

**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2010
700 W. STATE STREET, BOISE, IDAHO
JRW WEST CONFERENCE ROOM**

A regular meeting of the Idaho Public Charter School Commission (PCSC) was held Thursday, September 23, 2010, at 700 W. State Street, Boise, ID, JRW West Conference Room. Chairman Bill Goesling presided.

The following members were in attendance:

Brad Corkill (via telephone) Gayann DeMordaunt Nick Hallett (via telephone)
Gayle O'Donahue Alan Reed (via telephone)

Absent: Esther Van Wart

Chairman Goesling (via telephone) opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

1. Commission Work

Agenda Approval

The PCSC made no changes to the agenda.

Rolling Calendar

M/S (DeMordaunt/Corkill): To approve March 10, 2011, as the date and Boise, Idaho, as the location for the following regularly scheduled PCSC meeting to follow the January 13, 2011 meeting. *The motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes Approval

M/S (Corkill/Reed): To approve the minutes from July 22-23, 2009; July 31, 2009; and September 17, 2009. *The motion passed unanimously.*

2. **Heritage Community Charter School (HCCS) New Charter School Petition (first hearing)**

Dr. Lon McRae, Board Chair; Crystal Davidson, Secretary and Founder; Kevin Benjamin, Treasurer; Emmanuel Navarro, Board Member; Brian Bishop, Board Member; Natalia Benjamin, Founder; and Holle McRae, Founder, represented HCCS.

The HCCS introduced their petition to the PCSC. The school would offer bilingual education using a core knowledge sequence.

Commissioner DeMordaunt said she would like to see a comparison between the district's past achievement and HCCS goals. She suggested setting goals at, or slightly above, the district scores. She felt an increase of funds for the marketing budget is called for since

this is the lowest marketing budget seen by the PCSC. She inquired whether all HCCS teachers will need to be bilingual.

HCCS said teachers do not necessarily need to be bilingual. At full capacity in 2017, the primary grades (K-6) will require one bilingual teacher each, or a minimum of seven bilingual teachers. HCCS has spoken to the representative from the bi-national teacher exchange program. They indicated the process begins in November and this does give adequate time to get visas and documentation in order.

Commissioner DeMordaunt would like to view more documentation of research regarding DLI and core knowledge including statistics, cognitive, flexible, and creative achievements.

Commissioner Corkill felt opening a K-12 school in the first year is a very ambitious project. He inquired whether HCCS has planned for the possibility of low high school enrollment.

HCCS said the worst-case budget does assume zero high school enrollment. The proposed pilot program assumes only 40 students.

Commissioner Reed expressed concerns filling high school grades, low budget amount for marketing, and the costs associated with international teachers. History has proven that opening a K-12 charter school can be problematic.

Commissioner O'Donahue asked how HCCS will address hiring a Latin teacher. In the past this has been a problem.

HCCS has spoken to one of the two mentors who implemented the core knowledge program in over 15 schools in the Phoenix area. They've reassured HCCS this would not be an obstacle. The HCCS representatives also noted that one of the considerations in choosing a facility close to Caldwell High was the ability to develop community partnerships for participation in sports and music programs.

Commissioner Hallett asked, since teachers have to be under contract, how HCCS plans to handle a fluctuation of students.

HCCS plans to hold a lottery early March or late February and then hire teachers accordingly based on enrollment. Teacher interviews will also be held in early spring, but not hired until enrollment is completed in April or May.

Commissioner Hallett expressed concern regarding the low fund balance in the proposed budgets.

HCCS said the school has built in a 5% reserve (\$107,315) from the revenues specifically for unexpected expenses. The fund balance is more than what the budget reflects.

Commissioners Hallett and Corkill recommended an increase in the minimum number of board members to five.

M/S (DeMordaunt/Hallett): To approve the charter petition for Heritage Community Charter School. *The motion passed unanimously.*

The PCSC requested the following:

- Increase board minimum to five members.
- Facilities updates monthly until further notice.
- In the first annual report, a status of the high school pilot program.
- Amend the measurable student educational standards (MSES) to PCSC staff's satisfaction.

