

**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2013
650 W. STATE STREET, BOISE, IDAHO
OSBE CONFERENCE ROOM**

A regular meeting of the Idaho Public Charter School Commission (PCSC) was held Thursday, April 11, 2013, at 650 W. State Street, Boise, ID, OSBE Conference Room. Chairman Alan Reed presided via teleconference.

The following members were in attendance via teleconference:

Brad Corkill	Nick Hallett	Gayle O'Donahue
Wanda Quinn	Esther Van Wart	

The following members were in attendance in person:

Brian Scigliano

Chairman Reed called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. via teleconference.

A) COMMISSION WORK

1. Agenda Review / Approval

M/S: (Corkill/Van Wart): To approve the agenda as published. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Minutes Review / Approval

M/S: (Corkill/O'Donahue): To approve the meeting minutes from January 15, 2013; February 14, 2013; and February 22, 2013, as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

B) CONSENT AGENDA

1. White Pine Public Charter School (WPCS) Proposed Charter Amendments

Barbara Vance, board secretary, represented WPCS.

Tamara Baysinger, PCSC Director, said the proposed amendments revise WPCS's MSES to align with the Star Rating System. Approval of the amendments would resolve the notice of defect issued to WPCS last December.

M/S: (Quinn/Van Wart): To approve items one and two (1 – 2) of the Consent Agenda and formally lift the notice of defect issued to White Pine Public Charter School on December 6, 2012. The motion passed unanimously.

C) CONSIDERATION OF CHARTER PETITIONS

1. PCSC Discussion: Consideration of Hearing Officer's Recommendation regarding Idaho STEM Academy DBA Bingham Academy Petition Denial

Dr. Fred Ball and Chris Yorgason, Petitioner's Counsel, represented Bingham Academy.

Ms. Baysinger provided a summary of the appeal process for BA, which resulted in a hearing officer recommendation that the PCSC affirm its original denial decision. She said the PCSC may, at its discretion, consider changes to the petition submitted by Bingham. In the opinion of PCSC staff, these changes address the majority of the PCSC's concerns that resulted in petition denial.

M/S (Hallett/O'Donahue): To reverse the Commission's initial decision to deny the charter petition for Idaho STEM Academy DBA Bingham Academy, and to approve the charter, with the understanding such reversal is based on amendments made to the petition after the December 31, 2012 denial decision, which was appropriate and substantiated. *The motion passed unanimously.*

D) CHARTER SCHOOL ANNUAL UPDATES

1. North Idaho STEM Charter School Annual Update

Ms. Baysinger said all schools were given the option to attend, attend via telephone, or not attend at all and provide a written report. This school chose to provide a written report only.

Commissioner Quinn said she has visited NI STEM and the school appears to be providing an excellent option for students.

Commissioners O'Donahue and Corkill echoed commendation for the school's written report and early success.

2. Palouse Prairie School of Expeditionary Learning (PPSEL) Annual Update

PPSEL provided a written report only.

Chairman Reed, Commissioner Van Wart, and Commissioner O'Donahue expressed concern regarding the school's academic status. They suggested that the school be asked to attend a future meeting, after 2013 Star Ratings and ISAT results are available, to provide an update.

M/S (Hallett/Corkill): To direct PCSC staff to draft a letter to Palouse Prairie School of Expeditionary Learning conveying the PCSC's concerns regarding the school's academic status, including failure to substantially meet MSES 1.3 in the approved charter. Additionally, to direct staff to add PPSEL to a later meeting agenda for an academic status update, which PPSEL representatives should provide in person. *The motion passed unanimously.*

3. Kootenai Bridge Academy (KBA) Annual Update

KBA provided a written report only.

Commissioner O'Donahue noted that KBA's unique structure negatively affects the school's Star Rating. She recommended KBA's board develop academic goals for the school and outline how those goals would be measured.

Commissioner Quinn asked if KBA is seeking a status as an alternative school through the State Department of Education (SDE).

Ms. Baysinger said KBA is seeking this alternative status, and the SDE is in the process of developing the means by which alternative schools will be evaluated through the Star Rating System.

Michelle Clement Taylor, SDE School Choice Coordinator, said that in order for KBA to be considered an alternative school, the students must meet certain criteria (amount of school missed, pregnant teen, court ordered, etc.).

4. INSPIRE Connections Academy Annual Update

Gerald Chouinard, Administrator; Donna Hutchison, Vice President of Relations; and Wade Frogley, Vice Principal, represented INSPIRE.

