

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES  
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2011  
700 W. State Street, Boise, Idaho  
JRW West Conference Room**

A regular meeting of the Idaho Public Charter School Commission was held Thursday, March 10, 2011, at 700 W. State Street, Boise, ID, JRW West Conference Room. Chairman William Goesling presided.

The following members were in attendance:

Brad Corkill	Gayann DeMordaunt	Gayle O'Donahue (arrived 9:05 am)
Alan Reed	Esther Van Wart	

Absent: Nick Hallett

Chairman Goesling opened the Meeting at 9:01 a.m.

## **1. Commission Work**

### Agenda Approval

The PCSC approved the agenda as published.

### Rolling Calendar

#### COMMISSION ACTION

The PCSC has approved May 5, 2011, and June 28, 2011, as the dates and Boise, Idaho as the location for its regularly scheduled meetings to follow the March 2011 meeting.

**M/S (Van Wart/Reed): To approve August 25, 2011, as the date and Boise, Idaho as the location for the following regularly scheduled PCSC meeting. *The motion passed unanimously.***

### Minutes Approval

**M/S (Corkill/DeMordaunt): To approve the meeting minutes from April 28-29, 2010; June 24, 2010; and January 13, 2011 as submitted. *The motion passed unanimously.***

## **2. North Idaho STEM Community Charter (NI STEM) Proposed Charter Amendment**

Scott Thomson and Colleen Thomson, Co-Directors; Daryl Richardson, Board Vice-Chair; and Kathy Richardson, Treasurer; represented NI STEM.

Dan Tesulov, Board Chairman; and Dr. Lorna Finman, Board Member; were not able to attend. However, written statements were submitted.

Mr. Tesla stated that on March 15, 2011, the school is closing escrow on the land for the future school site.

Dr. Finman reported she has made a personal fund investment of \$50,000 in the success of the school.

Mr. Thomson requested postponement of opening for the school until 2012.

Commissioner Van Wart asked what happens to the charters that will not take a spot in 2011.

Tamara Baysinger indicated there were not more than six new charter schools in 2011 and therefore this decision has no impact. It will impact 2012 if more than six charter schools submit applications.

Commissioner O'Donahue asked how this impacts the three-year start up grant.

Michelle Clement Taylor said there is a no cost extension that can be requested and it should not be a problem.

Commissioner DeMordaunt asked if there are any other concerns such as the Albertson's Grant.

Mr. Peterson said an extension has already been requested and there are no issues.

Chairman Goesling asked what the process is going forward.

Ms. Baysinger said the process would now be the same scenario as any other school opening in 2012.

Ms. Clement Taylor said the SDE would rather see the school postpone versus opening and having struggles.

Commissioner Van Wart appreciates that the school is taking the responsibility to be cautious and postpone.

**M/S (Corkill/O'Donahue): To approve the proposed charter amendment for North Idaho STEM Community Charter for opening in 2012. *The motion passed unanimously.***

### **3. Palouse Prairie School of Expeditionary Learning (PPSEL) Proposed Charter Amendment**

Nils Peterson, Interim Board Chair; and Summer Clayton, School Director; represented PPSEL.

Ms. Clayton provided a summary of the “A is for Earth Worm” project and passed around a booklet made by the Kindergarten class.

The Board Chair resigned and Nils Peterson is filling the position. An election is scheduled in the spring.

Mark Hill, Board Member; has resigned and a candidate is in line to fill the position.

Mr. Peterson reported that the request today is to expand grades 7 & 8, revisions to Tab 4, and an increase to maximum class sizes. He gave a PowerPoint presentation including facilities, enrollment caps, transportation plan, crossing guards, conditional use permit to change from K-6 to K-8, and lottery status.

Ms. Clayton reported on how the enrollment changes requested were decided upon and explained the needs within the community for a middle school option. She further reviewed staffing, budget summary which is calculated at 85% average daily attendance and uses conservative enrollment numbers.

Commissioner Van Wart asked if there is a balloon payment currently due in 2012 or is that a scenario.

Mr. Peterson said the document that reflected a balloon payment was previous to the refinancing agreement.

Commissioner Van Wart asked where the students for grades 7 and 8 will be pulled from.

