

**Reference: APPROVED Minutes – November 13, 2007  
Public Charter School Commission Meeting**

**PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2007  
BEST WESTERN VISTA INN  
2660 AIRPORT WAY, SAWTOOTH ROOM  
BOISE, IDAHO**

A meeting of the Public Charter School Commission was held on Tuesday, November 13, 2007, at the Best Western Vista Inn, 2660 Airport Way, Sawtooth Room, Boise, Idaho. Chairman Goesling presided. The following members were present:

Alan Reed  
Gayann DeMordaunt

Esther Van Wart  
Joe deVera

Ann Souza  
Paul Powell

Chairman Goesling called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**1. Commission Work**

Agenda Approval

**M/S (deVera/Reed): To approve the agenda as published. *The motion passed unanimously.***

Rolling Calendar

**M/S (deVera/Corkill): To approve May 1, 2007 as the date and Boise, ID as the location for a regularly scheduled Commission meeting. *The motion passed unanimously.***

Minutes Approval

**M/S (Reed/deVera): To approve the minutes from May 24, 2007; June 14, 2007; July 19, 2007; and September 18, 2007; as submitted. *The motion passed unanimously.***

**2. North Valley Academy (NVA) Charter Petition**

Chairman Goesling stated that NVA meeting materials were not submitted within the 30 day deadline. Therefore, no decision will be made by the PCSC and this item will be for discussion purposes only.

Deby Infanger asked what her recourse is since not receiving a decision would delay the school's opening by one year.

Jennifer Swartz, PCSC counsel, said the petitioners may contact the State Board of Education (SDE), which will determine whether it is appropriate for the Board to hear an appeal.

Commissioner Powell noted that because the petitioners provided no financial projections, a decision made today would have to be a denial in any case.

Chairman Goesling said the lack of budgets was the deciding factor in delaying the decision.

Ms. Baysinger agreed that critical budget and facility materials were not submitted.

Chairman Goesling said the PCSC has published materials submission requirements and did list in September the additional information that would be required.

Commissioners deVera and Van Wart concurred.

Ms. Infanger requested a special meeting of the PCSC to consider the additional information.

Commissioners Powell and DeMordaunt expressed willingness to hold a special meeting.

**M/S (DeMordaunt/deVera): To hold a special meeting of the Public Charter School Commission for consideration of the NVA petition.** *The motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was scheduled for December 20, 2007.

Chairman Goesling said complete facilities plans and budgets must be submitted to PCSC staff no later than November 16, 2007.

Debra Infanger, Board Chair; Danielle Lofgran, Vice-Chair; Jennifer Andrus, Secretary; Gayle DeSmet; and Reese DeSmet; represented NVA.

The NVA representatives updated the PCSC regarding revisions to the petition. They responded to PCSC questions regarding facility plans and back-up plans, enrollment growth rates, and costs associated with use of Core Knowledge.

Commissioner deVera asked what the percentage of Gooding School District's 1100-1500 students are in high school.

NVA said approximately 380 students are high schoolers.

Commissioner deVera noted that the remaining students comprise 920, of which NVA hopes to enroll 25%. This raises concerns about NVA's ability to attract a sufficient number of students, as well as possible friction with the district.

Ms. Infanger said some of NVA's students will move from home school or other districts.

Commissioner Powell said he was satisfied that NVA made every effort to work with the Gooding School District.

Commissioner DeMordaunt echoed Commissioner deVera's concerns and requested NVA provide student populations of surrounding districts, as well as maps and distances from the ISDB site to nearby population centers. She also requested budget scenarios based on varying student enrollment.

Ms. Baysinger said the Gooding School District superintendent indicated to PCSC staff that there are no hard feelings between the district and the school. However, the district has no interest in authorizing NVA, which will have a fiscal impact on the district.

Chairman Goesling required the following by Friday, November 16, 2007:

- Complete facilities plan including details of the back up plans
- Budget updates for all facility scenarios, including required renovations
- Budget updates for 100, 120, and 140 enrollment numbers
- School populations in the immediate area, as well as maps and distances to each facility in plans
- Plan to accommodate high need students
- Transportation plans

He said timely interaction with PCSC staff will be critical.

