

# PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING

February 12, 2015  
304 N. 8th Street, Room 242  
Boise, ID

## AGENDA

**Thursday, February 12, 2015 – 304 N. 8th Street, Boise, ID, Room 242 – 9:00 a.m.**

Chairman Reed called the Commission to order at 9:03 a.m. The following Commissioners attended or were excused:

Alan Reed	Phone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not present	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gayle O'Donahue	Phone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kelly Murphey	Phone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not present	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Scigliano	Phone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Person	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not present	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wanda Quinn	Phone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>joined at 9:36 am</i>			
Esther Van Wart	Phone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not present	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gayann DeMordaunt	Phone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not present	<input type="checkbox"/>

Chairman Reed introduced Kelly Murphey, the new Commissioner replacing Commissioner Hallett. Commissioner Murphey briefly addressed the Commission acquainting them with his background.

### A. COMMISSION WORK

#### 1. Agenda Review / Approval

**M/S (Gayann DeMordaunt/ Esther VanWart):** To approve the agenda for today, February 12, 2015. *Motion unanimously passed.*

#### 2. Minutes Review / Approval

**M/S (Brian Scigliano/ Gayann DeMordaunt):** To approve the minutes from December 11, 2014, as submitted. *Motion unanimously passed.*

Commissioner Murphey questioned whether he could vote on issues at this time since he has not completed his paperwork as a state employee.

Deputy Attorney General Swartz advised Commissioner Murphey that it is better to err on the side of caution and abstain from voting.

## **B. CHARTER and PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE AMENDMENTS**

### **1. ISTCS Proposed Charter Amendment**

Ms. Baysinger informed the Commission that ISTCS's proposal was to make a pilot project permanent by adding upper elementary grades to their existing program.

Tami Dortch, ISTCS administrator, confirmed that no significant changes were made to the pilot program.

**M/S (Gayann DeMordaunt/ Esther VanWart):** To approve the proposed charter and performance certificate amendments as submitted by Idaho Science and Technology Charter School. *Motion unanimously passed, with Commissioner Murphey abstaining.*

### **2. Richard McKenna Charter High School Proposed Charter Amendment**

Ms. Baysinger advised that RMCHS's amendment proposed to expand the school with the addition of an elementary program that added one grade a year, utilizing a Montessori program at a different site in Mountain Home than RMCHS's existing high school program.

Larry Slade, RMCHS's administrator, stated that it was their intent to create an elementary school to prepare students to be successful in high school. They purchased 5 acres in Mountain Home and have funds saved to build the first few buildings. RMCHS wants to move slowly in phases, starting in kindergarten with 24 students, taking care not to expose the school to debt and risk.

Commissioner Van Wart inquired whether there were any other Montessori schools in close proximity to RMCHS and whether they are focusing on a certain type of population.

Mr. Slade responded that there is not a Montessori model that goes through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and that RMCHS's goal is to go through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**M/S (Gayann DeMordaunt/ Brian Scigliano):** To approve the proposed charter and performance certificate amendments as submitted by Richard McKenna Charter High School. *Motion unanimously passed with Commissioner Murphey abstaining.*

### **3. Compass Public Charter School Proposed Charter Amendment**

Cindy Stover, business manager, and Kelly Trudeau, administrator, appeared for Compass. Kelly presented Compass' proposal to grow the elementary grades with

funding from a J.A. and Katherine Albertson Foundation (JKAF) charter expansion grant. Their grant request was submitted to JKAF, and their proposal presentation was scheduled for February 25. They aim to add another class in each K-7 grade in the 2015-16 school year, growing from 665 to 908 students. They advised that they have 439 new applications, enough students to fill another class at each grade level, and are still accepting applications. Full capacity will be approximately 1,000-1,400 students, and they asked for a cap of 1,300. They are proactively recruiting teachers; seeking 9.5 teachers, a counselor, a principal and a secretary.

Commissioner DeMordaunt inquired whether expansion was possible if the Albertson's foundation did not provide a grant.