Ms. Clayton reviewed the lottery status explaining that grades 2, 3, and 4 would only require recruitment of five or six 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Moscow schools are changing their model to a 6, 7 and 8 grade middle school and PPSEL’s change would coincide with that change.

Commissioner Van Wart asked what other schools are in the Moscow community.

Ms. Clayton reported there are:

- 3 elementary schools
- 1 other charter school
- 1 junior high school
- 1 high school

Commission Van Wart asked if there is documentation of the interest in grades 7 and 8.

Ms. Clayton said PPSEL has nine applications and five 6<sup>th</sup> graders documented for next year. For the following year, five or six students will need to be recruited for 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

Chairman Goesling asked if the \$152,000 projected balance includes the \$100,000 from the Albertson's grant.

Ms. Clayton said it does.

The PCSC had concerns about the worst case budget as it included many cuts and didn't appear to track from year-to-year. Also, with the addition of grades 7 and 8, the expectation is for expenses to increase.

Ms. Clayton said the difference in tracking from year to year is the use of the reserve. At the end of this fiscal year, PPSEL will receive updated figures. Since figures for the addition of grades 7 and 8 are currently unknowns, the revenue and expenses were projected without changes. There are three highly qualified teachers available and in looking at other schools, there is no difference between elementary teacher and middle school pay grades for teachers. PPSEL currently has a full-time Special Education teacher who, according to an audit, could have been part-time so have the capability to cover the additional students.

Commissioner Van Wart asked if there is an EL contract in place and how much that contract is.

Ms. Clayton said it is \$45,000 and PPSEL has been using federal grant monies to pay that contract, which is prepaid for the following year.

Commissioner Corkill asked if the \$100,000 Albertson's Grant is restricted in use.

Ms. Baysinger said the funds can be used for any expenses.

Commissioner DeMordaunt feels the budgets are based on worst-case scenarios and that the community is very committed to the school. She is impressed with the understanding of the funding formulas and the school has done much due diligence. She feels demand does exist within the community.

Commissioner O'Donahue concurred with Commissioner DeMordaunt. History has shown that this particular school does do their homework in looking at all possible angles. The upper grades are harder to fill, but parents are the most concerned about the middle school years. The high school grades are much more difficult to keep full than middle school.

Commissioner Reed had concerns about enrollment numbers.

Ms. Clayton said grades 3 and 4 are combined. Currently, PPSEL would only have to recruit five or six 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

Commissioner Van Wart said it refreshing that PPSEL has done so much research and had answers for all budget questions. The K-8 model is ideal for an expeditionary school.

Ms. Clayton used worst-case scenarios to illustrate that the school is prepared for the future.

Mr. Peterson said Moscow has a unique community in that summer will bring new families to the area, which also brings another marketing opportunity in August.

Ms. Clayton added that five students were recently recruited from university faculty parents.

**M/S (Van Wart/O'Donahue): To approve the proposed charter amendment with respect to increasing grade ranges from K-6 to K-8 in 2011 as submitted by Palouse Prairie School of Expeditionary Learning.**

Commissioner Reed asked if they do not expand, are they in violation of their charter.

Ms. Baysinger said that is addressed in Tab 2, section B, which clarifies the school "may" expand into grade 7 and 8, but does not require them to do so.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Peterson said the goal of the next charter amendment changes the language to include any testing as required by the State of Idaho.

**M/S (DeMordaunt/Reed): To approve the proposed charter amendment with respect to measurable student standards as submitted by Palouse Prairie School of Expeditionary Learning.**

*The motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Peterson presented the next charter amendment, which changes class sizes from 23 to 24.

Ms. Clayton said that as much as increasing class size is not optimal for educational purposes, it will increase funding by \$30,000-\$50,000.

Commissioner DeMordaunt said that if the school would come back with another amendment for class sized of 26 or 28, it may provide more flexibility.

Chairman Goesling asked how the current legislation passed to increase class sizes impacts this issue. Would it put the school into a restricted situation?

Ms. Clement Taylor said it does not require a school to increase class sizes, but it increases the funding. This is local control issue and would not impact the school.

Commissioner Van Wart expressed concerns about informing parents that this increase does not require the school to increase.

Ms. Clayton said parents are concerned and increasing to 24 was already a compromise with stakeholders.

