

**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
IDAHO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION**

December 13, 2018
700 W. Jefferson Street, Boise, Idaho
Idaho State Capitol Building, East Wing 41

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Reed at 9:00 AM. The following Commissioners were in attendance:

Alan Reed
Brian Scigliano
Wanda Quinn (joined the meeting at 9:35)
Sherilynn Bair (phone)
Nils Peterson
Kitty Kunz
Julie Van Orden

TAB A: COMMISSION WORK

1. Agenda Review/Approval

M/S (Peterson/Scigliano): To approve the agenda as presented. *The motion passed unanimously.*

2. Minutes Review/Approval

M/S (Scigliano/Kunz): To approve the minutes from October 11, 2018, as presented. *The motion passed unanimously.*

TAB B: CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS

1. Gem Prep: Meridian

Tamara Baysinger, PCSC Director, gave an overview of the history of Gem Prep and briefly described their proposed charter amendment.

Jason Bransford, Chief Executive Officer, Gem Innovation Schools, provided the details of the proposed amendments including their plan to consolidate their governance structure into one board. He explained how the enrollment structure modification would allow for flexibility of grade level caps, while keeping the existing overall cap. Lastly, he described the minor language updates to their charter to be reflective of current statute.

Commissioner Van Orden noted that grade level flexibility could affect funding.

M/S (Peterson/Kunz): To approve the proposed charter amendment as submitted by Gem Prep: Meridian related to a change in governance structure, enrollment flexibility while maintaining the existing cap, and updates to better align the document with current statutory requirements. *The motion passed unanimously.*

2. Gem Prep: Pocatello

Mr. Bransford said GPP's proposal includes the same changes that were just approved for GPM. Mr. Bransford also explained their request to increase their enrollment capacity from 366 student to 732 student over a period of six years.

Mr. Bransford acknowledged the concerns raised at the renewal site visit in 2018 and provided additional context.

Director Baysinger explained the recommendation for denial was because this education model is too new to be backed by significant data, though it has already been approved for roughly 1700 students in several Gem Prep schools. She recommended that the amendment be re-proposed after another year's performance data is available and noted that, if there were grant dollars associated with this proposal, they would still be available next year.

Commissioner Kunz asked if the capacity has been met at Gem Prep: Pocatello.

Mr. Bransford said the school remains around 98-100% enrollment.

Commissioner Scigliano asked staff how long the petitioners would need to wait to re-propose a denied amendment.

Director Baysinger said there is no time limit, but suggests waiting about a year so that the commission could review additional academic results.

Commissioner Peterson inquired about the performance of students in grades kindergarten through third grade since that is where the increase to enrollment would be.

Mr. Bransford reviewed the MAP results that demonstrate positive growth in these grades.

Commissioner Kunz asked if the number of students would affect the school's ability to pay for the new facility.

Mr. Bransford explained that they have secured a grant to finance the facility until the expansion is approved.

M/S (Peterson/Kunz): To approve the proposed charter amendment as submitted by Gem Prep: Pocatello related to a change in governance structure, enrollment flexibility, enrollment expansion, and a charter clean up to better align the document with current statutory requirements.

Commissioner Quinn recused herself from the vote because she was not present for much of the discussion.

The motion passed 3-2 with Commissioners Scigliano and Van Orden dissenting.

Commissioner Van Orden said she agrees that the commission should wait for another year of academic result before proceeding.

TAB C: OTHER

1. PCSC Education: BLUUM Presentation regarding Charter Start Program Grant

Terry Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, Bluum, provided an overview of the federal Charter Start Program grant, including partnership with the PCSC and other entities to fulfill established goals. The grant amounts to 17.1 million dollars and will allow Idaho to expand and grow high performing charter schools in Idaho over a five-year period.

Marc Carignan, Chief Financial Officer, Bluum, reviewed the appropriations and restrictions that accompany the grant. He highlighted Bluum's plan for disbursement of funds and their communication plan.

Due to technical difficulty with presentation slides, the commission agreed to move agenda item: PCSC Education: Introduction to Quality Practice Project to the end of the agenda.

2. PCSC Education: NACSA Annual Conference Recap

Director Baysinger summarized the topics discussed at the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) Conference, including oversight of school governance, strategic planning, and oversight with regard to CMO's and EMO's. She shared her ideas on how the PCSC can implement these resources to better serve communities.

Commissioner Scigliano reviewed best practices that were discussed, including equity for all students, the need to maintain the same quality expectations for virtual and brick and mortar schools, and the importance of fiscal oversight and realistic budgeting by petitioners.

At Commissioner Quinn's request, Director Baysinger described the NACSA Leadership Program that she recently completed.

3. PCSC Education: National Summit on Education Reform Recap

Commissioner Van Orden reviewed what was discussed at the National Summit on Education Reform. Highlights included innovation funding for colleges and universities and the need to keep raising the bar, as well as keeping the same expectations for all students.

Commissioner Bair discussed trends in assessments and how using different types of assessments can be beneficial. She also discussed encouraging school partnerships to improve academic outcomes.

Commissioner Scigliano provided a recap of the sessions he attended, including consistently high expectations for all schools and students.

4. PCSC Education: Introduction to Quality Practice Project

Jenn Thompson, PCSC Finance and Resource Program Manager, presented highlights of NACSA's recent Quality Practice Project. The three-year study identified common practices among authorizers with high performing portfolios.

M/S (Scigliano/Peterson): To adjourn the meeting. *The motion passed unanimously.*
The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.