
REFERENCE: DRAFT MINUTES – May 1, 2008 Public Charter School Commission Meeting

**PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2008
650 WEST STATE STREET, 3rd FLOOR, WILDLIFE ROOM
BOISE, IDAHO**

A regular meeting of the Idaho Public Charter School Commission was held on Thursday, May 1, 2008 at 650 West State Street, Boise, Idaho. Chairman William Goesling presided. The following members were in attendance via telephone:

Esther Van Wart Alan Reed Brad Corkill

Commissioner deVera attended in person.

Commissioners Paul Powell and Gayann DeMordaunt were absent.

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

1. Commission Work

The Commission agreed to move the agenda item regarding Victory Charter School to later in the meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

M/S (deVera/Reed): To approve August 21, 2008 as the date and Boise, ID as the location for the regularly scheduled Commission meeting to follow the June 26, 2008 meeting. *The motion passed unanimously.*

M/S (deVera/Van Wart): To approve the minutes from March 6, 2008 with the correction of a typographical error. *The motion passed unanimously.*

2. Falcon Ridge Public Charter School Proposed Charter Amendment

Dan Skinner, counsel to FRPCS, introduced several proposed charter amendments. He said the minor amendments would correct language to make it consistent with NCLB and update the charter to allow FRPCS to contract with entities other than the Kuna school district for nutrition and similar services. A more substantial charter amendment would remove references to the provision of high school grades at FRPCS. Mr. Skinner said the existing high school has not proven financially viable.

Commissioner deVera said the revised budget submitted by FRPCS appears reasonable.

Chairman Goesling confirmed with staff that the budget numbers are actuals through

March 2008.

The Commission expressed appreciation to FRPCS for its willingness to make a difficult decision in the interest of the school's continued financial viability.

M/S (deVera/Van Wart): To approve Falcon Ridge Public Charter School's proposed charter amendments, reducing grade offerings to K-8. *The motion passed unanimously.*

3. Victory Charter School Proposed Bylaws Amendment

Leslie Mauldin, Victory board chair, and Gayle O'Donahue, public relations manager, introduced a proposed bylaws amendment and minor charter amendments. Ms. Mauldin said the bylaws amendment would change Victory's board from an elected board to an appointed board. She explained that elections have been unnecessary in the past due to lack of interest in candidacy, and that Victory believes an appointed board will help preserve the integrity of the school's mission.

Commissioner Van Wart confirmed with Ms. Mauldin that parents would still have opportunity to express their opinions regarding board member appointments.

M/S (deVera/Corkill): To approve Victory Charter School's proposed bylaws and charter amendments. *The motion passed unanimously.*

4. Richard McKenna Charter High School Annual Update

Larry Slade, RMCHS administrator, updated the Commission on the status of the school's enrollment, facility construction, finances, and student achievement.

The Commission commended RMCHS for a strong report and continued valuable service to Idaho students.

5. INSPIRE Connections Academy Update

Steve McNamer, INSPIRE board chair, and Melissa Hegg, interim administrator, updated the Commission on the status of the school's enrollment, expansion into high school grades, finances, and student achievement. They said the school is currently operating well under an interim administrator while searching for an ideal candidate to fill the position.

The Commission recommended that INSPIRE work toward a cash reserve sufficient to cover six months worth of expenses.

6. Staff Update: 2008 Legislation

Tamara Baysinger, Commission staff, updated the Commission on the outcome of six, charter school-related statutory changes and one administrative rule change considered during the 2008 legislative session. She said that HB 397a, HB 502a, HB 423, SB 1403a, and SB 1405 all passed; SB 1294 was never scheduled for a committee hearing; and Docket 08-0204-0701 went into effect.

7. Staff Update: Palouse Prairie School of Expeditionary Learning Appeal

Ms. Baysinger updated the Commission on the status of the PPSEL appeal of the Commission's March 6, 2008, petition denial, which would be heard within 30 days. She described the grounds for the appeal, which was that the Commission held PPSEL to an unrealistically high standard with regard to finance and facility documentation, and described the appeal process as outlined in statute and administrative rule.

Commissioner deVera asked whether this situation had potential to escalate to litigation.

Jennifer Swartz, Commission counsel, said litigation is possible, but unlikely, in the long term.

Chairman Goesling asked whether the hearing officer had been selected.

Ms. Baysinger said the hearing officer would be Dave Wynkoop.

8. Commission Discussion: 2009 Commission Budget

Ms. Baysinger updated the Commission on its current budget. She said the Commission should finish the fiscal year within budget, but she anticipates a need for additional financial resources in the near future. She estimated that by FY 2010, the Commission will require an operating budget of approximately \$30,000 and the addition of a part-time, administrative assistant position.

The Commission discussed its budgetary history and anticipated future requirements. Commissioner Van Wart suggested the creation of a sub-committee to develop the Commission's budget proposal for FY 2010.

The Commission appointed Commissioners deVera, Corkill, and Reed as a budgetary sub-committee to work with staff on a budget proposal.

9. Election of Officers

Commission staff reviewed the Commission's election history and officer duties.

M/S (Van Wart/deVera): To elect Bill Goesling chairman of the Public Charter School Commission. *The motion passed unanimously.*

M/S (deVera/Corkill): To elect Alan Reed vice-chairman of the Public Charter School Commission. *The motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.