

MEETING MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Date: Thursday, December 12, 2024

Start Time: 9:00 A.M., MST

Physical Location: Joe R. Williams Building, 700 W. State St, West Conference Room, Boise, ID 83702

This meeting was called to order by Chairman Reed on December 12, 2024 at 9:00 am.

Commissioners Present:	Staff Present:
Chairman Reed - Present	Director Jacob Smith, IPCSC
Vice Chair Bair - Present	Karen Sheehan, Attorney General’s Office
Commissioner Koehler - Present	Jared Dawson, IPCSC
Commissioner Hedrick - Present	Jennifer Coffey, IPCSC
Commissioner Quinn - Present	Jean Nichols, IPCSC
Commissioner Amador - Present	
Commissioner Paulos - Present	

I. COMMISSION WORK (Action Item)

A. Agenda Review / Approval

Motion/Second No motion or vote required per DAG counsel.

B. Minutes Review / Approval

Motion/Second (Hedrick/Koehler) Motion to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2024 Regular Commission meeting as presented. *The motion passed unanimously.*

II. 2025 LEGISLATURE OVERVIEW

Director Jacob Smith presented information on behalf of Matt Reiber from the Governor’s office on items for the upcoming legislative session. Provided House Education Committee updates, Senate Education Committee Chair will remain the same, Senate Majority Leadership is comprised of people new to their respective roles, the Governor continues to prioritize education, there is a new member of the State Board of Education.

III. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZER TRANSFER APPLICATION (Action Item)

Gem Prep: Nampa

Commission Director Jacob Smith presented an application to transfer the authorization of Gem Prep: Nampa from the Nampa School District to the Idaho Public Charter School Commission. The school followed a modified application process for the transfer, and data for GPN shows they would meet or exceed all areas of the IPCSC Performance Framework for FY24. Representatives of the school stated that students at GPN have acquired college credits when graduating and are held to high performance and overall standards. The school shared personal stories of success and displayed how finances are in good order.

Motion/Second (Hedrick/Quinn) Motion to approve the authorizer transfer application for Gem Prep: Nampa for a six-year term effective July 1, 2025. *Motion passed unanimously.*

IV. CONSIDERATION OF RENEWAL CONDITIONS

Peace Valley Charter School

Commission Director Jacob Smith initiated discussion of two unmet conditions for Peace Valley Charter School related to finances and literacy proficiency. The school presented changes to their program designed to allow the school to meet standard in these areas of the performance certificate. The school also has a new administration, is attempting to update their academic programs, and are adapting to challenges. The school also stated that they are headed toward financial stability.

Commissioners asked questions related to whether the school had room to grow with pods leased; how the school would attract families (e.g., attending events, booths, social media, etc.); the capacity building program. The capacity building program is focused on Tier 1 curriculum and teacher professional development. Commissioners were concerned about waiving conditions and how that would affect the Commission's reputation.

Motion (Bair) Motion to take no action on unmet conditions and allow the school to continue to operate. No second.

Motion/Second (Koehler/Hedrick) Motion to take no action on unmet conditions and allow the school to continue to operate. Koehler, Hedrick, Bair, Quinn, Paulos aye, Amador nay. *Motion passed 5-1.*

Break called by Chairman Reed. Meeting called back to order at 11:08 a.m.

V. CONSIDERATION OF NEW CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATIONS (Action Item)

Valor Classical Academy

Director Smith introduced members of the American Classical Schools of Idaho network to present on behalf of Valor Classical Academy for consideration of approval by the

IPCSC. The board presented a model associated with Hillsdale College, with a facility site valued at an estimated two million dollars donated to the school.

Motion/Second (Hedrick/Koehler) Motion to approve the new charter school application for Valor Classical Academy for a six-year term effective July 1, 2025. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Virtual Preparatory Academy of Idaho

Director Smith introduced the petition for Virtual Preparatory Academy of Idaho (VPAI). The petition was rated Did Not Meet Standard in the Educational Program and Student Demand & Primary Attendance Area sections, respectively, and Approaches Standard in the Financial & Facilities Plan section.

The school addressed the educational program and school performance and stated that data presented by Commission staff did not provide context. The school incorporates advancements in collaboration of platforms. The K-5 curriculum is proprietary, and 6-12 is non-proprietary. A letter from the Coalition of Charter School Families was provided that expresses support for the school, as well as a letter from board member Dahlstrom, who was not in attendance.

Commissioners questioned the uniqueness and value the school provided beyond the single sign-on service and wished to see more data.

Motion/Second (Koehler/Quinn) Motion to take no action and have the applicants work with the Director and Commission staff to work on items one and four of the Application Evaluation Review and come back before the Commission at a later date. *Motion passed unanimously.*

VI. INCREASED CHARTER SCHOOL SUPPORT

Rachel Burk from the Idaho State Department of Education presented on support provided to several schools in the IPCSC's portfolio.

VII. SCHOOL UPDATE

Craig Gerard, Executive Director of Blackfoot Charter, provided the Commission with an update on the progress of the school and the conditions that were placed on the school's renewal at the February 2024 Commission meeting. Mr. Gerard reviewed improvements and support available to the school, and that they have made several internal changes to address the conditions and Commissioners' concerns.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

IX. ADJOURN (Action Item)

Motion/Second (Koehler/Hedrick) Motion to adjourn. *The motion passed unanimously.*

Meeting adjourned.