



IDAHO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

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APPROVED MINUTES PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, December 10, 2015, 9:00 a.m. – 700 W. Jefferson Street, EW 41

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Reed at 9:00 a.m. The following Commissioners attended:

Alan Reed	In Person
Gayle O'Donahue	In Person
Kelly Murphey	In Person
Brian Scigliano	In Person
Wanda Quinn	In Person
Evan Frasure	In Person
Gayann DeMordaunt	In Person

A. COMMISSION WORK

1. Agenda Review / Approval

M/S: (Quinn/DeMordaunt): To approve the agenda as presented. *The motion passed unanimously.*

2. Minutes Review / Approval

M/S: (Quinn/Scigliano): To approve the minutes from October 8, 2015, as presented. *The motion unanimously passed.*

B. CONSIDERATION OF NEW CHARTER PETITION

1. Alturas International Academy New Charter Petition – First Hearing

AIA board member Michelle Ball introduced the mission and history of the petitioning group for AIA.

Commissioner DeMordaunt inquired whether there are other international baccalaureate schools in the area and observed that IB can be a relatively complex model to implement.

Ms. Ball said there are no other IB schools in the Idaho Falls area. The founders have worked with Sage International School of Boise leaders to learn more about IB.

Commissioner Quinn expressed that AIA may need to work hard to be sure it can train and retain teachers for the demands of multi-age classrooms.

AIA board member Heath Bowen presented information regarding the school's facility options. Their top choice is to lease a former school building in a walkable, mixed income neighborhood.

AIA board member Katie Davenport presented the school's financial plan.

George Boland, District 91 Superintendent, testified regarding the AIA petition. He expressed considerable concern about the implications for District 91 if the charter were to open and then fail. He also discussed his experience with difficulty retaining teachers for multi-age classrooms.

Ms. Ball said she understands the demands of multi-age classrooms, having taught in them for many years, and said she believes AIA will be able to attract and retain qualified teachers.

Commissioner DeMordaunt asked how AIA is recruiting students in the local community.

AIA board member Jared Allen said AIA has not yet focused on recruiting in the local area; that work will begin as soon as the petition has been approved. The board plans to advertise through social media, yard signs, and a door-to-door campaign intended to be sure low income and minority students are aware of the opportunity to enroll.

Commissioner O'Donahue cautioned the petitioners that new school operators frequently encounter unexpected expenses.

M/S (DeMordaunt/O'Donahue): To approve Alturus International Academy's petition contingent upon the finalization of all revisions necessary to bring all elements of the PER up to a score of 2 or higher (Meets or Exceeds Expectations), as evaluated by PCSC staff, prior to 8:00 a.m. MT on February 11, 2016. *The motion passed unanimously.*

C. OTHER

1. PCSC Policy Amendment

Director Baysinger summarized a proposed policy amendment clarifying updated fiscal reporting requirements for PCSC portfolio schools. She said staff had surveyed all portfolio schools regarding the proposed change and received an overwhelmingly positive response.

Commissioners DeMordaunt and O'Donahue commended PCSC staff and expressed their support for the updated fiscal reporting policy.

M/S (Quinn/Frasure): To approve the proposed PCSC policy amendment regarding fiscal reporting requirements. *The motion passed unanimously.*

2. Commission Education: Academic Data Availability for 2014-15 Annual Reports

Director Baysinger provided a presentation regarding how the PCSC's academic framework has been impacted by changes in the state's school accountability system. Between the change to ISAT by SBAC and elimination of the Star Rating System, only 3-4 measures out of the original 15 can be used. Staff is working to provide the most fair and thorough reports possible, but advised that the PCSC will need to bear in mind the limited scope of data contributing to this year's scores.

M/S (Quinn/Scigliano): To adjourn the meeting. *The motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.