Jennifer Swartz clarified that the PCSC can offer suggestions, but the Commission cannot require the school to make particular decisions.

**M/S: DeMordaunt/Van Wart): To approve the proposed charter amendment with respect to increasing class sizes from 23 to 24 as submitted by Palouse Prairie School of Expeditionary Learning.**

*The motion passed unanimously.*

#### **4. Rolling Hills Public Charter School (RHPCS) Corrective Action Plan and Fiscal Status Update**

Ms. Baysinger reported that RHPCS is here today to report on their CAP. An email arrived this morning that they received a Medicaid overpayment of \$56,000. They are required to return those funds with a payment plan of \$10,000 this March, \$10,000 next March and the remainder in 2013. Previously, there was a pecuniary interest problem with one of the board members, but that board member has resigned.

Bruce Castleton, Counsel for RHPCS, stated there is an exemption within Idaho code that if an individual insulates themselves on both interests, they are allowed to serve.

Ms. Swartz said this will be followed up on for the future, but would need to be looked at on a case by case basis. Since the board member stepped down for other reasons, this appears to have been resolved in this particular case.

Chairman Goesling asked PCSC staff to also follow up on this issue. The goal is to not only avoid conflict of interest, but avoid even the appearances of it.

John Montgomery, Administrator; Dr. Jonathan Giles, Parent and Medical Doctor; Dana Gilberg, Treasurer; Nancy Bolspflug; Cindy Brock-Larsen, new Board Chair; Sally Giles, Marketing Committee; Cathy Penesee, Nicki Crow, Clerk; David and Julie Marczak; Catherine Moore, PFA President; Terry Friend, Secretary; Amy Pfaff, Teacker; and Bruce Castleton, Counsel; represented RHPCS.

Mr. Montgomery has a copy of the revised programmatic audit in hand and will be submitting this to PCSC staff. In May, the process will begin again for next year's programmatic audit. A projected shortfall this year is expected of \$79,000. This figure does include the \$100,000 Albertson's Grant which has already been expended. The school has launched "Operation Support Our School" and currently has \$43,058 in contributions, with pledges of \$56,300. The next phase is to contact the 50% of families that did not respond, which is phase one. Current enrollment is 270+ students and has remained at a steady increase. The main purpose of the lottery will be used to fill waiting lists. There is a finance arm of the project and a phase that targets business within a two mile radius of the school which fosters a sponsorship relationship with these businesses.

Commissioner Corkill congratulated the school on their fundraising. In reviewing the budget for salaries there is 25% increase in what was projected. How did this happen?

Ms. Crow said staffing was increased in Special Education, two classes were added, with the main increase issuing teacher contracts at an increased rate after the budget was already prepared.

Commissioner Corkill asked if student enrollment was going to increase to a level to cover these salary increases.

Mr. Montgomery said there are two issues. One with enrollment caps and the other is with salary increases. Staffing will be carefully scrutinized to see where cuts can be made, which will be done in May during contracting. A work session is planned before the April RHPCS board meeting to discuss options.

Commissioner Reed asked about the \$30,000 in fund raising projected for next year.

Mr. Montgomery indicated that the fundraising quoted is for this year's fiscal year and has already been surpassed.

Commissioner Reed asked what the plan is to cover the deficit of \$79,000 for this year.

Mr. Montgomery said the majority will be covered with fundraising. If the funds are not raised, the school is not viable. The school must be in the black by May 15, 2010 in order to continue.

Mr. Hart said the budget does not reflect any of the ongoing negotiations with the bank.

Mr. Montgomery reiterated that there is \$53,600 in pledges and this number increases daily.

Commissioner Corkill clarified that the current fundraising is for this year only.

Mr. Montgomery said that the targeted fundraising is, yes. The hope is that RHPCS will have a better picture at the May 5<sup>th</sup> PCSC meeting.

Chairman Goesling said he has concerns that requests from PCSC staff have not been responded to in an open and timely manner. He is deeply concerned that the PCSC is not getting the information needed to make informed decisions.

Ms. Baysinger clarified that meeting materials were on a 30 day timeline. Her concern is that when sending requests for further information, they are not answered.

Commissioner Van Wart said there is history with the school of non-communication.

