

**MEETING MINUTES  
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2014  
700 WEST JEFFERSON STREET  
STATE CAPITAL, EW 41, BOISE, IDAHO**

A regular meeting of the Idaho Public Charter School Commission (PCSC) was held Thursday, February 13, 2014, at 700 West Jefferson Street, Boise, ID, in the State Capital in the East Wing 41 (EW 41) Hearing Room. Chairman Alan Reed presided and called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The following members attended in person:

Gayann DeMordaunt      Gayle O'Donahue  
Brian Scigliano

The following members attended by telephone:

Wanda Quinn      Esther Van Wart

Commissioner Nick Hallett was absent.

**A) COMMISSION WORK**

**1. Agenda Review / Approval**

**M/S (DeMordaunt/O'Donahue): To approve the agenda as submitted. *The motion passed unanimously.***

**2. Minutes Approval**

**M/S (DeMordaunt/Scigliano): To approve the meeting minutes from April 17, 2014, and May 1, 2014, as submitted. *The motion passed unanimously.***

**3. Election of Officers**

Chairman Reed turned the gavel over to Vice Chair O'Donahue.

Vice Chair O'Donahue opened the floor for nominations for chairman.

**M/S (DeMordaunt/Quinn): To nominate Alan Reed as chairman of the Idaho Public Charter School Commission. *The motion passed unanimously.***

Commissioner DeMordaunt said she feels that Chairman Reed has provided quality leadership in this position and she believes he will continue to lead the PCSC in the right direction

Commissioner Quinn concurred.

Commissioner O'Donahue returned the gavel to Chairman Reed.

Chairman Reed opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

**M/S (DeMordaunt/Van Wart): To nominate Gayle O'Donahue as Vice Chair of the Idaho Public Charter School Commission. *The motion passed unanimously.***

Commissioner DeMordaunt said she feels that Commissioner O'Donahue's direct experience with charter schools has given her unique insight and allowed her to provide strong leadership in this position.

Chairman Reed and Commissioner Quinn concurred.

Jennifer Swartz, PCSC counsel, noted that statutory changes effective July 2013 add term limits for Commissioners. However, the statute can be interpreted several ways and it appears that Chairman Reed's reappointment was made under the reasonable interpretation that term limits would apply only to terms beginning after the effective date of the new statutory provisions.

## **B) CHARTER SCHOOL PRE-OPENING ANNUAL UPDATES**

### **1. Bingham Academy (BA)**

Doug Owen, Principal; Greg Sigerson, Board Chair; Debbie Steele, Board Member; Kris Dewey, Board Member; and Pat Kolbet, Business manager represented BA.

Doug Owen, Principal, presented Bingham Academy's pre-opening update using a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Owen updated the PCSC regarding the school's focus, hiring, and enrollment. He noted challenges regarding facility remodeling negotiations and said project management is being handled internally to minimize costs. He said BA is working to further define the school's mission-specific goals according to a pre-established, August deadline.

Mr. Owen addressed the school's financial situation, noting that a \$250,000 grant from JKAF has been primarily used for remodeling. The school is in the process of renewing their federal Charter Start Program (CSP) grant and putting together contingency budgets that will be aligned to differing levels of enrollment. The school welcomed PCSC staff's recommendation for the provision of providing

quarterly financial updates.

Chairman Reed asked where the school was in terms of enrollment.

Mr. Owen confirmed that the school currently has 72 students enrolled.

Chairman Reed asked a follow-up question regarding the marketing being done to improve enrollment

Greg Sigerson, Board Chair, responded that BA will be doing radio and newspaper advertising and another open house. The school also has a bus parked in the lot with a sign on it.

Commissioner Van Wart asked the school to provide more information on the status of the school building

Mr. Owen responded that he is confident that the building will be ready on-time and anticipates that all remodeling work will be done for approximately \$150,000. He also stated that the school plans to begin preparing and testing students early to increase the likelihood that students will be able to get concurrent credit and be prepared.

Chairman Reed asked Tamara Baysinger, PCSC Director, to provide insight regarding the school's federal Charter School Program (CSP) grant.

Ms. Baysinger stated that the federal government recently informed her that it is very likely the school will receive ongoing CSP funds. There remains potential for cash flow difficulties due to the timing of the fund disbursement.

