



CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 15, 2018 | 10:00 a.m. to 4:10 p.m.

Technology Access Foundation Academy (Multipurpose Room)

605 SW 108th Street, Seattle, WA 98146

Attendance:

Trish Millines Dziko, Jessica Garcia, Kaaren Heikes, Dr. Margit McGuire, 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; Nadja Michel-Herf, Director of School Quality and Accountability; Alyce McNeil, Communications Director; Aileen Miller, Assistant Attorney General; and Amanda Martinez, Executive Assistant.

Call To Order

Roll Call

Chair Sundquist called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. The following Commissioners were present: Trish Millines Dziko, Jessica Garcia, Kaaren Heikes, Dr. Margit McGuire, Dr. Gil Mendoza, Steve Sundquist and Cindi Williams. It was determined that a quorum was present to proceed with the meeting.

Consideration of the January 18, 2018 Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes for the January 18, 2018 Commission Meeting were reviewed. Commissioner McGuire moved to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Williams seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

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 Commissioners McGuire and Garcia successfully reappointed. Chair Sundquist continues to work with to confirm Commissioner Mayer's reappointment. Commissioner Navarro has resigned effective immediately due to a job change that reduced his flexibility and time for service. Chair Sundquist will oversee his reappointment process with the Governor's Office.

Chair Sundquist provided updates surrounding the reclassification of the Executive Director's salary. Due to budgetary constraints, the reclassification for the Executive Director position has not yet been submitted to Washington state human resources. The next step will be to contact and work with the State Human Resources Division to increase the salary band of the Executive Director.

Executive Director Report

General Updates

Nadja Michel-Herf has submitted her resignation with the Commission and her last day will be March 9, 2018.

Executive Director Halsey provided updates surrounding Green Dot: Rainier Valley Leadership Academy's High School building. Green Dot has changed their building plans and will no longer require a departure from the Seattle Municipal Code.

Executive Director Halsey provided a memo that outlines the process staff uses when receiving complaints such as those that arose at the public testimony from January's Commission Meeting. Executive Director Halsey will report updates to the Commission regarding the parent testimony surrounding Green Dot: Destiny Middle School at the next Commission meeting.

Executive Director Halsey provided an update regarding SOAR Academy. SOAR is at full capacity in their current facility and cannot grow to their full grade continuum of a K-8 elementary school. One option SOAR has considered is co-locating with Destiny Middle School to occupy the bottom floor. Commission staff will continue to research and provide a full update at the March 2018 Commission Meeting.

Executive Director Halsey provided updates surrounding the State Education Agency (SEA) Charter School Program (CSP) Grant. All eligible schools have been awarded grants. All of the recipients of the CSP Grant are having monitoring site visits in March 2018.

Executive Director Halsey provided updates on the Legislative Strategy for the 2018 Session. Commission staff are following bills on basic education funding closely. The supplemental budget requested by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) on behalf of the Commission has been reflected in the Governor's budget. An update will be provided after session ends on March 8.

Communications Director Alyce McNeil provided an update on the upcoming Goodwill Tours. Some of the dates and times have changed, with a third date added. A follow-up email will be sent to Commissioners to confirm attendance and interest in the remaining tours.

Executive Director Halsey provided a draft of the 2018 Executive Director Goals. Executive Director Halsey will facilitate a further discussion at the March Commission Meeting. Conversation surrounding the 2018 Executive Director Goals included:

- Adding a goal about implementing the strategic plan
- Adding thoughtful outcomes regarding educational equity

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- Exploration around barriers and what the Commission’s role is in this
- School leadership and board leadership of these schools reflecting the students they serve

Lawsuit Challenging Constitutionality of Charter Schools

Assistant Attorney General Aileen Miller gave an overview on the status of the lawsuit. No additional updates, there is no date yet for the oral arguments.

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 Performance Committee

Executive Director Halsey provided a brief overview of the Charter School Performance Committee meeting on February 7, 2018. Updates for the Academic Performance Framework with Washington State’s new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) will be addressed at the March Commission Meeting.

Finance Committee

Chair Mendoza provided a brief overview of the Finance Committee meeting on February 9, 2018. School quarterly financial data is available. Charter school financial statement audit reports are due to the Commission by February 28. Commission staff will be closely monitoring enrollment numbers, as all of the schools are currently under-enrolled and this directly affect apportionment payments.

Charter School Performance Updates

Quarterly School Reviews

Academic Performance Framework Updates

Director of School Quality and Assurance Nadja Michel-Herf presented the updates of the approved Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the correlation with the Commission’s Academic Performance Framework (APF). OSPI has developed a weighting system for each measure and is the best guide for use in the APF. These APF changes will be presented in further detail at the March Commission meeting.

Strategic Planning

Craig Fleck of Demeter Matrix Alliance presented the draft Strategic Priorities that have emerged in the Strategic Planning process. Commissioners supported the stronger language of the Strategic Priorities presented. Commission staff and the Guide Team will continue the work and present the next draft at the March Commission meeting.

Commission Budget Updates

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Executive Director Halsey provided updates regarding the Commission’s budget. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has submitted a supplemental budget request on the Commission’s behalf to shift the spending authority in the Oversight and Opportunity Pathways Account. The Strategic Plan would be affected by the contingency budget, if passed, and we would have to redirect some of strategies to be more internally focused. Charter school renewal decisions will not be based on the Commission’s agency budget status.

Executive Session

An Executive Session was begun at 2:15 p.m. pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, RCW 42.30.110(1) to review the performance of a public employee.

Open Session

At 2:35 p.m., Chair Sundquist resumed the 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

Meeting Adjournment

Chair Sundquist adjourned the meeting at 2:39 p.m.

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