Ms. Trudeau affirmed it would be tight, but possible. They expect a 7.9% increase under Superintendent Ybarra's administration.

Commission DeMordaunt and Chairman Reed commented that Compass is a great example of growing a successful school.

Commissioner Van Wart had questions about their enrollment cap. She wondered if Compass would be required to offer the maximum number of seats that their performance certificate allows.

Ms. Baysinger advised that the charter language was crafted to allow Compass's board to establish a yearly enrollment cap that is lower than their overall approved cap, but the public must be notified in advance of the lottery regarding how many seats are available.

**M/S (Gayann DeMordaunt/ Esther VanWart):** To approve the proposed charter and performance certificate amendments as submitted by Compass Public Charter School. *Motion unanimously passed, with Commissioner Murphey abstaining.*

Chairman Reed requested that Compass inform the Commission of the outcome of the JKAF funding application.

## **C. OTHER**

### **1. Commission Discussion: Draft Policies, First Reading**

Ms. Baysinger stated that NACSA recommended that the PCSC develop policies in light of the 2013 legislation; this is a high priority and introduces fairly significant changes since new statutory processes are concerned. She further informed the Commissioners that although the draft policies were posted online in advance of today's meeting, no public comment had been received.

Commissioner DeMordaunt addressed Sec II.C.12 regarding after-deadline submission of additional supplementary documents or revisions not being received

except by PCSC permission. She posed the question of whether language should be added that gives the Commission the ability to take a vote in a meeting setting as to whether to accept supplementary documents or revisions.

Commissioner Quinn asked Ms. Baysinger to give them scenarios where the proposed language might apply.

Ms. Baysinger said that, historically, schools came to meetings with new information and problems arose with accepting this material because Commissioners and staff had not had time to review it. Provision I.A.5 says that in rare instances exceptions can be made. The rare exception provision exists because occasionally there is a very good reason to accept a late document. Ms. Baysinger advised that for the most part, taking late submissions makes it difficult to handle them thoroughly and fairly.

Chairman Reed, Commissioner DeMordaunt and Commissioner Van Wart discussed the desire to see an exception for the Chairman and the Commission and their concerns that there would not be a chance to review and confirm such late information.

Ms. Baysinger indicated that although the intent is for I.A.5 to meet that aim, the language in Section II C 12 can be reworked for clarity. She said that change could be made in advance of the second reading. In the meantime, public comment would continue to be taken as well.

## **2. Legislative Update**

Ms. Baysinger said S1021 uncouples authorizer fees for PCSC portfolio schools from JFAC appropriations each year. If the bill passes and JFAC appropriates an increased amount to the PCSC, schools authorizer fees would no longer automatically increase. The bill was not encountering resistance and passed the Senate and House Education Committee.

Ms. Baysinger also said Senator Mortimer was introducing a lottery preference bill and requested PCSC input, though the language of the bill was not available yet. The concept is to allow schools to offer an optional, additional enrollment preference for students previously enrolled at another charter school. The preference would fall between the existing sibling and primary attendance area residency preferences. The primary use would be for schools to have two feeder elementary schools going into a high school.

The commissioners discussed possible positive and negative impacts of the bill and generally agreed that it could create an option for schools to expand and collaborate with other neighboring charter schools. They agreed not to take a position until the text of the bill was available.

Ms. Baysinger said that Senator Mortimer had also asked for her input regarding another legislative idea that would provide a process where two existing charter schools could be combined into one charter school. No draft is publically available. She also said the ICSN has been working on concepts that could help charters purchase facilities via a revolving loan fund or access to the state's credit rating.

Chairman Reed said the spirit of the discussions he had with legislators recently was very positive. Most expressed that they were very happy with the PCSC and the direction it is going. He thanked all the commissioners for all their work.

The PCSC agree to hold a special meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. via teleconference, to further discuss legislation as bills are printed.

Ms. Baysinger noted that the PCS is not obliged to take a position on any bill.

**M/S (Esther VanWart/ Brian Scigliano):** To adjourn the meeting. *Motion unanimously passed.*

The meeting adjourned at 10:11 a. m.