



CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 21, 2020 | 10:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Zoom, Virtual Only

This meeting has been recorded by TVW and can be accessed [here](#).

Attendance:

Betsy Cohen, Dr. Donald Felder, Jessica Garcia, Dan Grimm, Chris Korsmo, 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 10:00 a.m. The following Commissioners were present: Betsy Cohen, Donald Felder, Jessica Garcia, Dan Grimm, Chris Korsmo, 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. Commissioner Grimm left the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Consent Agenda

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

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Chair Report

Commissioner Appointment Updates

Chair Mayer provided an update on Commissioner appointments. Chris Korsmo has been appointed and joined for her first Commission Meeting. Chair Mayer introduced Commissioner Korsmo to the Commission.

Commissioner Transition

Commissioner Cohen announced her transition off of the Commission after the June meeting.

Commission Capacity Matrix

Chair Mayer provided an overview of the Commission capacity matrix to identify skills and interest of commissioners. The matrix will be shared with Commissioners to complete and will be reviewed at a future meeting.

Executive Director Report

General Updates

Executive Director Halsey provided COVID-19 updates. Commission staff continue 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. On May 13, 2020, the Office of Financial Management (OFM), in alignment with a Governor's directive requiring agencies to place a freeze on new hires, personnel service contracts and equipment purchases, directed agencies to identify an operating budget savings of up to 15% to offset the financial impact that COVID-19 will have on the state's budget.

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. Whatcom Intergenerational High School has requested and has been granted an additional planning year to open in the fall of 2021. The reason for this request is a lack of a viable long-term facility. The other three schools are on track to open this fall.

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 did provide an updated corrective action plan. Commission staff continue to work with Summit to clarify several outstanding questions. Executive Director Halsey will provide further details at the June Commission Meeting.

Charter Contract Renewal Updates and Consideration

Executive Director Halsey provided an update of the charter contract renewal process to date and provided draft charter contract renewal explicit criteria. The renewal application guidance must include or refer explicitly to the criteria that will guide the Commission's renewal decision, and this criteria must be based on the performance framework(s) set forth in the charter contract.

Commissioner Cohen moved to adopt the explicit renewal criteria as presented by staff. Commissioner Lechner seconded. The motion passed, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Charter School Performance Update

Executive Director Halsey provided an overview of the 2018-19 Financial Performance Framework Reports. With the exception of SOAR Academy, all Financial Performance Framework Reports have been finalized and are posted on the Commission's website.

Executive Director Annual Performance Goals Consideration

Executive Director Halsey provided an overview of his performance goals, which have been developed with feedback from the Commission, the Executive Committee and the Commission's Strategic Plan.

There four goals are:

- The Executive Director will develop, implement and maintain a fiscally responsible and balanced budget for the Commission as demonstrated by quarterly financial reports
- Update Commission charter school oversight processes, including renewal, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Increase skills and knowledge for talent acquisition and talent management in order to create the highest quality Commission workforce
- Develop a regulatory framework and build Commission capacity to support charter public school implementation of Transitional Kindergarten

Commissioner Garcia moved to approve the Executive Director Annual Performance Goals. Commissioner Varela seconded. The motion passed, with no opposes; no abstentions.

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 have been hosted virtually, with a question and answer period with the applicant.

Deputy Director Starwich provided an overview of the June 25, 2020 Resolution Meeting process and expectations.

Biennium Budget Discussion

Executive Director Halsey provided an overview of the biennium budget process and the Commission's budget background. Due to the Governor's directive, there has been a three-tiered contingency plan developed for cost savings. The 2021-23 biennium budget is due to OFM in early September and will be considered at the August Commission meeting.

Transitional Kindergarten Discussion and Consideration

Karma Hugo, Director of Early Learning at Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, presented background on Transitional Kindergarten (TK). Ms. Hugo discussed the background, and the requirements as described in the five pillars OSPI has identified to describe the required elements of TK. These pillars include:

- Pillar I: TK programs meet the requirements of full-day kindergarten established in RCW 28A.150.315, including administration of the WaKIDS whole-child assessment, within the first ten weeks
- Pillar II: Classrooms are staffed by certificated teachers and paraeducators who provide a curriculum that offers a rich, varied set of experiences in learning environments that are developmentally appropriate and address the whole child. It is recommended that teachers have Early Childhood and/or Early Childhood Special Education Endorsements
- Pillar III: TK programs are inclusive, socioeconomically diverse and responsive to the needs of children who qualify for participation

- Pillar IV: Programs must be fully integrated into school buildings, with access to transportation, specialists, recess, lunch in the school cafeteria and all aspects of the school day available to regular kindergarten students. Attention must be given to the developmental capabilities and needs specific to young children in these settings
- Pillar V: TK programs work in collaboration with, and do not adversely impact enrollment in community-based preschool programs, including Head Start, ECEAP (the Early Childhood Education Assistance Program), tribally-led early learning programs and those operating in licensed childcare centers and licensed family homes. Districts participate in coordinated outreach, referral and placement to assure best fit and appropriateness of services based on each child and family's need

Commissioners engaged in discussion with Ms. Hugo, including the nuances between PreK and TK, funding access and models, student access and eligibility, and the current landscape of TK programs in Washington.

Executive Director Halsey provided an overview of the preliminary analysis and recommendation for charter schools to implement TK.

Chair Mayer moved to move toward transitional kindergarten starting no earlier than January 2021. Commissioner Cohen seconded. The motion passed, with four opposes; no abstentions.

Commissioners voted as follows: Betsy Cohen, aye; Donald Felder, aye; Jessica Garcia, nay; Dan Grimm, absent; Chris Korsmo, aye; Heather Lechner, aye; Harium Martin-Morris, nay; Kristina Mayer, aye; Margit McGuire, nay; Gayle Pauley, nay; and Christine Varela, aye.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was needed.

Next Steps

Chair Mayer identified the following next steps:

1. Resolution Meeting
2. 2021 Legislative Priorities
3. Transitional Kindergarten Consideration
4. New School Application Process
5. 2021 Agency Biennium Budget
6. Strategic Plan Update – Equity Policy Implementation

Meeting Adjournment

Chair Mayer adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.