

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

May 14, 2018

650 W. State Street, Boise, Idaho
Len B. Jordan Building, 3rd Floor
State Board of Education Office

The special meeting was called to order by Chairman Reed at 10:30 a.m. The following Commissioners were in attendance:

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

**1. Proposed Public Charter School Commission (PCSC) Policy Amendments:
Opportunity for Stakeholder Comment**

Chairman Reed said the purpose of this meeting is to hear stakeholder comment regarding proposed PCSC policy amendments.

Teresa Harper, lobbyist for the Association of Charter School Leaders, said she was concerned about the process by which the policy amendments were drafted.

Chairman Reed explained that PCSC policies are not the same as administrative rules and do not need to go through the negotiated rulemaking process.

Tamara Baysinger, PCSC Director, said the content of the proposed amendments has been addressed in public meetings and through multiple opportunities for stakeholder feedback over the past eighteen months. The proposed amendments regarding the petitioning process dovetail with administrative rules developed through the State Board of Education's negotiated rulemaking process and approved by the legislature.

Suzi Budge, lobbyist for K12 Inc., said she is accustomed to a different policy development process and would like to ensure that she is able to participate in that process.

Director Baysinger said the proposed amendments regarding the petitioning process dovetail with administrative rules developed through the State Board of Education's negotiated rulemaking process and approved by the legislature. Most of the language pertinent to renewals already appears in the performance framework that was adopted in 2017 after many months of stakeholder engagement. The opportunities for public comment regarding the policy amendments under consideration exceeds legal requirements.

Ms. Harper inquired about the reason for the thirty-day deadline with regard to the submission of meeting materials.

Director Baysinger explained that the PCSC adopted this deadline about ten years ago in order to allow time for staff to review the material and prepare it for PCSC consideration. Exceptions to the deadline are made when necessary and possible to ensure the PCSC has thorough information, and the PCSC office has not heard from any schools that they are concerned about the deadline. The deadline does not extend to public comment, which is accepted at any time.

Upon discussion, it was agreed that a definition of “meeting materials” should be added for clarity.

Commissioner Peterson said that, in his role as a petitioner and school board member, he found the materials submission deadline to be beneficial, rather than burdensome.

Kathleen Allison, Administrator iSucceed Virtual High School expressed concern that the policy regarding school enrollment expansion eligibility refers to “academic accountability” rather than just “accountability.” She said she felt this could be problematic for schools like iSVHS, which serves many at-risk students. She recommended that the PCSC include more measures that are designed to reflect success serving at-risk students.

Director Baysinger agreed that additional measures for at-risk populations may be appropriate, and noted that the first step in considering such measures is to develop a more detailed description of the populations in question.

Ms. Budge suggested removing the word “academic” from the sentence.

Director Baysinger explained that the reason the word “academic” was included was to ensure that schools struggling operationally or financially, but whose academics were strong, remained eligible for expansion. She also noted that the framework contains a commitment to the consideration of contextual factors, such as student demographics, when evaluating school outcomes.

Ms. Harper expressed concern regarding the language “enrollment expansion proposal for schools whose current academic designation is remediation are unlikely to succeed.” She feels that language shouldn’t be included.

Director Baysinger said this language already appears in the framework; the policy amendment is proposed simply for consistency and easy access to the information for stakeholders.

Commissioner Kunz said she supports the language of the amendment with regard to enrollment expansion.

Ms. Harper expressed concern with the language in section 3, which states that “the PCSC shall approve or deny proposed charter or performance certificate amendments at the time of the hearing at which they are considered.”

Director Baysinger explained that this language is included for consistency with a statutory timeline.

Ms. Allison questioned the rationale regarding the August 1 deadline for submission of mission-specific data.

Director Baysinger explained that the earlier due date is reflective of the amount of time it takes to process mission-specific results.

Kirsten Pochop, PCSC Senior Accountability Program Manager, stated that the deadline can be modified within the framework as necessary for individual schools.

Ms. Harper said she feels that the PCSC's reporting requirements are over burdensome for schools.

Director Baysinger said the PCSC has reduced its required reports to only information that cannot be obtained from other sources. The only remaining required reports are an annual school leadership update and quarterly financial reports that are easily printed from schools' accounting software. Mission-specific data must also be submitted if the school chooses to include optional mission-specific standards in its framework.

Ms. Budge requested clarification on why the words "financial and operational" were stricken from the description of sections of the framework.

Director Baysinger explained that the re-wording was simply for efficiency, but said the more specific language could be included if that would make stakeholders more comfortable.

Ms. Budge said the language "points achieved in the corresponding section of the performance framework" is confusing.

Director Baysinger agreed and recommended that sentence be edited for simplicity.

Ms. Budge expressed concern regarding the removal of due process language from the renewal section of the policies.

Director Baysinger said the amendment was made to eliminate repetition of statutory language, but said it could be retained if the PCSC preferred such.

The PCSC discussed next steps with regard to the policy amendments.

Commissioner Bair said she feels this meeting provided sufficient opportunity for stakeholder comment and the PCSC should be able to adopt policies at the next regular meeting.

Chairman Reed requested that staff update the proposed amendments based on the discussion, post the updated version online two weeks in advance of the next regular meeting, and make stakeholders aware of the changes and continued opportunity to comment.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.