



IDAHO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

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MEETING MINUTES PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, February 11, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – 304 N 8th Street, Rm 242

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

The following Commissioners were in attendance:

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

A. COMMISSION WORK

Chairman Reed inquired whether there were any amendments to the agenda.

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

Chairman Reed inquired whether there was any discussion regarding the draft minutes.

M/S (DeMordaunt/O'Donahue): To approve the meeting minutes from December 10, 2015, and January 22, 2016, as submitted. *The motion passed unanimously.*

B. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE

M/S (Frasure/Scigliano): To execute the performance certificate for Alturus International Academy as presented. *The motion passed unanimously.*

C. OTHER

1. PCSC ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATION

PCSC Director Tamara Baysinger provided an overview of the 2015 PCSC Annual Report. She addressed the PCSC's staffing and budget, PCSC school outcomes and demographics, and preparations for the upcoming charter renewal process.

2. IDAHO CHARTER SCHOOL NETWORK/BLUUM PRESENTATION: "THE POTENTIAL FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS"

Terry Ryan, ICSN/Bluum CEO and Marc Carignan, ICSN/Bluum CFO, provided a presentation reviewing the roles of ICSN and Bluum, the services they provide, and their goals for helping improve school choice options in Idaho.

Commissioner Quinn left the meeting.

3. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

At Chairman Reed's request, Director Baysinger provided an update regarding proposed charter school legislation. She said the State Board of Education's legislation regarding replication and charter management organizations had not yet been introduced in committee.

Director Baysinger described S1248, a bill sponsored by Senator Nonini, which would remove the requirement that public charter school teachers and administrators be on a contract in a form approved by the superintendent of public instruction. Although charter schools could choose to use the approved contract, they would also be free to use a different contract if they wished. Director Baysinger summarized the arguments made against and in favor of the bill during a February 9, 2016, hearing in the Senate Education Committee. She said she had already expressed her concern to the ICSN's lobbyist; that is, that charter school authorizers should not be placed in the position of evaluating contracts because it would infringe on school board autonomy.

Commissioner DeMordaunt said she leaned toward remaining silent on S1248.

Commissioner Frasure said he supported the bill because the purpose of charter schools is to be innovative, and the bill would provide additional room for innovation. Other states have been successful in giving charter schools flexibility regarding teacher and administrator contracts.

Chairman Reed asked about the opinions of public charter schools, saying he wouldn't want the PCSC's position on the bill to be in opposition to charter schools' position.

Director Baysinger said that the ISBA had surveyed its charter school members; 2/3 of the respondents opposed the bill and 1/3 were in favor.

Mr. Carignan said that ICSN's survey results indicated that 12 respondents supported the bill, 11 were neutral, and 10 opposed. District-authorized charters were more inclined to oppose.

Chairman Reed said he personally favors the bill, but felt the PCSC's opinion should consider that of the schools.

Commissioner Frasure emphasized that the bill would make using different contracts an option, but not a requirement. Each charter school would still have the option of using the superintendent-approved form.

M/S (Frasure/DeMordant): For the Public Charter School Commission to formally endorse Senate Bill 1248.

Commissioner Scigliano said he would support the motion because it created flexibility for the schools, rather than a requirement.

Commissioner Murphey said he would not support the motion because his experience as a superintendent and turnaround support for a struggling charter make him aware of how badly a poorly written contract could hurt a school. He said he supports the concept of increased flexibility, but there is too much risk when contracts are drafted by individuals without sufficient experience.

Commissioner Frasure noted that the bill does not relieve schools of any other, current provision of law. He said this is a way to give charters more tools for innovation.

Chairman Reed asked for clarification of the wording of the motion and how it expressed rationale for the PCSC's support.

Director Baysinger read the motion, which did not include rationale language.

Commissioner Frasure said he did not feel the motion needed to be amended to include rationale, but the wording could be changed slightly.

Amended Motion (Frasure/DeMordaunt): For the Public Charter School Commission to support Senate Bill 1248. *The motion passed 4-1.*

M/S (DeMordaunt/O'Donahue): To adjourn the meeting. *The motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.