Commissioner Scigliano asked for clarification regarding whether the school will be able to carry over CSP funds to FY15 and the impact that will have on the budget and cash flow.

Mr. Owen responded that the CSP funds will be used for one-time purchases rather than ongoing expenses.

**M/S (DeMordaunt/O'Donahue): To require Bingham Academy to submit quarterly financial reports to the PCSC through fiscal year 2015. *The motion passed unanimously.***

## **2. Idaho College and Career Readiness Academy (IDCCRA)**

Mike Falconer, Board Member; Chris Wood, Board Member; Kerry Wysocki, Board Chair; Monti Pittman, Administrator; and Allen Wenger, Finance Manager

represented IDCCRA.

Kerry Wysocki facilitated IDCCRA's pre-opening update through a PowerPoint presentation. He provided an overview of the school's course content selection, hiring, and marketing. Outside firms Intellicet and E-Dynamics will assist with business and health pathways. The K12 curriculum organization will work on the web development pathway. IDCCRA has begun the accreditation process and hopes to be fully accredited by the end of the first school year.

Mr. Wysocki stated that enrollment is currently at 24. He said IDCCRA has been assured by K12 that the school will open regardless of the enrollment and will be provided with deficit protection.

**M/S (DeMordaunt/O'Donahue): To require Idaho College and Career Readiness Academy to provide the PCSC with an enrollment update before the first day of school and quarterly through the end of the 2014-2015 school year. *The motion passed unanimously.***

Chairman Reed confirmed with Ms. Baysinger that she had spoken with K12 regarding the deficit protection clause.

Ms. Baysinger said a regional finance director from K12 has assured PCSC staff that K12 will cover the school's costs even beyond those associated with K12, and will ensure that the school has appropriate cash flow. She noted that IDCCRA will be obliged to repay K12 for any such assistance when they are able to do so.

### **3. Syringa Mountain School (SMS).**

Mary Gervase, Administrator, represented SMS in person; Ben Rogers, Board Member represented SMS via phone.

Ms. Gervase provided updates regarding the school, including hiring, Waldorf certification and other professional development, fundraising, student transportation, facility, and enrollment. She noted that the school is interested in multi-age kindergarten in the future, though this idea is challenged by the state's lack of preschool funding.

Commissioner Van Wart expressed support for the school's vision and appreciation of their partnership with Sage International School of Boise for business management assistance.

## C) OTHER CHARTER SCHOOL UPDATES

### 1. Wings Charter Middle School Closure (WCMS)

Kristy Oberg, Administrator, represented WCMS via telephone.

Ms. Oberg briefly described how the school has been working closely with PCSC and SDE staff to develop the Closure Plan and get tasks done to ensure an orderly dissolution process.

Commissioner O'Donahue thanked WCMS for their efforts and prudent decision to relinquish the charter.

### 2. iSucceed Virtual High School Financial Update (iSVHS)

Aaron Ritter, Administrator; Timari Kulm, Acting Business manager; and Katie Alison, Operations Coordinator, represented iSVHS.

Aaron Ritter provided an update regarding the school's finances. iSVHS now expects a positive cash flow and a FY14 year-end carryover of over \$186,000. iSVHS will likely move facilities during the upcoming school year.

**M/S (O'Donahue/Scigliano): To direct staff to issue to the SDE written notice that the PCSC no longer has immediate concerns regarding iSucceed Virtual High School's ability to remain fiscally stable for the remainder of its performance certificate term. *The motion passed unanimously.***

### 3. Heritage Academy Financial Update (HA)

Blair Crouch, Board Chair; Teresa Molitor, Board Member; Christine Ivie, Administrator; Cheryl Kary, Business Manager; and the school's legal counsel represented HA via telephone.

Mr. Crouch provided an update regarding the school's renegotiated mortgage that has resulted in improved financial projections. The school anticipates having a FY14 carryover of approximately \$50,000.

Commissioner DeMordaunt asked for an enrollment update.

Mr. Crouch responded that enrollment for the next school year is currently 207, with waiting lists for kindergarten through fifth grade and open seats remaining in grades six through eight.

Ms. Kary said the FY15 budget is based on an estimated enrollment of 200 students. She anticipates that the school will end FY15 with a carryover of approximately \$100,000.