Mr. Hart has been kept informed by Ms. Crow and Mr. Montgomery of all requests coming from PCSC staff.

Chairman Goesling indicated that the only way the PCSC is going to be able to assist the school to succeed is if the lines of communications remain open.

Commissioner DeMordaunt stated there are individuals within the RHPCS group that are extremely capable and she has a great amount of confidence in them, as does the document provided listing the amount of money raised in fundraising and pledges. More documentation is needed in the monthly reports including receipts for donations, invitations to fundraisers, etc. Does May 5, 2010 work for the school?

Mr. Montgomery said that May 5, 2010 is fine.

Commissioner Van Wart reiterated that the amount of fundraising is unprecedented. How are parents feeling that cannot afford to contribute?

Mr. Montgomery has not had any complaints regarding the. There is no pressure based on the amount of the contribution, but RHPCS' goal is for a 100% response, whatever the amount.

Mr. Hart indicated there has been a major increase in community involvement, volunteering, and innovative business relationships.

Chairman Goesling opened the floor to the public.

Amy Pfaff testified on behalf of RHPCS. There is 5<sup>th</sup> grader selling hot chocolate and contributing the proceeds to the school and shared a Cinderella Story from another student.

Dr. Giles testified on behalf of RHPCS. He is a surgeon in the community. As a board member, he has heard the PCSC's concerns with the lack of communication. The focus now is saving the school. However, the board will insure communication improves.

Commissioner Van Wart asked for a copy of the Cinderella Story of the RHPCS student. The concerns regarding finances are for the students and to avoid closure of the school.

Ms. Pfaff will provide a copy of the Cinderella Story.

Commissioner O'Donahue stated she has been on site several times. There is a sign on the grounds for your fundraising efforts and she is very impressed with the efforts and results. Please provide financial updates as they happen.

Ms. Brock-Larsen concurred with Dr. Giles regarding keeping lines of communication open. She indicated this is the most enthusiastic group of people she has worked with.

Ms. Baysinger indicated she needs a summary of what comes in for fundraising, receipts for back-up, and any other corresponding documentation. The non-responsiveness has to do with emails with questions she has regarding submitted documentation.

The PCSC decided the NOD's for fiscal soundness and failure to submit required reports remain in effect. The CAP is in place for this year and the PCSC requested a CAP for next year.

## **5. White Pine Charter School (WPCS) Corrective Action Plan**

The board did review and approve the CAP for WPCS. There was discussion regarding how we aggregate data. There was concern about lowering the standard.

Chairman Goesling is very comfortable with the "value added" approach to setting standards. This is how the legislation is headed and he encouraged WPCS to look into this approach.

Commissioner DeMordaunt commended the school for thoroughness in preparation of their CAP, including Response to Intervention (RTI), pilot screening, and AIMSweb.

STAR enterprise reading and math assessments have been purchased. This is required by RTI and was preferred by the board. WPCS is implementing a new reading curriculum, which is immensely important, as well as correct implementation. The model of RTI is important for students below grade level.

Commissioner DeMordaunt indicated that RTI is federally supported.

Commissioner O'Donahue has been going through RTI training and schools that are bringing in RTI.

Commissioners Corkill and Reed commended the school for a job well done.

Chairman Goesling stated the PCSC is looking forward to positive results in the future.

## **6. Kaplan Academy of Idaho Annual Update**

David High, Board Chair; Vickie McCullough, Administrator; Dorian Bell, Financial Manager; represented Kaplan.

Ms. McCullough reviewed a PowerPoint presentation including initial target population, who needed us, student population, and meeting the needs.

Mr. High reported on the challenges of the student body. Many students (90%) were seniors last year and graduated. Kaplan has been purchased by Insight schools, which are larger than the Kaplan schools. They will not be using the Kaplan name and wish to only have one school in Idaho, which will be the largest Insight school. Other curriculum vendors are being investigated. The finances are in good shape; however, the school must move to a model that is sustainable and with current enrollment, that model is not Kaplan. Options include staggering, eliminating, and/or consolidating courses. This is a unique opportunity to model a school based on the student population being served.

Commissioner DeMordaunt asked who is driving this. The understanding was that Kaplan was driving this charter school and with Kaplan no longer involved, who is stepping in?

