

November 12, 2020

MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, November 12, 2020

www.youtube.com/utahscsb

DRAFT

Members Present:

Chair DeLaina Tonks (*refrains from voting, unless otherwise noted)
Vice Chair Bryan Bowles
Member Cynthia Phillips
Member Jim Moss
Member Krystle Bassett
Member Michelle Smith
Member Stephanie Speicher

Staff Present:

Jennifer Lambert
William Evans
Assistant Attorney General David Jones
Amber Hellstrom
Stewart Okobia
Greg Connell
Marie Steffensen
James Madsen
Jenna Magnetti
Robert Kohutek
Smriti Dhakal

Others Present:

Mike Haynes (USB), Carrie Miller (Ed Direction), Kerrie Upeniecks (Beehive), Alan Howard (CGA), Josh Daniels (CGA), Brett Puterbaugh (CGA), Caleb Cottle (CGA), Clint Basinger (CGA), Jarrett Webster (CGA), Kim Goates (CGA), Rebecca Pill (CGA), Zia Climer (CGA), Scott Morris (CGA), Brooke Anderson.

Call to Order

Chair Tonks called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

November 12, 2020

Public Comment

Ms. Brooke Anderson gave public comment concerning Vanguard Academy's lack of diversity in only ever enrolling white students.

Board Chair Report

Chair Tonks congratulated Member Moss for winning his election to the Utah State Board of Education and discussed the impact of mentoring matters to our community.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Lambert discussed results of director survey about how they are handling the pandemic, being in the process of hiring two additional staff members known as "portfolio managers," and introduced the SCSB's news employee, Financial Compliance Auditor Smriti Dhakal.

Consent Calendar

A) October 8, 2020 Minutes, B) Monthly Financial Report

Motion

Member Phillips moved, and Vice Chair Bowles seconded, "to take the minutes off the consent agenda to discuss." The motion carried unanimously with the following votes:

Vice Chair Bowles—Yes

Member Smith—Yes

Member Speicher—Yes

Member Phillips—Yes

Member Bassett—Yes

Member Moss—Yes

Discussion to the Motion

Clarification that the intent of the board was not to interfere with staff's Notice of Concern, but to ask staff for a continuance of it and to add enrollment reports from the school.

Motion

Member Moss moved, and Member Phillips seconded "to approve the Monthly Financial Report." The motion carried unanimously with the following votes:

Vice Chair Bowles—Yes

Member Smith—Yes

Member Speicher—Yes

Member Phillips—Yes

Member Bassett—Yes

Member Moss—Yes

November 12, 2020

Motion

Member Phillips moved, and Member Smith seconded, “to have title changed to what it said on the original agenda, and that on the second motion related to Athlos, the line ‘Member Smith moved, and Member Phillips’ has the word ‘seconded’ added and that in the two places in that larger section where there is the wording ‘amendment of Notice of Concern,’ or in any way changing the Notice of Concern that we amend that to be ‘the continuance of the Notice of Concern with an invitation to provide monthly updates to the SCSB staff’ as a separate requirement from the Notice of Concern.” The motion carried unanimously with the following votes:

Vice Chair Bowles—Yes
Member Smith—Yes
Member Speicher—Yes
Member Phillips—Yes
Member Bassett—Yes
Member Moss—Yes

Motion

Vice chair Bowles moved, and Member Bassett seconded, to approve the minutes as changed here today.” The motion carried unanimously with the following votes:

Vice Chair Bowles—Yes
Member Smith—Yes
Member Speicher—Yes
Member Phillips—Yes
Member Bassett—Yes
Member Moss—Yes

Teacher Spotlight – Teaching Excellence During the Pandemic

Kerrie Upeniecks, Beehive Science & Technology Academy

Ms. Carrie Miller (Ed Direction) presented on Utah Charter Seminar participant feedback results, analysis of student proficiency and growth data, inviting multiple schools to nominate their teachers amidst the pandemic this year, then turned the time over to Ms. Kerrie Upeniecks who spoke on applying so she could help her fellow teachers which in turn would help students.

Board Policy Amendment

Review of Facilities Contracts or Financing Agreements for Charter Schools Draft (3)

Mr. Stewart Okobia provided a history of crafting this policy and how public comments have shaped it.

Member Phillips mentioned issue with the word “approved” attesting that there is no agreement to review until the local board approves their agreement and suggested “before final approval” to suggest a preliminary approval has taken place.

November 12, 2020

The board discussed potential delays to the schools.

Motion

Member Phillips moved, and Member Smith seconded, “to adopt the Review of Facilities Contracts or Financing Agreements for Charter Schools policy with the very minor revision of stating ‘before it is approved’ to ‘before it is given final approval.’” The motion carried unanimously with the following votes:

Member Smith—Yes

Member Speicher—Yes

Member Phillips—Yes

ice Chair Bowles—Yes

Member Bassett—Yes

Member Moss—Yes

Probation Status Update and Possible Action Under UCA 53G-5-501(2)

Canyon Grove Academy

Vice Chair Tonks declared a perceived conflict of interest as she is the director of Mountain Heights Academy.

Mr. William Evans discussed the history of Canyon Grove Academy (CGA)’s material breach of their Charter Agreement and the need for CGA to remove its distance program.

Mr. Greg Connell presented on homeschooling occurring at CGA, historical timeline, conversations held with the school, and the schools model.

Video evidence of the school marketing homeschool was shown.

Representatives of CGA discussed not being a homeschool, but blended; having all teachers licensed and in CACTUS; providing student directed/teacher supported studies, parent role, dual enrollment, how the WPU works, FTE, qualifications of instructors, what instruction looks like for students, and the purpose of actors.

Motion

Member Moss moved to “leave them (Canyon Grove Academy) on Probation, and consider assigning a mentor that could help, and that we refer their proposed amendment, which has not been reviewed in detail since August, to the Authorizing and Amendment Committee for review and report to the board next month.” This motion received no second and was amended below:

Amendment to the Motion

Member Smith moved, and Member Moss seconded, to amend the previous motion “and to see Canyon Grove resolve, to the board (SCSB)’s satisfaction their method for tracking attendance and teacher instructional minutes,” thus the full motion became ““leave them (Canyon Grove Academy) on Probation, and consider assigning a mentor that could help, and that we refer their

November 12, 2020

proposed amendment, which has not been reviewed in detail since August, to the Authorizing and Amendment Committee for review and report to the board next month, and to see Canyon Grove resolve, to the board (SCSB)'s satisfaction their method for tracking attendance and teacher instructional minutes." The motion carried unanimously with the following votes:

Member Moss—Yes

Member Smith—Yes

Member Bowles—Yes

ice Chair Phillips—Yes

Member Speicher—Yes

Member Bassett—Yes

Adjourn

Motion

Member Smith moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.