

CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, January 23, 2021 | 10:02 a.m. to 11:53 a.m.

Zoom, Virtual Only

This meeting has been recorded in Zoom and can be accessed here.

Attendance:

Jessica Garcia, Dan Grimm, Chris Korsmo, Dr. Heather Lechner, Steve Litzow, Harium Martin-Morris, Dr. Margit McGuire, Gayle Pauley, and Christine Varela.

Leadership Team: Joshua Halsey, Executive Director; Krystal Starwich, Deputy Director; Leslie Hayden, Oversight Specialist; Kara Lowe, Oversight Specialist; Elizabeth McAmis, Assistant Attorney General; and Amanda Martinez, Executive Assistant.

Call To Order

Roll Call

Chair Lechner called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. The following Commissioners were present: Jessica Garcia, Dan Grimm, Chris Korsmo, Dr. Heather Lechner, Steve Litzow, Harium Martin-Morris, Dr. Margit McGuire, Gayle Pauley, and Christine Varela. It was determined that a quorum was present to proceed with the meeting.

Consent Agenda

The meeting minutes for the December 17, 2021 Commission meeting and standing committee updates were reviewed. Chair Lechner moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Litzow seconded. The motion passed, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

Resolution Process Overview

Chair Lechner reviewed the charter contract renewal resolution process.

Charter School Renewal Resolution: Rainier Prep

Executive Director Recommendation and Remarks

Executive Director Halsey provided a brief overview of Rainier Prep’s performance as outlined in the Recommendation Report published on December 14, 2020 and recommended that Rainier Prep’s charter contract be renewed for a second term.

Commission Questions for Operator

Commissioners engaged in discussion with the Rainier Prep team.

Commission Discussion and Resolution

Chair Lechner moved to adopt resolution 21-03A which approves the charter school renewal application of Rainier Prep. Commissioner Korsmo seconded. Commissioners voted as follows: Don Felder, absent; Jessica Garcia, aye; Dan Grimm, aye; Chris Korsmo, aye; Heather Lechner, aye; Steve Litzow, aye; Harium Martin-Morris, aye; Kristina Mayer, absent; Margit McGuire, aye; Gayle Pauley, aye; and Christine Varela, aye. The vote was 9-0. The motion passed.

Charter School Renewal Resolution: Spokane International Academy

Executive Director Recommendation and Remarks

Executive Director Halsey provided a brief overview of Spokane International Academy’s performance as outlined in the Recommendation Report published on December 14, 2020 and recommended that Spokane International Academy’s charter contract be renewed for a second term.

Commission Questions for Operator

Commissioners engaged in discussion with the Spokane International Academy team.

Commission Discussion and Resolution

Chair Lechner moved to adopt resolution 21-04A which approves the charter school renewal application of Spokane International Academy. Commissioner Litzow seconded. Commissioners voted as follows: Don Felder, absent; Jessica Garcia, aye; Dan Grimm, aye; Chris Korsmo, aye; Heather Lechner, aye; Steve Litzow, aye; Harium Martin-Morris, aye; Kristina Mayer, absent; Margit McGuire, aye; Gayle Pauley, aye; and Christine Varela, aye. The vote was 9-0. The motion passed.

Charter School Renewal Resolution: Summit Olympus

Executive Director Recommendation and Remarks

Executive Director Halsey provided a brief overview of Summit Olympus’ performance as outlined in the Recommendation Report published on December 14, 2020 and recommended that Summit Olympus’ charter contract be renewed for a second term.

Commission Questions for Operator

Commissioners engaged in discussion with the Summit Olympus team.

Commission Discussion and Resolution

Chair Lechner moved to adopt resolution 21-05A which approves the charter school renewal application of Summit Olympus. Commissioner Litzow seconded. Commissioners voted as follows: Don Felder, absent; Jessica Garcia, aye; Dan Grimm, aye; Chris Korsmo, aye; Heather Lechner, aye; Steve Litzow, aye; Harium Martin-Morris, aye; Kristina Mayer, absent; Margit McGuire, aye; Gayle Pauley, aye; and Christine Varela, aye. The vote was 9-0. The motion passed.

Charter School Renewal Resolution: Summit Sierra

Executive Director Recommendation and Remarks

Executive Director Halsey provided a brief overview of Summit Sierra's performance as outlined in the Recommendation Report published on December 14, 2020 and recommended that Summit Sierra's charter contract be renewed for a second term.

Commission Questions for Operator

Commissioners engaged in discussion with the Summit Sierra team.

Commission Discussion and Resolution

Commissioner Litzow moved to adopt resolution 21-06A which approves the charter school renewal application of Summit Sierra. Commissioner Korsmo seconded. Commissioners voted as follows: Don Felder, absent; Jessica Garcia, aye; Dan Grimm, aye; Chris Korsmo, aye; Heather Lechner, aye; Steve Litzow, aye; Harium Martin-Morris, aye; Kristina Mayer, absent; Margit McGuire, aye; Gayle Pauley, aye; and Christine Varela, aye. The vote was 9-0. The motion passed.

Chair Report

Educational Equity Policy Updates

Chair Lechner provided an overview on the Educational Equity Policy updates. Nicole Franklin of Enhanced Interactions will be conducting interviews with Commissioners.

Executive Director Report

General Updates

Executive Director Halsey provided COVID-19 updates. Commission staff continue to work with the currently operating and planning year schools to provide guidance and be a resource during this time. Schools are looking at being

Executive Director Halsey provided an update on the complaint policy and process. The draft policy will be on the standing committee agendas and will be brought back to the February Commission meeting for adoption.

Executive Director Halsey, Commissioners and staff recognized Commissioner Gayle Pauley's service to the Commission and the state of Washington.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was needed.

Next Steps

Chair Lechner identified the following next steps:

1. Spokane International Academy Expansion Request
2. Transitional Kindergarten Application
3. Financial Performance Framework Updates
4. Commissioner Equity Trainings
5. Strategic Plan Update – Equity Policy Implementation
6. Complaint Process/Policy and Investigation Motion
7. Charter Contract

Meeting Adjournment

Chair Lechner adjourned the meeting at 11:53 a.m.