



CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 19, 2017 | 10:00 a.m. to 4:10 p.m.

Puget Sound Educational Service District (Snoqualmie Room)
800 Oakesdale Avenue SW, Renton, WA 98057

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; 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: Betsy Cohen, Jessica Garcia, Dan Grimm, Kaaren Heikes, Dr. Kristina Mayer, Dr. Margit McGuire, Dr. Gil Mendoza, Steve Sundquist and Cindi Williams. It was determined that a quorum was present to proceed with the meeting. Commissioner Dziko arrived at 10:30 a.m.. Commissioner Mayer left the meeting at 1:50 p.m. and Commissioner Williams left the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Consideration of the September 21, 2017 Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes for the September 21, 2017 Commission Meeting were reviewed and approved. Chair Sundquist moved to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Mayer seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes; Commissioners Cohen and Mendoza 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. There are three commissioners up for re-appointment in March 2018.

Chair Sundquist also provided an update regarding Executive Director Halsey’s compensation. Based on a draft from Joshua Halsey and the Attorney General’s Office (AGO), the Executive Director Position description has been updated. Chair Sundquist moved to approve the new exempt position description for the Executive Director. Commissioner Cohen seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Morgan Damerow, Assistant Attorney General, presented options to the Commission regarding the Executive Director’s compensation.

Chair Sundquist moved that the Commission assert their authority to set Executive Director Halsey’s salary. Commissioner Dziko seconded. After discussion, Chair Sundquist withdrew his motion.

Chair Sundquist moved to proceed on the track to make a recommendation to the Commission and to State HR about where the Executive Director position should be banded. Commissioner Dziko seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Executive Director Report

General Updates

Executive Director Halsey provided updates surrounding the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) Conference held earlier this week in Phoenix, Arizona. Whitney Spalding Spencer has transitioned from NACSA and the Commission will have a new contact soon.

Executive Director Halsey will present the Commission with a self-assessment on December 15, 2017 for the Executive Director Performance Review of this last year.

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.

Executive Director Halsey provided a draft of the Annual State Board Authorizer Report due on November 1, 2017. The Commission continues to work with the State Board of Education (SBE) to provide accurate and updated data on Commission-authorized charter schools in a timely and efficient manner.

Executive Director Halsey will facilitate a discussion regarding the Commission’s legislative strategy at the November meeting.

Executive Director Halsey and Alyce McNeil, Communications Director, continue to work on the development of the Goodwill Tours set for December of this year and February and March of 2018.

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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.

Strategic Assessment Presentation and Report

Craig Fleck and Steven Byers of Demeter Matrix Alliance presented the Commission’s Strategic Assessment Report. This Strategic Assessment process is a prelude to the Strategic Plan development effort that will start in January of 2018. Response from stakeholders during the interviews has been overwhelmingly positive. 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 Strategic Planning Guide Team will continue to meet and move the Strategic Planning process forward.

New School Application Update

Dr. Cathy Fromme provided a brief update on the New School Application Solicitation. There have been New School Application Orientations around the state and the Commission has already received one Notice of Intent to apply. Commission staff continues to consider a staged review process, explore various schooling models and work with partners on potential charter school ideas.

Charter Schools Update

Organizational Performance Framework Deep Dive

Nadja Michel-Herf, Director of School Quality & Accountability, presented a deep dive on the Commission’s Organizational Performance Framework.

Ladder of Intervention

Executive Director Halsey presented the Ladder of Intervention aligned to the Commission’s oversight rules (WAC 108-40). This ladder promotes a continuous improvement cycle and transparency for both the school and the Commission.

Summit Olympus

Summit Olympus was issued a Corrective Action Plan for violations of Sections 4.1: Governance; Section 5.1: General Compliance; Section 5.21: Notification to Commission; and Section 13.3 Risk Management of their charter contract.

Green Dot Destiny

Green Dot Destiny Middle School was issued a letter of concern for a Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) violation and section 17.8 Secure Information, of the charter contract.

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Principles of Service Review and Consideration

Executive Director Halsey presented the revised Principles of Service document. Commissioner Mendoza moved that the Commission adopt the Principles of Service Document. Commissioner Williams seconded. After discussion, Commissioner Mendoza withdrew his motion. Executive Director will revise the draft Principles of Service, framing them where appropriate as guidance to Commissioners rather than a policy and behavior mandate.

Executive Director Delegation Authority Discussion

Executive Director Halsey provided Commissioners an overview of the Executive Director's current delegated authority regarding the charter school oversight process. Executive Director Halsey recommended that the Commission retain some of that oversight authority. Chair Sundquist moved that the Executive Director has the delegated authority for all interventions up to and including corrective action. The Commission retains sole authority to impose sanctions, probation and to revoke the charter contract. Commissioner Dziko seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes; no abstentions.

Announcements

The State Board of Education (SBE) did not receive a charter school Authorizer Application from Tukwila School District.

Executive Session

No Executive Session needed.

Next Steps

The following next steps were identified:

1. Strategic Planning in early 2018
2. Principles of Service
3. Executive Director's Compensation
4. Standing Committee work and report-outs
5. New School Application Process
6. Recommendations on Legislative Strategy in November 2017
7. Student Growth Data
8. 8. Executive Director 2017 performance review

Meeting Adjournment

Chair Sundquist adjourned the meeting at 4:08 pm.

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