

MEETING MINUTES
IDAHO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

June 9, 2021 and June 10, 2021
Len B. Jordan Building, 650 W State St, 3rd Floor Clearwaters Room
Boise, ID 83702

This meeting was called to order by Chairman Reed on June 9, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

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

I: COMMISSION WORK

A. Agenda Review/Approval

M/S (Quinn/Van Orden) Motion to approve the agenda as presented. *The motion passed unanimously.*

B. Minutes Review/Approval

M/S (Quinn/Peterson) Motion to approve the April 8, 2021 minutes as presented. *The motion passed unanimously.*

II: DISCUSSION OF TRANSITION TO NEW AGENCY

Director Thompson gave highlights of the upcoming changes to the IPCSC including the Finance Program Manager position.

III: REVIEW OF PERSONNEL POLICY

A. New Section of IPCSC Policy: Director Thompson described the changes and additions to the Personnel Policy, specifically the grievance policies.

M/S (Peterson/Scigliano) Motion to approve the proposed personnel policy as presented. *The motion passed unanimously.*

B. Director Evaluation Process: Director Thompson spoke about the state policy concerning annual evaluations. Matt Freeman, Director of the State Board of Education, explained the process for annual evaluations and compensation changes for directors.

IV. REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLAN

- A. IPCSC Strategic Plan 2021-2025:** Director Thompson shared the proposed Strategic Plan for 2021-2025.

Jared Dawson, IPCSC Program Manager, gave a presentation on meeting goals in the Strategic Planning document. Melissa-Jo Rivera, IPCSC Program Manager, gave a presentation on social media presence.

Commissioners discussed the proposed plan in-depth and ultimately directed Director Thompson to make minor revisions for re-consideration on June 10th. Edits include: changing the phrase “high-performing” to “exemplary”; changing the word “approvals” to “decisions”; and clarifying that “advocacy” means advocacy for students and public interest.

V. REVIEW OF PROPOSED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

- A. MOU and Services Agreement:** Director Thompson described the MOU that will begin July 1, 2021 with the State Board of Education for IT and HR services. Director Thompson also explained the Data Sharing Agreement with the State Board of Education by which the IPCSC may access and use student data.

M/S (Quinn/Bair) Motion to approve the Service and Data Sharing Agreements. *The motion passed unanimously.*

VI. REVIEW OF IPCSC BUDGET

- A. FY21 Budget Close Out and FY22 Budget Plan:** Commissioner Van Orden shared information concerning the IPCSC budgets. Director Thompson explained the timelines for the FY22 and the FY23 budgets.

M/S (Scigliano/Quinn) Motion to approve the FY22 budget. *The motion passed unanimously.*

VII. CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL LEGISLATION

The commission discussed possible items that they would like to propose for the next legislative session. The proposal included possible mandatory training for charter school board directors as well as the potential for additional reasons for revocation, including failure to meet a pre-opening condition and failure to cure issues that violate existing law within an established timeline.

The commission decided to only pursue potential legislation regarding potential revocation for failure to meet an established pre-opening condition.

M/S (Peterson/Van Orden) Motion to propose the State Board of Education consider as possible legislation: consideration to revoke a school’s performance certificate for failure to meet an established pre-opening condition. *The motion passed unanimously.*

M/S (Bair/Peterson) Motion to adjourn. *The motion passed unanimously.*

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The meeting was resumed by Chairman Reed on June 10, 2021 at 9:01 a.m.

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

AGENDA REVIEW/APPROVAL

M/S (Van Orden/Quinn) Motion to approve the agenda as presented. *The motion passed unanimously.*

I. WRITTEN COMMENT

No written public comment was received.

II. PRE-OPENING SCHOOL UPDATE

- A. Jared Dawson, IPCSC Program Manager gave an update on the new schools opening fall 2021. Gem Prep: Meridian North and Alturas Preparator Academy are on-track to open as expected in August, 2021.

III. CONSIDERATION OF FAILURE TO MEET PRE-OPENING CONDITIONS

- A. **Cardinal Academy:** Director Thompson explained that Cardinal Academy was approved on condition that the school enroll at least 50 students by May 26, 2021. The school reported 36 students enrolled at this time. Staff recommended delaying the school's opening until 2022.

Commissioners discussed the issue in-depth. Emily Bergstrom, Principal, Patricia Kempthorn, Board Chair, and Deborah Heddon-Nicely presented on the need for the school and shared an updated budget plan.

No action was taken, allowing the school to proceed with opening in 2021.

- B. **Peace Valley Charter School:** Director Thompson explained that Peace Valley Charter School was approved with 5 conditions, 4 of which were met by the stated dates. The 5th condition required the school to become fully accredited by June 30, 2021. The school has not pursued accreditation and did not meet the condition. The IPCSC will consider the school for renewal in 2023.

Andrew Ross, Principal, and Andrea Pettitt, Board Chair gave an update to the Commission regarding the state of their school. Chairman Reed thanked the school for the presentation and advised them to keep moving forward.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF NOTIFICATIONS OF FISCAL CONCERN

- A. Peace Valley Charter School:** The school requested that the existing notification of fiscal concern be lifted.

