



CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 25, 2020 | 10:00 a.m. to 3:49 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 Korsmo entered the meeting at 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Pauley left the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Public Comment

Rekha Bhatt, WA State Charter Schools Association, provided public testimony in support of the approval of Pullman Community Montessori, Pinnacles Prep, Impact | Tacoma and Impact | Renton. Ms. Bhatt also indicated WA Charters support of Laylah Sullivan's leadership of Pullman Community Montessori.

Jen Wickens of Impact Public Schools provided public testimony that Lua Pritchard, Tacoma resident, is in support of Impact | Tacoma.

Kayla Vickaryous, Impact employee and Tacoma community member, provided public testimony in support to express strong support for Impact | Tacoma.

Jessica Baumer, parent of the community near Tacoma and Impact founding teacher, provided public testimony in support of Impact | Tacoma.

Kristen McCaw, Impact Public Schools, provided public testimony in support of Impact Public Schools' launching Transitional Kindergarten.

Cecily Croskey, Tacoma native and Hilltop Scholars Program Manager, provided public testimony in support of Impact | Tacoma.

Rosemary Totten, Director of Tacoma Daycare and Preschool Association and Tacoma native provided public testimony in support of Impact | Tacoma to join the community.

Sara Sison, Impact parent and Renton community member, provided public testimony in support of Impact | Renton.

Hanaa Gusti, Renton resident and Teacher Resident at Impact, provided public testimony in support of Impact | Renton's application.

Bill Kolbasa, Joule Growth Partners, provided public testimony in support of Pullman Community Montessori and Pinnacles Prep's applications.

Markiss Cooper, former employee of SOAR Academy and parent, provided public testimony in support of Impact | Tacoma.

Aleksandra Hollingshead, University of Idaho, provided public testimony in support of Pullman Community Montessori.

Patrick D'Amelio, WA State Charter Schools Association, provided public testimony in support of Impact Public Schools being allowed to implement Transitional Kindergarten in fall of 2020.

Rob McKenna, legal consultant to WA State Charter School Association, provided public testimony and brief analysis of Impact implementing Transitional Kindergarten in fall of 2020.

Dione Naples-Loo, Renton resident and founding family member at Impact | Puget Sound Elementary, provided public testimony in support of Impact | Renton.

Carlo, student at Impact | Puget Sound Elementary and Renton resident, provided public testimony in support of Impact | Renton.

Yu Ma provided public testimony on behalf of Pullman community members in support of Pullman Community Montessori.

David Powers, board member at Pullman Community Montessori, provided public testimony in support of Pullman Community Montessori and Laylah Sullivan’s leadership.

Transitional Kindergarten Pilot Program Consideration

Executive Director Halsey provided a brief overview of Impact Public Schools’ request to pilot Transitional Kindergarten beginning August of 2020. Commissioner Cohen provided background on Transitional Kindergarten.

Commissioner Cohen moved to deny Impact’s request to pilot Transitional Kindergarten at Salish Sea Elementary. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Commissioners voted as follows: Betsy Cohen, aye; Don Felder, aye; Jessica Garcia, aye; Dan Grimm, aye; Chris Korsmo, nay; Heather Lechner, aye; Harium Martin-Morris, aye; Kristina Mayer, aye; Margit McGuire, aye; Gayle Pauley, aye; and Christine Varela, aye. The vote was 10-1. The motion passed.

Conflict of Interest Discussion

The Commission discussed several potential conflicts of interest between Commissioners and applications under review, including:

- Commissioner Pauley noted that she works for Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Commissioner McGuire noted that John Cassleman, board member of Pullman Community Montessori is a former student, and she has not been in contact regarding the application
- Commissioner McGuire noted that Impact applications refer to partnership with Seattle University and she has no knowledge or direct connection of the partnership with the school
- Commissioner Korsmo noted that prior to joining the Commission she served on the WA State Charter Schools Association’s board and was briefed on the progress of the incubation project. Those regular briefings were given general information of the program, nothing was shared in those briefings that wasn’t additional or confidential of the application
- Commissioner Korsmo works in partnership with a board member of Impact Public Schools and she has not been in contact regarding the application

Resolution Process Overview

Chair Mayer reviewed the new school application resolution process.

Charter School Application Resolutions: Pinnacles Prep

Executive Director Recommendation and Remarks

Deputy Director Starwich provided a brief overview of Pinnacles Prep as outlined in the Recommendation Report published on June 11, 2020. Ms. Starwich reported that Pinnacles Prep was recommended for approval. The proposed 6-12 school, if approved, would open in the fall of 2021 in Wenatchee with 100 students, growing to 420 students at capacity.

Commission Questions for Applicant

Commissioners engaged in discussion with the Pinnacles Prep applicant team.

Commission Discussion and Resolution

Commissioner Garcia moved to adopt resolution 20-01A which approves the charter school application of Pinnacles Prep. Commissioner Cohen seconded. Commissioners voted as follows: Betsy Cohen, aye; Don Felder, aye; Jessica Garcia, aye; Dan Grimm, aye; Chris Korsmo, aye; Heather Lechner, aye; Harium Martin-Morris, aye; Kristina Mayer, aye; Margit McGuire, aye; Gayle Pauley, aye; and Christine Varela, aye. The vote was 11-0. The motion passed unanimously.