Mr. High indicated Kaplan was the driving force in the beginning. However, the principal, Ms. McCullough, controls the education program. About October through December of the first year, it became clear that Kaplan having control of the financial side was creating limitations. At that time, financial control was brought into control of the school. The board has been very clear that it runs the school. The infrastructure remains in place and it will simply be a matter of replacing the curriculum vendor.

Commissioner DeMordaunt is supportive of the changes and is excited with opportunity to fit the curriculum to the student body.

Commissioner O'Donahue stated that, during the approval process, there was concern regarding the Kaplan name. It is interesting that the school has evolved into a school so different from the initial vision and mission. The Kaplan fees were fairly high. Are you looking at providers that are going to ease this financial burden?

Mr. Bell said that as the school grew, the fees increased from 50% to 55% and once enrollment exceeds 100, the breakeven point jumps to 355 students. A new vendor, even including marketing and training, provides a better financial picture.

Ms. McCullough said a schedule, by month, regarding the transition including marketing, focus groups, etc. will be provided.

Chairman Goesling asked which curriculum providers are being considered.

Mr. McCullough said the teachers created a rubric of requirements. No providers were considered within the State of Idaho. The goal was to bring in something new and different. A focus group is reviewing the providers. Based on feedback, the interfaces for different online courses were different not consistent within Kaplan, which is one issue that will be considered with the new vendor.

Commissioner Corkill asked when the decision will be made on a new provider.

Ms. McCullough stated the board will make a decision on March 29, 2010.

Commissioner Reed asked about the \$150,000 budgeted as "other".

Mr. Bell stated \$40,000 is for Marketing and \$110,000 for travel so staff can do a road show to promote the new name.

Commissioner Reed said most of the board members terms are ending this year. Is there a plan to ensure that new board members have the same goals?

Mr. High said current board members have five year terms and are two years into those terms. A transition plan will be developed and that is an important point.

Chairman Goesling asked for continued monthly updates regarding financials and the new curriculum vendor.

## **7. Blackfoot Charter Community Learning Center (BCCLC) Status Update**

Tami Dorch, Assistant Administrator; John Heintzelman, Board Chair; Chantel Macy, Business Manager; Emily Hansen, Board Member; and Dr. Fred Ball, Administrator; represented BCCLC.

Ms. Dorch presented a PowerPoint including accomplishments, measurable student educational standards, AYP (which was met for 2010), classroom assessments, Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI), Idaho Standard Achievement Test (ISAT), and personal growth.

Dr. Ball, and BCCLC, appreciates the PCSC for approving the authorization of the charter. It has given them the opportunity to grow and have a waiting list. Enrollment is expected to be 225 next year and 300+ the following year.

Commissioner DeMordaunt asked how the BCCLC succeeded in getting the growth in testing scores.

Ms. Dorch said BCCLC has learned how to better identify and accommodate students that need an Alternative Assessment.

Commissioner DeMordaunt commended the school for tracking and presenting student growth.

Dr. Ball said it is important to look at the overall trend in growth. NCLB numbers did not show that trend.

Mr. Heintzelman stated there is stability in staffing, mentoring of teachers, and keeping the model going.

Commissioner Van Wart said the PCSC counsels schools to be authorized through the school district. What has changed within the school? Is it the change of the authorizer?

Ms. Dorch stated the focus is still collaboration. Part of it is a five or six year pattern of growth and the school having matured. The community has come to trust the school and become a part of the school.

Mr. Hentzelman said the change in authorizer has challenged the school to look at the numbers in a new way and allows us to celebrate successes.

Chairman Goesling asked where the growth is coming from.

Ms. Dorch said part is coming from siblings, but mostly from the Blackfoot School District.

Chairman Goesling asked how the new students are adjusting.

Ms. Dorch said they are adjusting well. Communications have been open with the school district regarding the students and the district is pleased with where the students are academically.

Commissioners Reed and Corkill commended the school for a great job.

Commissioner O'Donahue commented on the demographics (Free and Reduced Lunch is over 50%, ethnicity is strong, and Special Education is almost 17%). The longer we see schools of choice within the community, the more people realize the benefits. She complemented the school on the trust that has been built.

