

**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
IDAHO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION**

October 13, 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 (phone)
Evan Frasure

Commissioner Sherrilyn Bair was absent and excused.

OPEN FORUM

Representative Julie VanOrden updated the PCSC regarding legislation that may affect public charter schools. The Idaho Education Association (IEA) is interested in requirements that public charter schools provide student nutrition and transportation. Other possible legislation from the IEA would require additional transparency in fiscal reporting with regard to schools using educational management organizations. Change to the Every Student Succeeds Act is anticipated.

TAB A: COMMISSION WORK

1. Agenda Review/Approval

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

2. Minutes Review/Approval

M/S (Frasure/Murphey): To approve the minutes from August 9, 2016, as presented. *The motion passed unanimously.*

TAB B: CONSIDERATION OF NEW CHARTER PETITION

1. Hayden Canyon Charter New Charter Petition (First Hearing)

Hayden Canyon Charter (HCC) petitioners Sarah Halstead, Jason Ball, Patrick Jones, and Vernon Newby introduced the petition.

Mr. Ball summarized the proposed expeditionary learning instructional model and mission statement.

Mrs. Halstead explained the vision for community partnerships, multi-grade classrooms, and a four-day school week model, as well as the implementation of student driven learning supports.

Mr. Newby summarized the facility options that HCC is considering. Their primary option is to lease a new school facility that would be built on 33 acres in the planned Hayden Canyon housing development. HCC would have no involvement in the construction of that building. The second possibility, for which costs are not established, would be to lease space from a neighboring church. The third possibility, made difficult by limited space, would be to lease space in an office complex near the development. HCC would like to have a small primary attendance area to encourage walkability.

Commissioner Frasure expressed concern about the small size of the primary attendance area, particularly since HCC's target market is a new development that does not yet exist. He inquired about the possibility of students using public transportation.

Mr. Newby said public transportation comes within two miles of the proposed school site, which is about nine miles from downtown Coeur d'Alene. Conversations about sharing bussing with the district have been inconclusive.

Commissioner Frasure asked the petitioners to elaborate on the Hayden Canyon site development.

Mr. Newby said HCC hasn't had many discussions with the developers. They are most interested in this site because of the open space it offers, which is ideal for their educational model.

Ms. Halstead said initial enrollment will come mostly from outside the primary attendance area. The housing development will be built as the school grows, enabling HCC to fill an increasing number of seats.

Commissioner Scigliano inquired whether the timeframe for opening would be adequate, particularly since ground has not been broken on roads or utilities. He asked what the school will do if the facility isn't constructed in time.

Mr. Newby said the construction of roads should begin this fall or winter.

Ms. Halstead said the infrastructure for sewer and water is currently within a mile of the proposed school site.

Commissioner Scigliano asked about HCC's plan for covering startup costs, particularly professional development.

Ms. Halstead said HCC would have an experienced EL educator on staff to help teachers and the administrator implement the model.

Chairman Reed inquired about the status of building permits for the proposed school facility.

Mr. Newby said building permits for the school/community center have not been issued.

Ms. Halstead said the application has been submitted. The city has approved the housing development.

Chairman Reed and Commissioner Frasure cautioned the petitioners that the permitting and development process is quite lengthy. Commissioner Frasure requested additional information about the site development approval process.

Mr. Ball said the electric is in place and sewer issues have been resolved. An estimated timeline includes breaking ground in March and having the school/community center ready for occupancy in late August.

Chairman Reed inquired about startup funds, which do not appear to be included in the budget. He said the year one state funds appear sufficient for operations, but not startup costs. He also cautioned the school not to rely on school fees, which represent a delicate legal issue that they should consider carefully.

Mr. Newby explained that HCC will not require extensive startup funds because their curricular materials are inexpensive and they won't face facility construction costs. They do recognize that some funds will be required. HCC may try to get a loan through a local bank to bridge the gap between July 1 and August 30. They have not pursued a loan or grants at this point, as they didn't want to start that process before their petition was approved.

Chairman Reed cautioned that "conversations" can't be relied upon to come to fruition. Finances make or break schools, and the PCSC can't rely on a loan that doesn't exist.

Commissioner Quinn noted that the petitioners do not seem to have addressed many of the concerns that were raised when they initially proposed a similar school back in 2014.

