

MEETING MINUTES

IDAHO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

September 19, 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 AM. The following Commissioners were in attendance:

Alan Reed
Brian Scigliano
Wanda Quinn
Sherrilynn Bair
Nils Peterson
Kitty Kunz
Julie Van Orden

TAB A: COMMISSION WORK

1. Agenda Review/Approval

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

2. Minutes Review/Approval

M/S (Kunz/Van Orden): To approve the minutes from June 13, August 1, and August 21, 2019 as presented. *The motion passed unanimously.*

TAB B: PUBLIC COMMENT

Joel Weaver, Chief Tahgee Elementary Academy principal, shared his commitment to having his school held accountable to standards, but requested that the Commission consider building a tool that can work for everyone. He also shared his concerns regarding inequality in charter school funding.

China Gum read a letter written by Tom LeClaire, President of the Coalition of Idaho Charter School Families. The letter expressed Mr. LeClaire's continued concerns regarding comments made by commissioners during the executive session on April 11th.

Done Peña, iSucceed Virtual High School board chair, stated that while he believes that assessment is important, he feels the Commission should consider moving away from a "one size fits all" performance evaluation tool.

Andrew Ross, Peace Valley Charter School principal, thanked the Commission for working with his school.

Kathleen Allison, iSucceed Virtual High School executive director, discussed the complexity of measuring at-risk, mobile, and low income students within the current scope of state reporting. She suggested the Commission consider other evaluation tools and data sets that are now available, including with regard to renewal conditions.

Andrea Pettitt, Peace Valley Charter School board chair, discussed the positive effects the school has had on her child. She also noted that despite a difficult first year, Peace Valley is working hard to be a school the Commission can be proud of.

Dale Kleinert, AdvancEd Director of Accreditation, shared that AdvancEd has merged with Cognia and introduced the rubrics they use to evaluate schools.

TAB C: CONDITIONS STATUS UPDATE

1. Peace Valley Charter School

Jenn Thompson, PCSC Finance and School Support Program Manager, summarized the conditions that were put in place upon approval of PVCS's charter. She said that the school had a difficult first year of operations, but most of the conditions were met. One condition, which required the school to achieve accreditation candidacy through AdvanceEd by July 1, 2019, was not met. However, the school has provided substantial evidence of their plans for moving forward effectively.

Mr. Kleinert reviewed the AdvancEd Readiness Review Report regarding PVCS and expressed his confidence in the school's ability to host a successful readiness review in the near future.

Commissioners asked questions of Andrew Ross and Andrea Pettitt. The discussion addressed curriculum alignment efforts the school has undertaken, as well as the governing board's progress toward developing an implementation plan.

Commissioner Van Orden noted that the final condition benchmark, to meet full accreditation, does not come due until 2021.

Mr. Kleinert confirmed that it is possible for a school to achieve full accreditation in two years.

Chairman Reed stated that there was no action the Commission would take and advised the school to work toward the 2021 condition deadline.

Commissioner Quinn commended the school on its hard work and noted that she is impressed with Mr. Ross as an administrator.

TAB D: PCSC DISCUSSION

1. PCSC Statutory Role and Processes and Opportunities for Improvement Going Forward

Tamara Baysinger, PCSC Director, presented a review of the statutory roles and processes of the PCSC. She noted that statute requires authorizers to evaluate new charter petitions; adopt performance certificates and frameworks that include certain elements; oversee schools' compliance and outcomes on an ongoing basis; and make periodic renewal decisions based on outcomes relative to the standards in the performance framework. She also noted that, while statute does not direct authorizers to provide school support services, PCSC staff works to identify and fill resource gaps for petitioners and schools.

The PCSC discussed how its current processes fulfill its statutory role and questioned whether certain work, such as evaluation of ESPs and use of pre-renewal site visits, should continue.

2. New Charter Petition Consideration Process and Basis for Decision-Making

Director Baysinger indicated that, during its June regular meeting, the PCSC requested an opportunity to discuss the topic of petition evaluation in light of a NACSA recommendation that the PCSC “approve only petitions from founding teams that have sufficient capacity to oversee and run high-quality schools.”

Commissioners engaged in discussion regarding its role and processes with regard to evaluation of new charter petitions. Overall, the quality of the existing tools and processes were affirmed.

3. Charter Renewal Consideration Process and Basis for Decision-Making

Director Baysinger indicated that, during its June regular meeting, the PCSC requested an opportunity to discuss the topic of petition evaluation in light of a NACSA recommendation that the PCSC “renew only schools that have met the standards for academic performance laid out in the accountability frameworks.” She noted the importance of ensuring that the performance measures to which schools are held accountable make sense for the individual schools and the demographics they serve.

Commissioners engaged in discussion regarding the renewal process, particularly with regard to possible flexibilities in performance measures.

Commissioner Kunz noted that additional staffing may need to be considered in the future in order to move forward with some of the discussed ideas for further customization of performance measures.

Chairman Reed indicated that today's discussion may generate future agenda items.

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