

April 11, 2019

MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 11, 2019
Weilenmann School of Discovery

DRAFT

Members Present:

Chair Kristin Elinkowski (refrains from voting, unless otherwise noted).

Member Cynthia Phillips

Member Jim Moss

Member Krystle Bassett

Member Michelle Smith

Members Absent:

Vice Chair DeLaina Tonks

Member Bryan Bowles

Staff Present:

Jennifer Lambert

Rabecca Cisneros

Michael Clark

James Madsen

Amber Hellstrom

Brett Campbell

Assistant Attorney General David Jones

Stewart Okobia

Others Present:

Royce Van Tassell (UAPCS).

Call to Order

Chair Elinkowski called the meeting to order at 10:25 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

There was a flag present, so the Pledge of Allegiance was made.

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Public Comment

No one made public comment.

Board Chair Report

Chair Elinkowski informed the group of graduation visits.

Consent Calendar

A) March 7, 2019 Minutes, B) Monthly Financial Report, C) Beehive Science & Technology Academy Amendment to Exhibit A for Satellite Campus, D) Bridge Elementary School Charter Agreement, E) Mountain Sunrise Academy Charter Agreement, F) Utah Mountain School Charter Agreement, G) Guadalupe Charter School Charter Agreement, H) Greenwood Charter School Charter Agreement, I) Thomas Edison Charter School Charter Agreement.

Motion

Member Moss moved, and Member Smith seconded, “to adopt the Consent Calendar.” The motion carried unanimously by those members present.

School Spotlight DIBELS Performance

Bear River Charter School

Mr. Michael Clark discussed Bear River Charter School’s impressive DIBELS performance, noting that the school had not been spotlighted before, 80% of students made typical to better progress from BOY to MOY, and that the school was unable to attend the meeting because of distance.

Mr. Clark continued noting that the school recognized the USBE literacy professional development trainings as highly beneficial, hiring a specialist for tier II and tier III to improve growth, RTI program, and its K-3 grade receiving double the interventions.

Review Adopted Policies

As necessary, make changes and post for public comment

Executive Director Lambert introduced this agenda item, noting that the strategic planning meeting is an ideal time to review the board’s policies.

All Other Applications Policy

Administrative rejections, missed deadlines, safeguarding against being subjective, sending to committee and not wanting to delay, creating board approved eligibility guidelines, and technical language changes were discussed.

Motion

Member Smith moved, and Member Moss seconded “that we post for public comment the following amendment to the “All Other Applications Policy,” under section 2(b) add

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‘applications not submitted in entirety, according to the timelines and procedures, will be administratively rejected, subject to review and input from the appropriate board committee,’ and section 3 to say ‘applications not meeting minimum board approved eligibility guidelines as provided in the process instructions will be administratively rejected, subject to review and input from the appropriate board committee.’” The motion carried unanimously by those members present.

Bylaws Proposed

Meeting 11 times each year, suspending Robert’s Rules of order in strategic planning meetings, timeline for approving the meeting schedule and whether to be calendar based vs the current fiscal year schedule was discussed.

Motion

Member Phillips moved, and Member Smith seconded, “that the Bylaws of the Utah State Charter School Board be posted for public review and comment and be amended to include C)(5)’s amendment that inserts ‘except for strategic planning meetings,’ and language in E) that includes the month of April in addition to May and June that are already listed.” The motion carried unanimously by those members present.

Credit Enhancement Certification Policy

Technical changes in language, and the deadline and timeline were discussed.

Motion

Member Smith moved, and Member Phillips seconded, “that we post for public comment the proposed amendments to the State Charter School Board’s “Certification for Charter Schools Seeking Credit Enhancement Policy” as discussed in this meeting. The motion carried unanimously by those members present.

Charter School Accountability Framework

New board rules, and technical language changes were discussed.

Motion

Member Phillips moved, and Member Smith seconded, “that this board approve posting of the “SCSB School Oversight Policy” with the appropriate changes to rule reference and language that matches that rule, as well as the appropriate dates for updating that policy for public comment and review.” The motion carried unanimously by those members present.