M/S (Scigliano/Van Orden) Motion to continue the notification of fiscal concern for Peace Valley Charter School through fiscal year 2022. *The motion passed unanimously.*

- B. Bingham Academy:** The school did not contest the continuance of the existing notification of fiscal concern.

M/S (Quinn/Peterson) Motion to continue the notification of fiscal concern for Bingham Academy through fiscal year 2022. *The motion passed unanimously.*

- C. The Village Public Charter School:** The school did not contest the continuance of the existing notification of fiscal concern. However, the school's Principal, Josh Noteboom, and Adam Holcomb of MAST Financial presented on the school's progress toward financial recovery.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Noteboom and Mr. Holcomb for their hard work.

M/S (Bair/Scigliano) Motion to continue the notification of fiscal concern for The Village Charter School through fiscal year 2022. *The motion passed unanimously.*

- D. Monticello Montessori Charter School:** The school did not contest the issuance of a new notification of fiscal concern. However, Drew Hosford and Shay Highley, board directors for the school were present to share an update on the school's situation.

The school's board became aware of some significant operational and financial issues in April and are working to make appropriate corrections.

M/S (Peterson/Quinn) Motion to issue a notification of fiscal concern for Monticello Montessori Charter School through fiscal year 2022. *The motion passed unanimously.*

V. CONSIDERATION OF NEW CHARTER PETITION

Kootenai Classical Academy: Kootenai Classical Academy proposed a new charter school to be located in the Post Falls area. The school would deliver a classical model, supported by Hillsdale College. The school proposed to open in the fall of 2022 and to serve 702 students in grades K-12 at capacity.

A petition evaluation report accompanied the meeting materials and provided an in-depth analysis of the petition. The report found the petition to be deficient in the finance and facilities section and in the leadership and management section. Staff recommended the petition either be denied or conditionally approved.

Prospective Principal, Terrance O. Moore and Board Chair, Edward Kaitz presented the school's plan to the Commission. Lengthy discussion followed.

M/S (Bair/Scigliano) A motion to deny the Kootenai Classical Academy new charter school petition on the following grounds: the Leadership and Management section of the petition is incomplete and/or the Facility and Finance section does not meet standard II.1.b with regard to the facility plan. *The motion passed 4:1 (Yea – Peterson, Scigliano, Bair, Van Orden; Nay – Quinn).*

A notice of denial letter was subsequently issued to the school stating the grounds for denial and clarifying the process for resubmission and/or appeal.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF FY21 IMPACT OF ASSESMENT

Director Thompson reviewed the potential impact of the pandemic on the academic and financial measures of the IPCSC's framework. Commissioners engaged in discussion regarding renewal conditions coming due on June 30, 2021 and renewal decisions that will be based on FY21 annual reports.

M/S (Van Orden/Peterson) A motion to waive conditions due on June 30th, 2021 if the conditions are specific to assessment data collected in the spring of 2021; AND to exclude ratings on the academic and financial sections of the performance framework on FY21 annual performance reports for all schools. *The motion passed unanimously.*

VII. CONSIDERATION OF POLICY REVISIONS

Director Thompson introduced proposed revisions to IPCSC school policy. These include a new section regarding replications, a minor clarification to the new petition section to align with the replication section, and a clarifying addition to the major amendments section regarding expansions.

As this was considered a first read of the proposed revisions, no action was taken. Policy was posted on the IPCSC's website and the public was encouraged to provide feedback. The policy will appear as an action item on the IPCSC's August agenda.

VIII. FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS RELATED TO IPCSC AGENCY STATUS

A. Strategic Plan: Director Thompson presented the revised Strategic Plan, as discussed on June 9th.

M/S (Bair/Scigliano) A motion to adopt the strategic plan as presented. The motion passed 4:1 (Yea – Scigliano, Bair, Van Orden, Quinn; Nay- Peterson)

B. Minor Edits to Hiring Documents: As Director Thompson will no longer work under the direction of the Executive Director of the State Board of Education, minor edits to the employment agreement and job description are necessary.

The changes removed references to the SBE and replaced them with references to the IPCSC. No material changes were made.

M/S (Peterson/Van Orden) A motion to adopt the proposed changes to Director Thompson's employment agreement and job description as presented.

IX. CONSIDERATION OF DIRECTOR'S EVALUATION

M/S (Scigliano/Peterson) A motion to enter executive session pursuant to I.C. 74-206(1)(b) for the purpose of considering the performance evaluation of the IPCSC Director.

Roll Call Vote: Peterson – Yea; Quinn – Yea; Scigliano – Yea; Van Orden – Yea; Bair – Yea; Reed – Yea.

The IPCSC entered executive session at 1:16 P.M.

The IPCSC returned to open session at 1:31 P.M.

No subsequent action was taken.

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

Meeting Minutes Approval

These meeting minutes were approved by the IPCSC on 8/19/2021.

Minutes verified by: *Alan L Reed* Aug 19, 2021
Alan L Reed (Aug 19, 2021 15:06 MDT)