

APPROVED SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES IDAHO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

March 6, 2017
304 North 8th Street Room 242
Boise, ID 83702

The special meeting was called to order by Chairman Reed at 11:00 a.m. The following Commissioners were in attendance:

Alan Reed
Kelly Murphey
Brian Scigliano
Wanda Quinn
Nils Peterson
Sherilynn Bair
Kitty Kunz

Chairman Reed asked whether there were any changes to the agenda.

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

1. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Tamara Baysinger, PCSC Director, summarized HB241, which makes significant changes to the charter petitioning process.

Commissioner Quinn noted that additional time would be necessary for a full review and analysis of the ramifications of striking out language referring to charter schools' compliance with the general education laws of the state.

Commissioners Murphey, Scigliano, Kunz, and Bair concurred.

Commissioner Murphey added that he would prefer to see a list of specific exemptions desired by charter schools. He also stated that much of the bill reflected positive steps in refining the cumbersome petition process.

Commissioner Bair said she would like to retain a more thorough check-in with new schools in their third year, if initial renewal considerations are delayed to the fifth year.

Commissioners Quinn and Peterson expressed concern about the opportunity for unlimited, repeated resubmission of petitions that have previously been denied.

Commissioner Peterson said he had found the more lengthy petitioning process, including the longer petition and sufficiency review, valuable for the education it provided to him as a petitioner.

M/S (Peterson/Scigliano): To oppose HB241 due to concerns regarding the strikeout of the “general education laws” language on page 14, lines 12-14; also, con convey concerns regarding the unlimited review of previously denied petitions and discomfort with having inadequate time to review the proposed changes to the petitioning process and petition contents

A roll call vote was taken. Commissioners in favor: Scigliano, Murphey, and Peterson. Commissioners opposed: Bair, Kunz, Quinn, and Reed.

The motion failed 4-3.

M/S (Peterson/Quinn): To direct staff to convey the PCSC’s concern regarding the strikeout of the “general education laws” language on page 14, lines 12-14, of HB 241; also, to convey the PCSC’s concerns regarding the unlimited review of previously denied petitions and discomfort with having inadequate time to review the proposed changes to the petitioning process and petition contents. *The motion passed unanimously.*

Director Baysinger described HB243, which would exempt certain, high-performing public charter schools from teacher certification requirements.

Commissioner Quinn expressed concern due to the fact that the educator’s code of ethics applies only to certified teachers.

Commissioner Murphey favored the potential for providing access to additional expertise via non-certified teachers, but noted a prior requirement that Title I schools have all highly-qualified teachers.

Commissioner Quinn said it is difficult to review the implications of this proposal in a short period of time.

Emily McClure, lobbyist for the ICSN, explained that the idea of this bill was to give high performing charter schools flexibility with hiring teachers, not to remove charter schools from ethical requirements. In the case of classified employees, decisions related to ethics are left to the school’s board of directors; that would apply to non-certified teachers as well.

M/S (Quinn/Peterson): To refrain from taking a position on HB243 due to insufficient time to review its implications, as well as concerns regarding the handling of ethics violations in the case of non-certified teachers.

Amended M/S (Quinn/Peterson): To direct staff to convey the PCSC’s concerns regarding insufficient time to review its implications, as well as concerns regarding the handling of ethics violations in the case of non-certified teachers. *The motion, as amended, passed unanimously.*

M/S (Kunz/Murphey): To further direct staff to convey that the concerns cited in the original motion, as amended, are those of some, rather than all, members of the PCSC. *The motion passed unanimously.*

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.