



## CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

**Thursday, March 21, 2019 | 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.**

Impact | Puget Sound Elementary, 3438 S 148th St, Tukwila, WA 98168

**Thursday, March 21, 2019 | 10:00 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.**

Technology Access Foundation: 605 SW 108th Street, Seattle, WA 98146

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### **Attendance:**

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

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

### **Charter School Tour of Impact | Puget Sound Elementary**

Charter School Tour of Impact | Puget Sound Elementary started at 8:32 a.m. and ended at 9:33 a.m.

The following Commissioners were present at the tour: Betsy Cohen, Heather Lechner, Kristina Mayer and Steve Sundquist. There was not a quorum present and no action was taken during the tour.

### **Call To Order**

#### **Roll Call**

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. The following Commissioners were present: Betsy Cohen, Jessica Garcia, Heather Lechner, Dr. Kristina Mayer, Gayle Pauley, Steve Sundquist and Cindi Williams. Commissioner Grimm arrived at 10:35 a.m. It was determined that a quorum was present to proceed with the meeting.

### **Consideration of Consent Agenda**

The meeting minutes for the February 28, 2019 Commission meeting and standing committee updates were reviewed. Commissioner Mayer moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Pauley seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no opposes; no abstentions.

### **Debrief of School Tour: Impact | Puget Sound Elementary**

Commissioners Cohen, Lechner, Mayer and Sundquist provided an overview of the tour at Impact | Puget Sound Elementary. Observations from the tour included:

- Strong teaching and instructional practice

- Competitive teacher salaries and waiting list for teacher positions, clearly serious in developing teacher talent
- Parent engagement in community and ambassador
- Students were actively engaged

## 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 Commissioner Sundquist will continue to work with the appropriate policy-makers to support the appointment process.

### Commission Self-Survey Next Steps

Chair Williams provided an update on the Commissioner survey results and activity at February Commission meeting. Two priorities she highlighted as first in the queue to address were:

- Formalizing a process for the evaluation, hiring and succession planning as it relates to the position of Executive Director
- Responding to the request for additional learning opportunities for Commissioners and staff

Commissioner Mayer will also work with the Executive Committee and Executive Director Halsey to address issues surfaced as they relate to:

- Leveraging skills and knowledge of Commissioners
- Managing and tracking decisions of the Commission
- Branding and Communications

## 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 briefed the Commission on the progress of 2019 Legislative Priorities. The priorities for Charter School Act Improvements, Charter School Facility Support and Washington State Charter School Commission Agency Administration need a mechanism for movement during the 2019 legislative session. Jennifer Ziegler, Legislative Consultant, continued to support the Ad-hoc Committee

and staff with updates around the Special Education priority. The Ad-hoc Committee has continued to meet and provide guidance to Executive Director Halsey regarding these priorities.

Executive Director Halsey briefed Commissioners on the Ashé Preparatory Academy's requested charter contract amendment of Attachment 4: Educational Program Terms to increase their grades served on opening from K,1,2 and 6 to K, 1, 2, 3 and 6.

Commissioner Cohen moves to approve the Amendment to Ashé Preparatory Academy's charter contract. Commissioner Lechner seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no opposes; no abstentions.

Executive Director Halsey provided an overview of the monthly Commission meeting topics calendar.

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 update on the Educational Equity Policy and the stakeholder engagement to date. There have been a number of stakeholder's engagements with many groups with tangible feedback to move the policy forward, including:

- Changing the deficit-based language
- Sense of urgency
- Including the Commission's heart into the policy

Executive Director Halsey presented at the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC) meeting to solicit feedback on the draft policy. There was misinformation about charters perceived by the EOGOAC, which Executive Director Halsey tried to clear in an honorable and respectful manner.

EOGOAC member and previous charter school applicant, Dr. Wanda Billingsly provided thorough feedback on the process after applying through the New Charter School Application. Commission staff listened to the feedback and updated the New School Application process in alignment with the feedback as follows:

- Clarified expectations and reviewing for bias and equity in the New Charter School Application
- Updated evaluator cadre and request for qualifications by re-emphasizing equity work and need for a diverse evaluator cadre
- Instituted Charter Starter (Charter 101) and Prospectus process as another method for interested parties to receive immediate feedback in support of an eventual New Charter School Application
- Engaged in Diversity, Inclusion and Equity training for both staff and Commissioner facilitated by Melia LaCour of Becoming Justice
- Initiated conversations with Community Based Organizations and Educational Service Districts to diversity the charter school incubation field

Executive Director Halsey provided a draft of the Executive Director's Annual Performance Goals. Commissioners provided feedback for Executive Director Halsey to incorporate and bring for consideration at the April meeting.

## New School Application Updates and Process Overview

### Process Overview

Director of New School Applications, Krystal Starwich provided an update on the 2019 New Charter School Application process. Four applications have passed Completeness Review and will be moving onto the formal evaluation.

### Public Forum Dates and Design Overview

Ms. Starwich provided an overview of the dates and design of the public forums. Four public forums will be held, details are as follows:

Applicant	Date	Tentative Location
Whatcom Intergenerational High School	April 23, 2019	Bellingham
Cascade Public Schools	April 25, 2019	Des Moines
Catalyst Public Schools	April 30, 2019	Bremerton
Impact   Salish Sea Elementary	May 2, 2019	Seattle

### 2020 New School Application Proposed Changes Overview

Ms. Starwich provided a draft of the 2020 New Charter School Application and briefed the Commission of the proposed changes. The Authorization Committee will continue to refine this application to bring back to the Commission for consideration at the August meeting.

## Open Government Training

### Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act

Assistant Attorney General, Aileen Miller, provided a refresher on both the Open Public Meetings Act and the Public Records Act.

## Charter School Performance Update

### Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) and STAR Assessment Target Setting Overview

Deputy Director Kitzke provided an overview on the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) and STAR Assessment target setting as they relate to the schools' self-set Mission Specific Goals.

### Charter School Expansion and Replication Overview, Discussion and Next Steps

Executive Director Halsey provided an overview of the charter school expansion and replication discussion at the Performance Committee, including research conducted by staff on the subject. The Performance Committee will review and refine drafts of the policy, guidance, applications, rubric and eligibility criteria for a consideration in August by the Commission.

## Executive Session

No Executive Session was needed.

## Next Steps

Chair Williams identified the following next steps:

1. Conflict of Interest Discussion at May Resolution Meeting
2. Update Commissioner appointment spreadsheet
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. Legislation and legislative priorities tracking
9. Legislative lessons learned after session concludes
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
15. Executive Director Annual Goals
16. Charter School Replication and Expansion Application Development

## Meeting Adjournment

Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 3:43 p.m.