

1. Agenda Approval

Does the Public Charter School Commission (PCSC) have any changes or additions to the agenda?

COMMISSION ACTION

A motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

2. Minutes Approval

Does the PCSC have any changes or additions to the meeting minutes from June 13, 2019, or August 1, 2019?

COMMISSION ACTION

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 13, 2019, and August 1, 2019 as submitted.

DRAFT 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.

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

IDAHO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

August 1, 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
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.*

TAB B: PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Reed provided time for public comment. He said the Commission has three, written testimonies that will be added to the record.

Kelly Trudeau, administrator for Compass Public Charter School thanked the commission and staff for their work and expressed her support of the recommendation made by the Attorney General's office.

Melissa Anderson, administrator for North Star Charter School, thanked the commission for the standards the schools are held to and the reports they receive yearly.

Tom LeClaire, president for the Coalition of Idaho Charter School Families, expressed lack of trust due to comments made in the executive session, as well as concern regarding NACSA's recommendations to the PCSC.

Monti Pittman, administrator for Idaho Technical Career Academy (ITCA), said inaccurate statements were made regarding ITCA during the executive session.

Kelly Edington, administrator for Idaho Virtual Academy, stated that she feels staff misleads the commission.

Kathleen Allison, administrator for iSucceed Virtual High School, expressed disappointment that data discussed in the executive session was provided without context.

Kerry Wysocki, board chair for Idaho Technical Career Academy, shared concern about proper transmission of information to the Commission and the importance of rebuilding trust between the Commission and schools.

Suzanne Budge, lobbyist for K12 Inc., emphasized the importance of school choice and said the Commission's direction does not reflect the original intent of the law.

Teresa Molitor, lobbyist for the Association of Charter School Leaders, expressed frustration with the commission's drift from its mission.

David High, board chair for Idaho Connects Online, said he feels the commission and staff are fair and focused on the best interests of students.

Dan Cravens, board member for Bingham Academy and Blackfoot Charter Community Learning Center, thanked staff for their work with the BA board and expressed concern about the trust between the schools and commission.

Melanie Fitzgerald, parent of an Idaho Virtual Academy student, expressed the importance of parental choice.

Stacey Lilya expressed concern about modification of documents by staff.

Jackie Collins, vice chair for MOSAICS Public School, discussed the importance of a strong Commission that ensures charter schools are high quality. She said her school's interaction with Commission staff has been great.

Jenny Ball, teacher for Bingham Academy, expressed her concern that the Commission is not being adequately disciplined for violation of open meeting laws.

Madeline Fitzgerald, student at Idaho Virtual Academy, said school choice is important.

Ross Jones, business manager for Another Choice Virtual School, expressed his disappointment in comments made during the executive session.

Terry Ryan, CEO for BLUUM, listed new charter schools that were recently authorized by the Commission after denial from their local school districts.

TAB C: OTHER

1. **Consideration of Report and Notice of Alleged Violations of the Idaho Open Meeting Law with Opportunity to Cure and Recommendations from the Office of the Attorney General**

Chairman Reed summarized the OAG's report and recommendations, including specific actions necessary to cure alleged violations of Open Meeting Law that occurred during the PCSC's April 11, 2019, meeting.

M/S (Bair/Scigliano): To accept the Office of Attorney General July 25, 2019 Report and Notice of Alleged Violation of the Idaho Open Meeting Law with the Opportunity Cure and adopt the cures as set forth in the Report and Notice. Accordingly:

1. The Commission acknowledges that the following open meeting violations occurred during the April 11, 2019 executive session:
 - a) The agenda failed to identify the executive session as an action item; and
 - b) The discussion during the executive session drifted into several topics for which the executive session is not provided and which were not identified in the motion for executive session.
2. The Commission will go through Open Meeting Law training conducted by an Idaho Attorney General's office representative.

and
3. Although the Commission took no identifiable action nor made any decision during the April 11 executive session that must be set aside, to the extent that any discussion or sharing of information occurred that could impact any future decision or action by the Commission, such discussion or exchange of information shall be disregarded in its entirety.

And also
4. To adopt the recommended best practices to enhance the Commission's future compliance with the Open Meeting Law as provided by the Office of Attorney General in its July 25, 2019 Report

and Notice of Alleged Violations of the Idaho Open Meetings Law with Opportunity to Cure.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Open Meeting Law Training Provided by Assistant Chief Deputy Attorney General Brian Kane

Brian Kane, Assistant Chief Deputy Attorney General, provided open meeting law training to the Commission staff. He reviewed definitions focused on notice and agenda provisions, executive sessions, and enforcement mechanisms.

Commissioner Kunz inquired how the Commission should handle discussions in which some data is exempt from disclosure, but some is not.

Mr. Kane explained that would be a conversation with the PCSC's attorney that needs to take place prior to the executive session determine what can and cannot be discussed in the executive session.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.