

**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES  
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2013  
700 W. STATE STREET, BOISE, IDAHO  
JRW WEST CONFERENCE ROOM**

A regular meeting of the Idaho Public Charter School Commission (PCSC) was held Thursday, June 13, 2013, at 700 W. State Street, Boise, ID, JRW West Conference Room. Chairman Alan Reed presided.

The following members were in attendance:

Nick Hallett	Gayle O'Donahue
Wanda Quinn	Esther Van Wart

The following member was in attendance via teleconference:

Brian Scigliano

The following member was absent:

Brad Corkill

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

**A) COMMISSION WORK**

**1. Agenda Review / Approval**

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

**2. Rolling Calendar**

**M/S: (O'Donahue/Van Wart): To approve February 13, 2014; April 10, 2014; June 12, 2014; August 14, 2014; October 9, 2014; and December 11, 2014, as the dates and Boise, Idaho as the location for the following regularly scheduled PCSC meetings. *The motion passed unanimously.***

**3. Minutes Approval**

**M/S: (Quinn/O'Donahue): To approve the meeting minutes from April 11, 2013, as submitted. *The motion passed unanimously.***

## **B) CHARTER SCHOOL PRE-OPENING UPDATES**

### **1. American Heritage Charter School (AHCS) Pre-Opening Update**

Deby Infanger, Founder & Board Chairman; Gayle Yakovac-DeSmet, Founder & Board Member; and Kathy Thompson, Founder & Budget Oversight, represented AHCS.

Ms. Infanger presented an update regarding AHCS. They will be tight on space next year. There is a potential for more modular buildings when the time comes for expansion into high school. The only grade not full is 8<sup>th</sup> (21 seats full out of 30).

Chairman Reed said he visited the school recently and the renovation is beautiful.

Commissioner Van Wart inquired about the nature of AHCS's relationship with the VanderSloots.

Ms. Infanger said the facility was donated by the VanderSloot Foundation. Trent VanderSloot serves on the Board, but the school's counsel advised that this does not constitute a conflict of interest.

Commissioner O'Donahue commended the school for replicating a successful school such as North Valley Academy.

### **2. Chief Tahgee Elementary Academy (CTEA) Pre-Opening Update**

Cyd Crue, Coordinator of Curriculum & Instruction; Joel Weaver, Director of School Programs; and Velda Racehorse, Board Member, represented CTEA.

Ms. Racehorse thanked Chairman Reed for his attendance at the May groundbreaking ceremony for CTEA.

Mr. Weaver said CTEA is on schedule for opening. Enrollment stands at 105. Design Space will deliver trailers on July 15 and teachers will start work on August 13. Only the special education teaching position remains open, and a strong candidate is pending. The original budget showed a deficit, it is expected that the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe will be contributing \$150,000 annually, beginning June 17, 2013, and will also make a one-time, \$30,000 infrastructure contribution. CTEA anticipates a carryover of \$100,000 after Year One.

Ms. Racehorse said there was a \$5,000 donation for educational materials, which helped meet budget needs.

Commissioner Quinn asked about the alignment of the selected curriculum to the Common Core Standards.

Ms. Crue said a team will be coming from ISU to perform teacher training beginning in August, including ongoing Common Core training.

Commissioner Van Wart asked for further explanation on busing issues.

Mr. Weaver said CTEA may not contract with the high school for bussing, as originally planned, due to the high school's concerns regarding safety factors associated with bussing younger and older students together. Transportation services have been put out for bid.

Commissioner Hallett asked if all teachers are bilingual and prepared for an immersion program.

Mr. Weaver said the Shoshoni bilingual teachers were hired first and CTEA is prepared for next year, but not all the teachers are bilingual. English speaking staff will need to learn basic classroom commands in Shoshoni.

Commissioner O'Donahue expressed excitement regarding the new opportunity CTEA will bring to Idaho.

### **3. Odyssey Charter School Pre-Opening Update**

Chris Peterson, Board Member; Karl Peterson, Administrator; Amy Whitford, Board Vice President; and Thomas Jones, Board Treasurer, represented Odyssey.

Ms. Peterson reported that acceptance packets were sent two weeks ago and 205 were received back. All teachers are hired, and most have multiple endorsements. Facility preparations are ahead of schedule by about two weeks.

Chairman Reed requested additional information regarding family relationships between board members and employees.

Ms. Peterson, a board member who is married to administrator Karl Peterson, said one of the teachers is a daughter-in-law. She has spoken with Michelle Clement Taylor about the situation.

Ms. Baysinger said Odyssey also contacted PCSC staff regarding the matter. PCSC staff advised against these types of relationships, but noted it was not illegal. They stressed that Ms. Peterson must recuse herself appropriately and ensure this is documented in the board's meeting minutes.

Ms. Whitford said conversations about the administrator are held in executive session, and Ms. Peterson leaves the room during those discussions.

