



CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 24, 2018 | 10:00 a.m. to 4:40 p.m.

Educational Service District 105 (Kittitas Room)
33 South 2nd Avenue, Yakima, Washington, 98902

Attendance:

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

Leadership Team: Joshua Halsey, Executive Director; Paula Kitzke, Deputy Director; Dr. Cathy Fromme, New School Application Director; Alyce McNeil, Communications 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 10:07 a.m. The following Commissioners were present: Betsy Cohen, Trish Millines Dziko, Jessica Garcia, Dan Grimm, Kaaren Heikes, Dr. Kristina Mayer, Dr. Margit McGuire, Dr. Gil Mendoza and Steve Sundquist. It was determined that a quorum was present to proceed with the meeting. Commissioner Williams arrived at 10:26 am. Commissioner Dziko left at 2:27 pm.

Consideration of the April 19, 2018 Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes for the April 19, 2018 Commission Meeting were reviewed. Chair Sundquist moved to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Cohen seconded. Motion carried, with no opposes; Commissioners Dziko, Mayer and McGuire abstained.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

Chair Report

Chair Sundquist provided an update on the open Commissioner position and two potential candidates from the Yakima area. Chair Sundquist will continue to work with the Governor's office during the appointment process.

Chair Sundquist gave an update on the Executive Director’s compensation and re-banding. The Executive Director position has been moved to salary band 4 with a maximum salary of \$135,264, and the Commission will continue to pursue options to legislatively address the Executive Director compensation.

Chair Sundquist provided a reminder to Commissioners to file their annual F-1 Form if they have not yet submitted it for 2018.

Executive Director Report

General Updates

Executive Director Halsey provided an update on the Washington State Charter Schools Association (WA Charters) annual conference. Executive Director Halsey partnered with CREDO at Stanford University and WA Charters to present to schools on Friday regarding Family and Community Engagement. The presentation was well received by the schools. Commissioners and staff in attendance during the weekend conference session reported that the conference was a great opportunity for networking and continued learning.

Executive Director Halsey provided updates surrounding SOAR Academy’s request to co-locate with Green Dot: Destiny Middle School. SOAR Academy has submitted materials and Executive Director Halsey has approved the co-location request pending the approval of the Conditional Use Permit to expand the grades served at the building from 6-8 to include grades K-8.

Executive Director Halsey provided an update regarding the School Evaluation Analyst position. An offer has been made and the candidate is anticipated to start early to mid-June.

Grant Coordinator, Krystal Starwich, provided updates on the State Education Agency (SEA) Charter School Program (CSP) Grant. Ms. Starwich attended the CSP Project Directors’ Meeting in Washington, DC in April, a required activity of the grant. The draft monitoring report by WestEd will be available by mid-June, and will allow an opportunity for response and proposed corrections by the CSP Grant Coordinator prior to finalization. The grant also provides an opportunity for the continuing education of sub-grantees on board governance, and there will be an informal solicitation on this by the end of May. The CSP Grant Coordinator served as an evaluator on behalf of Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for both Spokane Public Schools and the Commission’s New School Applications and attended capacity interviews held by both authorizers.

Lawsuit Challenging Constitutionality of Charter Schools

Executive Director Halsey gave a brief update on the status of the lawsuit. Oral arguments before the Washington State Supreme Court were held on May 17, 2018. Typically, there is an anticipated time of up to a year for the Supreme Court Justices to render their decision if the decision is not unanimous, and between 90 and 180 days for a unanimous decision.

Charter School Performance Updates

Academic and Financial Performance Framework Reports Review

Deputy Director Kitzke presented the final Academic and Financial Performance Framework Reports for the six (6) schools in operation during the 2016-2017 school year. Many of the metrics do not apply

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during the first year of operation, which explains why schools did not receive an overall rating against the Academic Performance Framework and Financial Performance Frameworks.

Quarterly School Review Updates

Deputy Director Kitzke provided an update from the recently conducted Quarterly School Reviews.

New Schools Application Updates

Dr. Cathy Fromme, New School Application Director, provided an update on the 2018 Application Solicitation. Whatcom Intergenerational High School held their Public Forum on May 14, 2018 in Bellingham and Ashe Preparatory Academy's Public Forum will be held on May 29, 2018 in Seattle. Transcripts of the events as captured by a court reporter will be available for Commissioners to review. Recommendation Reports will be made sent to Commissioners and posted to the Commission website on June 8, 2018. Dr. Fromme also gave a brief overview of the plans for the June 21, 2018 Commission Meeting, including a review of the draft Resolutions and a walk-through of the process of engaging with applicants.

Educational Equity Engagement

Melia LaCour, Executive Director, Equity in Education at the Puget Sound Educational Service District, facilitated a discussion with Commissioners and staff regarding educational equity and narrowing the opportunity gap.

Communications Update

Communications Director, Alyce McNeil, presented a timeline regarding the development of the Commission's legislative priorities and the draft legislative strategies for 2018 -2019. A finalized and prioritized list will be presented at the June meeting.

Standing Committee Updates

Charter School Authorization Committee

Chair Mayer provided a brief overview of the Charter School Authorization Committee meeting on May 15, 2018. The Authorization Committee continues to develop a plan of learning topics that will be shared with the Commission, along with exploring the National Association of Charter School Authorizers' (NACSA) Quality Practice Project and collaboration with the Performance Committee.

Charter School Performance Committee

Chair Heikes provided a brief overview of the Charter School Performance Committee meeting on May 14, 2018. Most of that meeting consisted of a presentation on school performance by Deputy Director Kitzke that was largely the same as what the full Commission received this morning.

Finance Committee

Chair Mendoza provided a brief overview of the Finance Committee meeting on May 15, 2018. The Finance Committee reviewed second quarter financials for both the Commission and charter schools, with details provided in the committee's meeting minutes.

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Executive Session

No Executive Session was needed.

Next Steps

The following next steps were identified:

1. Complete Open Commissioner Appointment
2. Public Disclosure Commission's Annual F-1 Filing for 2018 by all Commissioners
3. Finalize Legislative Priorities in conjunction with the State Board of Education (SBE)
4. Organizational Performance Framework Results
5. Racial Equity Professional Development and Policy Development
6. 2018 New Charter School Application Cycle

Meeting Adjournment

Chair Sundquist adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.

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