

Utah State Charter School Board Meeting  
Minutes  
May 18, 2006  
North & South Board Rooms  
Utah State Office of Education

**APPROVED – June 15, 2006**

Members present: Julie Adamic, Brian Allen, Eric Smith, Barbara Killpack, Scott Smith-via telephone conference

Members excused: Sonia Zisumbo

Staff present: John Broberg, Marlies Burns, Gary Belliston, Jo Schmitt

Others present: Mark Cluff, Janene Bowen, Darcy Mott, Stephanie Kean, representatives from Robert Henri Academy of the Arts, Total Learning Center, Freeman Hall, Milton Arts Academy, Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy, Edith Bowen Laboratory School

Media present: Tiffany Erickson, Celia Baker

Call to Order

Vice Chair Scott Smith called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. via telephone conference. Because Mr. Smith was not physically present at the meeting, he requested a nomination from the State Charter School Board of members present to conduct the meeting. Member Barbara Killpack nominated Member Brian Allen and seconded by Julie Adamic to conduct the meeting. The nomination was passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Member Julie Adamic and seconded by Member Eric Smith to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2006 State Charter School Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Public Comments

Darcy Mott representing neighbors and citizens from Alpine, UT expressed their concerns regarding the site selection for Mountainville Academy and time-line requirements for Charter Schools to be approved and be ready for operation.

Stephanie Kean a concerned parent expressed her thoughts and desires for Karl G. Maeser Academy to be approved for charter for school year 2007-2008.

Deadline for Charter Enrollment Amendments

Director John Broberg reminded the State Charter School Board that the deadline for student enrollment totals for the following school year is September 30. Because the Utah State Board of Education needs to approve those enrollments amendments in their September meeting, the State Charter School Board would need those amendment requests for their meeting in August. Mr. Broberg suggested changing the deadline to August 1<sup>st</sup>. Motion was made by Member Barbara Killpack and seconded by Vice Chair Scott Smith to approve the projected enrollment deadline to August 1<sup>st</sup> from September 30<sup>th</sup>. After discussion the vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

School LAND Trust Program

Director John Broberg presented to the State Charter School Board the School LAND Trust Program proposals for charter schools and their grant amounts. These proposals and amounts have been approved by Paula Plant, Education Program Specialist in the Government and Legislative Relations Section at USOE and have asked the State Charter School Board to approve them as well.

Motion was made by Member Eric Smith and seconded by Member Julie Adamic to approve the School LAND Trust Program plan proposals. Member Barbara Killpack inquired if these plans were also approved by their local school board before coming to the State Charter School Board. Mr. Broberg informed the State Charter School Board that yes; the proposals are approved, but not necessarily approved by their local board. The school has a School LAND Trust committee that develops and approves the plan. That committee is made of parents, teachers and other interested parties.

The motion was carried unanimously.

#### R277-470. Charter Schools

Carol Lear, Director of the Government and Legislative Relations Section at USOE, presented to the State Charter School changes that had been made to R277-470. Charter Schools. Ms. Lear stated that a number of the changes are proposals only. She informed the State Charter School Board the changes were taken from comments made by the Utah State Board of Education at their meeting in May. She stated these changes would be for guidance that will exist for charter school applicants to know what to expect either for expansion or for new applications. Ms. Lear went through the documentation pointing out the proposed changes.

After much discussion, motion was made by Member Eric Smith and seconded by Member Julie Adamic to approve Sections 1-9 only, of R277-470. The motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Member Eric Smith and seconded by Member Barbara Killpack to not approve Sections 10-12 of R277-470 at this time, allowing more time to discuss and review the suggested changes. The motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Member Brian Allen and seconded by Member Julie Adamic to direct the State Charter School Staff to make Sections 10-12 of R277-470 available to the public for an opportunity to review and offer written comment to the State Charter School Board one week prior to the June 15 meeting; and to be an agenda item for the June 15 State Charter School Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### Methodology of Approval of Charter Schools

Vice Chair Scott Smith informed the new charter school applicants there will not be an approval or denial of their application at today's State Charter School Board Meeting. There will be a process put in place to determine how the three available slots for new charters will be filled. Director John Broberg informed the State Charter School Board that he felt the new applications should be reviewed keeping in mind the seven purposes of charter schools and the need of a numeric type of scoring. He distributed a rubric based on the seven purposes of Charter Schools.