### **3. iSucceed Virtual High School (iSVHS, formerly Insight School of Idaho) Charter Petition**

Representatives for iSVHS reviewed the following:

- Composition of the Board—the school is now comprised of Idaho members. Arizona board members have resigned. New board members introduced themselves and briefly provided their backgrounds.
- Name Change—all references to former name of non-profit corporation were removed from all charter documents.
- Hispanic Community—the school feels they fill the niche of a virtual school meeting the needs of at-risk students, including the Hispanic sector.

Commissioner Van Wart inquired regarding the minimal textbook budget and iSucceed's relationship with Insight.

Don Peña, iSucceed chair, indicated the budget reflects a truncated amount for textbooks. There are two levels of consulting fees with Insight. Approximately 75%-80% of the consulting fees are related to special education requirements, reflecting a budget assumption that 8%-10% of the students will require services. Staff will be employed by Insight and iSucceed as follows:

- Executive Director-Insight employee
- Principal-Insight employee
- Assistant Principal-Insight employee
- Operations Manager-Insight employee
- Clerical and Support-Insight employees
- Instructors-iSVHS employees
- Mentors-iSVHS employees
- Instructional Aides/Counselors-iSVHS employees
- Business Manager-iSVHS employee
- Community Coordinators-iSVHS employees

Chairman Goesling expressed concern that the school board does not have true ownership of the school's management.

Mr. Peña said the relationship would be the same as any other school contracting services.

Commissioner DeMordaunt asked about the petitioners' relationship with University of Phoenix.

Mr. Peña said two board members are on an advisory board of the University of Phoenix. They are not on the board of trustees and have no pecuniary interests.

Commissioner Powell expressed concern that the PCSC is being asked to approve a petition without a finalized service agreement, which could potentially change budgetary outcomes.

Mr. Peña said the finalization of the service agreement is not anticipated to impact the budgets.

The PCSC expressed concern regarding saturation of Idaho's virtual school market.

Ms. Rau said the SDE supports approval of the iSucceed petition.

**M/S (Powell/Van Wart): To approve the charter for iSucceed Virtual High School contingent on a signed services agreement with Insight consistent with the budget as presented to the Commission. *The motion passed unanimously.***

#### **4. Xavier Charter School (XCS) Corrective Action Plan**

Scott Hunsaker, Board Member, represented XCS.

Mr. Hunsaker reported that policies and procedures have been put in place to correct the noncompliance issue related to enrollment of special education students; the school has worked with the SDE and hired a special education consultant.

**M/S (Powell/deVera): To lift the October 10, 2007, notice of defect issued to Xavier Charter School based on the corrective action plan as submitted and the actions already taken by the school. *The motion passed unanimously.***

#### **5. Commission Discussion: Idaho Distance Education Academy (IDEA) Transfer Petition**

Ms. Baysinger said IDEA petitioned to transfer to the PCSC in late 2006 and was denied on the grounds detailed in the meeting materials. IDEA has revised the charter to address the concerns of the PCSC. However, all concerns are not yet addressed and IDEA has requested a delay in the PCSC's consideration of the transfer petition.

Jennifer Swartz, PCSC counsel, indicated that the PCSC may wish to consider the implications of permitting schools to submit repeated transfer petitions.

Commissioner Powell said he felt the fundamental issues with the petition could be modified out of the petition.

Commissioners Reed and DeMordaunt said they would like to review the materials to determine whether the changes are sufficient for a second consideration.

Commissioner Van Wart said meeting materials reflect some changes. The online curriculum changes reflect only resources available to any home school family. However, the student teacher ratio was changed and certified teachers are to be more involved.

Ms. Swartz recommended that the Commission hear a second transfer petition and make a decision based on the merits of that petition.

**M/S (DeMordaunt/Reed): To indicate to the IDEA board that the Commission will consider a second, complete, transfer petition from IDEA at the May Commission meeting. *The motion passed unanimously.***

#### **6. Commission Education: ISAT**

Margo Healy, ISAT Manager at the State Board of Education, gave an educational presentation regarding the ISAT and its relationship to NCLB.

**M/S (Van Wart/DeMordaunt): To adjourn the meeting. *The motion passed unanimously.***