**M/S (DeMordaunt/Reed): To direct staff to issue to Blackfoot Community Charter Learning Center a notice of defect on the grounds of failure to substantially meet any of the student educational standards in the approved charter, specifically, MSES 2 and 3.**

Commissioner Van Wart clarified that "meet any" is language required by statute and does not mean the school didn't meet their other measures.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

## **8. Idaho Science and Technology Charter School (ISTCS) Status Update**

Rich Dodds, Board Chair; Chantel Macy, Business Manager; John Heintzelman, Board Member; Kelly Jo Fisk Board Vice-Chair; Dr. Fred Ball, Administrator; and Gary Larsen, Principal; represented ISTCS.

Mr. Larsen presented a PowerPoint including facilities, current enrollment, open house, physical education program, AIMSweb - progress monitoring, 6<sup>th</sup> grade - parts of speech mastery, testing balsa towers, and website status (85% complete).

Dr. Ball reported contracts were changed on the provider of website maintenance.

Ms. Fisk reported on student recruitment (currently 138 students), marketing efforts, open houses (including a VIP open house), new tri-fold pamphlets, implementing student incentive for referrals, extra-curricular activities, parent satisfaction survey results, community choir, bus banners used as billboards, and word of mouth.

Dr. Ball reported that Title I and Title II funds are flowing. The year will finish in the black. Projections for next year are based on 150 students and also based on recommendations for the higher divisor numbers provided by Superintendent Luna. He supports having this in a formula for budgeting purposes as it provides a consistent means of calculation.

Commissioner Corkill asked about the \$111,000 reimbursement from the contractor. Has that been received?

Dr. Ball said the developer owns a 3-acre parcel and leases it back to the school. The ownership has not been transferred. The plan has been that the new

construction for Blackfoot elementary will be built on that land. That \$111,000 payment will come from the sale of the 3-acre parcel. Enrollment of 160 is break even and 170 preferable.

Commissioner Reed asked about the increase in salaries of \$80,000.

Dr. Ball stated that is a reflection of an increase in staff to cover growth.

Commissioner DeMordaunt commended the school for their innovation in using the P90X system. Are there any penalties if the reserve dips below a certain amount?

Dr. Ball said only if the reserve drops below \$5,000.

Commissioner DeMordaunt asked if ISTCS stays at 138, are the finances still okay for the next two years.

Dr. Ball said that is correct.

Chairman Goesling asked if the elementary school buys the land, you have a loan for the building. What if the elementary school requests that the school move?

Mr. Dodds said the school has a total of 15 acres, so the sale of three acres is not an issue as the school will reside on the 12 remaining acres.

Commissioner O'Donahue commended the school for high attendance numbers. However, it appears the school is below the state average in almost every subject.

Mr. Larsen said faculty is being trained in RTI and there are four levels of math available to get students caught up.

Mr. Heintzelman said that as students start in the program, and continue in the program, the growth comes.

Mr. Dodds said the school is very concerned at keeping their eye on standard results. The reports from parents are heartwarming. About 20% of the students have special needs and show tremendous improvement and growth.

Commissioner O'Donahue has concerns PCSC staff had to make multiple requests for information regarding reimbursement.

Dr. Ball said that the plan regarding the acreage has just been finalized in the last few days.

Commissioner O'Donahue stressed that updates to PCSC staff are critical, even if plans are not finalized.

Mr. Dodds indicated updates are subject to changes.

Commissioner Van Wart stated that if ISTCS is frustrated, please do transfer that frustration to PCSC staff. The math scores are low for the science and technology focused school.

Chairman Goesling said that as your board matures, the PCSC will become more comfortable and confident with the school's governance. Until that time, frequent and complete communication is vital.

Commissioner Van Wart said PCSC staff puts forth every effort to insure the success of our charter schools.

Chairman Goesling requested updates regarding the sale of the acreage.

Commissioner Van Wart requested updates regarding enrollment efforts.

Chairman Goesling said that if submission of information answers concerns, there will be no need to attend the next PCSC meeting in person.

