

# APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

## IDAHO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

August 9, 2016

700 W. Jefferson Street, Boise, Idaho  
Idaho State Capitol Building, East Wing 41

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Reed at 9:00 AM. The following Commissioners were in attendance:

Alan Reed  
Kelly Murphey  
Brian Scigliano  
Wanda Quinn  
Evan Frasure  
Sherilynn Bair

Chairman Reed advised the PCSC that Commissioner Bair has been appointed to fill the Commission seat recently vacated by Gayle O'Donahue, whose term ended in May.

Commissioner Bair introduced herself.

Chairman Reed read a letter of resignation submitted by Commissioner Demordaunt. Commissioner Demordaunt was elected into the legislature and is not allowed to serve in both positions.

### TAB A: COMMISSION WORK

#### 1. Agenda Review/ Approval

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

#### 2. Minutes Review/Approval

**M/S (Quinn/Scigliano):** To approve the minutes from June 9, 2016, as presented. *The motion passed unanimously.*

### TAB B: CONSIDERATION OF NEW CHARTER PETITION

#### 1. Gem Prep: Pocatello

Jason Bransford, GPP Director, introduced the charter petition for Gem Prep: Pocatello (GPP). Mr. Bransford summarized the proposed instructional model. GPP will use real time data to track academic data and monitor progression. Mr. Bransford summarized some successes they have already had in their two years since opening. Mr. Bransford explained the school's leadership model and past accomplishments.

Commissioner Quinn inquired about the history of GPP and why it is seeking authorization after opening.

Mr. Bransford explained the school was opened with approval of the White Pine School District, but was later required by the State Board of Education to go back through the correct authorization process. Mr. Bransford also explained that GPP and Idaho Distance Education Academy (IDEA) have the same board. Board meetings are virtual and secure.

Chairman Reed asked how independent learning functions for students in early grades.

Mr. Bransford stated that Independent learning sessions are age scaled. With enough structure and teacher supervision, even the young students can successfully use these self-sufficient programs.

Mr. Bransford summarized GPP's enrollment history. He explained that grant funding from the JKAF allows them to operate through the 2019-2020 school year, when they will achieve a sustainable level of enrollment.

**M/S (Quinn/ Evan Frasure):** To approve the petition for Gem Prep: Pocatello 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 October 13, 2016.

Commissioner Frasure asked whether the deadline for revisions was reasonable.

PCSC Director Tamara Baysinger stated that the timeline is standard and necessary to meet the statutory deadline for executing the performance certificate.

Mr. Bransford stated that the deadline is very reasonable.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

## **TAB C: CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED CHARTER AMMENDMENTS**

### **1. Monticello Montessori Charter School**

Erica Kemery, MMCS Administrator, expressed gratitude to commission staff for support given on updating mission and vision statements. MMCS is seeking approval of charter and performance certificate amendments. The amended mission and vision statements would better reflect actual practice at the school.

Ms. Kemery said the school is also requesting an expansion into grades 7 and 8. She addressed the reasons for confusion regarding different budgets submitted to the SDE and PCSC. The budget info submitted to the charter Commission included projections for both the small middle school cohort and estimates for the future facility expansion project. She said the expansion proposal was submitted at the last minute due to the time needed to include stakeholders in the process. The school believes that offering middle school grades would help them retain upper elementary students.

Ms. Kemery said the school wished to withdraw the facility expansion portion of its amendment proposal at this time. The new middle school class, if approved, could be housed in the current facility. She said the school has resources and personnel to support the middle school, and believes that community interest will be sufficient to ensure adequate enrollment.

Commissioner Quinn asked for staff's perspective on the proposed budget.

Jennifer Barbeau, PCSC Accountability Program Manager, explained inconsistencies between the revenue projections provided to the SDE and PCSC.

Commissioner Scigliano asked staff to explain enrollment reporting inconsistencies.

Kirsten Pochop, PCSC Charter Schools Program Manager, explained that the inconsistencies resulted from the schedule on which enrollment figures are verified by the SDE.

Commissioner Bair inquired whether it is typical for charters to lose substantial enrollment throughout the year.

Director Baysinger said that high in-year attrition is not typical.

Ms. Kemery said that MMCS tends to attract families who don't understand the Montessori model and subsequently withdraw.

Chairman Reed asked whether the school collects exit data.

Ms. Kemery said the main reason for students leaving is parent dissatisfaction with the classroom situation and educational model that focuses on individualization rather than accountability.

Commissioners Bair and Scigliano expressed concern about the lack of adequate, private space for provision of special education services.

**M/S (Quinn/Scigliano):** To deny the proposed charter and performance amendments as submitted by Monticello Montessori Charter School related to expansion into middle school grades on the following grounds: inadequate demonstration of fiscal viability, strain on facility space, and limited preparation time before the start of the school year.

Commissioner Frasure said he is concerned about the families who have expressed interest in the middle school, as well as the attrition of upper elementary students at MMCS due to lack of a middle school option.

**Substitute Motion (Frasure):** To approve the proposed charter and performance certificate amendments submitted to Monticello Montessori Charter School. *The motion failed for lack of a second.*

The PCSC voted on the original motion. *The motion passed 4-1, with Commissioner Frasure dissenting.*

**M/S (Quinn/Scigliano):** To approve the proposed charter and performance certificate amendments submitted by Monticello Montessori Charter related to the school's mission, vision, and grading policies for upper elementary grades. *The motion passed unanimously.*

#### **TAB D: PCSC UPDATE: PERFORMACNE FRAMEWORK REVISION PROCESS**

Director Baysinger provided a presentation regarding the ongoing development of the state's school accountability system and its likely impacts on the PCSC's adoption of a revised performance framework. She outlined draft performance measures that could be considered for the revised framework.

The PCSC requested that staff refine the draft framework in accordance with the ideas presented, as well as to include potential measures using the MAP assessment to evaluate growth at high schools. The draft will be posted for public comment and reviewed again at the PCSC's regular meeting in October.