

**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2009
650 W. State Street, Boise, Room 307**

A meeting of the Idaho Public Charter School Commission (PCSC) was held Thursday, July 9, 2009, at 650 W. State Street, Boise, Idaho. Chairman William Goesling presided.

The following members were in attendance:

Esther Van Wart
Joe deVera

Brad Corkill
Gayann DeMordaunt

Gayle O'Donahue
Alan Reed

Chairman Goesling called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

1. PCSC Discussion: North Valley Academy (NVA) Facility and High School Expansion for 2009-2010 School Year

Tamara Baysinger, PCSC staff, indicated the purpose of the item was to follow up on the May 28th meeting, at which time the PCSC asked NVA to provide an update of documented facilities plans for their high school and a final commitment to opening high school grades based on facilities availability.

Chairman Goesling asked for updates to the backup plans and NVA's plan for fall 2010.

Deby Infanger, NVA board chair, reported that NVA plans to use two more classrooms in the round building where the Junior High is housed. NVA is planning on proceeding with the addition of grades 9 through 12 and confirmation letters have been received from all students wishing to attend.

Commissioner Corkill asked what the enrollment is for the 11th and 12th grades.

Ms. Infanger reported that 9th grade is full with 24, 10th grade has 10, 11th grade has 8, and 12th grade has 4.

Commissioner DeMordaunt asked if the high school teacher can run a full curriculum and offer all that is needed for the three grades in small class sizes.

Daryl Muck, NVA head teacher, expressed confidence that NVA will be able to handle the classes necessary. NVA will sit down individually with students to determine classes they have already taken and what classes are needed to fill in gaps.

Commissioner DeMordaunt asked Deby Infanger if NVA is not able to get any students in the upper classes, are they prepared to go forward with High School with the projected 44 students.

Ms. Infanger indicated that the budgets are based on what NVA have, but more students are anticipated and the expenses are padded by 5% to cover attrition.

Commissioner Corkill asked about the new Bureau Board that has been formed by Superintendent Tom Luna.

Ms. Baysinger said the Bureau has to be formed sometime this month must approve NVA's facility plan in order for the high school to open. The lease must then be approved by Dr. Mike Rush, Executive Director of the Board of Education.

Jennifer Swartz, PCSC counsel, added that there are eight Bureau Board members and the decision will have to be approved by all members, based on the best interest of the Bureau and its mission and its students.

Ms. Baysinger indicated that if the lease is not approved, NVA would have to seek alternative facilities very quickly. Alternative plans exist, but are not well documented. If NVA could not open high school, the check for the students would have gone out and NVA would need to return funds to the Department of Education.

Commissioner Van Wart expressed concerns about budget shortfalls in year two and the USDA loan process.

Ms. Baysinger said the USDA loan is only in the application process and does not have any assurance of approval from the bank on this loan.

Ms. Infanger indicated that there is a group of private investors that will provide interim funding and then the USDA would come in and refinance these funds.

PCSC DeMordaunt invited NVA to provide any additional information on the ISDB campus option.

Commissioner Reed indicated that, with all due respect, it doesn't matter what Superintendent Luna or anyone else has said, since the ISDB governing board did not yet vote and give approval.

Commissioner Corkill expressed agreement with Commissioner Reed..

Commissioner Van Wart asked if SDE could clarify.

Jason Hancock, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Department of Education, indicated that a tentative agreement has been reached among the agency, bureau staff, and NVA regarding what the lease modifications would be.

M/S (Corkill/Reed): To reconsider the PCSC's decision of June 26, 2008 adding grades 9-12 to North Valley Academy Public Charter School.

Ms. Baysinger clarified that the original motion of June 26, 2008 was unanimous and Commissioner DeMordaunt was not present and therefore could not have made the motion, but is able to vote on this subsequent motion.

Commissioner DeMordaunt feels that it is premature to take away NVA's ability to add the high school grades altogether. While she was not present at the meeting, there seemed to be a certain level of confidence in NVA's ability to add high school and that it is a good program.

Commissioner Corkill said the PCSC cannot presuppose Bureau approval of the lease.

Commissioner DeMordaunt said she was also comfortable with NVA's Plan B to use modular buildings.

Commissioner Corkill stated that technically, NVA has not established a facility. The only issue is presupposing what the Bureau will decide late in July.

Commissioner Corkill asked if NVA is on the agenda for the next PCSC meeting.

Ms. Baysinger indicated that the Bureau would not have met and therefore, not have made a decision prior to the next PCSC meeting, so no additional information would be available.

Commissioner Corkill asked what the PCSC's duty is to assure that the high school students have a facility.

Commissioners DeMordaunt, Van Wart, and O'Donahue suggested a meeting in the first week of August to discuss this meeting in the case the Bureau does not approve NVA's facility.

The motion failed, with three Commissioners voting nay. Commissioners O'Donahue and Van Wart abstained.

Chairman Goesling expressed disappointment in the PCSC's decision, saying it had become a political issue. He said the PCSC has required other charter schools to meet very stringent guidelines and NVA is no exception.

Commissioner Corkill agreed with Chairman Goesling.

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