



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015 | 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Telephonic: Dial-in Telephone Numbers: U.S. and Canada: (800) 245-9874, Access Code 7784207

Attendance:

Trish Millines Dziko, Dr. Stacy Hill, Margit McGuire, Raymond Navarro, Jr., Dave Quall, Steve Sundquist, Cindi Williams, and Larry Wright.

Leadership Team: Joshua Halsey, Executive Director; Cathy Fromme, Deputy Director; Ebonee Jackson, School Quality & Accountability Director; Aileen Miller, Assistant Attorney General; Sandy Green, Executive Assistant.

Call To Order

Roll Call

Chair Sundquist called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Attendance was taken. The following Commissioners were present: Trish Millines Dziko, Dr. Stacy Hill, Margit McGuire, Raymond Navarro, Jr., Dave Quall, Steve Sundquist, Cindi Williams, and Larry Wright. It was determined a quorum was present to proceed with the meeting.

Approval of the November 9 Special Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Hill moved to accept the minutes from the November 9 Special Commission Meeting and Commissioner McGuire seconded. The motion passed with one abstention: Commissioner Dziko.

Executive Session

Chair Sundquist adjourned open session at 4:10 p.m. An executive session was held pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

Chair Sundquist reconvened the Commission from executive session at 4:36 p.m.

Action from Executive Session

There was no action taken in the executive session.

Discussion Regarding Commission Status

Joshua Halsey stated that with the Supreme Court's decision to not reconsider or grant a stay of the mandate, the Commission finds itself in unprecedented territory and invalid under the Charter School

Act. The Commission has worked with the Governor, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), State Auditor's Office (SAO), State Archives Office, and counsel to determine how to wind-down Commission operations and the charter school contracts. While Commission rules outline a contract termination protocol, the protocol's timeline does not fit with the current reality we are facing.

Public charter schools are pursuing their own contingency plans – Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) contracts with school districts in the state, particularly Mary Walker School District No. 207. In this context, schools continue as public entities. Even if ALE contracts don't work, schools are still planning to remain open through this school year.

Delegating Authority to Executive Director

Commissioner Hill moved to delegate authority to the Executive Director to wind down operations of the Commission, close out current charter school contracts, and work with government offices like the State Auditor's Office. Commissioner Dziko seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Wright moved to delegate authority to the Commission Chair to use his best judgment to provide a layoff notice to Executive Director, if this becomes necessary. Commissioner McGuire seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Sundquist reported that the regularly scheduled Commission meeting for December 10th has been cancelled, and that a Commission meeting with a quorum may still be needed for any Commission actions that might arise during the wind down process.

Joshua Halsey stressed that public charter schools are not closing and will continue to provide high-quality education for the remainder of the school year.

The Commission adjourned at 4:47 p.m.