

Utah State Charter School Board Meeting  
Minutes  
**August 12, 2010**  
North & South Board Rooms  
Utah State Office of Education

**APPROVED**

Members present: Tim Beagley, Dean Brockbank, Yolanda Francisco-Nez, Tom Morgan, Scott Smith  
Members excused: Laura Belnap, John Pingree

Staff present: Marlies Burns, Paul Crawford, Cory Kanth, Jeannie Rowland, Georgia Loutensock, Jo Schmitt

Others present: Deputy Superintendent Martell Menlove, Soulee Stroud, Todd Hauber, Robert Ralphs, Jennifer Moulder, Bob Bell

Call to Order

Chair Tom Morgan called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Appointment of State Charter School Board member

Chair Tom Morgan welcomed Dean Brockbank, the newest appointee to the Charter School Board and invited him to introduce himself. Mr. Brockbank informed the SCSB that he is anxious to serve with them and feels it is an important opportunity. He went on to say he appreciates their confidence in him, and the governor as well. Mr. Brockbank was born and raised in Salt Lake City, but spent 10 years in Washington DC going to graduate school and working. He and his wife live in Sandy, UT and have five children ranging from ages 19 to 6. Mr. Brockbank works for Rocky Mountain Power, PacifiCorp Energy as their Vice President and General Council.

Deputy Superintendent Martell Menlove executed the swearing in of Dean Brockbank, new member of the State Charter School.

Chair Tom Morgan also welcomed Soulee Stroud, representing the Coalition of Minority Advisory Committee (CMAC), filling in for Ike Spencer who was unable to attend the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member Yolanda Francisco-Nez to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2010 and July 15, 2010 State Charter School Board Meetings. The motion was carried unanimously.

Charter School Board Chair's Report

Chair Tom Morgan stated on behalf of Tim Beagley and himself, he expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve in leadership positions on the SCSB. Chair Morgan invited the SCSB and all interested parties in charter schools to work hard over the next year on a number of initiatives that are going to improve and give credibility to the charter school movement.

Amendment Request – Aspire Online Charter School – Change name to Alianza Academy

Robert Ralphs, Interim Principal of Aspire Online Charter School informed the SCSB of the amendment request to change the name of the school from Aspire Online Charter School to Alianza Academy to avoid confusion with a charter management organization, by the same name, which is registered in six states, including Utah.

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Vice Chair Tim Beagley to approve the name change from Aspire Online Charter School to Alianza Academy. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### Amendment Request – Mountainville Academy – Changes to multiple sections of charter

Jennifer Moulder, Mountainville Academy's Board Chair, and Bob Bell, Business Manager of Mountainville Academy presented to the SCSB the school's amendment request involving the following sections: Organizational Structure and Governing Body, Articles of Incorporation and By-laws, Admission, Dismissal and Suspension Procedures, Utah State Retirement and Founding Council Members.

Member Tim Beagley questioned the changing of the founders list. He was informed that a name had been inadvertently omitted from the original founding list, and was to be added with this amendment request. Director Burns stated the recently submitted founders list has multiple new names added and several original names removed and that Mountainville Academy is willing to do more research to find the list they had submitted the first day of school.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Tim Beagley and seconded by Member Scott Smith to approve for recommendation to the USBE the amendment request, with the removal of the founders list, to be addressed at a later date. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### Discussion of proposed Performance Benchmarks

A process to put specific standards and absolute requirements in place for charter schools to be held accountable in Operation Quality and Academic Quality was discussed.

After much discussion, Chair Tom Morgan proposed to the SCSB to consider the following: 1) issue an RFP for the purpose of finding a group to help create standards and protocols that the SCSB would adopt as performance benchmarking and set a time limit for completion; 2) assign a member of the Charter School Board as an advisor to the Charter School Staff; 3) be aware of the feelings and perception of the Charter School community; and 4) be brief and succinct.

Vice Chair Tim Beagley proposed creating a task force to create minimal financial standards.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Tim Beagley and seconded by Member Yolanda Francisco-Nez to direct the Charter School Staff to move forward in creating an RFP for the purpose measuring and monitoring performance benchmarks for charter schools and authorize the staff to use grant funds for that purpose, such that the SCSB will be in compliance with the statute that states the SCSB shall monitor the performance of charter schools on an annual basis; also to assign Member Scott Smith as advisor to staff in the performance of this RFP. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### Discussion of proposed Financial and Operational Standards

Chair Tim Beagley proposed the following five specific areas where the SCSB would like to see charter school performance: Operation, Finance, Curriculum, Special Education, and Governance. Each area of performance will have three components: 1) detailed standard in simple easy to defend terms; 2) specific period of time the charter school has to cure the problem; and 3) action to be taken by SCSB if the problem is not fixed in the given period of time.

Chair Tom Morgan, along with the members of the SCSB directed the Charter School Staff to create a document with the following components: the standard, description of the standard, minimum requirement for that standard, and the consequence of not meeting the minimum requirement for the five performance areas or categories proposed by Member Tim Beagley.

Chair Tom Morgan addressed the Charter School Meeting schedule for FY11. Member Scott Smith requested the Charter School Board Meeting start time to change from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. to allow an earlier ending time.

Vice Chair Tim Beagley proposed to establish task forces to replace the Charter School Committees that are currently in place.

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Vice Chair Tim Beagley to dissolve the Charter School Committees and to establish task forces to address issues that need attention consisting of volunteers with input from the Utah Association of Public Charter Schools (UAPCS) and Utah's Charter Schools. The motion was carried unanimously.

Deputy Superintendent Martell Menlove distributed an article published in the Harvard Business Review, entitled "How Will You Measure Your Life?" by Clayton M. Christensen.

#### Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn at 12:05 p.m. by Member Yolanda Francisco-Nez.