

CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 26, 2020 | 10:06 a.m. to 1:03 p.m.

Zoom, Virtual Only

Attendance:

Betsy Cohen, Dr. Donald Felder, Jessica Garcia, Dan Grimm, Heather Lechner, Harium Martin-Morris, Dr. Kristina Mayer, Dr. Margit McGuire, Gayle Pauley, Steve Sundquist, and Cindi Williams.

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 Williams called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. The following Commissioners were present: Betsy Cohen, Jessica Garcia, Dan Grimm, Donald Felder, Heather Lechner, Harium Martin-Morris, Kristina Mayer, Margit McGuire, Gayle Pauley, Steve Sundquist and Cindi Williams. It was determined that a quorum was present to proceed with the meeting. Commissioner Gayle Pauley left the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Consent Agenda

The meeting minutes for the January 23, 2020 Commission meeting and standing committee updates were reviewed. Chair Williams moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Sundquist seconded. The motion passed, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Chair Report

Commissioner Appointment Updates

Chair Williams provided an update on Commissioner appointments. Chair Williams and Commissioner Sundquist will not seek reappointment for their terms, ending in March.

Dr. Donald Felder has been appointed and joined for his first Commission Meeting. Chair Williams introduced Dr. Felder. Dr. Felder will have a one year recusal for anything related to Rainier Valley Leadership Academy, ending March 26, 2021.

Chair Williams also provided updates on the empty Commissioner seats. These seats are anticipated to be filled soon by the Governor and Senator Andy Billig.

Commissioner Officer Elections

Chair Williams provided an overview of the office elections. The new officers will take effect immediately, as Chair Williams will no longer be serving on the Commission.

Chair Williams moved to nominate Commissioner Mayer as Commission Chair and Commissioner Cohen as Commission vice Chair. Commissioner Sundquist seconded. The motion passed, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Chair Williams moved to nominate Commissioner Lechner as Member at Large. Commissioner Cohen seconded. The motion passed, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Executive Director Evaluation Process Overview

Chair Williams provided an overview of the Executive Director Evaluation process. The Executive Committee has hosted conversations and will be providing Executive Director Halsey feedback on performance in the afternoon discussion.

Executive Director Report

General Updates

Executive Director Halsey provided COVID-19 updates. Commission continues to work with the currently operating and planning year schools to provide guidance and be a resource during this time. Executive Director Halsey is in direct contact with Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and Superintendent Rekydal to receive updates in real time. Continuous learning, stimulus package and funding updates will continue to be provided.

Executive Director Halsey provided an overview of the Active Ingredients and A-Game projects that Commission staff have been participants. Thorough overviews of both projects will be conducted at the April Commission meeting.

Executive Director Halsey provided an update on the Summit Public Schools Washington Special Education Enforcement Action. Based upon an outside investigation and Summit's response to the Notice of Perceived Problems, corrective action was issued on February 28, 2020 for being out of compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Summit will provide a response and plan to remedy and prevent future violations. Executive Director Halsey will provide further details at the April Commission meeting.

Executive Director Halsey provided a reminder to Commissioners to submit their F1 Financial Disclosures with the Public Disclosure Commission by the April 15 due date.

New School Application Updates and Consideration

Commissioner Mayer provided an overview of the process and changes to the New Charter School Application through the work of the Authorization Committee. Deputy Director Starwich provided an update on the dual New Charter School Application cycle this year. The fall New Charter School Application will be released in April and concluding at the December Commission Resolution meeting.

Chair Williams moved to adopt the New School Application and Application for the 2022-23 school year as presented and delegate authority to the Executive Director to make non-material, administrative edits prior to its public release. Commissioner Cohen seconded. The motion passes unanimously, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Impact | Salish Sea Elementary Temporary Location Change Consideration

Executive Director Halsey provided an overview of Impact | Salish Sea Elementary's (SSE) facility. SSE's original application was for the school to be located in the South Settle and Renton area, but they have not been successful in locating a viable facility for their first year of operation. SSE has requested that the Commission amend Attachment 4 of the contract to be located for the 2020-2021 school year in Tukwila, at Impact | Puget Sound Elementary's facility. Impact has reported they have received 554 applications for the 228 seats available across both schools, and that community meetings revealed support for the schools to be co-located for one year.

Chair Williams moved to approve Impact Public Schools | Salish Sea Elementary petition to temporarily locate its school in Tukwila for the 2020-21 school year. Commissioner Mayer seconded. The motion passed, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Legislative Update

Commissioner Garcia provided a brief 2020 legislative session update. House Bill 2853, technical fix bill, was passed in the House, Senate and signed by the Governor. This bill clarified the Commission's ability to hire and compensate an Executive Director and staff, moved deadlines of authorizer reports to the State Board of Education and the legislature to March to include more thorough growth and achievement data, and provide the same authorities granted to the Commission to all other charter school authorizers in the state.

Commissioner Garcia gave a brief overview of legislative priorities for 2021. Legislative priorities will be presented at the April Commission meeting.

Recognizing Commissioners Cindi Williams and Steve Sundquist

Executive Director Halsey recognized Commissioners Williams and Sundquist for their dedication and service as original-appointed Commissioners. Commissioners and staff thanked Commissioners Williams and Sundquist at their last monthly Commission Meeting.

Executive Session

An Executive Session was begun at 11:59 a.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. However, subject to RCW 42.30.140(4), discussion by a governing body of salaries, wages, and other conditions of employment to be generally applied within the agency shall occur in a meeting open to the public, and when a governing body elects to take final action hiring, setting the salary of an individual employee or class of employees, or discharging or disciplining an employee, that action shall be taken in a meeting open to the public.

Open Session

At 12:59 a.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. 2021 Legislative Priorities
2. Communications Update
3. Closure Updates and Reflections/ Lessons Learned
 - a. SOAR Academy
 - b. Green Dot Destiny
 - c. Green Dot Excel
 - d. Ashé Preparatory Academy
4. Strategic Plan Update – Equity Policy Implementation
5. Charter Contract Renewal and Non-Renewal
6. SQSS Data Results
7. Oversight Audit Results and Recommendations
8. New School Application Process

Meeting Adjournment

Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 1:03 p.m.