**M/S (Quinn/DeMordaunt): To direct staff to issue to the SDE written notice that the PCSC no longer has immediate concerns regarding Heritage Academy's ability to remain fiscally stable for the remainder of its performance certificate term. *The motion passed unanimously.***

**M/S (Quinn/Scigliano): To require Heritage Academy to provide the PCSC with a 2014-2015 enrollment update by September 1, 2014, as well as quarterly financial reports through fiscal year 2015. *The motion passed unanimously.***

#### **4. Odyssey Charter School Performance Certificate Conditions Update (Odyssey)**

Mark Fuller, legal counsel for Odyssey, requested that the PCSC amend its agenda to address Odyssey's financial status update first due to limited availability in the business manager's schedule.

**M/S (DeMordaunt/O'Donahue): To amend the agenda to consider the Odyssey Financial Update prior to the Performance Certificate Conditions update. *The motion passed unanimously.***

#### **5. Odyssey Charter School Financial Update (Odyssey)**

Karl Peterson, Administrator; Vern Thurber, Business Manager, and the school's legal counsel represented Odyssey via telephone.

Mr. Thurber reported that some of Odyssey's expenditures were budgeted higher than necessary. Adjustments in this area indicate that the school is not in financial trouble. He believes Odyssey's special education and legal services needs are reflected in the budgets submitted, the finances are accurately reflected in the PCSC's materials, and Odyssey will finish the fiscal year with a positive fund balance.

Chairman Reed requested up-to-date enrollment numbers for next fall.

Mr. Peterson responded that the school currently has 239 students enrolled for fall 2014.

Mr. Thurber said the budget was developed with an estimated enrollment of 260. He said the school will amend the budget and adjust staffing if actual enrollment is lower.

Chairman Reed noted his lack of confidence in the accuracy of the budget provided.

Commissioner O'Donahue asked if the school has a waiting list.

Mr. Peterson said there is no waiting list and none of the grades are near capacity, but he expects enrollment to increase. He stated that the \$200,000 contingency reserve anticipated for FY15 assures flexibility in case of lower enrollment.

In response to a request from Chairman Reed, Ms. Baysinger relayed a recent enrollment update from the school. The updated indicated that Odyssey's overall fall enrollment is currently 227, broken down as follows: sixth grade 32, seventh grade 66, eighth grade 54, ninth grade 36, tenth grade 30, and eleventh grade 9.

Commissioner Quinn observed that Odyssey is only about halfway to its enrollment cap of 425.

Chairman Reed invited William Morris to provide public comment, per Mr. Morris' request.

Mr. Morris introduced himself as a Special Populations Coordinator for the State Department of Education. He updated the PCSC regarding Odyssey's corrective action plan for special education. The school has chosen to offer summer school to address compensatory services for students who did not receive them during 2013-2014.

Mr. Peterson and Mr. Thurber said most of the costs associated with these services appear in the Exceptional Child section of the FY15 budget. They have budgeted for a teacher, an aide, and transportation.

Several commissioners expressed frustration regarding the difficulty of getting consistent, reliable financial information from Odyssey throughout the school year.

Mr. Thurber said the school has had several business managers in one year, leading to inconsistent financial management. He feels an independent audit will provide a fresh start. The school's audit is not yet scheduled.

Mr. Peterson said previous business managers and treasurers have been overwhelmed by school finance. Mr. Thurber brings a lot of high quality experience to the business management position.

#### **4. Odyssey Charter School Performance Certificate Conditions Update (Odyssey)**

Mark Fuller, legal counsel for Odyssey; Andrew Whitford, Board Member; and Karl Peterson, Administrator, represented Odyssey via telephone.

Mr. Fuller asserted that until the 12<sup>th</sup> of June (five days prior to the meeting) it was Odyssey's expectation that all they were asked to address was the financial update. He stated that the new materials were provided to the school one day prior to the meeting and that the school did not have the opportunity to fully review them.

Mr. Fuller said that if the PCSC were to move to issue an intent to revoke, it would result in the school's closure due to decreased enrollment numbers. Additionally, he informed the PCSC that if a notice of intent to revoke was issued, the school will appeal based on an absence of due process. He requested that the hearing be delayed so the school may provide a full response to the materials and appear in Boise to make a presentation. If no delay takes place, school board member Andrew Whitford, would like to make a presentation on Odyssey's behalf.