3. North Idaho STEM (NI STEM) New Charter School Petition (second hearing)

Scott Thomson, Co-Founder and Board Member; Dan Teslov, Board Chair; Colleen Thomson, Co-Founder and Project Coordinator; Cathy Richardson, Board Treasurer; Dan Teslov, Board Vice Chair; and Lorna Finman, Board Member, represented NI STEM.

Mr. Thomson presented to the PCSC an update regarding the petition and revisions that have been made since the first hearing.

Commissioners DeMordaunt and Reed recommended a hybrid board instead of an all self-appointing board and suggested an election process wherein stakeholders would have a voice. Commissioner Hallett suggested a minimum of five board members.

The PCSC noted that two full-time certified administrators would likely be excessive for a school of this size.

M/S (Reed/Corkill): To approve the petition for North Idaho STEM Community Charter. *The motion passed unanimously.*

The PCSC requested the following:

- Monthly facilities updates until finalized.
- Increase board minimum to five members.
- Change bylaws to have a hybrid board instead of all self-appointed.
- Budget including one administrator with an outsourced business manager.

4. Wings Charter Middle School Annual Update and Proposed Charter Amendment

Letha Blick, Administrator; and Claire Major, Board Chair, represented Wings.

Ms. Baysinger indicated Wings was on a previous agenda for an annual update, but did not arrive at the meeting in time. Wings provided updated materials and a proposed charter amendment for consideration. The reports required by a recent notice of defect were submitted late, but have been received.

Ms. Blick and Ms. Major provided an update on the status of the school. They indicated Wings has struggled recently due to the resignation of the business manager and noted that the student demographics warrant a lowering of the MSES.

Commissioner DeMordaunt agreed that lowering of the MSES is necessary. She complimented the school on its low student attrition.

Commissioner Hallett encouraged the school to consider contracting out fiscal services as it is more cost effective than hiring a staff member.

Ms. Blick indicated the staff member hired would also be the secretary.

Commissioner DeMordaunt confirmed with Ms. Blick that there is market demand for the requested enrollment expansion.

M/S (Reed/O'Donahue): To approve the proposed charter amendments as submitted by Wings Charter Middle School. *The motion passed unanimously.*

Commissioner DeMordaunt excused herself from the meeting. A quorum remained present.

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

Larry Slade, Administrator, represented RMCHS.

Mr. Slade updated the PCSC on the status of the school, noting that the facility is now paid off and RMCHS has been able to purchase a 3-D printer.

The PCSC expressed appreciation for the school's success.

6. Idaho Virtual Academy (IDVA) Annual Update

Desi Laughlin, Administrator; Allen Wenger, Business Manager; and David Malnes, Board Chair, represented IDVA.

Ms. Laughlin presented on behalf of IDVA, updating the PCSC regarding a hybrid credit recovery program that began in August.

Commissioner Hallett excused himself from the meeting. A quorum remained present.

7. iSucceed Virtual High School Annual Update

Don Peña, Board Chair; Lisa McIntosh, Business Manager; and the Academic Counselor standing in for Monti Pittman, represented iSucceed.

Mr. Peña provided an update regarding the status of the school.

Commissioner O'Donahue commended the school on their presentation and confirmed that iSucceed's budget carryover of more than \$270,000 includes a 5.5% holdback as well as a 5% contingency reserve.

8. Commission Discussion: Proposed Charter Amendments (requests to increase enrollment)

This item will be moved to a future scheduled PCSC meeting.

9. Staff Update: Nampa Classical Academy (NCA) Dissolution

Ms. Baysinger reported that PCSC staff has been working with the State Department of Education (SDE) on matters related to NCA's dissolution. Communication with the NCA board has been almost non-existent. However, Terry LaMasters, NCA Board Chairman, did send an update regarding assets purchased with federal start grant funds. ADA purchased assets may be disposed of to pay outstanding obligations, but federal grant assets must be returned to the authorizer for redistribution. PCSC staff will meet with the NCA board to determine what grant assets will be moving into the custody of the PCSC for redistribution.

Ms. Baysinger recommended that the PCSC establish a committee to evaluate grant applications related to the redistribution of NCA's grant assets.

The PCSC formed a committee with Commissioner DeMordaunt as chair. Commissioners Corkill and Reed also volunteered to serve on the committee.

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