

Utah State Charter School Board Meeting
Minutes
October 8, 2009
North & South Board Rooms
Utah State Office of Education

APPROVED

Members present: Julie Adamic, Brian Allen, Tim Beagley, Yolanda Francisco-Nez, Tom Morgan, John Pingree, Scott Smith

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

Others present: Deputy Superintendent Martell Menlove, Todd Hauber, Janene Bowen, Kim Frank, Steve Winitzky, Mike Westover, Eldon Budge, Erin Preston, Lincoln Fillmore

Call to Order

Chair Brian Allen called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Public Comment

Lance Davis, parent from Monticello Academy
Mike Westover, Director of Monticello Academy

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Vice Chair Tom Morgan to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2009 State Charter School Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Charter School Board Chair's Report

Chair Brian Allen stated he felt, in general, the new schools that opened this school year, opened quite smoothly. He went on to say that he feels the charter schools have to continue to recognize they are scrutinized a little differently than other school options, and be sensitive to that scrutiny.

Chair Allen stated that Salt Lake City has the opportunity to host the 2009 NACSA Conference. An opportunity as authorizers to get together with people from around the country that are sitting in the same kinds of situations the SCSB is in and to talk about the good things that are going on, as well as best practices. Attending the NACSA Conference also gives the SCSB an opportunity to learn better how it can do their job more efficiently and effectively. He went on to say that he feels Utah, and the SCSB want to strive to have very high quality schools.

Information Items

Legislative Discussion

Kim Frank and Steve Winitzky, representing Utah Association of Public Charter Schools (UAPCS), presented items and concerns that Charter Schools will face financially in the future.

Todd Hauber, Associate Superintendent, presented funding proposals and concepts for FY10.

Monticello Academy Financial Report

Cory Kanth stated that the SCSB is empowered by Board Rule to review charter schools based upon financial factors, deficiencies, or irregularities. A request for review came before the SCSB, therefore the State Charter School Staff requested a variety of documents from Monticello Academy. Ms. Kanth presented to the SCSB a

staff report of Monticello Academy expenditures for July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009, which was the most recent fiscal year.

Charter School's with Financial Deficit in FY09

Cory Kanth made the SCSB aware of charter schools that are in a financial deficit for FY09. Those schools are Beehive Science and Technology, Merit College Preparatory Academy, and Utah Virtual Academy.

Student Membership Audit Issues FY09

Director Marlies Burns distributed to the SCSB a document showing findings from the Membership Audit. Ms. Burns stated that some of the findings are repeat findings, some for 3 years in a row, and others with higher numbers (greater than 5). She went on to say that a good share of the findings are a very simple fix, and that she has confidence that the Charter School staff can provide technical support to get them corrected. Ms. Burns suggested the schools receive notification from the SCSB requiring them to receive help from the staff to address the audit findings.

Action Items

Amendment Request: Providence Hall – change to bylaws and math curriculum

Motion was made by Member John Pingree and seconded by Member Scott Smith to approve for recommendation Providence Hall's amendment request. The motion was carried unanimously.

Amendment Request: Thomas Edison-South – add grade 9 with no additional students, grades 5-9 will be a middle school model

Motion was made by Member John Pingree and seconded by Member Scott Smith to approve for recommendation Thomas Edison-South's amendment request. The motion was carried unanimously.

Recommendation of New Charter School Applicants for 2011-2012

Based on the new Charter School presentations last month, reading the charter school applications and taking into consideration the Charter School Staff comments, the SCSB ranked the New Charter School applicants on their readiness.

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Vice Chair Tom Morgan to recommend to the USBE to approve Aspire Online Charter School and Good Foundations Academy.

Discussion was made regarding the cut score and the deciding line of approval. Clarification was requested on the voting process, with the given instructions to rank the schools 1-7, and using a 10 if there was feeling the school was not prepared for approval. Because of the voting clarification, Vice Chair Tom Morgan withdrew his second to the motion.

Substitute motion was made by Member John Pingree and Member Tim Beagley to revote with the clarified instructions. The motion was carried unanimously.

After the revote totals had been calculated, motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member John Pingree to recommend to the USBE to approve Aspire Online Charter School with an average vote of 1.0 and Good Foundations Academy with an average vote of 4.3. The motion was carried unanimously.

Utah Write

Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB that three to five charter schools have applied to be an assessment pilot here in the State of Utah. John Hancock Charter School is one of those schools. The pilot program required that all participating schools purchase My Access, a computer based writing assessment, and JHCS did. After purchasing the program, however, the Utah State Office of Education changed its mind and decided that Utah Write would be better, causing My Access to become obsolete and unnecessary. Unfortunately, due to this change in writing assessment

programs and the reduction of all public school budgets, JHCS is not able to afford the Utah Write program in addition to the already purchased My Access. Ms. Burns requested from the SCSB to purchase Utah Write for John Hancock Charter School so they can continue in the assessment pilot program, because due to no fault of their own, they purchased the program, and the state changed their mind of which program they would be using.

Member John Pingree suggested obtaining a formal request from John Hancock Charter School for assistance in purchasing Utah Write. Kim Frank, a sitting board member of John Hancock Charter School officially requested assistance in obtaining the assessment program. Motion was made by John Pingree to approve the request.

After much discussion and various motions, Member John Pingree withdrew his motion and requested action be taken next month, upon receiving a written request from John Hancock Charter School with the exact cost of the program.

Member Julie Adamic recused herself from this portion of the meeting.

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn at 2:40 p.m. by Member Scott Smith.