

**MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**
Thursday, August 14, 2014 – Board Rooms
USOE

APPROVED

Members Present:

Chair Tim Beagley
Member Laura Belnap
Member Bruce Davis
Member Robert Enger
Member Kristin Elinkowski
Member Howard Headlee

Members Excused:

Vice Chair Dean Brockbank

Staff present:

Marlies Burns
Jennifer Lambert
Joe Heywood
Dan Schoenfeld
Jo Schmitt

Others present:

Bruce Williams, Teresa Theurer, Heather Groom, Roderic Land, Joylin Lincoln, Debby Llewelyn, DeLaina Tonks, Sarah Layton, David Aust, Mary Aust, Tina Smith, Fred Donaldson, Sol Garcia, Gary Nelson, Nicole Finamore, Angela Choberka, Kristy Gordan, Amy Saunders, Julie Anderegg, Kim Goates, Paden Goates, Chloe Goates, Aleyah Goates, Bailee Goates, Sarah Means, Robert Means, Cole Means, Finley Means, Julie Morris, Nathan Morris, Bichelle Curtis Family, Craig Frank, Judi Clark

Call to Order

Chair Tim Beagley called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Tim Beagley led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Chair Report

Chair Tim Beagley welcomed Associate Superintendent Bruce Williams to the meeting, stating Mr. Williams is filling in for the recently retired Deputy Superintendent Brenda Hales.

DeLaina Tonks, Director of Mountain Heights Academy, introduced Sarah Layton, an English and Language Arts teacher at Mountain Heights Academy to the SCSB as the Charter School Teacher of the Year. Ms. Tonks stated Ms. Layton spends half of her time connecting with her students via video conference and working together in real-time using collaborative documents to review student work. The other half of her day is reviewing data and finding gaps in student learning. Sarah is a teacher, a mentor, a tech specialist, an instructional designer, a data analyst, all rolled into. She works with students individually to help them achieve their potential.

State Board of Education update

Member Kristin Elinkowski informed the SCSB the USBE was looking at reapplying for the ESEA waiver, which passed with stipulations, a compromised proposal passed unanimously. With those stipulations there will be no change for charter schools. The USBE approved the amendment requests from Spectrum Academy and Hawthorn Academy.

Consent Calendar

MOTION: Member Bruce Davis moved and Member Robb Enger seconded to approve the Consent Calendar (Minutes of the July 10, 2014 Board Meeting, Staff Reports-Students with Disabilities in Charter Schools and Revolving Loan History). The motion was carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Judi Clark, representing Parents for Choice in Education, stated she has become more aware of the charter review committee and wanted to express her concern about the delegation of responsibility by the SCSB. She is concerned that a committee is making the decision which charter school pre-applications are presented to the SCSB for recommendation for authorization by the State Board of Education. She stated she feels that anyone with a charter application and wants to come before the SCSB has the public right to do so. She urged greater transparency as they continue on their work as a board.

Discussion – Reader recommendations of proposals for the 2016-2017 school year

Chair Tim Beagley reminded the SCSB of procedures that have been done in the past for recommending applications to the SCSB. Chair Beagley distributed a spreadsheet listing the schools and their scores that show the results of the twelve reader's recommendations.

MOTION: After discussion Member Kristin Elinkowski moved and Member Robb Enger seconded to accept the reader's process and use the 70% threshold and invite those schools that had scored above 70% to submit full charter school applications for the September 30 deadline. That list included the following schools: American Academy of Innovation, Athlos Academy, Classical Innovations, Franklin Discovery Academy Mountain Sunrise, St. George Academy, The Open School Academy of Technology and Theatre Arts, West Ridge Academy Charter School, Patriot Academy, Salt Lake International School, Student Centered Education and Services, and mStar Academies.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Member Howard Headlee moved to also include Utah Virtual Charter School to the list of those invited to submit a full charter school application. The substitute motion failed because of no second to the motion.

