

MEETING MINUTES

IDAHO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

June 13, 2019
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 a.m. The following Commissioners were in attendance:

Alan Reed
Brian Scigliano (phone)
Wanda Quinn
Nils Peterson
Kitty Kunz
Sherilynn Bair
Julie Van Orden

TAB A: COMMISSION WORK

1. Agenda Review/Approval

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

2. Minutes Review/Approval

M/S (Quinn/Bair): To approve the minutes from April 11, 2019, as presented. *The motion passed unanimously.*

TAB B: ADOPTION OF CHARTER SCHOOL PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATES

1. 2019 Renewal Year Schools

Chairman Reed said the performance certificates for schools renewed during the 2019 renewal cycle were before the PCSC for consideration.

M/S (Kunz/Quinn): To execute the performance certificates as presented for Alturas International Academy, Blackfoot Charter Community Learning Center, Inc., Compass Public Charter School, Inc., The Academy, Inc., Gem Prep Pocatello, Inc., Liberty Charter School, Inc., Sage International School of Boise, A Public Charter School, Inc., Taylor's Crossing Public Charter School, Inc., Victory Charter School, Inc., Vision Charter School, Inc., White Pine Charter School, Inc., and Xavier Charter School, Inc. *The motion passed unanimously.*

2. McCall Community School

Tamara Baysinger, PCSC Director, stated that the petition for McCall Community School was approved at the PCSC's April 2019 regular meeting. Staff has worked with MCS to reach agreement on the individualized sections of the performance certificate.

M/S (Peterson/Quinn): A motion to execute McCall Community School's performance certificate as presented. *The motion passed unanimously.*

TAB C: CONSIDERATION OF NEW CHARTER PETITION

1. MOSAICS Public School

Jackie Collins, Founding Board Vice Chair for MOSAICS Public School, introduced the board members and administrator. Ms. Collins outlined the proposed attendance area and diverse demographic MOSAICS hopes to serve.

Anthony Haskett, anticipated administrator for MOSAICS Public School, discussed the school's plan for reducing barriers to enrollment of diverse students. The school will fund all-day kindergarten, busing, breakfast and lunch programs, and specialized staffing. Mr. Haskett described the STEAM curriculum and highlighted the relationships MOSAICS has built with industry partners. Mr. Haskett also reviewed their facility plans, enrollment, marketing, and budget.

Ms. Collins described the plans they have in place for facilities. They reviewed their identified site and reviewed the permits, financing, and cost estimates.

The Commission asked clarifying questions about the attendance area, anticipated number of ELL enrollees, and professional development.

Commissioner Kunz said the number of new schools that have been approved in the area could affect their ability to fill seats.

Mr. Haskett said MOSAICS believes the area's growth is sufficient to support all the schools.

Commissioner Peterson noted that the strength of the petition is reflected in the Standards of Quality.

M/S (Quinn/Van Orden): To approve the new charter petition for MOSAICS Public School. The motion passed unanimously.

TAB D: OVERSIGHT

1. Letters of Fiscal Concern Update

Director Baysinger reviewed the statutory guidance and impact regarding letters of fiscal concern. PCSC staff has reviewed the statuses of four schools for which the PCSC already issued letters of concern and recommends that those letters stay in place. No new letters of fiscal concern are recommended.

Director Baysinger noted that one of the schools with an outstanding letter of concern, The Village Charter School, recently provided new information about their financial status. TVCS estimates a year-end deficit of about \$600,000 and has proposed a plan to regain fiscal stability. Director Baysinger said the PCSC has already taken all available statutory action to protect taxpayer money in this case.

Commissioner Van Orden inquired about whether there were any legal actions the commission can take on a school that is in financial distress in efforts to protect taxpayer money.

Director Baysinger clarified that the commission cannot revoke a charter based on financial instability.

2. Blackfoot Charter Community Learning Center Intervention Update

Jennifer Thompson, PCSC Finance and Resource Program Manager, reviewed the renewal conditions for BCCLC. She summarized the progress the school has made to address identified concerns. A fiscal deficit is anticipated this year, but the school should end next year with a reserve. She indicated that all conditions whose deadlines are past or coming up soon have been met.

Commissioner Peterson inquired about the outcome of the Blackfoot's Planning and Zoning hearing as it relates to BCCLC.

Director Baysinger explained that no action has been taken by Planning and Zoning. The P and Z Commission had to reschedule the meeting at which it had intended to address the issue. She said her understanding is that the Planning and Zoning Commission will be deciding on whether to issue conditional use permits to BCCLC and Bingham Academy.

Commissioner Scigliano asked what the responsibility of the taxpayer would be if the school were to close.

Director Baysinger said statute provides an order in which debtors are to be paid in the event of a charter school's closure. If the school's debt exceeds its assets, taxpayers will not be responsible for the remainder.

Candra Risa, BCCLC Board Chair, thanked the staff for their help and expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to fix the school's issues.

Commissioner Bair asked if BCCLC is fully staffed for the next school year, and asked about their ISAT scores.

Ms. Risa stated that they are fully staffed and their ISAT scores evidence improvement.

Joel Weaver, Chief Tahgee Elementary Academy Administrator, expressed his concerns about NACSA recommendations regarding closing schools based on ISAT scores. He stated his support for the Blackfoot charter schools, which provide value in their community, and asked the PCSC to keep those schools open.

3. New School Status Update

Ms. Thompson provided pre-opening status reports regarding the three schools that will open in fall 2019: Elevate Academy, Forge International School, and Treasure Valley Classical Academy. All appear prepared for strong openings.

TAB E: OTHER

1. PCSC Discussion: NACSA Evaluation Report Response

Director Baysinger reviewed NACSA's recent report to the PCSC and provided staff's recommendations regarding follow-up. She said staff is recommending that the PCSC explore some of NACSA's recommendations but set others aside.

Commissioners discussed the recommendations and agreed with staff's suggestion that staff work on strengthening cross-walking between site visits and the performance framework, developing procedures for school interventions, and building school board and leadership training modules. The Commission agreed to convene a special meeting to explore how to respond when schools fail to meet the standards and conditions in their performance certificates and how to apply the Standards of Quality to new charter petition decisions.

M/S (Quinn/Bair): To adjourn the meeting. *The motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.