Facility Review Policy

Payment schedules, and technical language changes were discussed.

Motion

Member Smith moved, and Member Bassett seconded, “that we post for public review the proposed changes to the State Charter School Board’s “Review of Facilities Contracts or Finance Agreements for Charter Schools” as discussed in this meeting. The motion carried unanimously by those members present.

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Fast Track Process Policy

Technical language changes were discussed.

Motion

Member Smith moved, and Member Bassett seconded, “that we post for public comment the changes to the State Charter School Board’s “Optional ‘Fast Track’ Replication and Satellite Application Process.” The motion carried unanimously by those members present.

Member Code of Conduct Policy

Technical language changes were discussed.

Motion

Member Phillips moved, and Member Smith seconded, “to post for public review the State Charter School Board’s “Member Code of Conduct Policy” with inclusion of the ‘s’ on ‘Open and Public Meetings Act.’” The motion carried unanimously by those members present.

State Charter School Board Procedures

Technical language and title changes were discussed.

Motion

Member Moss moved, and Member Bassett seconded, “to post for public comment the document formerly known as the “Procedures known as the SCSB,” now to be known as the “State Charter School Board Procedures,” as discussed in this meeting.” The motion carried unanimously by those members present.

Requirement of Signed Charter Document for Full Approval and Prior to Release of Any Public Funds

Technical language and title changes were discussed.

Motion

Member Bassett moved, and Member Phillips seconded, “that we post for public review and comment “State Charter School Board Requirement of Signed Charter Document for Full Approval and Prior to Release of Any Public Funds” as discussed in this meeting.” The motion carried unanimously by those members present with Chair Elinkowski voting in Member Smith’s temporary absence.

Legislative Report

The Legislative Committee reported on the commencement of the 2019 legislative session, discussing the Innovative Student Improvement Program grant’s path to an ongoing appropriation and having schools present to the legislature, rules regarding Teacher Student Success Act (TSSA) monies

Oversight Report

Executive Director Jennifer Lambert and Ms. Rabecca Cisneros presented reports on oversight

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data, discussing scope and areas not looked at, discipline, context, institutional knowledge, charter fidelity, average time span between actions, history of Probations and Warnings for schools, proposed terminations, percentage of schools delaying opening, closure, number of authorized schools vs number that have been on discipline, schools that turned in their charter vs being closed by the State Charter School Board, trends, current board and previous boards' equal dedication to oversight, how to best interact with struggling schools, perfect process being unattainable but finding the next best thing, implications on students, student achievement after school closure being higher, never students' fault when a school closes, due process and its intent and benefits, the stress a charter school is under with obligations to its authorizer and the State Board of Education, giving schools access to the committees, public comment's emphasis in early years of the board, sudden stop of attendance of district officials, focus on Research and Review, if board action correlates to improvement, role of student choice, and predicable triggers were discussed.

Working Lunch Discussion:

School choice and how it affects the viability of a school, not needing to make changes to the State Charter School Board's mission or vision, the merits of Replication, mid-tier proposals, academics vs school choice, what kind of schools the board wants to see in proposals, innovation, waivers from Rule, personalized learning, being allowed to authorize innovative charters with the understanding of the risk/rewards, collaboration with stakeholders, involuntary turnover from failed implementation of ideas, mitigating risk, transferring charters in lieu of closure, asking for lots of waivers to force the system to respond, reality of only being allowed to get waivers from Rule and needing the legislature believing in a school idea to amend or waive certain statutes to allow for innovation, and continuing the discussion in a future meeting was discussed.

Closed Session (Tabled)

For the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of one or more individuals (UCA 52-4-205)

Motion

Member Phillips moved, and Member Moss seconded, to "table the closed session, and any other agenda items we have not gotten to." The motion carried unanimously by those members present.

Adjourn

Member Moss moved "to saunter, then to cease to saunter." The motion carried unanimously by those members present and the meeting was adjourned.