



CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 21, 2017 | 10:00 a.m. to 4:10 p.m.

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

Attendance:

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

Leadership Team: Joshua Halsey, Executive Director; Cathy Fromme, New School Application Director; Nadja Michel-Herf, Director of School Quality and Accountability; Alyce McNeil, Communications Director; Krystal Starwich, CSP Grant Manager; Aileen Miller, Assistant Attorney General; Amanda Martinez, Executive Assistant.

Call To Order

Roll Call

Chair Sundquist called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. The following Commissioners were present: Jessica Garcia, Dan Grimm, Kaaren Heikes, Dr. Kristina Mayer, Dr. Margit McGuire, Raymond Navarro, Steve Sundquist and Cindi Williams. It was determined that a quorum was present to proceed with the meeting.

Consideration of the August 17, 2017 Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes for the August 17, 2017 Commission Meeting were reviewed and approved. Steve Sundquist moved to approve the minutes as written. Kaaren Heikes seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes; Commissioners Williams, Grimm and Mayer abstained.

Public Comment

There was no public comment provided.

Chair Report

Chair Sundquist provided updates regarding the Commissioner appointment process. With the appointment of Dr. Kristina Mayer from the Governor’s office, the Commission is full. Chair Sundquist asked Commissioners to keep a list of interested people for suggested consideration for any future Commissioner openings.

Chair Sundquist also provided an update regarding Executive Director Halsey’s compensation. Chair Sundquist continues to work with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the Attorney General’s Office (AGO) regarding Executive Director Halsey’s compensation.

Executive Director Report

General Updates

Executive Director Halsey provided updates surrounding the Strategic Assessment process. The Strategic Assessment process is a prelude to the Strategic Plan which will start in January of 2018. Executive Director Halsey provided a brief summary of the data collected to date. Response from stakeholders during the interviews has been overwhelmingly positive and has been aligned with the Commission’s current Strategic Plan. These stakeholders have been willing to engage in the ongoing development of the charter school sector and see the work of the Commission as a value-add to the sector. The final Strategic Assessment report will be presented at the October Commission meeting.

Krystal Starwich, Charter School Program Grant Coordinator, gave a brief overview of the State Education Agency (SEA) Charter School Program (CSP) Grant. Four applications have been received to date, with one pending. First round of awards are to occur within the next few weeks.

The Commission reviewed and adopted the 2018 Commission meeting schedule. Chair Sundquist moved to approve the 2018 meeting schedule as submitted. Margit McGuire seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes, no abstentions.

Lawsuit Challenging Constitutionality of Charter Schools

Assistant Attorney General Aileen Miller gave an overview on the status of the lawsuit and the claims the plaintiffs have filed. An appeal brief was filed on August 18, 2017.

Commission Standing Committee Assignments

Executive Director Halsey presented the standing Commission committee assignments as outlined in the Commission’s bylaws. Chair Sundquist moved to approve standing committees as submitted with the change that Commissioner Mendoza is assigned to the Finance Committee. Commissioner Williams seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes, no abstentions.

Consideration of Charter School Contract

Executive Director Halsey presented the Impact Public Schools charter contract for consideration. Chair Sundquist moved to direct Commission Chair Steve Sundquist to sign the Commission’s Charter Contract with Impact Public Schools for the operation of Impact | Puget Sound Elementary. Commissioner Williams seconded.

Commissioner Grimm amended the motion and moved that the Commission authorizes Commission Chair Steve Sundquist to sign the Commissions’ charter contract with Impact Public Schools for the operation of Impact | Puget Sound Elementary. Amendment to the motion carried unanimously, with no opposes. The amended motion then passed unanimously with no opposes, and one abstention by Commissioner Mayer.

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New School Application Overview and Consideration

Dr. Cathy Fromme briefed the Commission on the main changes that have been made to the New School Application and the New School Application Evaluation Rubric from the last application cycle. Chair Sundquist moved to adopt the 2018 New School Application and Rubric as amended. Commissioner McGuire seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes, no abstentions.

Washington State Charter Schools Association Presentation

Washington State Charter Schools Association (WaCharters) Executive Director, Patrick D’Amelio gave a presentation to the Commission on WaCharter’s Strategic Plan and goals moving forward.

Charter Schools Update

Basic Education Funding Impact on Charter Schools Initial Analysis

Executive Director Halsey gave an overview of the approved biennium budget’s impact on currently authorized charter schools. Chair Sundquist suggested that this analysis be displayed with national numbers for context.

Existing Schools’ Performance and Outcomes

Nadja Michel-Herf, Director of School Quality & Accountability, presented proficiency data released in early September for the 2016-17 school year. Student growth data will be a critical piece for any recommended actions to schools going forward. A more complete picture with growth data will be presented at the November Commission meeting.

Charter School Goodwill Tour Updated Design and Next Steps

Executive Director Halsey and Communications Director Alyce McNeil introduced the updated design of ‘goodwill tours’ of the currently operating charter schools. The concept of these tours is to help the schools share with Commissioners what they are doing, help Commissioners gain knowledge and understanding of the schools and provide an opportunity for schools to share their successes.

Commission Budget Analysis

Executive Director Halsey presented the 2017 fiscal year budget actuals as well as the budget and allotments for the next biennium of 2017-2019. The Commission had a surplus last biennium, which is carried forward in the oversight account. Chair Sundquist recommends that the Commission take a conservative lens with the extra finances granted this biennium.

Executive Session

An Executive Session was begun at 3:10 pm pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act (RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential

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litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.

Open Session

At 3:45 pm, Chair Sundquist resumed open session stating that no final action had been taken during the Executive Session.

Next Steps

The following next steps were identified:

1. Commission Monthly Meeting in November is moved to Bates Technical College, South Campus
2. Strategic Assessment Final Report in October
3. Continue to grow the potential Commissioner pipeline and interest
4. Principles of Service Document
5. Executive Director Compensation
6. Standing Committee Meetings moving forward as needed
7. Beginning the next school application cycle8. Academic Performance Framework and Growth Data Reports

Meeting Adjournment

Chair Sundquist adjourned the meeting at 3:49 pm.

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