Ms. Swartz clarified that the consideration of this agenda item by the PCSC does not constitute a revocation hearing. Issuance of a notice of intent to revoke would align to the due process provided for in law. If the PCSC were to issue an intent to revoke, a hearing will be held at a later date. The question at this meeting is whether the PCSC wishes to move forward with a future hearing to consider revocation.

Ms. Baysinger addressed the PCSC regarding concerns cited in a letter received shortly before the meeting from attorney Chris Yorgason, who wrote on Odyssey's behalf. She explained the short timeline associated with the new materials, noting that NWAC's letter stating that Odyssey had failed to achieve candidacy status was issued late on Wednesday evening. On Thursday morning, PCSC staff invited the school by phone to provide a response to NWAC's letter by 9:00 a.m. Monday morning, in order that such response could be included in the agenda materials. She also noted that the 400 pages of materials provided to the PCSC and Odyssey the previous day included large sections that were not essential reading for consideration of the decision, and that the relevant portions were brief and highlighted for easy review. Additionally, most of the documents were not new to Odyssey, but were items produced by Odyssey representatives and/or already in their possession. She made reference to communications with the school indicating that Odyssey was aware before Thursday that a performance certificate conditions update would be addressed during this meeting. Additionally, Mr. Yorgansen's letter questioned whether the PCSC is requiring the school to meet



higher expectations than other schools. Ms. Baysinger said she has communicated with AdvancEd and the SDE, both of which confirmed that candidacy status is typically expected to be achieved within the school's first year of operation. Finally, Ms. Baysinger noted that the school was aware of the performance certificate conditions for at least a month prior to the April 17, 2014, meeting when the performance certificate was approved.

Jennifer Swartz reminded the PCSC that from a legal standpoint, the law provides the PCSC with the clear option to move for revocation if a condition is not met, pointing out that the school entered into its performance certificate knowing of the conditions.

Dale Kleinert, Director of AdvancEd Idaho, confirmed that the May 28 readiness visit was Odyssey's third, and that a need for three visits was unusual. At the first visit, the reviewer received a self-assessment from the school reporting that all 33 indicators had been met. He pointed out that even experienced schools don't meet all 33 indicators. The initial reviewer confirmed that only Odyssey's administrator had been involved in completing the self-review, then informed the school that the readiness visit would need to be re-scheduled for a time after stakeholder input was considered. At the second review, in December, the reviewer visited the school and communicated that he felt the school could move to candidacy status; however, he expressed concerns to Mr. Kleinert about areas needing improvement. Mr. Kleinert looked into the situation and determined that it would be important to use a full team to do a more thorough review the school. A full team conducted a review in May.

Commissioner DeMordaunt asked Mr. Kleinert to clarify how common it is for a school to have a team review at this stage and how quickly most schools are given candidacy after such a review.

Mr. Kleinert responded that an extensive review such as Odyssey's is not common, but he felt it was important to take a full team to do a detailed review because of the weight of the decision and the level of concern. He feels the review team conducted a thorough review of the school. In most cases, candidacy can be granted within seven to ten days following a review.

Commissioner DeMordaunt asked for confirmation that it would have been possible for Odyssey to have achieved candidacy at this time.

Mr. Kleinert responded that yes, it was possible.

Commissioner O'Donahue asked Mr. Kleinert to confirm that receiving candidacy status is the first step towards full accreditation

Mr. Kleinert confirmed that this is true and provided an overview of the remaining process, including the two year timeframe allowed between candidacy and full accreditation. He stated that he has not known of a single school that has taken the full two years to move from candidacy to full accreditation. Schools want to be fully accredited as soon as possible so that students' credits are not at risk.

Commissioner O'Donahue asked if it is common for schools to move to candidacy status within one visit, or if it typically takes more

Mr. Kleinert said approximately 25% of schools do not achieve candidacy status after the first visit. Most of those have a second visit; they also typically present an improvement plan, but such a plan was lacking in this case.

Chairman Reed asked whether Mr. Kleinert believed the school could have achieved candidacy between the time they initially applied and now.

Mr. Kleinert stated that the school applied in September 2013 and received a letter from AdvancEd regarding the application process, but it appears most of the work that needed to be done was attempted at the last minute.

Chairman Reed asked Mr. Kleinert to confirm that the school was aware in September of what needed to be done to achieve candidacy status.

