

**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2009
650 W. STATE STREET, BOISE, IDAHO, Suite 307**

A regular meeting of the Idaho Public Charter School Commission (PCSC) was held Thursday, February 5, 2009, at 650 W. State Street, Suite 307, Boise, Idaho. Chairman William Goesling presided. The following members were in attendance:

Brad Corkill	Joe deVera	Gayann DeMordaunt
Gayle O'Donahue	Alan Reed	

Absent: Esther Van Wart

Chairman Goesling called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

1. Commission Work

Chairman Goesling inquired whether there were any changes to the agenda.

Commissioner deVera said concern has been expressed regarding the location of North Star in relation to Rolling Hills Public Charter School. He requested an enrollment update from RHPCS at a future meeting.

Tamara Baysinger, PCSC staff, said she would add this item to a future agenda.

No changes were made to the agenda for the present meeting.

M/S (deVera/Corkill): To approve May 28, 2009, as the date and Boise, Idaho, as the location for a regularly scheduled Commission meeting. *The motion passed unanimously.*

M/S (Corkill/deVera): To approve the minutes from October 16, 2008; December 11, 2008; and December 22, 2008; as submitted. *The motion passed unanimously.*

2. Another Choice Virtual School (ACVS) New Charter Petition (Second Hearing)

Laura Sandidge, Board Chair; Kim Hunter, Treasurer; Ross Jones, Business/Finance Manager; Tammy Searles, Pearson Digital Learning Consultant; Anne Brown, Curriculum Provider; Donna Myers, Accountant for Idaho Arts Charter; represented ACVS.

The ACVS representatives provided an overview of their revised petition.

Chairman Goesling expressed concern regarding ACVS's by-laws, section 3.2, which state: "Nominations for elected directors may be presented to the Board by either a past or present director or a member of the Parent Advisory Council at-large."

ACVS said all parents of students enrolled are a part of the Parent Advisory Council and can therefore make nominations.

Jennifer Swartz, PCSC counsel, said the charter and by-laws are not necessarily inconsistent. She advised that more specific election processes be described in the by-laws.

The PCSC requested the addition of clarifying information to the by-laws.

Commissioner Corkill asked how attendance will be tracked in the virtual school.

Ms. Hunter said attendance will be calculated by comparing online hours to progress. Attendance is directly tied to student achievement. All programs being used have a tracking mechanism that generates reports then used to determine whether work completed is appropriate to the number of hours logged.

Commissioner Corkill asked whether a survey been done to assess the community demand for a virtual, school targeting students with special needs..

Ms. Sandidge said ACVS is a school offering an individualized education for all students. Several surveys have been done and indicate a need for the program.

Commissioners DeMordaunt and Reed requested a budget based on a student enrollment of 150, which they felt was more realistic for the first year of operation.

The PCSC expressed concerns with the low marketing budget, the focus on special needs students which require more individual attention and increase expenses, how the school will attract non-special needs students, and competition for enrollment with existing virtual schools within Idaho.

Commissioner DeMordaunt cautioned that each school values their students, and the idea of marketing to other charter and traditional schools may not be the best option.

Chairman Goesling confirmed with ACVS that any future expansion of the enrollment cap or attendance area would be subject to PCSC approval.

M/S (Corkill/deVera): A motion to approve the charter petition for Another Choice Virtual Public Charter School. *The motion passed unanimously.*

Chairman Goesling directed ACVS to work with PCSC staff to provide a budget based on a student enrollment of 150 and amend by-laws relating to the board election process.

3. White Pine Charter School (WPCS) Proposed Charter Amendment

Rob Black, Board Chair; Charlotte Arnold, Administrator; and Anita Ogden, Business Manager, represented WPCS.

Mr. Black reported that WPCS is submitting proposed charter amendment intended to alleviate long waiting lists and improve the school's financial outlook. The amendment would add a third-grade class, and natural attrition is expected to reduce the number of students back to one class per grade by the time those students reach middle school.

Commissioner Reed expressed concern that the amendment does not specify a cap on class sizes. If the amendment is approved, the school could have an unlimited number of students per class.

Commissioner DeMordaunt was also uncomfortable with the lack of specificity regarding caps, the lack of parent input, and the budget provided.

Commissioner O'Donahue concurred with Commissioners Reed and DeMordaunt.

Commissioner deVera cautioned the school that increasing class sizes in lower grades impacts the efficiency of the school without adding significant, additional revenue.

M/S (DeMordaunt/O'Donahue): A motion to deny White Pine Charter School's proposed charter amendment giving the school board additional flexibility with regard to class sizes and grade offerings for the following reasons(s): Lack of parent notification or input with regards to this amendment; the need for specific caps on class numbers and sizes of those classes; and the need for budgets demonstrating the anticipated impact of the charter amendments

The motion passed 4-1, with Commissioner Reed dissenting.

4. Garden City Community School (GCCS) Update: Impact of ANSER Charter School Move

Representatives from GCCS and ANSER spoke regarding the anticipated impact of ANSER's new facility on GCCS's enrollment. Both schools reflected a positive attitude toward the move and a belief that both schools could achieve sufficient enrollment.

5. Staff Update and Commission Discussion: Charter School Legislation

Ms. Baysinger described several, possible bills to be considered by the legislature. None of the bills have yet been introduced, so there is no language on which to base an opinion.

Commissioner O'Donahue and Chairman Goesling said they felt charter schools should shoulder the responsibility of notifying school district boards prior to consideration of amendments to the charters of existing, Commission-authorized public charter schools.

Commission Discussion

Chairman Goesling said he is drafting a letter to the Governor's office for further guidance regarding the role of the PCSC in the face of new budget impacts and challenges for the state.

Confirmation hearings for Commissioner O'Donahue, Commissioner DeMordaunt, and Chairman Goesling will occur during this legislative session.

M/S (DeMordaunt/O'Donahue): To adjourn the meeting. *The motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.