



CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 23, 2020 | 10:04 a.m. to 1:38 p.m.

Zoom, Virtual Only

Attendance:

Betsy Cohen, Dr. Donald Felder, Jessica Garcia, Heather Lechner, Harium Martin-Morris, Dr. Kristina Mayer, Dr. Margit McGuire, Gayle Pauley, and Christine Varela.

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 Mayer called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. The following Commissioners were present: Betsy Cohen, Jessica Garcia, Donald Felder, Heather Lechner, Harium Martin-Morris, Kristina Mayer, Margit McGuire, Gayle Pauley, and Christine Varela. It was determined that a quorum was present to proceed with the meeting. p.m.

Consent Agenda

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

Public Comment

Abigail Tabason, parent at Impact Public Schools, provided public testimony in favor of Impact | Salish Sea Elementary to provide a Transitional Kindergarten program. Ms. Tabason expressed the benefit for children in the Tukwila, SeaTac and South Seattle community.

Fartun Mohamed, an advocate and community organizer in Seattle, provided public testimony on the importance of access for children to succeed, for a quality education and for charter schools and specifically Impact Public Schools.

Yadira Diaz Lemus, parent at Impact Public Schools, provided public testimony in support for Impact | Salish Sea Elementary to provide a Transitional Kindergarten program. Ms. Diaz Lemus urges the schools

to provide free Transitional Kindergarten programs like the surrounding districts are doing and thanked the Commission for approving the school.

Chair Report

Commissioner Appointment Updates

Chair Mayer provided an update on Commissioner appointments. Commissioners Williams and Sundquist have completed their service on the Commission. Commissioner Grimm has been reappointed and will continue to serve.

Christine Varela has been appointed and joined for her first Commission Meeting. Chair Mayer introduced Commissioner Varela to the Commission.

Chair Mayer also provided updates on the empty Commissioner seats. Chris Korsmo has completed the paperwork and will be appointed for the May Commission meeting.

Standing Committee Assignment Consideration

Chair Mayer provided an overview of updated standing committee assignments with new Commissioners joining. Commissioner McGuire moves to adopt the standing committee assignments. Commissioner Cohen seconded. The motion passed, with no opposes; no abstentions.

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. Executive Director Halsey expressed his pride for the schools on their ability to quickly change their educational models to a blended approach and continue learning for the students.

Executive Director Halsey provided an update on the four planning year schools. The Oversight Team has been conducting monthly meetings and onboarding learning sessions for these schools. They are all on track to open on time at this point.

Deputy Director Starwich provided an update on the New Charter School Application process. The spring cycle will begin capacity interview and public forums in the upcoming month. Commissioners are encouraged to attend the virtual evening public forums. The fall New Charter School Application has been released on April 1, 2020 and will conclude at our December 2020 Commission meeting.

Executive Director Halsey provided an overview of Transitional Kindergarten (TK). Impact | Salish Sea Elementary has expressed a desire to implement a TK program next fall. Given the newness of TK, Commission and staff will continue to deepen their understanding of the legal basis by which OSPI is allowing TK to exist under the Basic Education definition, what TK is and how to oversee TK programs. Executive Director Halsey also provided background on TK, along with the five pillars that describe required elements of TK as outlined by OSPI. Executive Director Halsey will provide further details for a consideration of TK programs in charter public schools at the May 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 May Commission meeting.

Executive Director Halsey provided an update on the commissioned Oversight Audit report which was to ascertain the extent to which Commission charter school oversight processes are scalable and robust enough to support schools to course correct. Further work on these recommendations will be done at the standing committee level.

Charter School Performance Update

Lyria Boast of Public Impact provided an overview of the 2018-19 Academic Performance Framework Reports and performance.

Executive Director Halsey provided an overview of the 2017-18 Organizational Performance Framework Reports and performance.

Charter Contract Renewal Updates and Discussion

Executive Director Halsey provided an update on the four authorized charter schools who are eligible for renewal; Rainier Prep, Summit: Olympus, Summit: Sierra and Spokane International Academy. Commission staff have been in collaboration with Washington State Charter Schools Association (Wa Charters), Spokane Public Schools and have contracted with consultants in the development of the renewal process, timeline and explicit renewal criteria. Executive Director Halsey reviewed the renewal criteria and engaged in discussion with the Commission for feedback and will further develop for consideration at the May Commission meeting.

New School Application Updates

Deputy Director Starwich provided an update on the Public Forums for this current New School Application cycle. Due to the COVID-19 circumstances, all public forums will be hosted virtually, with a question and answer period with the applicant.

2020 Legislative Session Outcomes, Learnings and 2021 Planning

Commissioner Cohen provided a brief 2020 legislative session outcome along with the draft priorities for 2021 legislative session. The draft priorities include:

- Commission budget and staffing increase
- Extending the charter school authorizing window
- Fiscal resources for the schools

Jennifer Ziegler, legislative consultant provided an overview of the legislative landscape for the 2021 session.

Commission Communications Framework Overview

Lisa Danielson and Aaron Pickus, communications consultants, provided an overview of the Communications Framework developed for the Commission, which includes principles, approach, concepts and language to help support communications for charter public schools in Washington.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was needed.

Next Steps

Chair Mayer identified the following next steps:

1. 2021 Legislative Priorities
2. 2018-19 Financial Performance Reports
3. Transitional Kindergarten Consideration
4. Executive Director Annual Goals Consideration
5. Explicit Renewal Criteria Consideration
6. New School Application Process
7. 2021 Agency Biennium Budget
8. Strategic Plan Update – Equity Policy Implementation

Meeting Adjournment

Chair Mayer adjourned the meeting at 1:38 p.m.