacoma, WA 98409

---

### Attendance:

Betsy Cohen, Trish Millines Dziko, Jessica Garcia, Dan Grimm, Kaaren Heikes, Dr. Kristina Mayer, Dr. Margit McGuire, Dr. Gil Mendoza, Raymond Navarro, Steve Sundquist and Cindi Williams.

Leadership Team: Joshua Halsey, Executive Director; Paula Kitzke, Deputy Director; Dr. Cathy Fromme, New School Application Director; Nadja Michel-Herf, Director of School Quality and Accountability; 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 10:04 a.m. The following Commissioners were present: Betsy Cohen, Trish Millines Dziko, Jessica Garcia, Kaaren Heikes, Dr. Kristina Mayer, Dr. Margit McGuire, Dr. Gil Mendoza, and Steve Sundquist. Raymond Navarro was in attendance via telephone. It was determined that a quorum was present to proceed with the meeting. Commissioner Williams arrived at 10:46 a.m. Commissioner Grimm arrived at 11:32 a.m. Commissioner Navarro left the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

### Consideration of the November 16, 2017 Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes for the November 16, 2017 Commission Meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Millines Dziko moved to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner McGuire seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes; no abstentions.

### Public Comment

Ami Lara, former parent to a student at Green Dot: Destiny Middle School, provided public comment regarding her experience with the school and provided Commissioners a letter. She also voiced concern regarding SOAR Academy co-sharing a location with Destiny Middle School.

Melissa Westbrook of the Seattle Schools Community Forum Blog provided public comment regarding Green Dot Public School’s request for a building height departure from the Seattle Municipal Code. She voiced concern over the legality of Green Dot’s practices and methods surrounding this issue.

Wes Ala'ilima, former parent to a student at Green Dot: Destiny Middle School, provided public comment regarding his experience with the school and the new principal.

## Chair Report

Chair Sundquist provided updates regarding the Commissioner reappointment process. Commissioners Garcia, Mayer and McGuire's terms are set to expire in March. Letters have been submitted to each of their appointing bodies to request reappointment, with Commissioner McGuire successfully reappointed. Chair Sundquist continues to work with the other two for further confirmed reappointments.

Chair Sundquist provided updates surrounding the revised Executive Director Position Description. The next step will be to contact and work with the State Human Resources Division to increase the salary band of the Executive Director. Chair Sundquist moved to approve the exempt position letter. Commissioner Mendoza seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes; no abstentions.

## Executive Director Report

### General Updates

Executive Director Halsey provided updates surrounding Summit Olympus. The corrective action plan has been submitted and accepted. This is being monitored through the Quarterly School Reviews with updates as needed.

Executive Director Halsey provided updates surrounding Green Dot: Rainier Valley Leadership Academy's High School building and the requirement of a departure from Seattle Municipal Code to carry forward with the current building plans. Conversation surrounding this topic included the following:

- Possible Commission letter of support and public testimony in favor of the Seattle Municipal Code being changed and/or for there to be a development departure to Green Dot: Rainier Valley Leadership Academy's building;
- Commissioners wanted to hear more about the processes and actions of Green Dot to date regarding the matter;

A potential ask of the Seattle City Council that the Seattle Municipal Code be changed to include all public schools, not just Seattle Public Schools; Support would be for sector-wide policy change, not just Green Dot. Chair Sundquist moved to support an amendment of the Seattle Municipal Code provision concerning public school development standard departures to allow all operators of public schools to seek departures, including charter public schools. Commissioner Mendoza seconded. Motion carried, with two opposed; no abstentions.

Executive Director Halsey provided an update regarding the Performance Audit. In addition to a Performance Audit, charter schools are also subject to an Accountability Audit and Financial Statement Audit this year.

Executive Director Halsey provided updates surrounding the State Education Agency (SEA) Charter School Program (CSP) Grant. Impact Public Schools has been awarded a sub-grant.

.....

Executive Director Halsey provided updates on the Legislative Strategy for the short 2018 session. Commission staff will provide updates on bill tracking at future Commission meetings.

Communications Director Alyce McNeil, provided an update regarding the December Goodwill Tours. The tours are set to continue in February and March of 2018.

Executive Director Halsey provided a verbal report on the Commission staff's professional learning regarding racial equity in education.

### **Lawsuit Challenging Constitutionality of Charter Schools**

Assistant Attorney General Aileen Miller gave an overview on the status of the lawsuit.

Executive Director Halsey provided an update on the contingency plan for the Commission in the event of a negative ruling in the lawsuit.

## **Standing Committee Updates**

### **Charter School Authorization Committee**

Chair Mayer provided a brief overview of the Charter School Authorization Committee meeting on January 5, 2018. There is a desire to see more school applications that cover non-traditional models like Montessori and Waldorf, and the Committee is exploring whether there are barriers to Commission consideration of these models.

## **Communications Plan Review**

Communications Director Alyce McNeil, presented the draft Commission Communication Plan and Message Map for 2018-2021.

## **Open Public Meeting Act, Records Retention and Ethics in Public Service Overview**

Aileen Miller, Assistant Attorney General, provided an overview on the Open Public Meetings Act, Records Retention and Ethics in Public Service.

## **Principles of Service Discussion and Consideration**

Executive Director Halsey provided a brief overview of the evolution of the Principles of Service document. Chair Sundquist moved to adopt the Principles of Service as a policy of the Commission. Commissioner Cohen seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes; one abstention.

.....

## Strategic Planning

Craig Fleck of Demeter Matrix Alliance presented the draft Strategic Priorities that have emerged in the Strategic Planning process. The Commission supported the direction of the proposed Strategic Priorities, while recommending that more ambitious, outcome-oriented language be used to describe them. Commission staff will do some re-drafting, and the Strategic Planning Guide Team will meet in February to help shape the next steps in the work.

## Executive Director Performance Review

An Executive Session was begun at 3:42 p.m. pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, RCW 42.30.110(1) to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee.

### Open Session

At 4:21 p.m., Chair Sundquist resumed open session stating that no final action had been taken during the Executive Session.

## Next Steps

The following next steps were identified:

1. Executive Director 2018 Draft Goals
2. Commissioner Reappointment letters for Kristina Mayer and Jessica Garcia
3. Strategic Plan Development
4. Synchronize Strategic Plan and Communication Plan
5. Executive Director Salary Re-banding Compensation Action
6. Racial Equity Professional Development and policy development
7. 2018 New Charter School Application Cycle
8. Washington State Charter Schools Association Spring Conference Memo, February 2018

## Meeting Adjournment

Chair Sundquist adjourned the meeting at 4:32 pm.