Mr. Chouinard said INSPIRE fell just four points short of a Four Star Rating in 2012. He addressed the notice of defect recommendation in the meeting materials as follows:

1. Math is a challenging area for INSPIRE, but the goal was missed by only 3 percentage points.
2. INSPIRE plans to review MSES 6, which is poorly written, and determine if a charter amendment is in order.
3. Mobility is a priority for many INSPIRE students, many of whom choose virtual education as a last resort. This indicates that the school serves a variety of students in challenging situations.

Commissioners Hallett, Quinn, and O'Donahue expressed their opinions that issuance of a notice of defect is not necessary. They recommended that the school update their MSES to better align with the Star Rating System.

M/S (Hallett/Quinn): To encourage INSPIRE to submit proposed charter amendments to better align the school's MSES with the Star Rating System. *The motion passed unanimously.*

Commissioner Van Wart asked what percentage of INSPIRE's students are at-risk.

Mr. Chouinard said Free and Reduced Lunch is 49%. He will provide the requested at-risk statistic to PCSC staff.

5. Idaho Connects Online (ICON) Annual Update

Vickie McCullough, Administrator; and Dave High, Board Chairman, represented ICON.

Mr. High and Ms. McCullough provided a report on the long-term outlook of the school. ICON plans to continue review and amendment of the charter to better serve its largely at-risk student population through programmatic changes and adult advocates.

M/S (Hallett/Corkill): To lift the notice of defect issued to Idaho Connects Online on January 25, 2013, on the grounds that the PCSC had reason to believe that ICON had committed a material violation of any condition, standard, or procedure set forth in the approved charter; and violated a provision of law, specifically with regard to certain special education laws. Also, to direct PCSC staff to urge Idaho Connects Online to review and/or revise MSES 5 in their approved charter; and to convey the PCSC's concern regarding the school's One Star Rating. *The motion passed unanimously.*

Commissioner Hallett said the One Star Rating troubles him because these students must go into the workforce and compete with all other students from higher rated schools.

6. Idaho Virtual Academy (IDVA) Annual Update

David Malnes, Board Chairman; Allen Wenger, Business Manager; and administrative team members represented IDVA.

Mr. Malnes provided an update regarding the status of the school, and noted that IDVA missed a Four Star Rating by only five points.

Commissioner O'Donahue commended the school for attempting an alternative pilot program, and also for being willing to cancel the program when it did not succeed.

Mr. Malnes said IDVA has begun work on incorporating new goals. The board has implemented training through the Idaho School Board Association. He explained IDVA's accounting system and why reported percentages appear to differ from the State's. He also noted that IDVA's board contracts with K-12 to not only provide the curriculum, but provide oversight on how to utilize and implement the curriculum. However, K-12 reports directly to the IDVA board.

Ms. Baysinger clarified that the meeting materials merely observe potential for a conflict of interest; there is no apparent legal problem with IDVA's chosen management approach, but it is something the school's board should monitor.

7. iSucceed Virtual High School (iSVHS) Annual Update

Aaron Ritter, iSVHS Executive Director, provided an update on the status of the school.

Commissioner O'Donahue expressed appreciation for iSVHS's strong financial state and concern with the One Star Rating. She inquired whether the school feels they will be able to increase their rating given their high at-risk population.

Mr. Ritter said he believes that substantial improvement will be an extended and intentional process.

Commissioner Scigliano echoed concern with the One Star Rating. He encouraged the school to work with a consistent curriculum provider to make any necessary adjustments to be made.

Jim McKenna, iSVHS Business Manager, said the last change in provider was the school's choice and they do expect this provider to be a long-term partner.

M/S (O'Donahue/Hallett): To lift the notice of defect issued to iSucceed Virtual High School on September 21, 2012, on the grounds that the school committed a material violation of any condition, standard or procedure set forth in the approved charter, specifically with regard to: student portfolios, Community/Professional Counsel, Community Coordinator position offering, and prescription drug and infectious control policies. *The motion passed unanimously.*

The PCSC agreed that issuance of a notice of defect on the grounds of failure to meet MSES 5 is unnecessary because the standard is not academic in nature. They requested an academic update from the school in August.

E) OTHER BUSINESS

1. Legislative Update

Ms. Baysinger summarized the provisions of charter school legislation passed during the 2013 legislative session, as well as the work that will need to be completed by the PCSC in the coming year in response to the legislation. She said the SDE will offer a post-legislative tour to educate schools regarding legislative changes; PCSC staff will also send an email to PCSC-authorized schools notifying them of the legislation.

The PCSC agreed to add a workshop to the June meeting to begin consideration of draft documents required by the legislation.

The PCSC further agreed to consider changing the August regular meeting date due to scheduling conflicts.

M/S (Hallett/Van Wart): To adjourn the meeting. *The motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.