Charter School Application Resolutions: Pullman Community Montessori

Executive Director Recommendation and Remarks

Deputy Director Starwich provided a brief overview of Pullman Community Montessori as outlined in the Recommendation Report published on June 11, 2020. He reported that Pullman Community Montessori was recommended for approval with conditions. The proposed K-9 school, if approved, would open in the fall of 2021 in Pullman with 80 students, growing to 280 students at capacity.

Commission Questions for Applicant

Commissioners engaged in discussion with the Pullman Community Montessori applicant team.

Commission Discussion and Resolution

Commissioner Pauley moved to adopt resolution 20-02A which approves the charter school application of Pullman Community Montessori. Commissioner Martin-Morris seconded. Commissioners voted as follows: Betsy Cohen, aye; Don Felder, aye; Jessica Garcia, aye; Dan Grimm, aye; Chris Korsmo, aye; Heather Lechner, aye; Harium Martin-Morris, aye; Kristina Mayer, aye; Margit McGuire, aye; Gayle Pauley, aye; and Christine Varela, aye. The vote was 11-0. The motion passed unanimously.

Charter School Application Resolutions: Impact | Renton

Executive Director Recommendation and Remarks

Deputy Director Starwich provided a brief overview of Impact | Renton as outlined in the Recommendation Report published on June 11, 2020. Ms. Starwich reported that Impact | Renton was recommended for approval with conditions. The proposed K-5 school, if approved, would open in the fall of 2021 in Renton with 252 students, growing to 594 students at capacity.

Commission Questions for Applicant

Commissioners engaged in discussion with the Impact | Renton applicant team.

Commission Discussion and Resolution

Commissioner Varela moved to adopt resolution 20-03A which approves the charter school application of Impact | Renton. Commissioner Cohen seconded. Commissioners voted as follows: Betsy Cohen, aye; Don Felder, nay; Jessica Garcia, aye; Dan Grimm, aye; Chris Korsmo, aye; Heather Lechner, aye; Harium Martin-

Morris, aye; Kristina Mayer, aye; Margit McGuire, abstained; Gayle Pauley, aye; and Christine Varela, aye. The vote was 9 ayes; 1 nays; 1 abstention. The motion passed.

Charter School Application Resolutions: Impact | Tacoma

Executive Director Recommendation and Remarks

Deputy Director Starwich provided a brief overview of Impact | Tacoma as outlined in the Recommendation Report published on June 11, 2020. Ms. Starwich reported that Impact | Tacoma was recommended for approval. The proposed K-5 school, if approved, would open in the fall of 2021 in Tacoma with 252 students, growing to 594 students at capacity.

Commission Questions for Applicant

Commissioners engaged in discussion with the Impact | Tacoma applicant team.

Commission Discussion and Resolution

Commissioner Korsmo moved to adopt resolution 20-04A which approves the charter school application of Impact | Tacoma. Commissioner Varela seconded. Commissioners voted as follows: Betsy Cohen, aye; Don Felder, aye; Jessica Garcia, aye; Dan Grimm, aye; Chris Korsmo, aye; Heather Lechner, aye; Harium Martin-Morris, aye; Kristina Mayer, aye; Margit McGuire, abstained; Gayle Pauley, absent; and Christine Varela, aye. The vote was 9 ayes; 0 nays; 1 abstention; 1 absence. The motion passed.

Consent Agenda

The meeting minutes for the May 21, 2020 Commission meeting, May 21, 2020 public forum special meeting, and standing committee updates were reviewed. Commissioner Korsmo moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Cohen seconded. The motion passed, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Chair Report

Chair Mayer provided an update on Commissioner service. Commissioner Betsy Cohen will be leaving the Commission. Commissioners and Commission staff recognized Commissioner Cohen's service.

Commission Officer Elections

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

Chair Mayer moved to nominate Commissioner Lechner as Commission vice Chair and Commissioner Kormso as Commission Member at Large. Commissioner Garcia seconded. Chair Mayer withdrew her motion.

Commissioner McGuire moved to nominate Commissioner Lechner as vice Chair. Commissioner Korsmo seconded. The motion passed, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Commissioner Lechner moved to nominate Commissioner Lechner as vice Chair. Commissioner Martin-Morris seconded. The motion passed, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Commission Capacity Matrix

Chair Mayer provided a reminder that Executive Committee elections will take place at the September Commission 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. The oversight team will work closely with the schools on their reopening plans. Commission staff will be furloughed one day per week for the month of July as a result of the Governor and Office of Financial Management (OFM) directive for agencies.

Executive Director Halsey provided an update on the three planning year schools. The Oversight Team has been conducting monthly meetings and onboarding learning sessions for these schools.

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 submitted an updated corrective action plan to the Commission on May 13th. Commission staff met with Summit personnel on May 19th, May 26th, and June 19th to discuss the updated plan and to clarify outstanding questions. These questions have been clarified and the plan is close to being approved. Once approved, monitoring of the corrective action plan will begin.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was needed.

Next Steps

Chair Mayer identified the following next steps:

1. 2021 Legislative Priorities
2. New School Application Process
3. 2021 Agency Biennium Budget
4. Strategic Plan Update – Equity Policy Implementation
5. Commission Policy Overviews
6. Executive Committee Elections
7. Charter School Renewal

Meeting Adjournment

Chair Mayer adjourned the meeting at 3:49 p.m.