Motion was by Vice Chair Scott Smith and seconded by Member Barbara Killpack to use the presented rubric as a tool to be consistent in rating of the new charter school applications.

Substitute motion was made by Member Eric Smith and seconded by Member Barbara Killpack to approve the presented rubric, and to also add three additional points to the rubric; those points being 1) urgency of the school, 2) confidence in their ability to execute, and 3) confidence in financial capabilities. The motion was carried unanimously.

### Liberty Academy Amendment

Director John Broberg informed the State Charter School Board that Liberty Academy's amendment to their charter was to increase their enrollment to 500 students. He also informed the State Charter School Board Liberty Academy was not on last month's agenda because their amendment request was not received before the deadline of March 31.

Motion was made by Member Eric Smith and seconded by Member Julie Adamic to deny Liberty Academy's amendment to increase student enrollment because of lateness of request. The motion was carried unanimously.

### Academy of the Americas Amendment

Director John Broberg presented to the State Charter School Board the request to change Academy of the Americas' name to Dual Immersion Academy (DIA). Motion was made by Member Eric Smith and seconded by Member Julie Adamic. The motion was carried unanimously.

### Early College High School Amendment

Director John Broberg presented to the State Charter School Board the request to change Early College High School's name to InTech Collegiate College High School. Motion was made by Member Eric Smith and seconded by Member Julie Adamic. The motion was carried unanimously.

### Robert Henri Academy of the Arts

Representatives from Robert Henri Academy informed the State Charter School Board that the school would serve grades 7-12 and be located in Orem, Alpine School District. The mission of the school is to unlock the curiosity, energy, and imagination of young people and teachers offering students an education in and through the arts.

Member Eric Smith voiced his concern of the school's student enrollment numbers if the drop out rate does not occur according to the numbers being reflected in their charter application. He stated that the school's application reflected they were assuming drop out rate, in order to have their enrollment stay steady. Mr. Smith cautioned the school to not admit new students in the lower grades until they knew the number of students not returning to the school, to avoid going over the approved enrollment number.

Member Julie Adamic inquired of the possible location of the school. The State Charter School Board was informed the intended location is in Orem/Provo area to be close to the surrounding community, freeway exit and entrances, and public transportation routes.

Member Barbara Killpack questioned the salary for the Special Education instructor. The State Charter School Board was informed that the financial plan was in error, and the names of the teachers had been "flipped." Member Brian Allen advised the school to look their financial plan over and if there is an error, to make the necessary corrections.

### Total Learning Center

Representatives from Total Learning Center informed the State Charter School Board that the school would serve grades K-8, and be located in Taylorsville, Granite School District. The mission of the school is to encompass all disciplines of academia by providing challenging and stimulating content while using well-researched methods and curricula. Total Learning Center is committed to a universal mastery for all its students. The school will focus on fundamental skills that provide each child a strong foundation to enable them to succeed.

Member Julie Adamic inquired why the application showed two separate models for K-6 and 7-8; were they planning on modeling grades 7-8 self-contained or modeling it secondary? The State Charter School Board was informed that they would be modeling grades 7-8 as a secondary model; and would be located in a separate portion of their building.

Member Barbara Killpack inquired to the school's outreach program. She was informed they plan to design a website, hold public meetings, and go out into the community.