Mr. Kleinert confirmed that this was correct.

Commissioner DeMordaunt asked Mr. Kleinert how many accreditation visits or processes he has been involved in and how many PCSC schools have not achieved candidacy status.

Mr. Kleinert said he has been involved with the process for at least three to four charters and many other public schools. All of the schools he has worked with have achieved candidacy status

Ms. Baysinger noted that one other PCSC-authorized school, Heritage Community Charter School, did not achieve candidacy status in its first year. In HCCS's case, the application process was started too late in the year. HCCS's board was very active in responding to the situation, including changing administration and some board members and closing their high school until they were more prepared to proceed.

Mr. Kleinert stated that AdvancEd spent significant time working with HCCS to address their issues and would do the same for Odyssey. He feels that the school worked hard before the May readiness visit, but much of the material provided by the school was generalized and did not provide a specific plan for improvement.

Commissioner DeMordaunt expressed concern regarding whether the school had adequate time to meet the requirements.

Mr. Kleinert agreed it was challenging that the final readiness visit happened at the end of the year; however, he noted that the school had been in the process since September, which should have been sufficient time for the school to address concerns and develop a plan to meet candidacy status.

Commissioner O'Donahue noted that the school's board minutes seemed to reflect that the school was aware of the accreditation process earlier in the year. It also appeared that the third visit would not have been necessary if the school had been appropriately prepared earlier.

Mr. Kleinert confirmed that this was true; the detailed third review was needed in order to see if the school was doing what they had said they were doing.

Commissioner O'Donahue confirmed with Mr. Kleinert that schools are not expected to be perfect in order to achieve candidacy, but that the focus is on evidence of growth and a strong implementation plan. She asked how much work remains to be done before Odyssey could be eligible for candidacy.

Mr. Kleinert stated that the school's high staff and board turnover appears to have kept them from focusing on a plan beyond day-to-day operations. He said the school's fragmented situation will be difficult to address.

Chairman Reed emphasized his concern that the school failed to complete the process despite having been familiar with the process and its importance since the beginning of the year.

Mr. Kleinert said the negative result of the accreditation visit is a reflection of other issues at the school. He also noted that the school did know that this requirement existed in the performance certificate. Finally, he stated that while the school has met minimum expectations in regards to special education, they have not developed a plan related to a response to intervention and special education as expected for accreditation.

Chairman Reed thanked Mr. Kleinert for his time.

Andrew Whitford, Odyssey Board Member, stated that though the school did not meet the accreditation condition on the performance certificate, the board is working to put plans in place, including getting appropriate training. He noted that he believes that many of the students at the school have not succeeded at any other school, but they have grown at Odyssey. He expressed the board's concern

that if Odyssey is closed, these students will have to go back to the public school system. He referred to the accreditation letter Odyssey received from Mr. Kleinert, noting that the letter allows the school to remain an applicant until September 2015. The school is going to do additional board training this summer and then work hard to seek accreditation in September. If the PCSC were to close the school, students would lose their credits; but if the school were to remain open and achieve accreditation, these credits would be grandfathered. Mr. Whitford also reported that the board had recently held a budget hearing and the FY15 budget was approved.

Mr. Kleinert clarified that credits gained prior to accreditation would not be grandfathered if the school achieved accreditation in a future year; rather, those credits would continue to be considered as having been earned at a non-accredited institution. It would be up to a receiving district to determine whether they will accept such credits for a transferring student.

Mr. Kleinert stated that Odyssey may remain an applicant until September 26, 2015. However, that this is not ideal. Once a school achieves candidacy status, they then have two years to achieve full accreditation. He recommended that they not take that long.

Mr. Whitford stated that the school hopes to pursue candidacy status at the beginning of the next school year.

Mr. Kleinert cautioned that the AdvancEd rules may not apply to charter schools, as they are set according to international accreditation standards rather than for individual states. He deferred to the PCSC or the SDE regarding rules for individual states.

Chairman Reed reminded the PCSC that the real issue at hand was that what Odyssey failed to meet was an established condition and benchmark in its performance certificate.