Tamara Baysinger, PCSC Director, said it appeared that as the result of an error, the petitioners did not receive the most recent Petition Evaluation Rubric (PER) in advance of this meeting. However, most of the concerns it contained were the same as those identified in the earlier PER issued in August 2016.

Commissioner Quinn observed that an approval decision would come down to confirming a realistic facility plan and adequate startup funds. She appreciates the proposed educational model but noted that the proposed start-up budget is inadequate. She suggested delaying the decision to give HCC time to address concerns in the Petition Evaluation Rubric, as they mistakenly did not receive a copy in advance of the meeting.

Jennifer Barbeau, PCSC Accountability Program Manager, summarized staff's concerns with HCC's proposed budget. To break even in year one, even with minimal curriculum and assessment costs, it would be imperative that the school enroll 235-250 students. In the absence of startup funds, HCC will likely encounter a cash flow shortfall as early as

January. She noted that schools should not assume that the majority of interested families will actually enroll.

Commissioner Scigliano said he would like to see the petitioners return with cost projections for several facility options, as well as a startup budget that appropriately estimates salary, curriculum, and other costs.

Chairman Reed advised the petitioners to consider what additional costs would be incurred if their primary facility option didn't work out.

Mr. Newby confirmed that the other facility options would be more expensive.

Mr. Ball noted that the school is working on obtaining possible loans or grants.

Commissioner Quinn said the PCSC would need to see documentation of any loans or grants the school has actually received, in order to rely upon them. She also advised the petitioners that due to other school expansions in the area, they may face significant competition for quality teachers.

Commissioner Scigliano reiterated the importance of adequate startup funds.

Commissioners Frasure and Quinn reminded the petitioners to address all identified issues, not just the big ones, because numerous, smaller, outstanding issues could also preclude approval.

M/S (Quinn/Frasure): To delay the decision and direct staff to issue to HCC a written response identifying the specific deficiencies in the petition, including: items already identified in the Petition Evaluation Rubric, including documenting realistic facility options and providing an adequate startup budget. *The motion passed unanimously.*

TAB C: CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE

1. Gem Prep: Pocatello Performance Certificate

Director Baysinger said the petition for Gem Prep: Pocatello (GPP) was approved at the PCSC's August 2016 regular meeting. Idaho Statute provides 75 days for the school and PCSC to execute a performance certificate. Staff has worked with GPP to reach agreement on the individualized sections of the performance certificate.

M/S (Frasure/Murphey): To execute the Gem Prep: Pocatello Performance Certificate as presented. *The motion passed unanimously.*

TAB D: OTHER

1. PCSC Update: Draft Amended Performance Framework and Public Comment

Director Baysinger provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the draft performance framework. She summarized and addressed public comments received and requested PCSC input regarding how they wished staff to proceed with further revisions.

The PCSC heard public comment from Kelly Trudeau, Kelly Edginton, Monti Pittman, Karen Glassman, Mark Green, Anthony War. The primary concerns raised were:

- Charter schools should not be held to a higher standard than other public schools.
- Charter schools should not be subject to additional reporting requirements.
- Charter schools should not need to participate in additional standardized testing, a requirement that would be logistically burdensome for virtual schools.
- The PCSC should base its academic evaluation on the state accountability system.

The PCSC discussed the draft framework measures, public comments, and staff responses to those comments.

Director Baysinger explained that a robust framework is necessary because it is the tool on which the PCSC relies to inform high-stakes authorizing decisions, including renewal. Though the framework should dovetail with the state's accountability system to maximize data availability and minimize reporting requirements, the state system is different in nature and purpose than the framework, and is not adequate for authorizing purposes.

Chairman Reed confirmed with stakeholders and staff that the PCSC does not require any additional reporting of the schools it authorizes, with the exception of quarterly financials and an annual leadership/contact information update.

The PCSC provided direction for further framework development as follows:

- Eliminate measures requiring additional testing of high schoolers.
- Eliminate the GPA and IRI measures.
- Eliminate measures regarding next-level readiness for K-8.
- Separate the mission-specific section from the academic section.
- Eliminate the attrition measure.

The PCSC delayed a decision regarding whether mission-specific measures should rely only on data processed by a third-party.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.