

MEETING MINUTES

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

April 9, 2015
700 W. State Street, Boise, Idaho
JRW Building, West Conference Room

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Reed at 9:03 a.m. The following Commissioners attended:

Alan Reed	Phone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Person	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not present	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gayle O'Donahue	Phone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not present	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kelly Murphey	Phone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Person	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Person	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not present	<input type="checkbox"/>
Esther Van Wart	Phone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Person	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not present	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gayann DeMordaunt	Phone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Person	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not present	<input type="checkbox"/>

A. COMMISSION WORK

Chairman Reed introduced and welcomed Commissioner Murphey.

1. Agenda Review/ Approval

M/S (DeMordaunt/Quinn): To approve the agenda for today, April 9, 2015, as presented. *Motion unanimously passed.*

2. Minutes Review/Approval

M/S (Van Wart/DeMordaunt): To approve the minutes of February 12, 2015 and February 18, 2015, as presented. *Motion unanimously passed.*

Chairman Reed inquired whether the August meeting could be moved from August 13th to the 11th.

M/S (Quinn/Scigliano): To move the August meeting from August 13th to Tuesday, August 11, 2015. *Motion unanimously passed.*

B. CHARTER AND PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE AMENDMENTS

1. BCCLC Proposed Charter Amendments

Fred Ball appeared for BCCLC.

Commissioner DeMordaunt asked how BCCLC will market to middle school students.

Mr. Ball responded that they plan to start small with 25 students in 7th and 8th grade, and they are not looking at recruiting from other schools but intend to promote from BCCLC's lower grades.

Commissioner DeMordaunt noted that organic growth is usually dependable. She further commented that the risk is low since they own portables and the land is in place.

Chairman Reed stated that it was a great opportunity for students in Blackfoot.

M/S (Quinn/DeMordaunt): To approve the proposed charter and performance certificate amendments as submitted by Blackfoot Charter Community Learning Center. *Motion unanimously passed.*

C. OTHER

1. Late Report Submissions by Portfolio Schools

- a. Bingham Academy
- b. North Star Charter School
- c. The Academy

Diane Dodds, Secretary/Treasurer of the Board, and Fred Ball, Administrator, appeared for Bingham Academy (BA); Jim Miller, Chairman of the Board, Bruce Dukelow, Secretary of the Board, and George Coburn, Finance Administrator, appeared for North Star Charter School (NSCS); and Holly Logan, appeared for The Academy.

Chairman Reed thanked the representatives present from all three schools for taking time to appear. He acknowledged that required reports can be time-consuming, and said the PCSC continues to work on streamlining reporting processes. Most PCSC schools consistently complete their reports on time. The PCSC expects school representatives to have integrity and meet their obligations. The PCSC needs to receive requested materials in a timely fashion in order to meet its own statutory obligations.

Mr. Miller stated that while he appreciated the need for the reports, there is confusion about the forms and data taken. NSCS would rather submit data in its own forms than converting to PCSC forms.

Chairman Reed responded that receiving many different formats makes it difficult for the PCSC and staff to review information. He also noted that NSCS knew about the templates before it came to the PCSC for authorization.

Commissioner Van Wart observed that the 30+ other PCSC authorized schools have used the templates successfully. She noted that it appears NSCS took an unusually long time to adapt to known requirements.

Ms. Dodds acknowledged the tardiness of BA's reports, noting that the school's business manager/secretary was overwhelmed by her workload. She said that, next year, BA will separate the business manager and secretarial positions to mitigate this problem.

Joel Lovett, administrator for The Academy, appeared by phone and expressed embarrassment for the late reporting by his school. He noted that the individual responsible for such reporting was no longer with The Academy. The ICSN's Marc Carignan will assist with getting the missing financial report submitted by Monday.

George Coburn for NSCS spoke up saying that there was no excuse for not getting reporting done, and that it will not happen again.

Chairman Reed thanked the school representatives and stated that he appreciated all they could do to help avoid this issue in the future.

Commission Quinn said she recognizes that workload is an issue, but timely reporting is in the public interest and should take precedence because it is the law. Priorities should be made clear to school personnel. She then asked about the accreditation candidacy process at Bingham Academy.

Ms. Dodds said BA met with the Northwest Accreditation Commission, and BA's teachers were honest in their evaluations. The school is working with Dale Kleinhart, who is coming in June to provide board training. BA will need to provide the required financial information to NWAC after the end of the fiscal year.

Fred Ball commented further that the evaluations were based on BA's own self-improvement requirement, and they were hard on themselves. He said Mr. Kleinhart put off a candidacy decision until next fall because he wants to look at BA's finances. The Commission can be assured BA will achieve candidacy. All the same teachers are coming back next year; they have their goals and want to meet them.

2. 2013-14 PCSC Annual Report

PCSC Director Tamara Baysinger presented the PCSC's Annual Report to the Commission, which included academic, financial, operational, and demographic information about PCSC-authorized schools.

Commissioner Scigliano asked how the demographic results for Idaho compare nationally.

Ms. Baysinger said the question is difficult to answer because, in many states, public charter schools can select for certain minority populations. In Idaho, all interested students must be considered equally within the statutory lottery process.

Commissioner DeMordaunt commented that the district comparison charts are the most effective information available, and asked if the SDE was aware of the report.

Ms. Baysinger said it has not been shared with SDE yet, since it is only today being presented to the PCSC.

The PCSC discussed possible means of tracking postsecondary enrollment in the future. They also discussed resources to which schools could be referred for assistance in addressing any deficiencies noted in their individual reports.

Commissioner Quinn suggested that the Annual Report be shared with PCSC-authorized schools in advance of a media release, ensuring that they have an opportunity to prepare for any questions that may arise.

The PCSC discussed how it could encourage increased enrollment of minority populations at public charter schools. Ideas included issuance of a public service announcement or webinar, as well as a request that staff compare the demographics of charters that offer student transportation to those that don't.

3. Commission Discussion: Draft Policies

Ms. Baysinger advised them that the draft policies provided in the materials are identical to those in the first reading, except for the requested changes identified in the cover sheet.

DeMordaunt inquired about a scenario in which the proposed revisions might apply.

Ms. Baysinger said that although the PCSC does not typically accept new materials during meetings, rare occasions might arise in which doing so would be appropriate. The revised policy clarifies that such materials could be accepted at the PCSC's discretion.

Commissioner DeMordaunt commented that the language was perfect.

Ms. Baysinger said that the draft policies would be brought back for a third reading and adoption in June.

4. Legislative Update

The PCSC discussed the status of several bills impacting public charter schools, including HB308 and HB126, and HB309.

Susie Budge, member of the public and lobbyist for K12, indicated that charter school groups will be requesting representation on the task force.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.