Commissioner O'Donahue noted that, as Mr. Kleinert observed, the inability to achieve candidacy is a symptom of other issues going on at the school. She said it was her understanding that the PCSC put the conditions on the performance certificate because the school needed to address such concerns. The school was aware of the condition and was given the opportunity to discuss this condition prior to the execution of the performance certificate. Additionally, she felt that some of the areas that were identified as "needs improvement" during the accreditation visit are at the heart of the charter petition and it was concerning that so few of them were met. Commissioner O'Donahue also stated that she was surprised the school would want to spend so much time getting accredited since it was critical for their students to be able to transfer credits.

Karl Peterson stated that the accreditation process includes many requirements and he felt Odyssey was close to accomplishing them. If the PCSC moves to close the school, the school will not receive funding during the appeals process. Additionally, the school may not have the money to appeal and the students will need to transfer and possibly be required to repeat credits. He requested that the PCSC give the school the opportunity to seek candidacy in the fall. He stated that this issue doesn't affect the school's middle school students and closing Odyssey is a more drastic step than needs to be taken.

Chairman Reed asked how many high school students were enrolled in 2013-2014.

Mr. Peterson responded that the school had approximately 30 high school students. He said if the PCSC closes the school, the students won't get to keep their credits.

Chairman Reed confirmed with Mr. Kleinert that credits earned at Odyssey during the 2013-14 school year will have been received from a non-accredited institution, and that the schools receiving the students will determine whether or not they will accept the credits.

Mr. Kleinert added that Idaho schools usually do what is best for the students, but some of those students may be required to take placement tests or retake certain classes.

Ms. Baysinger said she had spoken with the two local districts (91 and 93) regarding the transfer of student credits. The districts had been unaware that Odyssey did not achieve candidacy status. District 93 clarified that they do not accept credits from non-accredited schools; the district does offer summer school where the students may be able to make up some of the credits. District 91's policy is to count toward graduation requirements only those credits that are earned at accredited schools. In this case, for the sake of the students, the administration's recommendation to the board would likely be that the district accept elective credits from Odyssey, but require that credit for core subjects be earned through accredited institutions.

Commissioner Van Wart observed that while the school stated the PCSC should do what is best for the students, she wonders why that was not a greater focus of the school earlier in the year. She has significant concern about letting this situation go on any longer.

Chairman Reed reiterated that the question for the PCSC is whether the PCSC wants to take action regarding Odyssey's failure to meet the performance

certificate condition.

Commissioner Van Wart asked by law what action should be taken.

Ms. Swartz stated that the PCSC is not required to take action, but the law allows the PCSC to move toward revocation if the school does not meet a condition in the performance certificate.

Chairman Reed asked for clarification on the process

Ms. Swartz provided an overview as follows: the PCSC would direct staff to issue the intent to revoke, then there would be a public hearing and the school would have the opportunity to present their perspective. The PCSC would then make a final decision about whether to revoke the school's charter. In the meantime, the school would continue to operate.

Commissioner Scigliano asked about the school's responsibility to communicate with families regarding the situation.

Ms. Swartz said there is no law requiring the school to communicate with families.

Mr. Fuller said the timing would be detrimental since issuance of a notice of intent to revoke would end payments from the state, preventing the school from preparing for the next school year. He requested that the PCSC delay consideration until October.

Chairman Reed said the PCSC is now in the discussion phase where external comments are no longer appropriate. He clarified that state payments would not be stopped by issuance of a notice of intent to revoke.

Jennifer Swartz clarified that though statute allows the school up to 30 days to provide a written response to the intent to revoke, the school could respond more quickly if they wished to have this issue addressed prior to the beginning of the school year.

**M/S (Van Wart/O'Donahue): To direct staff to issue to Odyssey Charter School a notice of intent to revoke the charter on the grounds that Odyssey has failed to meet Condition 2 in its performance certificate by the timeline specified.**

Chairman Reed requested a roll call vote.

Commissioner Van Wart: Aye

Commissioner Quinn: Aye

Commissioner O'Donahue: Aye  
Commissioner DeMordaunt: Aye  
Commissioner Scigliano: Aye

*The motion passed unanimously.*

Commissioner Quinn asked whether Odyssey intends to notify parents of their accreditation status.

Ms. Baysinger responded that the PCSC staff does not have this information.

Mr. Fuller stated that Odyssey had no comment.

**M/S (Quinn/Van Wart): To direct Odyssey Charter School to provide the parents of all Odyssey high school students a letter notifying them that Odyssey has not achieved accreditation candidacy status, and that schools to which students transfer therefore are not obliged to acknowledge credits earned at Odyssey.**

Chairman Reed opened the floor for discussion of the motion.

