

MEETING MINUTES

IDAHO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

December 12-13, 2019
700 W. Jefferson Street, Boise, Idaho
Idaho State Capitol Building, East Wing 41

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Reed at 9:07 a.m. The following Commissioners were in attendance:

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

TAB A: COMMISSION WORK

1. Agenda Review/Approval

M/S (Kunz/Bair) To approve the agenda as presented. *The motion passed unanimously.*

2. Minutes Review/Approval

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

TAB B: PUBLIC COMMENT

Susan Lux, Principal, PIE-Nampa spoke in support of the Pathways in Education – Idaho Falls new charter petition. Susan believes that there is need for this type of school in Idaho Falls and stated that PIE-Nampa has been successful reaching at-risk and alternative students.

Riley Bell, student PIE-Nampa spoke in support of the Pathways in Education – Idaho Falls new charter petition from the perspective of a student. She stated PIE-Nampa allowed her to work toward a high school diploma instead of a GED.

Ed Klopfenstein, Chairman, Board of Trustees West Ada School District, spoke in opposition to the Doral Academy of Idaho new charter petition. The school district has

concerns about Academica and adding another arts-based school to a district with existing arts-based schools.

TAB C: CONSIDERATION OF NEW CHARTER PETITIONS

1. **Doral Academy of Idaho (DAI):** Board Chair, Jade Millington introduced the board directors and presented the new charter petition which will be located in the West Ada School District. He explained the arts integration model. The school will serve grades K-8.

The school plans to lease the church currently occupied by Compass Charter School. Compass intends to move to a new campus.

Doral will partner with an education service provider, Academica. The school will also partner with Doral Academy for additional services.

Commissioners asked for clarification about the management fees charged by Academica and the services they provide.

Commissioner Peterson asked if PCSC staff would be able to provide governance orientation and training with the reduced staff in the office. Director Baysinger stated that the trainings are already developed and the staffing shortage would not impact the training.

M/S (Quinn/Van Orden) A motion to approve the new charter petition for Doral Academy Idaho with the following conditions:

- All board directors shall participate in a staff-facilitated governance orientation within 60 days of approval and no less than six hours of staff approved governance training addressing the governance role in financial, operational, academic oversight, and legal compliance prior to May 11, 2020.
- The governing board shall present the executed facility lease and/or purchase agreement, record of any long-term debt incurred to date, and a year-one operational budget based on post-lottery enrollment estimates that evidences financial sustainability by May 11, 2020.

The motion passed 4-2 with Commissioners Peterson and Scigliano opposing the motion.

Roll Call: Commissioner Scigliano: Nay, Commissioner Quinn: Aye, Commissioner Peterson: Nay, Commissioner Kunz: Aye, Commissioner Bair: Aye, Commissioner Van Orden: Aye.

- 2. Pathways in Education – Idaho Falls (PIE-IF):** Board members Monica Bitrick and Katie Rhodenbaugh presented the new charter petition. Jessica James and Hailey Mack attended by phone. Ms. Bitrick pointed out changes that had been made to the petition on the recommendation of PCSC staff after the final petition was submitted.

Monica shared the need for this type of school in east Idaho. She also pointed out that there is currently a PIE-Nampa that has been successful with at-risk students. This model is a traditional school for at-risk youth. They plan to partner with Idaho Falls School District to identify youth that have dropped out of school or are on the path to drop out of school.

Commissioner Kunz asked about transportation from Fort Hall. Board member Jessica James explained that there is Tribal Transit available to students if needed.

Discussion followed about the management fees and management services to be provided by Pathways Management Group.

M/S (Peterson/Bair) A motion to deny the petition for a new charter school for Pathways in Education – Idaho Falls. *After further discussion the motion passed 6-1 with Commission Kunz opposing the motion.*

Roll Call: Commissioner Scigliano: Aye, Commissioner Quinn: Aye, Commissioner Peterson: Aye, Commissioner Kunz: Nay, Commissioner Bair: Aye, Commissioner Van Orden: Aye.

Director Baysinger explained the appeal process and the option of bringing forth a new petition at a later date.

TAB D: CONSIDERATION OF TRANSFER PETITIONS

- 1. Thomas Jefferson Charter School:** Jodi Endicott, Principal introduced the board directors for TJCS.

Jodi Endicott explained the school's mission and attendance requirements. She stated that the students consistently score above average on all state testing. The school uses the Harbor Method.

Ms. Endicott stated that enrollment is between 374 to 400 and that the school owns its facility along with an adjacent parcel of land. The school operates debt-free and has enough cash on hand for four months of emergency operations. Transportation is provided by Brown Bus Company.

M/S (Bair/Peterson) A motion to approve the charter transfer petition for Thomas Jefferson Charter School. Commissioner Kunz recused herself. *The motion passed unanimously.*

- 2. Hayden Canyon Charter School:** Commission Peterson disclosed that he provided help with the original petition in 2010 or 2011. Josh Fletcher, Vice President of Hayden Canyon Charter School (HCCS) introduced the board directors. Mr. Fletcher mentioned the architect and Red Apple Financial Group were also present.