## **9. Staff Update: Charter School Legislation**

Ms. Baysinger said this year there is not much going on specific to charter schools. One correction is that SB 1304 should read SB 1023. This bill would limit the time a charter school can name founders. A school recently expanded and provided founder status, which gives founders enrollment priority, and this creates an issue. Senator Winder has a bill that states if a charter school is revoked mid-year, the school district absorbing those students, would receive compensation. However, the charter school was already funded for those students, and the revoked charter school would not have the remaining funds, so therefore; those students would be funded twice.

Ms. Clement Taylor spoke to Tim Hill who said the money is not available to fund those students twice. This issue is on the Senate agenda today.

Commissioner O'Donahue reported that Rebecca Stallcop is working on an idea to change charter schools so that they can get a Triple A rating (which traditional schools do) to get lower interest rate funding.

Chairman Goesling said this has been downgraded to a Double A rating and is based on the ability to pay bonds. If this was to happen with charter schools, there is no obligation on counties to pay bonds for those charter schools.

Commissioner DeMordaunt said there are some pools of funds which could be used to tie to that would give them a better rating.

Commissioner O'Donahue said with the economy not improving anytime soon, this is less effective use of taxpayer dollars to pay higher interest rates.

Commissioner DeMordaunt stated 96% of funds for a charter school is based on state funds versus 65% for traditional schools.

Chairman Goesling asked for clarification that universities will become authorizers.

Ms. Clement Taylor said universities would be authorizers, but with a requirement to report through the PCSC.

Chairman Goesling stated the biggest frustration is not getting success stories communicated.

Ms. Clement Taylor said we need to do better with best practices reporting. The idea is to have a newsletter and an annual report distributed to all schools (traditional and charter).

Chairman Goesling said Cindy Hoovel, Garden City Community, presented their successes, which was well received.

Ms. Clement Taylor said reports on how the charter schools are weathering the budget cuts would be appropriate.

Ms. Baysinger reported on the issue of MSES. We shouldn't be asking how to make the MSES work, but how to measure the success of our schools. She has been investigating NACSA best practices, reading reports, and finding things we haven't been able to implement. She is working on an overhaul of the system of oversight, which would lighten the reporting burden on schools. This system would include a review schedule including a high stakes review at year two, then again in year three when the state funding ends, and then every five years thereafter. There has been a suggestion to make a tier system with tier 1 being model schools, tier 2 in monitoring and tier 3 schools of concern. There is a need for a number of statutory amendments which will clean up things that don't work, clarify things, and develop policies for the PCSC. The hope is to present a plan in May. The statutory changes would need to be presented in 2012, having the statutory changes ready. Ideas must be submitted to the State Board of Education in April. The language done by August 2011, changes made, and then legislation would be presented when the session starts.

Commissioner Van Wart asked if NACSA has any rubrics that would be useful. One of the concerns is that Ms. Baysinger is irreplaceable.

Chairman Goesling said there will be the addition of a Charter School Director, which hopefully Ms. Baysinger will be promoted into, and a position posted for Charter School Manager who will be trained.

Commissioner DeMordaunt said a question was how to get great ideas from charter schools into the school districts. The Albertson's Foundation came to mind in getting an incentive program developed. It was well received and they are having internal conversations and are in support of charter schools.

Chairman Goesling asked what the best method is to get information from charter schools into the districts.

Commissioner Corkill said the two biggest differences between traditional and charter schools are levys and unions.

Commissioner Van Wart said that in the early days of the PCSC, open communication was not encouraged.

Chairman Goesling stated there was much negative attention having to do with NCA. We need to focus more on successes.

Ms. Clement Taylor said there is a portion of grants for dissemination. However, a charter school can only receive one dissemination grant. In the past, the SDE has asked schools for suggestions.

#### **10. PCSC Discussion: Authorizer Self-Evaluation**

Ms. Baysinger said what is most helpful is what the PCSC members see as problem areas, what needs to be changed and then draft a complete plan.

- Training-There is another session coming up in Moscow
- Charter school newsletter
- More discussion and wrap up for commissioners
- PCSC staff performance evaluations
- Budget requests-Ms. Baysinger works with fiscal staff on establishing a budget

Ms. Baysinger asked commissioners to email other thoughts, or suggestions with their input. She will compile a draft for approval.

**M/S (Van Wart/Corkill): To adjourn the meeting at 4:20 PM. *The motion passed unanimously.***