



CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 15, 2018 | 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

South Seattle College | Georgetown Campus (Colin Educational Hall, C122)
6737 Corson Avenue S, Seattle, Washington 98108

Attendance:

Betsy Cohen, Trish Millines Dziko, Jessica Garcia, Dan Grimm, Kaaren Heikes, Dr. Kristina Mayer, Dr. Gil Mendoza and Steve Sundquist.

Leadership Team: Joshua Halsey, Executive Director; Paula Kitzke, Deputy Director; Dr. Cathy Fromme, New School Application 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 10:06 a.m. The following Commissioners were present: Betsy Cohen, Trish Millines Dziko, Jessica Garcia, Dan Grimm, Kaaren Heikes, Dr. Kristina Mayer, Dr. Gil Mendoza and Steve Sundquist. It was determined that a quorum was present to proceed with the meeting. Commissioner Dziko left the meeting for a few minutes at 12:50 p.m.

Consideration of the February 15, 2018 Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes for the February 15, 2018 Commission Meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Sundquist moved to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Dziko seconded. Motion carried, with no oppos; Commissioners Cohen and Mayer abstained.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

Chair Report

Chair Sundquist provided an update surrounding the open Commissioner spot as well as the reappointment process. Commissioners Garcia, Mayer and McGuire have all been successfully reappointed.

Executive Director Report

General Updates

Executive Director Halsey provided a memo regarding the Washington State Charter Schools Association spring conference and the risks associated with Commissioners attending the conference.

Executive Director Halsey provided a memo with updates surrounding former Green Dot: Destiny Middle School's parents' testimony. The investigation has been closed and the Commission found that Green Dot Destiny Middle School has addressed all concerns that were raised.

Executive Director Halsey provided updates surrounding SOAR Academy's request to co-locate with Green Dot: Destiny Middle School. SOAR Academy has a March 20, 2018 deadline to address questions and provide further detail to the Commission. Executive Director Halsey expects to update the Commission regarding his decision in April 2018.

Krystal Starwich, Charter School Program Grant Coordinator, provided updates surrounding the State Education Agency (SEA) Charter School Program (CSP) Grant. The CSP received their monitoring visit in early March and the monitoring team spent time conducting interviews at Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and three sub-grantee schools.

Executive Director Halsey provided an overview of the legislative strategies for the 2018 legislative session and reported that there were successful outcomes for many of these strategies and goals.

Executive Director Halsey gave a brief summary of the Goodwill Tours to date and a reminder of the last Goodwill Tour to be held on Friday, March 16. Communications Director Alyce McNeil will provide a summary of all of the feedback at the April Commission Meeting.

Executive Director's Yearly Performance Goals Consideration

Executive Director Halsey provided the Commissioners the final draft of the Executive Director's Annual Performance Goals. Commissioner Sundquist moved to approve the Executive Director's 2018 Performance Goals. Commissioner Dziko seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Lawsuit Challenging Constitutionality of Charter Schools

Assistant Attorney General Aileen Miller gave an overview on the status of the lawsuit. The Washington State Supreme Court has accepted direct review of the appeal for this matter and oral argument is scheduled for May 17, 2018.

Educational Equity Survey

Executive Director Halsey presented a brief introduction to the equity work that staff have been engaged in and his plans for moving this work forward with the Commissioners. To aid our consultant in developing material, the Commissioners were asked to complete a survey regarding their experience with Educational Equity.

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Standing Committee Updates

Charter School Authorization Committee

Chair Mayer provided a brief overview of the Charter School Authorization Committee meeting on March 13, 2018. The committee continues to explore and research non-traditional models, including the barriers to these models, and will bring forward educational opportunities at future meetings utilizing guest speakers and subject matter experts.

Finance Committee

Chair Mendoza provided a brief overview of the Finance Committee meeting on March 8, 2018. All of our operating schools have completed their audits with no findings.

Charter School Performance Updates

Academic Performance Framework Updates

Deputy Director Kitzke gave an overview on the upcoming Academic Performance Data release for the 2016-17 school year. The next steps and updates will be presented at the April Commission meeting.

Financial Statement Audit Updates

Deputy Director Kitzke provided an update on the Financial Statement Audits conducted for the 2016-17 school year. Initial findings show that each of the six charter schools in operation were issued auditor reports that identified no material weaknesses, reported no deficiencies, and noted no areas of noncompliance that was material to their financial statements. Further data and reports will be presented at the April Commission meeting.

Strategic Planning

Craig Fleck of Demeter Matrix Alliance presented the draft Strategic Outcomes and Strategies for the Strategic Plan. The Commission supported the direction of the proposed strategic outcomes and strategies, while recommending that there be a more concise understanding of what the definitions are for strategic outcomes and strategies. The next Strategic Planning Guide Team meeting will include Commissioners Mayer and Heikes to broaden input.

Updated Commission Budget Consideration

Updated Commission Biennial Budget

Executive Director Halsey provided an updated biennium budget which reflects the approved supplemental budget request. Chair Sundquist moved to adopt the budget as submitted. Commissioner Mendoza seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Commissioner Sundquist moved that the Executive Director is to seek Commissioner approval to access the identified reserves. Commissioner Cohen seconded. Motion carried, with Commissioner Grimm opposing; no abstentions.

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Executive Director Compensation Consideration

Chair Sundquist provided an update on Executive Director Halsey's compensation. The Commission will submit to State Human Resources a request to move the Executive Director's position to salary band 5, which if approved would make the salary range of the Commission's Executive Director comparable to the Executive Director's salary for both the State Board of Education's (SBE) and Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB).

Commissioner Sundquist moved to propose an annual salary for the Executive Director of the Commission of \$137,500 effective April 1, 2018. Commissioner Dziko seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Next Steps

The following next steps were identified:

1. Open Commissioner Appointment
2. SOAR/Green Dot Co-location Request
3. Strategic Plan Development
4. Goodwill Tour Survey results, April 2018
5. Academic Performance Framework Update Consideration
6. Review School Growth Data
7. Review School Financial Statement Audits
8. Process Update with re-banding of the Executive Director Salary
9. Racial Equity Professional Development and Policy development
10. 2018 New Charter School Application Cycle
11. Authorization Committee Presentation

Meeting Adjournment

Chair Sundquist adjourned the meeting at 2:28 pm.

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