

**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
IDAHO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION**

December 14, 2017

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 a.m. The following Commissioners were in attendance:

Alan Reed
Brian Scigliano
Kelly Murphey
Wanda Quinn
Sherilynn Bair
Nils Peterson
Kitty Kunz

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 (Peterson/Kunz): To approve the minutes from October 12, 2017, as presented. *The motion passed unanimously.*

TAB B: CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATES

1. Peace Valley Charter School Performance Certificate

Tamara Baysinger, PCSC Director, stated that the petition for Peace Valley Charter School (PVCS) was approved, with conditions, at the PCSC's October 2017 regular meeting. Idaho Statute provides 75 days for the school and PCSC to execute a performance certificate. Staff has worked with PVCS to reach agreement on the individualized sections of the performance certificate.

M/S (Quinn/Kunz): To execute the Peace Valley Charter School Performance Certificate as presented. *The motion passed unanimously.*

TAB C: CONSIDERATION OF NEW CHARTER PETITION

1. Project Impact STEM Academy

Jasmine Martin, Trina Neddo, and Dan Neddo presented the Project Impact STEM Academy (PiSA) petition.

Trina Neddo described the expressed need for another K-12 charter school in the Kuna School District. PiSA proposes to open its first year with K-7th grade and 9th grade, then expand to serve 429 students in grades K-12 by 2021.

Dan Neddo and Jasmin Martin described PiSA's proposed educational model.

Ms. Neddo provided evidence of community support for PiSA. She also reviewed budget concerns and facility options. She responded to Commissioner Peterson's request for additional information regarding the construction timeline, zoning, traffic survey, permits, and licensing.

Chairman Reed and Commissioner Murphey expressed their concerns with the high facility lease and construction costs.

Ms. Neddo provided details on financing and loans, including a USDA loan that may be available to PiSA. She said PiSA could renegotiate with Giza to remove the timeline for permanent construction.

Jeff Biesinger, representing Red Apple Financial, described his history working with Giza. He explained how Red Apple has been successful in helping other charter schools obtain USDA loans and described other financing possibilities.

Commissioners Quinn and Kunz requested additional information regarding PiSA's level of enrollment interest.

Ms. Martin provided enrollment interest numbers, broken out by grade level, based on letters of intent.

Commissioner Peterson cautioned the petitioners to carefully outline roles and duties in order to avoid conflict resulting from its dual administrator model.

Kevin Christenson, a member of the public who is providing advice to PiSA, explained that the director of operations will handle everything outside of education, including the budget, allowing the education director to focus on academics. Both administrators will report to the board.

Jim Grigg, PiSA board member, expressed his support for the proposed school.

Senator Lori Den Hartog expressed her support for the proposed school, particularly in light of Kuna's expanding student population. She said she understands the PCSC's concern regarding protection of taxpayer dollars, and expressed her belief that the petitioners have adequate backup facility plans, if needed.

Commissioner Quinn suggested that the PCSC consider the option of approving the petition with a condition that PiSA have the flexibility to remain in portables indefinitely.

Commissioner Peterson said he would feel more comfortable with a condition in place to protect taxpayers from excessive expenditure.

Chairman Reed suggested a possible condition that PiSA's contract with Giza state that PiSA is not committed to permanent construction at any designated time, and PiSA would make the decision to proceed when the school was financially ready. He requested Director Baysinger's input on this suggestion.

Director Baysinger said her staff had not had an opportunity to review the new facility plan provided by the petitioners during this meeting. However, it appeared, from the limited new information available, that concern about PiSA's long term financial viability could be mitigated by removing the obligation that the proposed school must proceed with facility construction on a prescribed timeline. She suggested that if the PCSC proceeded with a condition in this regard, they considered requiring that PiSA provide a written and signed agreement from Giza including the relevant information.

M/S (Quinn/Kunz): To approve the new charter petition for Project Impact STEM Academy with the following conditions:

- By January 31, 2018, PiSA will submit to the PCSC office a signed, written commitment from Giza Development that PiSA is not committed to permanent facility construction on any specific timeline.
- PiSA will achieve accreditation candidacy status by July 1, 2019, and full accreditation through the Northwest Accreditation Commission by July 1, 2021.
- By July 1, 2022, PiSA will obtain STEM certification, either as a program or as a school, at the sustaining level. Such certification shall be maintained at the sustaining level throughout the remainder of the performance certificate term.

The motion passed 6-1 with Commissioner Peterson dissenting.

TAB C: COMMISSION EDUCATION

1. Pre-Opening Guidance for New Charter Schools

Jenn Thompson, PCSC School Resource and Finance Program Manager, presented information about the new pre-opening guidance and program of support provided to all new schools authorized by the PCSC. She also described other, new support services under development, including a board guidebook that will be provided monthly.

Commissioner Bair asked whether similar guidance could be developed for schools in the renewal process.

Director Baysinger said that a Charter Renewal Guidance and Application document is already available to help schools understand the renewal process and draft strong renewal applications.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.