



CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 20, 2018 | 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Port of Walla Walla, 310 A Street, Walla Walla, Washington 99362

Attendance:

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

Leadership Team: Joshua Halsey, Executive Director; Paula Kitzke, Deputy Director; Krystal Starwich, New School Application Director; Daniel Nyachuba, School Evaluation Analyst; Aileen Miller, Assistant Attorney General and Amanda Martinez, Executive Assistant.

Call To Order

Roll Call

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m. The following Commissioners were present: Betsy Cohen, Jessica Garcia, Dan Grimm, Kaaren Heikes, Dr. Kristina Mayer, Dr. Margit McGuire, Steve Sundquist and Cindi Williams. It was determined that a quorum was present to proceed with the meeting. Commissioner Grimm left the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Consideration of the August 16, 2018 Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes for the August 16, 2018 Commission meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Sundquist moved to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Cohen seconded.

Commissioner Heikes amended the motion and moved to approve the minutes by removing the language “may be” under Legislative and Engagement with Educational Stakeholders regarding the need for an ad-hoc legislative committee and replacing with “is”. Commissioner Sundquist seconded. Amendment to the motion carried unanimously, with no opposes; no abstentions. The amended motion passed unanimously with no opposes; no abstentions.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

Chair Report

Commissioner Appointment Updates

Chair Williams provided an update on the open Commissioner position and will continue to work with the appropriate policy-makers to support the appointment process, which currently includes Commissioner Dziko's intention to resign as well as interest expressed by other parties.

Commissioner Survey Overview

Chair Williams provided an update regarding a Commissioner Self-assessment survey. Chair Williams will work with Commissioner Mayer and the Executive Committee to develop the survey to be distributed in either October or November.

Commissioner Retreat Update

Chair Williams provided an update on the retreat, which will take the place of the January 2019 monthly Commission meeting. Topics for the retreat will likely include an educational equity policy development, Commissioner Self-assessment survey results, Commission norms, and other agenda items.

Executive Director Report

General Updates

Executive Director Halsey provided an update regarding a possible new co-funded position with Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) within apportionment and finance. Executive Director Halsey has provided a draft job description to OSPI, and the position will be posted soon to be filled by early November.

Executive Director Halsey provided a brief update on the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) Leadership Conference in October. Commissioners Cohen and Mayer, Deputy Director Kitzke and Daniel Nyachuba will be attending. Commissioner Heikes will also be attending through the State Board of Education (SBE).

Executive Director Halsey provided an update on the Charter School Program (CSP) Grant Coordinator Position. Casey Caronna has been hired as the CSP Grant Coordinator beginning on August 27, 2018.

Executive Director Halsey provided an update regarding the Washington State Charter Schools Association's (WA Charters) Game Changers Breakfast to be hosted on November 13, 2018 and recommends Commissioners and Commission staff not attend the fundraising breakfast.

Executive Director Halsey presented a preliminary 2019 Commission Meeting Calendar, making note that the locations have not yet been determined. This calendar will be brought back to the Commission with locations next month.

Commissioner Sundquist moved to adopt the 2019 Commission Meeting Calendar as presented. Commissioner McGuire seconded. Motion carried, no opposes; no abstentions.

Lawsuit Challenging Constitutionality of Charter Schools

Executive Director Halsey gave a brief update on the status of the lawsuit. There are no updates beyond last month. 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

Organizational Performance Updates

Deputy Director Kitzke provided an update on the Organizational Performance Reports, which have not yet been released for the 2016-17 school year as the State Auditor's Office (SAO) has not yet released their accountability audit.

2017-18 Smarter Balance Assessment Proficiency Data

School Evaluation Analyst, Daniel Nyachuba, presented the 2017-18 Smarter Balance Assessment Proficiency Results that were released by Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

2016-17 Academic Performance Report Updates

Deputy Director Kitzke provided an update on the 2016-17 Academic Performance Reports that were released by the Commission. Three schools' scores were affected with the updated reports; Rainier Prep, Green Dot Destiny and Green Dot Excel. Bree Dusseault of Green Dot Public Schools Washington State presented to the Commission on the measures Green Dot has taken to ensure academic success at their network schools in Washington state.

Legislative Priorities and Engagement with Legislative Consultant

Communications Director, Alyce McNeil, provided an update on legislative meetings that have taken place since the last Commission meeting. Feedback from these meetings included changing language in legislative priority four to including the Commission's authority to receiving grants.

Chair Williams moved to adopt the new rationale for legislative priority four regarding the Commission's 2019 legislative priorities. Commission Cohen seconded.

Commissioner Grimm amended the motion and moved to add language "to receive grants from public sources or public agencies". Chair Sundquist seconded. Amendment to the motion carried unanimously, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Commissioner Mayer moved to leave the grant language out of legislative priority four. Commission McGuire seconded. Amendment to the motion carried unanimously, Commissioner Cohen opposed; no abstentions. The amended motion carried unanimously, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Commissioner Cohen provided a brief overview of Legislative Ad-hoc Committee meeting on September 12, 2018. Discussion from the meeting included the purpose of the committee, Commissioners' role in lobbying and how to best utilize track lobbying efforts of Commissioners.

Legislative Consultant, Jennifer Ziegler, provided an introduction, background on the 2018 general election and anticipated 2019 legislative issues she foresees as being important for the Commission's work. Executive Director Halsey and Communications Director Alyce McNeil continue to work closely with Ms. Zeigler on the Commission's legislative engagement.

Educational Equity Engagement

Melia LaCour, Executive Director, Equity in Education at the Puget Sound Educational Service District, continued the discussion with Commissioners and staff regarding educational equity and moving toward drafting an educational equity policy for the Commission.

Standing Committee Updates

Charter School Authorization Committee

Chair Mayer provided a brief overview of the Charter School Authorization Committee meeting on September 12, 2018. The Authorization Committee has been discussing the New School Application and Prospectus processes, is exploring the definition of high quality, and continue to work on learning opportunities for the full Commission.

Charter School Performance Committee

Chair Heikes provided a brief overview of the Charter School Performance Committee meeting on September 17, 2018. The Performance Committee has been discussing mission-specific goals, Performance Report updates and overviews of the Washington's Center for Reinventing Public Education's (CRPE) special education report regarding Washington charter public schools.

Prospectus Process Overview

Krystal Starwich, Director of New School Applications, provided the Commissioners with an overview of the Commission's Charter School Prospectus, including the specific elements that will be evaluated. This year's Prospectus was released on September 15, 2018 and is due by October 29, 2018.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was needed.

Next Steps

The following next steps were identified:

1. Complete Open Commissioner Appointments
2. 2019 Commission Meeting Calendar
3. Equity Retreat
4. State Auditor Results for the 16-17 Organization Report
5. Racial Equity Professional Development and Policy Development
6. New Charter School Application Cycle
7. Reset Standing Committee Membership
8. Ad-hoc Legislative Strategy/Affairs Committee
9. NACSA Conference

Meeting Adjournment

Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.