



## CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 16, 2017 | 10:00 a.m. to 4:10 p.m.

Bates Technical College | South Campus (Building E, Room 102 & 103)  
2201 S 78<sup>th</sup> Street, Tacoma, WA 98409

---

### Attendance:

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

Leadership Team: Joshua Halsey, Executive Director; Paula Kitzke, Deputy 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 10:05 a.m. The following Commissioners were present: Betsy Cohen, Jessica Garcia, Kaaren Heikes, Dr. Kristina Mayer, Dr. Gil Mendoza, Raymond Navarro, and Steve Sundquist. It was determined that a quorum was present to proceed with the meeting. Commissioner Grimm arrived at 10:21 a.m. Commissioner Williams arrived at 10:25 a.m. Commissioner Dziko arrived at 11:15 a.m.

### Consideration of the October 19, 2017 Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes for the October 19, 2017 Commission Meeting were reviewed and edited to remove Commissioner Navarro's attendance and added Commissioner Cohen and Mendoza's attendance. Chair Sundquist moved to approve the minutes as edited. Commissioner Mayer seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes; Commissioner Navarro abstained.

### Public Comment

Dr. Thelma Jackson, board chair of SOAR Academy, provided public testimony to the Commission focusing on SOAR's work in the Tacoma Hilltop neighborhood.

### Chair Report

Chair Sundquist provided updates regarding the Commissioner reappointment process. The three Commissioners whose terms are expiring have expressed a desire to be reappointed. Chair Sundquist is working with staff to draft and submit reappointment requests to the appropriate appointing bodies.

---

Chair Sundquist also provided an update regarding Executive Director Halsey's yearly performance evaluation process. He reminded Commissioners that the process will be initiated by Executive Director Halsey submitting his self-evaluation to all Commissioners. Chair Sundquist explained the process used to gather additional stakeholder information regarding Executive Director Halsey's yearly performance. This process includes conversations with stakeholders such as the Washington State Board of Education (SBE), the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the Washington State Charter Schools Association (WA Charters) and charter school leadership. Commissioners Mendoza and Williams volunteered to support the external interview process.

## **Executive Director Report**

### **General Updates**

Executive Director Halsey provided updates surrounding the State Education Agency (SEA) Charter School Program (CSP) Grant. Two schools have been awarded two-year implementation grants with three other schools finalizing their budgets and goals in hopes of being awarded funds. Additionally, the state has been selected to participate in a United States Department of Education monitoring visit. This visit will occur this spring.

Executive Director Halsey stated that he submitted the Annual State Board Authorizer Report to the SBE on November 1, 2017.

Executive Director Halsey provided his recommended 2018 Commission's legislative strategies and requested Commission consideration of the strategies. After discussion, Chair Sundquist moved that a preamble be added to the Commission's legislative strategies. This motion was seconded by Commission Cohen and passed unanimously.

Executive Director Halsey provided an update regarding the Goodwill Tours. The tours are set to begin in December with tours to continue in February and March of 2018.

Executive Director Halsey provided an update of his team's professional learning regarding racial equity in education. He shared that his team's professional learning was designed to provide Commissioners support as they explore the potential development of Commission policies and practices related to educational racial equity.

### **Lawsuit Challenging Constitutionality of Charter Schools**

Assistant Attorney General Aileen Miller gave an overview on the status of the lawsuit.

## **Smarter Balanced Assessment Growth Data Analysis**

Nadja Michel-Herf, Director of School Quality and Accountability, provided an update regarding the three charter schools that have Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) growth data from the 2016-17 school year.

## **Executive Director Job Description Updates**

Morgan Damerow, Assistant Attorney General, provided an overview of Executive Director Halsey's compensation process and position classification. An updated Executive Director Position description was provided in the preparatory materials. Chair Sundquist moved to approve the new exempt position description for the Executive Director. Commissioner Williams seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes; no abstentions.

## **Strategic Assessment Emergent Questions Activity**

Executive Director Halsey provided an overview of questions that have emerged through the Strategic Assessment process. The Commission will focus on the questions below for further exploration going into the Strategic Planning process:

- How is the Commission viewing its role? Are you bureaucratic pioneers? Trying to help the sector grow?
- What will help scale up, strengthen and improve this sector?
- What is the Commission's role in creating conditions in the state that make it more attractive and likely that people will go through the rigor of the application process?
- How will the Commission know its Oversight of charter schools is effective?
- In what way is the Commission encouraging innovation in the Charter Sector?
- How will the Commission educate and share basic information about Charters to the broad public and to specific stakeholder groups?

## **Standing Committee Updates**

### **Standing Committee Officer Considerations**

The Commission's standing committees nominated a chair and vice chair for consideration. Commissioner Sundquist moved to appoint the standing committee officers as nominated. Commissioner Mayer seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with no opposes; no abstentions.

### **Finance Committee**

Chair Mendoza provided a brief overview of the Finance Committee meeting on November 1, 2017.

### **Charter School Authorization Committee**

Chair Mayer provided a brief overview of the Charter School Authorization Committee meeting on October 31, 2017.

### **Charter School Performance Committee**

Chair Heikes provided a brief overview of the Charter School Performance Committee meeting on October 30, 2017.

## **Charter Schools Update**

### **Summit Olympus**

Summit Olympus was issued a Corrective Action 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. The school has responded, and the Commission has requested additional information before deciding on next steps, if any.

### **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. The response provided by Green Dot Destiny Middle School adequately addressed the Commission's concerns and has been accepted.

## **Executive Session**

No Executive Session was 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. Executive Director 2017 performance review

## **Meeting Adjournment**

Chair Sundquist adjourned the meeting at 4:08 pm.