### Freeman Hall

Representatives from Freeman Hall informed the State Charter School Board that the school would serve grades K-8, and be located in Herriman, Jordan School District. The mission of the school is to challenge all students to achieve their full potential in an inclusive setting driven by high standards, high quality teaching, and world class assessments. Freeman Hall will focus on the heart as well as the mind and address physical, social, emotional, and cultural needs as well as academic ones. They seek to be a center of optimal student learning through balancing the acquisition of essential knowledge and skills with the search for meaning and understanding.

Member Eric Smith questioned their enrollment numbers. He was informed that the numbers would need to change and be re-evaluated through an amendment to their charter, because of the growth statistics they have researched in Herriman.

Member Julie Adamic questioned why the IB concept was not in their application, but was mentioned in the presentation. She was informed that when the initial application was submitted, they had not fully decided that IB was the program they wanted to go with. Since then, they have felt it better to go with a proven method, in which they found with IB.

Member Barbara Killpack questioned their plan for teaching Spanish to all students, 30 minutes a day. She questioned how one teacher can accomplish their plan effectively. The State Charter School Board was informed they plan on hiring a full time Spanish teacher that will rotate to different classrooms. They feel it is important to have someone that is proficient in the language to teach the class. In the lower grade levels, they would combine the classes and investigate in hiring a second teacher. In their financial plan, the Spanish teacher is considered a regular core teacher.

Janene Bowen, from Jordan School District expressed the district's concerns with Freeman Hall. Ms. Bowen questioned the school representatives if they were going to expand to 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the future. She was informed they were not. Because the school is not planning on locating in an area that is of lower income there is a concern in transportation availability. Jordan School District has some specific concerns with the application itself. The majority of the application seems to have been written by someone other than the founding board. From page 16 on, the application is nearly identical to two other applications she has received and reviewed. She feels it is difficult to determine how prepared they really are; the resumes did not suggest education backgrounds; the governance seems to be closed; the parent member is a non-voting advisory member and they are elected by the majority vote of the trustees. Ms. Bowen stressed her concerns about the outreach and location pertaining to the focus on ELL students. She stated it appears the interest is in Herriman, and she understands that all applicants need to say they will serve ELL students, but Herriman is the least diverse part of Jordan School District. She feels the chances of ELL students traveling to a school in Herriman aren't realistic. The application doesn't address how they will serve ELL students specifically; teaching Spanish is not the same as serving English Language Learners.

### Milton Arts Academy

Representatives from Milton Arts Academy informed the State Charter School Board that the school would serve grades K-8, and be located in Park City, Park City School District. The mission of the school is to create a shared understanding and common vocabulary to build critical support that is willing and motivated to make necessary changes for the academic, social, and emotional success of every student. Understanding and responding to cultural and economic diversity will provide unity and purpose for each child. Learning will be treated as an art within itself, expressed through curiosity, discovery, and creativity. Immersion integrated arts and languages will create engaging and enjoyable learning.

Member Eric Smith questioned this school application as the previous applications concerning enrollment numbers. Milton Arts Academy explained the reason for the bubble classes is a critical factor of the economics of the school. Because the cost of land and cost of building they feel they have to be at capacity the first year of operation. Because the bubble flows through each year, they will have to accept fewer kindergarteners each year to remain at capacity, and not expand enrollment.

Member Julie Adamic stated there wasn't an ELL staff member or Spanish teacher listed in the application. The State Charter School Board was informed that all teachers will be bilingual teachers. Ms. Adamic also inquired of the population of ELL or immigrant students in Park City. The State Charter School Board was informed that at McPolin Elementary School there are 100-200 ELL students and at Jeremy Ranch Elementary School there are fewer. Milton Arts will be located closer to Jeremy and are planning to run a bus from the low income housing quadrants to the school. Ms. Adamic also pointed out there was no transportation cost set aside in their budget. The State Charter School Board was informed that that was an oversight, but the founders plan on running one bus because of the student population, but do not see it as an overly significant cost for one trip a day, for one bus. They feel there is room in the budget to provide transportation.

#### Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy

Representatives from Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy informed the State Charter School Board that the school would serve grades 9-12, and be located in Pleasant Grove, Alpine School District. The mission of the school is to provide rigorous, classical, college-preparatory education through use of the Great Books curriculum and the Socratic method of instruction. They will help students acquire and refine communication and critical skills by teaching them to think clearly, carefully and logically; explore the literary, cultural, and scientific foundations of today's global civilization; and prepare for university admission and study.

Member Eric Smith questioned Karl G. Maeser if the State Office of Education informed them they could not do Winterim, what would they do. The State Charter School Board was informed if the state would not allow it, they would have to drop it, and take a different approach. The work study programs and other elements of the high school and secondary education provide a valid basis or precedence for the Winterim Program.

Member Julie Adamic questioned the transfer of credit with the Winterim program. She was informed that it depends on the individual Winterim circumstances. In a case, the student is doing an internship or a work study program, there are standards already in place in the Utah Core Curriculum which the school is prepared to meet. Typically work study would take place over the course of half a school year, but Karl G. Maeser Prep will be condensing those hours into a more intensive experience. In a case of a student going to a network of complementary schools exchange, those schools have established with their own state boards of education or with accrediting institutions their standards and objects for their courses and they issue the credit and that transfers with the students. Ms. Adamic questioned how many hours per day are they estimating the student would spend during that three week period. She was informed 'on campus' courses would meet the same length of time as a typical school day, 'off campus' internships would be arranged on an individual basis to be sure they were meeting the minimum requirements in the USOE curriculum guidelines.

Member Brian Allen questioned who pays for the Winterim experience. He was told Winterim offerings are typically varied in terms of expense and availability. Many times internships are cost free. Other Winterim courses may require fees, but the school did not build a Winterim budget in there financial plan.

Member Barbara Killpack questioned about an athletics agreement with Alpine School District. She was informed they have begun discussions with UHSAA so their students will be able to compete in interscholastic activities. They also have an extensive plan for intramural sports. Ms. Killpack questioned if they have facilities in place. She was informed they have options for facilities they are exploring which includes an existing facility with adjacent land. Ms. Killpack cautioned the founders of Karl G. Maeser Prep to inform the students that do come to the school to understand they will not be able to participate in those activities through Alpine School District.

### Edith Bowen Laboratory School

Representatives from Edith Bowen Laboratory School informed the State Charter School Board that the school would serve grades K-5, and be located in Logan, Logan City School District. The mission of the school is to serve the State of Utah and nation as a unique and dynamic educational institution. It will foster a diverse, interactive, and inviting school environment where the community of learners extends from kindergarten to adulthood. The school commits itself to building capable, life-long learners through developmentally appropriate education, applied research, and innovative educational practices. Edith Bowen Laboratory School is a unique situation. The school is asking for consideration for conversion funding. The school has been a public funded school for the last 70 years, and has been in partnership with the Cache, Logan and Box Elder School Districts.

Member Eric Smith stated the fundamentally difference between this school and the other schools applying for charter is they are in existence now. When the legislative cap gets removed there wouldn't even be a challenge for chartering; the only issue now is a competitive situation. The State Charter School Board was informed the three school superintendents want to move ahead and step away from Edith Bowen Laboratory School. The districts would like the school to be independent and be on their own. The school will lose funding for their integrated arts and mentors if they cannot bridge with charter school funding. Member Julie Adamic questioned when the district funding would end. She was informed that the funds will end spring 2007.

Member Eric Smith questioned the organization chart of having USU, College of Education Human Services as top authority. He stated that the board that has the elected parents needs to have the ultimate authority and the charter needs to be clear as to who has the authority of the school.

Member Brian Allen questioned the dollar amount of funding the school will be losing not being part of the school districts. He was informed \$229,000 a year. Member Julie Adamic questioned what percentage of their budget is that amount? The answer was 25%.

Member Barbara Killpack questioned the busing of students they have at present. She was informed the school districts have not been busing their students to and from school.

### Adjourn

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 p.m. by Member Eric Smith.