MOTION: Because the substitute motion failed, the original motion was reconsidered. There was no further discussion of the original motion, it carried unanimously.

Election of Officers

According to SCSB bylaws, the vice chair oversees State Charter School Board elections. Vice Chair Dean Brockbank was excused from the meeting, however, a ballot vote was performed. Chair Tim Beagley informed the SCSB there was only one individual showing interest as Chair and another individual as Vice Chair. After submitted ballots had been tallied, the vote was unanimous with Mr. Tim Beagley as Chair and Mr. Howard Headlee as Vice Chair.

Amendment request – MyOptions

Representatives from MyOptions informed the SCSB of their request to accelerate their growth model to include grades 9-12 and add 150 students (550 students total) beginning in SY2016. This will reduce the number of new students for SY2017 by 100 (still 550 total).

MOTION: Member Howard Headlee moved and Member Laura Belnap seconded to recommend approval to the USBE the amendment request as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

School Report – DaVinci Academy

Representatives from DaVinci Academy was invited to the SCSB meeting to explain a flyer that was distributed informing the public describing some of online courses or opportunities that students at DaVinci Academy could participate in. The flyer had some concerning elements that included language directly to home-schooling moms giving the impression that the school is running a home-school program and not a public school program. Also, the flyer offers to reimburse parents for religious materials, or materials that have a religious tone or hint of religion.

Fred Donaldson, Executive Administrator, thanked the SCSB for the backing and support the school has received through amendment requests to offer distance and online education at the school. Mr. Donaldson stated his intent with the flyer was not to offend, but to target DaVinci Academy’s distance education students. DaVinci Academy is competing with other vendors that are offering reimbursements and different incentives.

State Board Member Heather Groom expressed her concerns regarding the distribution of the flyer.

Discussion – Violations of charter agreement specific to third party vendors providing instruction

Chair Tim Beagley distributed a copy of the Performance Audit 2013-02 (Distance and Online Education Programs in Utah Schools) and made reference to page 45 of the audit which states “We recommend that the Board and the SCSB determine whether the distance and online programs that LEAs have contracted with met the terms of their charter agreement, and take appropriate action.” Chair Beagley proposed the SCSB direct the charter school staff, in the next two months, to visit the schools that are believed to be using third party vendors, to investigate and determine as to whether or not if it is consistent with the contract they have signed with the SCSB and the USBE. Chair Beagley also proposed, if the staff finds schools not in compliance with their contract, and if they are not yet on warning with the audit, they be placed on warning status and be given two months (December) to provide a plan to become compliant with the contract they have signed with the SCSB, and if they do not do so, could possibly be put on probation.

Discussion – Funding for distance education students

Chair Tim Beagley led the discussion with several members of the SCSB expressing concerns and thoughts of recommendations to the USBE or Utah Legislature specific to funding of students who receive their education by way of distance delivery methods.

Discussion – Academic accountability for all students

Chair Tim Beagley led the discussion with several members of the SCSB expressing concerns and thoughts of recommendations to the USBE or Utah Legislature specific to holding charter schools accountable for the education of all students.

Report – Student Academic and Engagement measures and metrics

Director Marlies Burns distributed the Student Academic and Engagement measures and metrics for the SCSB consideration and input. The charter school staff will schedule a meeting with appropriate stakeholders and bring to the SCSB revisions for their consideration at the September meeting.

Report – Governing Board Stewardship measures and metrics

Director Marlies Burns distributed the final version for consideration and approval of the measures that charter school governing boards will be held for governing board stewardship.

MOTION: Member Bruce Davis moved and Member Kristin Elinkowski seconded to adopt the measures and standards as presented, to receive a report in August and have the document sent to the governing boards of charter schools, so those governing boards will know how the SCSB will be holding them accountable. The motion carried unanimously. Member Howard Headlee was not present for vote.

Adjourn: Motion was made by Member Bruce Davis to adjourn at 12:00 noon.