Commissioner O'Donahue said she is pleased to see the new schools bringing positive reports regarding enrollment and facilities preparation.

## **C) OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1. Proposed PCSC Policy Amendments**

Ms. Baysinger, PCSC Director, said the PCSC's policies require some updating to align with the 2013 charter legislation. There are not many changes, but a large section is struck because it is redundant with statute. The remainder of the proposed changes are largely administrative in nature.

Commissioner Quinn asked whether Page 5, "*Results shall be provided to the petitioning group within 30 days*", is a reasonable timeframe for PCSC staff.

Ms. Baysinger said that this timeline can be tight, but PCSC staff feels it is important to make it work for the benefit of petitioners.

**M/S (Hallett/O'Donahue): To approve the draft PCSC policy revisions as submitted.** *The motion passed unanimously.*

### **2. Proposed PCSC Petition Evaluation Rubric Amendments**

Ms. Baysinger said PCSC staff is proposing updates to the PER in order to align it with the new legislation. The biggest changes were re-ordering for logical flow and elimination of petition elements that are not required by statute or rule. Some of these, such as the LEP section, will re-appear in the PCSC's pre-opening requirements. All public schools must provide such services, but policies and practices surrounding them are best developed with the assistance of the administrator, who typically has not been hired at the time of petition development.

Commissioner Quinn asked for additional information regarding the ethical guidelines for board members.

Ms. Baysinger said the rules of the PCSC contain a provision that a petition must contain ethical standards for board members. The ISBA standards could be used as a starting place; PCSC staff will also be drafting guidelines to assist petitioners with this element.

Commissioner Quinn recommended clarifying references to the school's board of directors to avoid confusion with references to the state board of education.

**M/S (Quinn/Hallett): To approve the draft PCSC Petition Evaluation Rubric with edits changing references of charter school boards to “Board of Directors”.** *The motion passed unanimously.*

### **3. Proposed PCSC Administrative Rule Amendments**

Ms. Baysinger said these proposed amendments to rule represent “cleanup” to align rule with statute, eliminate redundancy, and strike the requirement for submission of a student handbook as part of the charter petition.

Jane Wittmeyer, representing the Coalition of Idaho Charter School Families, provided public comment expressing confusion regarding whether the public has had adequate opportunity for public comment on the proposed rule changes.

Ms. Baysinger said public comment was invited during a listening session in May, FAQ’s and meeting materials including the draft were posted online, and stakeholders were sent an email invitation to this meeting.

Chairman Reed clarified that the legislature will need to consider the proposed rules during the 2014 session.

A correction was noted to Tab C3, page 8, E. and F. The student handbook is still listed as a requirement and should be removed.

Ms. Baysinger said this will be corrected since the goal is to exclude the student handbook as a requirement for petitioners.

**M/S (Hallett/Van Wart): To approve the proposed amendments to IDAPA 08.03.01 as submitted.**

In response to a question from a member of the public, Ms. Baysinger said the purposes of the sufficiency review and PER are different. The SDE’s sufficiency review is more quantitative than qualitative, while the PER is more qualitative. The rubric is posted on the website for reference as petitions are being developed.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

### **D) PCSC WORKSHOP: PCSC PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE AND PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENT**

PCSC staff presented a draft performance certificate and draft performance framework, including explanations of why and how the drafts were developed. The PCSC heard public comment and considered the drafts. The discussion led to the following conclusions and action items:

- The PCSC plans to adopt a final performance certificate and framework no later than early September 2013. The framework presently under consideration will apply to non-alternative schools. A separate framework will likely be developed later in 2013-2014 to better reflect the performance of alternative schools.
- A round table discussion will be held within the next couple weeks to discuss stakeholder input with regard to the certificate and framework revisions made in response to today's workshop. The PCSC and stakeholders agreed on a number of changes to the draft certificate language. The PCSC expressed general support for the framework as drafted, particularly the balance and weighting of different measures and sections, but remain open to further discussion with stakeholders.
- One-on-one negotiations with each school will begin in September 2013. These meetings will be held for the purpose of agreeing upon the individualized sections of each school's certificate and framework. Each school should anticipate joining in about four meetings, all of which should be attended by at least two board members and the school administrator. For those who would otherwise need to travel, online attendance will be an option. All existing schools must have signed certificates by July 1, 2014.
- All existing charter schools must be evaluated for renewal or non-renewal between March 2016 and March 2019. The PCSC will place the schools it authorizes on a renewal consideration schedule based on their 2013 star ratings. Schools with lower star ratings will be considered first, in the interest of protecting student and public interests. All schools will have been in operation for at least three years (and most for considerably longer) prior to renewal consideration. All schools will receive annual reports from the PCSC beginning in fall 2014; this will enable boards and administrators to respond to any issues well in advance of renewal.
- The PCSC office continues to invite public comment regarding the development of the performance certificate and framework. The Idaho Charter School Network and Coalition of Idaho Charter School Families are also encouraged to be involved in the process.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.