

**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2011
650 W. STATE STREET, STE. 307, BOISE, IDAHO**

A special meeting of the Idaho Public Charter School Commission was held Tuesday, April 5, 2011, at 650 W. State Street, Suite 307, Boise, ID, via telephone conference. Chairman Bill Goesling presided.

The following members attended via telephone:

Brad Corkill	Nick Hallett	Esther Van Wart
Gayle O'Donahue	Alan Reed	

Gayann DeMordaunt attended the meeting in person.

Chairman Goesling opened the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Commissioner Hallett said he had recently declined a request from charter school proponents in Montana to speak to the Montana legislature regarding proposed charter legislation.

Tamara Baysinger, PCSC staff, said neither she, nor PCSC counsel, had identified any concerns regarding Commissioners participating in similar discussions in the future.

Chairman Goesling requested this matter be discussed further at another meeting.

1. Commissioner Discussion: Legislation Regarding Charter School Cap

Ms. Baysinger said Rep. Bayer presented legislation lifting the number of the cap to be opened in any given year, but retains the limit of growth to one charter school per district per year. The reasons cited were the number of students on waiting lists at charter schools in Idaho and the effect of charter law on rankings which makes it more difficult to obtain federal grant dollars.

Michele Clement Taylor reviewed the 2008 federal grant applications and the feedback provided on those applications. The only negative comments provided on all applications were regarding the limited number of charter schools allowed to be opened in Idaho. Idaho has not come up against the cap, but has focused on quality instead. The expectation will be that Idaho will continue to lose points on these grant applications due to the current cap in place, even though the cap is not being reached.

Commissioner DeMordaunt said information from Diane Demarest of the ICSN indicated that Idaho's point ranking would rise from number 28 into the top 20 states if the cap were lifted, which is significant in gaining access to private grant funds.

Commissioner Corkill said the biggest issue is staffing. The PCSC has as much as can be handled with the current cap of six.

Commissioner DeMordaunt noted that even if the cap is lifted, the growth trend of fewer than six new schools annually is unlikely to change. She said it is important for the PCSC to be relevant in this discussion.

Commissioner Reed agreed with the importance of being proactive regarding this legislation and would not have a problem being cautiously in favor of it.

Ms. Baysinger said it was clear many representatives were displeased that the PCSC was not consulted regarding the legislation before it was introduced.

Commissioners Van Wart and O'Donahue concurred that they would like to be part of the voice in shaping decisions. Additionally, they feel this change would not produce a flood of petitions.

Commissioners DeMordaunt and O'Donahue said they would appreciate the opportunity to testify on behalf of the PCSC in the House Education Committee hearing.

Chairman Goesling asked if the PCSC is willing to support this legislation without any additional restrictions.

Commissioner Corkill said he would cautiously support the legislation despite concerns related to staffing and the educational climate in Idaho.

M/S (DeMordaunt/O'Donahue): To take an official position in support of legislation to lift the growth cap on public charter schools in Idaho. *The motion passed unanimously.*

Commissioner DeMordaunt noted there is a chance there will be a bill printed regarding credit enhancements. The hope is it will go to print and begin a dialogue to get more favorable interest rates for charter schools.

Ms. Baysinger explained the process the bill would go through if printed.

Chairman Goesling asked Commissioner DeMordaunt to keep the PCSC informed regarding status of this bill.

M/S (Reed/Corkill): To adjourn the meeting at 3:05 p.m. *The motion passed unanimously.*