

MEETING MINUTES
IDAHO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION RENEWAL COMMITTEE

September 20, 2022
514 W. Jefferson St, Ste 303
Boise, ID 83702

The meeting was called to order on September 20, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Nils Petersen, acting chair – Present via Zoom

Dean Fisher – Present via Zoom

Wanda Quinn, chair – Excused

Jenn Thompson, IPCSC Director - Present

Jared Dawson, IPCSC Program Manager - Present

I. RENEWAL SCHOOLS BY YEAR

A. IPCSC Program Manager, Jared Dawson reviewed the number of schools up for contract renewal each year and provided an overview of the 5-year cycle: 17 schools in 2023; 16 schools in 2024; 5 schools in 2025; 3 schools in 2026; and 14 in 2027.

B. Director Thompson reminded the committee of renewal conditions approved in February of 2022 which will start to come due in June of 2023. Schools that meet the conditions will continue operations. If a school does not meet a renewal condition, the IPCSC must consider whether revocation of the charter is warranted.

Committee members had no comments or questions.

II. RENEWAL TIMELINE 2022-2023

A. IPCSC Program Manager, Jared Dawson highlighted a few dates from the Renewal Guidance document, found on the IPCSC's website.

B. Mr. Dawson addressed the following timeline:

- November 15th is the date that draft FY22 annual performance reports will be released to schools. Renewal schools will also receive a renewal recommendation from Director Thompson.
- Between November 15 and December 15th, schools can negotiate the specifics of their recommendation with Director Thompson.
- December 15th is the date by which all schools must inform the IPCSC of whether they agree with the recommendation or whether they want

to contest the recommendation.

C. The committee determined that, since no changes have been made to this process since the previous cycle, the guidance document should be included in the meeting materials for the October 13th regular meeting, but that no training is necessary.

III. RENEWAL PROCEDURES

Director Thompson addressed several aspects of renewal procedures that have been revised based on feedback from the previous year. These include:

- Commission reasoning to support decisions: Commissioners are encouraged to use a greater level of specificity regarding renewal decision reasoning. This will help with the drafting final orders. As Director Thompson and Deputy Attorney General Kolts are not able to assist the Commission's counsel in this part of the process, more specificity in the Commission's deliberation will help someone who is not as familiar with the technical language of the charter school sector draft clear final orders.

Commissioner Petersen suggested that perhaps the IPCSC Chair may find a checklist tool useful for making sure that enough detail is stated on the record. Director Thompson will follow up with the Chairman to determine whether such tool is desired.

- SBE and IPCSC staff feedback: The appeal timeline in statute and in rule did not align as well as they could. As IDAPA 08.02.04 is up for revision during the 2023 legislative session, revisions to the renewal section are being considered to ensure alignment. Additionally, eliminating the possibility of final decisions on non-renewal appeals stretching into an additional fiscal year, would prevent complications with financial reporting.

Committee members had no comments or questions.

- IPCSC staff feedback: closure protocol in place in February of 2022 was found to be insufficient in several areas and is being revised to better support the school and the IPCSC staff should closure be necessary in future years.

The committee discussed the value of this document being maintained at a procedural level, allowing the Director to adjust for specific circumstances. However, whether to maintain it at a policy or procedural level is a commission decision. Commissioner Fisher recommended that Director Thompson consult legal counsel to verify any obligations the IPCSC may have in this matter. A draft of the revised closure protocol

will be reviewed by the Renewal Committee in preparation for a December recommendation to the IPCSC, should it be determined that a vote is necessary.

- School feedback: a few schools expressed that they did not feel they had sufficient warning that a difficult renewal process was ahead of them. In addition to the required notifications (which include annual performance reports, orientation meetings, written guidance, and written recommendations stating specific deficiencies), IPCSC staff has increased contact with school boards and administrators, particularly in cases where there are deficiencies that may jeopardize renewal. Additionally, the IPCSC has adopted a standing agenda item that will allow for each school's performance to be celebrated or otherwise discussed outside of renewal decisions.

Commissioner Peterson noted that this agenda item is a good middle ground between meeting with every school every year and providing opportunity to hear from those who want to share as well as those who need to provide more information.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.