

**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES  
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2010  
700 W. State Street, JRW West Conference Room**

A regular meeting of the Idaho Public Charter School Commission was held Thursday, November 18, 2010, at 700 W. State Street, Boise, ID, JRW West Conference Room. Commissioners O'Donahue and DeMordaunt presided.

The following members were in attendance by telephone:

William Goesling  
Nick Hallett

Gayann DeMordaunt  
Alan Reed

Brad Corkill  
Esther Van Wart

Commissioner Gayle O'Donahue was present in person and opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m., standing in for Chairman Goesling due to illness.

### **1. Commission Work**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

**M/S (Corkill/DeMordaunt): To approve May 5, 2011, as the date and Boise, Idaho as the location for the regularly scheduled PCSC meeting to follow the March 10, 2011, meeting. *The motion passed unanimously.***

**M/S (DeMordaunt/Corkill): To approve the meeting minutes from November 12, 2009; November 23, 2009; December 7, 2009; and January 7, 2010 as submitted. *The motion passed unanimously.***

### **2. White Pine Charter School (WPCS) Annual Update**

Terry Rothamer, Anita Ogden, and WPCS board member Brian Vandersloot attended representing WPCS.

Mr. Rothamer, WPCS administrator, provided an annual update, noting that the school made AYP for 2009/2010. He spoke about the school's programmatic operations audit, student enrollment, management focus, and academics.

Ms. Ogden, WPCS business manager, provided a fiscal update.

Commissioner Hallett asked whether WPCS feels the measurable student educational standards (MSES) in the charter are realistic.

Mr. Rothamer said it appears the test results provided on WPCS's dashboard report were incorrect. He apologized that a clerical error resulted in the provision of outdated scores from 2008-2009.

Tamara Baysinger, PCSC staff, pointed out some of the numbers appear to be accurate and from the 2009-2010 school year.

The PCSC agreed that WPCS should provide corrected numbers to staff in advance of a presentation at the January 13, 2011 meeting.

Commissioner Hallett asked for clarification regarding the zero balance carryover from FY 2010.

Anita Ogden said WPCS was still in the midst of an audit at the time the budget was prepared. There is a carry forward of \$37,000 in current budgets.

### **3. Vision Charter School (VCS) Annual Update**

Lee Hannah, Chairman; Wendy Oldenkamp, Principal; and Sammy Samuelson, Business Manager; represented VCS.

Wendy Oldenkamp provided an update on the status of the school, including facility development, accreditation, grade expansion, strategic planning, academic achievement, and fiscal health.

Commissioner Hallett complimented VCS on an excellent presentation. He asked about the lack of demographic diversity at VCS.

Ms. Oldenkamp said it is difficult to draw Hispanic students. No transportation is available outside the primary attendance area to draw Hispanic students from Caldwell. VCS is working on placing signs in Spanish throughout the school.

Ms. Hannah said lottery applications are available in Spanish. VCS has found that many Hispanic families do not understand that charter schools are public. VCS is working on communicating this fact to Hispanics in the area.

Commissioner Corkill complimented VCS on their presentation and successful stakeholder survey.

Commissioner DeMordaunt said that VCS is a model for charter schools around the state in handling growth.

Ms. Hannah said VCS added three new board members, expanding the number of board members to seven, and this expertise has been extremely beneficial and positive.

### **4. INSPIRE Connections Academy Annual Update**

Jill Hamilton, Board President; and Gerald Chouinard, Administrator; represented INSPIRE.

Ms. Hamilton and Mr. Chouinard provided an update on the status of the school, including enrollment, demographics, academic achievement, leadership changes, stakeholder surveys, and fiscal health.

Commissioner Hallett commended INSPIRE for their report and asked them to elaborate on the school's relationship with BSU.

Mr. Chouinard said INSPIRE has partnered with BSU to provide professional development and evaluation of INSPIRE's program.

Commissioner DeMordaunt asked what the current student:teacher ratio is.

Mr. Chouinard said the ratio is about 45:1. Connections Academy limits ratios to 60:1. INSPIRE is in a financial position to hire another teacher if necessary. INSPIRE is being encouraged to grow, so its student:teacher ratio will increase in the future.

Commissioner Van Wart excused herself from the meeting at this time due to other obligations.

Commissioner Reed asked about INSPIRE not meeting their charter requirement on the math ISAT and asked what the plan is to improve this area.

Mr. Chouinard said there is a plan at a national level, the Special Education Department was restructured, testing data analysis is continuing, teachers are being trained, and additional educational programs are being used. Based on a federal program's review, INSPIRE plans to use review suggestions to ramp up the math program.

Commissioner DeMordaunt appreciated the nationwide efforts made by Connections Academy, but asked what INSPIRE, as a state charter school, is doing to meet standards as set forth in their charter.

Commissioner Reed said he was not confident that INSPIRE had a plan to rectify the issue.

Commissioner DeMordaunt noted the goal that was missed by 2% is already below the state average, which is a fairly low goal compared to what other charter schools have set for themselves.

Commissioner Corkill stated that, in being consistent with the Commission's policy and history, a notice of defect is called for.

**M/S (Reed/Corkill): To direct staff to issue to INSPIRE Connections Academy a notice of defect on the grounds of failure to substantially meet any of the student educational standards in the approved charter, specifically, the ISAT math goal.**  
*The motion passed unanimously.*

[The notice of defect was later withdrawn upon discovery that the scores on which it was based had been miscalculated.]

## **5. Liberty Charter School Annual Update and Proposed Charter Amendment**

Commissioner O'Donahue recused herself from this discussion due to her involvement with Liberty and Victory charter schools. Commissioner DeMordaunt chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Rebecca Stallcop, Administrator, represented Liberty. She explained the proposed charter amendment and noted that the boundary change would not impact any of the students currently enrolled. The proposed changes have been communicated to parents and no negative feedback was received.

**M/S (Corkill/Reed): To approve the proposed charter amendment making changes to Liberty Charter School's primary attendance area boundaries. *The motion passed unanimously.***

Ms. Stallcop and several Liberty students also provided an update on the status of the school.

## **6. Victory Charter School Annual Update and Proposed Charter Amendment**

Dr. Marianne Saunders, Administrator; Leslie Mauldin, Chairman of the Board; and Niki Crow, Clerk; represented Victory.

Dr. Saunders indicated that Victory shares busing services with Liberty and therefore, requests the same approval to make the same changes to Victory's primary attendance area boundaries. She and several Victory students provided an update on the status of the school.

**M/S (Reed/Corkill): To approve the proposed charter amendment making changes to Victory Charter School's primary attendance area boundaries. *The motion passed unanimously.***

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