Commissioner Quinn stated that she made this motion because she believes it is in the best interest of students.

Commissioner O'Donahue stated that she would prefer to leave this decision to the school.

Commissioner DeMordaunt concurred.

Commissioner Scigliano stated that he would prefer to wait until after the hearing to consider this motion.

Commissioner Van Wart stated that based on the feedback from the other commissioners, she wished to remove her second.

Commissioner Quinn withdrew the motion.

## **D) CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED CHARTER AND PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE AMENDMENTS**

### **1. The Academy Proposed Performance Certificate and Charter Amendments**

Ms. Baysinger described the proposed amendment to increase the school's enrollment cap.

Commissioner Van Wart expressed concern about the impact on the local school district, whose hiring decisions may be affected.

Mark Stenberg, Chair of The Academy's Board of Directors, stated that the timeline for this expansion is still a year away. The building would need to be prepared, so it would be a full school year before this expansion would happen.

**M/S (DeMordaunt/Scigliano): To approve the proposed performance certificate and charter amendments as submitted by The Academy, Inc. *The motion passed unanimously.***

## **2. Kootenai Bridge Academy Proposed Charter Amendments (KBA)**

Ms. Baysinger provided an overview of the school's amendment, an enrollment increase that reflects a correction based on the school's former misunderstanding of the nature of the enrollment cap.

**M/S (O'Donahue/Van Wart): To approve the proposed charter amendments as submitted by Kootenai Bridge Academy. *The motion passed unanimously.***

## **3. Monticello Montessori Charter School Proposed Charter Amendments (Monticello)**

Ms. Baysinger provided an overview of the amendment, which increases flexibility regarding how the school ensures that employees have access to health care coverage.

**M/S (DeMordaunt/O'Donahue): To approve the proposed charter amendments as submitted by Monticello Montessori Charter School. *The motion passed unanimously.***

## **E) CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATES**

**M/S (DeMordaunt/O'Donahue): To execute the performance certificates for the following: Idaho Science and Technology Charter School, North Idaho STEM Charter Academy, Palouse Prairie School of Expeditionary Learning, Taylor's Crossing Public Charter School, Idaho Virtual Education Partners doing business as Idaho Connects Online as presented.**

Commissioner Quinn asked whether the schools were comfortable with the certificates. Ms. Baysinger confirmed that school feedback indicated that all



schools agreed to the performance certificates as presented.

Commissioner DeMordaunt stated that during the subcommittee meeting, the schools provided positive feedback about the process and felt it was a benefit to their schools.

**M/S (DeMordaunt/O'Donahue): To amend the motion to include the approval of the performance certificates of Idaho Virtual Academy, Kootenai Bridge Academy, and Idaho Virtual High School doing business as Richard McKenna Charter High School as presented. *The motion passed unanimously as amended.***

## **F) OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1. Proposed PCSC Policy Amendments**

Ms. Baysinger provided an overview of the proposed policy amendments, which restore the standards for petition approval as approved by the PCSC in June 2013. They also include the clarification that transfer petitions will be processed in the same manner as petitions for new charter schools. The proposed policy requires that to receive authorization, a school must score a 2 or better on all items on the petition evaluation rubric.

**M/S (DeMordaunt/Scigliano): To approve the draft PCSC policy revisions as submitted. *The motion passed unanimously.***

Commissioner DeMordaunt stated that she appreciates the language and flexibility for the PCSC to change ratings if they feel it is appropriate.

### **2. Proposed New Procedure: Formation of Staff Recommendations**

Ms. Baysinger provided an overview of the proposed new procedure for the development of staff recommendations for action items presented during PCSC meetings. The procedure would be included in the policies and procedures manual. It outlines the steps that staff will take, to the best of their ability, to form recommendations.

Chairman Reed and Commissioner Van Wart noted that this item was drafted in response to a lengthy and positive discussion at the April meeting.

**M/S (O'Donahue/Van Wart): To approve the proposed new procedure regarding the formation of staff recommendations as submitted. *The motion passed unanimously.***

**M/S (DeMordaunt/Van Wart): To adjourn the meeting. *The motion passed unanimously.***

The meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.