



CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 28, 2019 | 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Clover Park Technical College (Rotunda), 4500 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood, WA 98499

Attendance:

Elizabeth (Betsy) Cohen, Jessica Garcia, Dan Grimm, Kaaren Heikes, Heather Lechner, Dr. Kristina Mayer, Dr. Margit McGuire, Gayle Pauley, and Cindi Williams.

Leadership Team: Joshua Halsey, Executive Director; Paula Kitzke, Deputy Director; Krystal Starwich, New School Application Director; Daniel Nyachuba, School Evaluation Analyst; Aileen Miller, Assistant Attorney General and Amanda Martinez, Executive Assistant.

Call To Order

Roll Call

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. The following Commissioners were present: Betsy Cohen, Jessica Garcia, Dan Grimm, Kaaren Heikes, Heather Lechner, Dr. Kristina Mayer, Dr. Margit McGuire and Cindi Williams. It was determined that a quorum was present to proceed with the meeting. Commissioner Pauley joined at 11:07 a.m.

Consideration of Consent Agenda

The meeting minutes for the January 17, 2019 Commission meeting and standing committee updates were reviewed. Commissioner McGuire moved to approve the consent agenda while removing the Performance Committee updates. Commissioner Mayer seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no opposes; no abstentions.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

Chair Report

Conflict of Interest Policy Review

Chair Williams provided a brief review of Conflict of Interest Policy in relation to the New Charter School Application. Discussion and a more thorough overview will be discussed prior to the Commission's resolution meeting. Chair Williams reminded Commissioners that Commissioner Garcia has recused herself from discussion and decision-making regarding Green Dot Public Schools Washington State.

Commissioner Appointment Updates

Chair Williams provided an update on the final open Commissioner position and will continue to work with the appropriate policy-makers to support the appointment process.

Recognizing Commissioner Gil Mendoza

Chair Williams and the Commission recognized past Commissioner Gil Mendoza for his service.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Halsey provided a reminder of the Public Forum dates for the 2019 New Charter School Application set for April 29 – April 26, 2019 and April 29 – May 3 if needed.

Executive Director Halsey provided a reminder of the Washington State Charter Schools Association (Wa Charters) conference set for May 3- May 4, 2019 in SeaTac.

Executive Director Halsey provided an update on the Educational Equity Policy and the slated stakeholder engagement. Stakeholder engagement will be reported at the March meeting.

Executive Director Halsey provided an update regarding the new co-funded position with Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) within apportionment and finance. Interviews will be held in March, with an anticipated start date in May.

Executive Director Halsey provided an update of staffing changes. The Communications Director role will not be filled at this time.

Executive Director Halsey briefed the Commission on the February 20 Legislative Day. Commissioners Cohen, Garcia, Heikes and Sundquist met with legislators and legislative staff to build and continue to strengthen relationships and share information on charter schools. The legislative ad-hoc committee, along with staff will continue to track legislation directly related to the adopted legislative priorities.

Executive Director Halsey provided an update on the SOAR Academy closure plan, processes and procedures to support family's in this transition. Regular communication and transition team meetings will continue to take place, with updates provided at monthly Commission meetings.

Executive Director Halsey provided an overview of the Active Ingredients Project with The State University of New York's (SUNY) Charter School Institute. Executive Director Halsey will continue to engage with coaches and staff at SUNY, along with invitations to three Commission authorized schools.

Charter School Performance Update

Academic Growth Data Overview

Deputy Director Kitzke provided an overview on the preliminary 2017-18 Academic Growth data. The growth data is a key indicator regarding charter school accountability because it best depicts a charter schools' impact on student learning. Discussion included the following:

- Further look at Rainier Prep's successes
- Mission Specific Goals rigor and national standards/norms
- Attendance
- Trajectory for renewal standards

- Intervention protocol

Proposed Geographic Comparison Method: Assigned School Comparison

Deputy Director Kitzke provided an overview of the proposed changes to the Academic Performance Framework methodology. The proposed changes move the comparison of charter performance from that of the traditional school district a charter resides within to an assigned school comparison. The assigned school comparison. This change allows for a charter schools performance to be compared to the performance of all public schools that students that attend the charter school would otherwise attend. This change will allow the Commission and its charter schools to better answer the question, is the charter school performance the same, better or worse when compared to schools charter school students would otherwise attend?

CREDO Study Deep Dive

Macke Raymond, Director and Sofoklis Goulas, Senior Research Analyst, from the Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO) at Stanford University presented a deep dive of their report on Charter School Performance in the State of Washington. Takeaways from this presentation are that:

- The data analyzed spanned the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school-years
- Math indicators are higher than reading, typically opposite of what is seen elsewhere
- The high performing schools in Washington is comparable to those high performing charter schools in the country
- Early signals at the school level is highly predictive of the performance of the school moving forward

Executive Session

An Executive Session was begun at 3:00 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 3:49 p.m., Chair Williams resumed open session stating that no final action had been taken during the Executive Session.

Next Steps

Chair Williams identified the following next steps:

1. Conflict of Interest Discussion
2. Follow up on open Commissioner Appointment
3. Continue developing a Commissioner pipeline
4. Wa Charters Conference in May
5. Racial Equity Policy Development at April Meeting
6. Co-funded OSPI Apportionment position
7. Annual F-1 Financial Disclosure Statement due April 15
8. Goodwill Tour at Willow on April 9, 2019
9. Tracking legislation
10. Leverage Rainier Prep best practices
11. SOAR Academy Updates and Reflection

12. Active Ingredients Project Updates
13. Performance Framework Updates at the April meeting
14. Commissioner Survey Results and Next Steps at the Executive Committee

Meeting Adjournment

Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.