Cynthia Lamb, Administrator explained their Expeditionary Learning (EL) model. She stated that the school's focus will be on state standards, character development, and academic performance. Petitioners also discussed the school's delayed opening under Lakeland School District's authorization and the school's financial and facilities plans.

Commissioner Peterson asked about professional development. Ms. Lamb described their plan for EL instruction and training.

M/S (Peterson/Kunz) A motion to approve the charter transfer petition for Hayden Canyon Charter School. *The motion passed unanimously.*

TAB E: OTHER

- 1. Renewal Committee Update:** Director Baysinger provided an update of the Renewal Committee's December 11th, 2019 meeting. The Renewal Committee had been asked to look into additional academic framework flexibilities within the performance framework.

66% of PCSC portfolio schools responded to a stakeholder survey. The Renewal Committee hosted a discussion with stakeholders on December 11th to clarify the issues. In January and February, additional committee meetings will be held to gather more information and hear proposed solutions. The Renewal Committee will make a recommendation to the PCSC at its regular April meeting.

- 2. Commission Discussion: Invitation to Participate in A-GAME Network:** Program Manager, Jenn Thompson explained the purpose of A-GAME. This is sponsored by the National Charter School Institute. It's a three year project with the primary goal of improving charter authorizing of schools with at-risk factors.

We have been asked to participate in regional meetings to discuss challenges and successes in authorizing schools with at-risk youth.

The commitment would require three two-day meetings and working with PCSC portfolio schools who serve at-risk students to identify local solutions.

Commissioner Kunz stated that she would prefer that the participating staff member is a Program Manager rather than the Director.

M/S (Bair/Van Orden) A motion to approve participation in the A-GAME Project. *The motion passed unanimously.*

Commissioners Quinn and Van Order thanked Director Baysinger for her time with the commission.

M/S (Scigliano/Peterson) A motion to adjourn for the day. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. *The motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was reconvened by Chairman Reed at 9:00 a.m., Friday, December 13, 2019. The following Commissioners were in attendance:

Alan Reed
Brian Scigliano
Wanda Quinn (By phone until 10:45 am)
Nils Peterson
Kitty Kunz
Sherrilynn Bair
Julie VanOrder (Absent)

TAB F: CONSIDERATION OF PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATION

- 1. Gem Prep: Meridian North:** Director Baysinger summarized the performance certificate to be executed.

M/S (Scigliano/Kunz) A motion to execute the performance certificate for Gem Prep: Meridian North as presented. *The motion passed unanimously.*

TAB G: IDAHO TECHNICAL CAREER ACADEMY UPDATE: CAREER TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

- 1. ITCA Update on Career Technical Programs:** Monti Pittman, Head of School presented information concerning the school's programs and the impact of mobility on student achievement and testing scores. A binder was shared with the commissioners and staff highlighting their programs. ITCA's mobility rate for 2017-2018 was 67%.

Mr. Pittman presented the demographics of their students and noted the percentage that were credit deficient.

Mr. Pittman also spoke about the career path programs offered by the school and highlighted the student scores in these programs, which exceed the state averages. He shared that the school's success is measured in other ways rather than testing scores.

This agenda item was informational only; no action was taken.

TAB H: CONSIDERATION OF NEW CHARTER PETITION

- 1. Pinecrest Academy of Idaho:** Board Chair, Connie Stopher introduced the other board directors and presented the Pinecrest STEAM model. The school intends to serve grades K-8 in the Twin Falls area.

The school's vision is to prepare students for college and to perform at their highest level possible. The school proposes to lease space from the Reformed Church in Twin Falls.

Commissioners asked petitioners to explain the education services provided by Academica. Kyle McOmer from Academica answered questions concerning the fees charged for their services.

M/S (Kunz) A motion to approve the new charter petition for Pinecrest Academy of Idaho. *There was no second and the motion failed.*

The Commission discussed Academica and directed questions concerning fees and financial information to John Barlow, also a representative from Academica.

M/S (Peterson/Scigliano) A motion to approve the new charter petition for Pinecrest Academy of Idaho with the following conditions:

- All board directors shall participate in a staff facilitated governance orientation within 60 days of approval and no less than six hours of staff approved governance training addressing the governance role in financial, operational, academic oversight, and legal compliance prior to May 11, 2020.
- The governing board shall present the executed facility lease and/or purchase agreement, record of any long-term debt incurred to date, and a year-one operational budget based on post-lottery enrollment estimates that evidences financial sustainability by May 11, 2020.

The motion passed unanimously.

TAB I: COMMISSION EDUCATION

- 1. Commission Education: Guidelines for School Visitation:** Director Baysinger spoke about school visits as part of commission meetings and recommended that the commission delay planned visits until the staff was back at full capacity. However, visiting schools during events already intended for the public would not be problematic. Director Baysinger introduced Rachel Newton, Deputy Attorney General.

Ms. Newton presented information on school visits and open meeting laws and stressed the importance of communication with staff and disclosure of any information that may inform a commissioner's vote.

- 2. National Summit on Education Reform Report:** Commissioners Bair and Scigliano attended the recent conference and shared their experience.

M/S: (Peterson/Scigliano) A motion to adjourn. *The motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.