

**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2009
650 W. State Street, Boise, ID 83709
LBJ Building, Basement Conference Room**

A meeting of the Idaho Public Charter School Commission (PCSC) was held on Thursday, September 17, 2009, at 650 W. State Street, Basement Conference Room, Boise, ID 83709. Chairman William Goesling presided.

The following members were in attendance:

Brad Corkill Gayle O'Donahue Gayann DeMordaunt
Alan Reed

Esther Van Wart was absent.

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

No changes or additions were made to the agenda.

M/S (DeMordaunt/Reed): To move into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code Section 67-2345 (1) (f), for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. *The motion passed unanimously.*

M/S (DeMordaunt/O'Donahue): To return to open session. *The motion passed unanimously.*

1. Commission Work

M/S (Corkill/DeMordaunt): To approve January 7, 2010, as the date and Boise, ID as the location for the following regularly scheduled Commission meeting. *The motion passed unanimously.*

M/S (DeMordaunt/Reed): To approve the minutes from April 2, 2009, as submitted. *The motion passed unanimously.*

2. Rolling Hills Public Charter School (RHPCS) Corrective Action Plan and Financial Update

Rick Hart, board chairman; Dr. John Montgomery, administrator; Carolyn Mauer, board member; Leann Gilberg, board treasurer; and Jennifer Pearce, board member, represented RHPCS. They updated the PCSC regarding outstanding items on the corrective action plan, as discussed at the July 31, 2009, PCSC meeting.

Mr. Hart reported that RHPCS was experiencing financial struggles due to the low enrollment. He said the school is marketing aggressively and is working to form a finance committee.

Commissioner Reed has concerns about enrollment and apparent budgetary shortfalls. He emphasized that the school will need to effect significant improvement to avoid fiscal default.

The PCSC and RHPCS representatives further discussed steps being taken by the school to balance to budget, including renegotiation of salaries and other expenses, increasing enrollment, and fundraising.

Ms. Baysinger noted that the PCSC continues to receive timely, monthly fiscal updates from RHPCS. She also said that statute does not specifically provide a means by which a notice of defect is to be lifted. Historically, the PCSC has moved to notify schools that a previously issued notice of defect has been lifted, once the Commission feels the corrective action plan has been worked and the defect cured. She noted that budgetary issues were not a part of the original notice of defect for RHPCS.

Stephanie Lee, a privately contracted RHPCS employee providing services for the special needs population and a parent of two RHPCS students, testified in support of RHPCS. Ms. Lee stated there has been a huge improvement from last year to this year.

Kelly Kohler, the new PFA President, a non-voting member of RHPCS's board, stated she is assisting the board with budgetary issues with fundraising efforts.

M/S (DeMordaunt/Corkill): To lift the notice of defect previously issued to Rolling Hills Public Charter School, indicating that the issues cited in the notice of defect have been cured to the satisfaction of the Commission. The requirement of monthly updates on enrollment and budgets remains in place. *The motion passed unanimously.*

3. Falcon Ridge Public Charter School (FRPCS) Update

Mark Green, administrator, and Earl Rice, board member, updated the PCSC regarding the status of the school. They noted that a stakeholder survey had been completed and a stakeholder communication plan developed. Mr. Green said enrollment was currently 253.

Commissioner DeMordaunt asked why survey results indicated that satisfaction with school stability appeared to have dropped significantly.

Mr. Rice said the survey was collected right after FRPCS discussed budget cuts and decreased teacher salaries. Another factor was the school's decision to remain in modular facilities for the foreseeable future.

4. White Pine Charter School (WPCS) Corrective Action Plan Update and Proposed Charter Amendment

Sandy Folmeran, board secretary; Anita Ogden, business manager; Perry Rosemer, administrator; and Charlotte Shearer, federal programs director, updated the PCSC on the school's progress in working its CAP. Ms. Ogden also introduced a proposed charter amendment intended to make the measurable student educational standards more realistic.

Ms. Baysinger said PCSC staff has reviewed the charter changes and they appear to be legally sufficient.

M/S (Reed/Corkill): A motion to approve White Pine Charter School's proposed charter amendment updating its measurable student educational standards. *The motion passed unanimously.*

5. Xavier Charter School (XCS) Annual Update

Scott Hunsaker, board chairman, and Cindy Fulcher, administrator, provided an update on the status of the school. Enrollment and staff size have nearly doubled since last year, and XCS did make AYP. A recent fiscal audit and XCS's budgets indicate that the school is fiscally strong.

Commissioner Corkill inquired regarding the measurable student educational standards that were not met.

Ms. Fulcher said the spring IRI was a little different than expected, and the school has examined its curriculum for effectiveness.

Commissioner DeMordaunt noted that XCS's math scores were significantly below targets included in the charter.

Commissioner Reed noted that, since XCS failed to meet standards in the charter, the PCSC must issue a notice of defect.

The PCSC discussed whether XCS had failed to "substantially" meet the standards, and agreed to hold a future discussion on the matter.

M/S (Corkill/Reed): To direct staff to issue to Xavier Charter School a written notice of defect on the grounds of failure to substantially meet any of the student educational standards identified in the approved charter. *The motion passed unanimously.*

6. Vision Public Charter School Annual Update

Lee Hannah, board chair, and Wendy Oldenkamp, administrator, provided an update on the status of the school, the addressed programmatic audit findings, stakeholder survey results, standardized test scores, and the educational program.

The PCSC expressed its appreciation for Vision's successful program and strong presentation.

7. Idaho Virtual Academy (IDVA) Annual Update

Dave Mullens, board chair; Desi Laughlin, head of school; Kelly Edgington, federal programs manager; and Alan Wenger, business manager, provided an update on the status of the school. They discussed student enrollment and demographic data, standardized test scores, the nature of IDVA's contract with K-12, budgetary details, and recent staffing changes.

Ms. Laughlin indicated the relationships between virtual and traditional school districts have greatly improved due to a better understanding and acceptance of charter schools in general and a better understanding of virtual schools.

8. INSPIRE Connections Academy (INSPIRE) Annual Update

Kris Cochran, administrator, provided an update on the status of the school. She discussed staffing changes, enrollment, standardized test results, and development of the academic program.

Commissioner Reed inquired regarding a standard that was not met according to the school's charter.

Ms. Baysinger noted that the standard in question included four measurements, and the school fell short by 1.1% on one of these measurements. She said the PCSC would need to use its discretion in determining whether or not INSPIRE failed to "substantially" meet the standard.

The PCSC expressed concern regarding apparent downward trends in the school's academic achievement.

M/S (Reed/Corkill): A motion to direct staff to issue to INSPIRE Connections Academy a written notice of defect on the grounds of failure to substantially meet any of the student educational standards identified in the approved charter.

Following discussion, Commissioner Reed withdrew the motion.

The PCSC directed INSPIRE to verify its testing data and provide a follow-up report at the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting.

9. Richard McKenna Charter High School (RMCHS) Annual Update

Larry Slade, administrator, provided an update regarding the status of the school. He addressed enrollment, graduation rate, the school's new facility, and improvements to the educational program.

The PCSC expressed appreciation for RMCHS's successful program.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.