

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

**April 12, 2018**

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 a.m. The following Commissioners were in attendance:

Alan Reed  
Brian Scigliano  
Wanda Quinn  
Sherilynn Bair (by phone)  
Nils Peterson (by phone)  
Kitty Kunz

Commissioner Kelly Murphey was absent and excused.

**TAB A: COMMISSION WORK**

**1. Agenda Review/Approval**

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

**2. Minutes Review/Approval**

**M/S (Peterson/Kunz):** To approve the minutes from February 8, 2018, after amending to clarify that Commissioner Quinn's concern with the potential STEM diploma bill was with regard to absence of a math requirement for seniors. *The motion passed unanimously.*

**M/S (Scigliano/Kunz):** To approve the minutes from February 16, 2018, as presented. *The motion passed unanimously.*

**M/S (Scigliano/Kunz):** To approve the minutes from March 1, 2018, as presented. *The motion passed unanimously.*

**TAB B: PROPOSED CHARTER AND PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE AMMENDMENTS**

**1. Idaho Science and Technology Charter School**

Kirsten Pochop, PCSC Senior Accountability Program Manager, summarized ISTCS's proposed charter amendments.

Kelly Moulton, ISTCS Board Chairman, presented the background on ISTCS and explained their proposal to expand to include grades K-3<sup>rd</sup>. She stated that they would like to increase their enrollment cap from 370 to 460 students.

Becki Adams, ISTCS Vice Chairman, explained why they would like to expand due to the demand from stakeholders.

Tami Dortch, ISTCS Administrator, explained that they have been working hard to reflect the school's true identity, which they feel is a project based approach. The original charter reflected a STEM-based approach.

Ms. Moulton reviewed the school's finances in the context of the proposed amendment.

Commissioner Quinn complimented ISTCS on their work on the amendments, as well as their performance in their geographic area. She questioned why they think there was a disadvantage with the educational model focusing on careers, but said she did understand moving to a project based curriculum.

Chairman Reed asked why ISTCS believes the school can reach a higher enrollment cap when it is currently below its existing cap.

Ms. Moulton explained that the focus on careers is more suitable for high school grades, rather than younger students such as ISTCS serves, and feel their identity has already shifted to project based learning.

Commissioner Peterson expressed his confidence that adding lower grades will help meet enrollment caps. He also inquired about why they are four percentage points below the academic status of good standing.

Ms. Pochop, explained that their math growth is what lowered their score.

Brian Kress, Superintendent for Blackfoot School District, expressed his concern that the number of charter school seats in Blackfoot is challenging for a small district. His concerns include loss of funding, teacher shortages, and some past events surrounding ISTCS.

Commissioner Quinn explained the PCSC's role is to look at charter schools and providing options for families.

Commissioner Peterson inquired about what kind of transportation ISTCS provides for students.

Ms. Dortch stated that they contract for bussing for all students in the primary attendance area.

Commissioner Bair recused herself from voting because her daughter serves on the ISTCS board of directors.

**M/S (Kunz/Quinn):** To approve the proposed charter and performance certificate amendments as submitted by Idaho Science and Technology Charter School. *The motion passed unanimously.*

## **TAB C: OTHER**

### **1. Proposed PCSC Policy Amendments – Second Reading**

Ms. Pochop explained that this is the second reading for the proposed amendments to PCSC policies that were last updated in 2015. She stated that the majority of the changes are intended to align the policies with current statute.

Suzanne Budge, lobbyist for K12 Inc., said she feels the PCSC needs to increase opportunities for stakeholder input during the policy amendment process. She expressed concern about the addition of the words “academic” with regard to expansion eligibility, as well as the meeting materials submission deadline.

Chairman Reed requested Ms. Budge provide written testimony.

Commissioner Quinn asked whether the PCSC’s policy amendment process is the same as negotiated rulemaking, and whether the State Board of Education uses a similar process.

Ms. Budge explained her opinion that the PCSC’s process appears different than that of other agencies.

Becky Ophus, Deputy Attorney General, stated that the PCSC has authority in statute as an authorizer to provide and create policies. There is no need to go through formal rulemaking to create policies. As long as the policies are complying with statute and administrative rule, the PCSC has the authority to create them and to decide the process by which they are developed.

Commissioner Peterson, explained that the rulemaking process already happened in 2017 when the statute passed, and that process allowed for stakeholder feedback. He stated that the PCSC is working to align its policies with the rules that were adopted in 2017.

Theresa Harper, lobbyist for the Association of Charter School Leaders, stated that she would like to have the opportunity to participate in committee meetings. She also feels there are changes in the policies that go beyond the changes that were made in the rules in 2017. She said she is saddened by the emphasis that has been placed on school outcomes.

Commissioner Quinn asked for clarification of the timeline for adopting these policy amendments.

Ms. Pochop explained the timeline is at the discretion of the PCSC, but the current absence of appropriate policies causes difficulty for petitioning groups.

Chairman Reed has requested that stakeholder feedback be gathered prior to holding a roundtable discussion regarding the proposed policy amendments in May.

## **2. Staff Update: 2018 Legislative Session**

Kirsten Pochop summarized legislation that passed for the 2018 legislative session and that directly impacts public charter schools.

Commission Bair clarified with Ms. Pochop that S1267a does not effectively remove the senior math requirement due to administrative rule that remains in place. She requested that staff provide a list of relevant exceptions to the PCSC.

## **3. Staff Update: New Charter School Pre-Opening Update**

Jenn Thompson, PCSC Finance and Resource Program Manager, reviewed the support that the PCSC office provides to schools during the preopening process. Topics include leadership structure, facilities, finances, enrollment, operation, and conditions of approval, if applicable. Ms. Thompson provided a progress update regarding each of the four schools that are currently in the preopening phase.

## **4. Renewal Committee Update: Communication Opportunities**

Ms. Pochop gave an update on the discussions the renewal committee has held regarding increasing opportunities for communication among commissioners, school leaders, and school boards.

Commissioner Quinn discussed the results of a survey in which schools were invited to participate. She said the committee concluded that it would be best to encourage commissioners to attend school events in order to build relationships.

Ms. Thompson gave a brief update on the New School Leader Orientation document and its purpose to assist school leaders in understanding the relationship between public charter schools and authorizers.

## **5. Commissioner Update: Officer Elections**

At Chairman Reed's request, Ms. Pochop reviewed the election process.

**M (Quinn):** For Alan Reed to continue as the Idaho Public Charter School Commission Chair. *The motion passed unanimously.*

**M (Quinn):** For Brian Scigliano to continue as the Idaho Public Charter School Commission Vice Chair. *The motion passed unanimously.*

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:47 A.M.