

Utah State Charter School Board Meeting
Minutes
April 23, 2007
North & South Board Rooms
Utah State Office of Education

APPROVED

Members present : Brian Allen, Julie Adamic, Eric Smith, Scott Smith, Joel Wright, John Pingree
Members excused: Barbara Killpack

Staff present: Marlies Burns, Gary Belliston, Jo Schmitt

Others present: Mark Cluff, Natalie Gordon, Jim Peterson, Janene Bowen, representatives from Providence Hall, Merit College Preparatory Academy, Venture Academy, Quest Academy, Rockwell Charter High School, Gateway Preparatory Academy, and Emerson Alcott Academy.

Call to Order

Chair Scott Smith called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Member Brian Allen and seconded by Member Julie Adamic to approve the minutes from the March 15, 2007 State Charter School Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Charter School Chair's Report

Chair Scott Smith stated he would forego the Charter School Board Chair's report because of timing.

School LAND Trust

Natalie Gordon, an employee of USOE working in the Trust Land Division, presented a summary of the progress reports and plans for half of the charter schools in the state, the remainder of the schools will be presented to the SCSB in their May meeting. Ms. Gordon informed the SCSB that if a school is not chartered through the state of Utah, but through a district, the district is currently working with the charter school to have their progress report and plan approved. Ms. Gordon informed the SCSB that the Trust Land Division monitors the School LAND Trust Program and proceeds from the permanent fund are distributed to the schools every year to help meet their most pressing academic needs.

Motion was made by Member Julie Adamic and seconded by Eric Smith to accept the School LAND Trust plans. The motion was carried unanimously.

Presentations of New Charter School Applicants

Chair Scott Smith informed the charter school applicants that final decisions for recommendations to the State Board of Education would not be made until the May 17, 2007 State Charter School Board Meeting. Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB of the rubric that will be used for scoring the charter school applicants. The areas that will be scored are location, innovation, need and urgency, confidence in the board, and fiscal health.

- Providence Hall-Representatives from Providence Hall presented to the SCSB the school's mission to guide students in realizing their full potential and provide them with the tools and confidence they need to achieve their dreams. Through an unparalleled educational program, students are enabled to create a better future for themselves and the world. Providence Hall's results-oriented learning environment fosters leaders and empowers students to live fulfilling, responsible, and successful lives. At Providence Hall students achieve academic excellence, become life-long learners, and create for them a life of distinction. Providence Hall will be a K-6 grade school located in the Jordan School District in Riverton/Herriman area.

Janene Bowen, from Jordan School District shared concerns Jordan School District has regarding charter schools. Some of those concerns consist of having sufficient credibility to ensure those schools receiving authorization will be viable, aligning instruction with the state core; provide innovative models that school districts can learn from; for addressing the needs of the state's most at-risk; and helping close the achievement gap. Ms. Bowen expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to work with the founding board of Providence Hall and their interest in seeking the district's input and support. She stated they revised their application and have addressed many of the concerns of the district. Some of those concerns were limiting the

percentage of founding members' children to 10%, including two elected members to their board out of the parent organization, and their enrollment timeline change in the need of a lottery. Ms. Bowen expressed the district's concern about the real need for this charter school, in the location chosen for Providence Hall because of equity issues related to access to the school, and the IB program in terms of being able to implement it and the founders knowledge of the program. Ms. Bowen stated that Jordan School District recommendation that the SCSB not recommend for authorization Providence Hall at this time and recommend the founders attend the introductory IB workshop prior to any reconsideration for authorization on the part of the SCSB. Jordan School District further recommended to not approve any additional charter school that intend to implement an IB Program until they have an opportunity to study the implementation process of currently authorized schools.

Member Brian Allen cautioned Providence Hall concerning their management contract. Mr. Allen questioned them if they had an opportunity to have the contract looked at by their attorney; to understand what the school's rights and obligations are, and what rights and obligations the management company has, regarding penalties and recourses. Paige Anderson informed the SCSB that they have had two separate attorneys look at the contract and have been given several suggestions and changes that have been taken to the management group and have changes made.

Member Julie Adamic questioned their goals of 100% of their teachers receiving IB training as well as Love and Logic costs, but was unable to see where the funds for those trainings were located in their budget. Ms. Anderson informed the SCSB that those training costs were spread throughout different parts of the budget, including the section of purchased professional services.

Ms. Adamic also questioned the cost for IB curriculum, not training. Ms. Anderson stated those costs are not separated out in the budget. Ms. Adamic questioned if they would be offering the IB training every year, to include new teachers. The SCSB was informed that yes, they would be offering the training every year.

Ms. Adamic questioned if the school would be receiving their own monthly allotment memo or would Excel, their management company, be receiving the memos. Ms. Anderson informed the SCSB that the school, as well as the management company will be receiving the allotment memos. Chair Scott Smith recommended the money flow to the school first and then to the management company.

Ms. Adamic questioned the school's at-will status. She stated the application does not mention them being an at-will employer and give due process. Ms. Anderson stated they plan on being an at-will employer, and intended it to be in their application.

Ms. Adamic cautioned the school regarding their declining to use Risk Management services, stating they have many resources available to the school that a private firm may not provide.

Member Joel Wright stated there are seven candidates [schools] applying for authorization with only a certain number of spots. Mr. Wright questioned if the school did not have 700 students, at what point would their financial model start collapsing or be materially harmed. Ms. Anderson stated the reason they chose 700 students was for financial purposes and they truly believe they will be the only charter school in that area and doesn't feel they will have any problem keeping the enrollment at 700. Chair Scott Smith clarified the concern of Mr. Wright's comment and question; if all seven applications that are presented today are approved, the state is minus 150-560 students; therefore not all seven applications can be approved at this time. The state office cannot approve an application with reduction of enrollment. The applicant would have to voluntarily reduce their enrollment, resubmit and request approval.

- Merit College Preparatory Academy-Representatives from Merit College Preparatory Academy presented to the SCSB the school's mission to prepare all students to achieve their highest potential as citizens in society by developing the knowledge and skills required to excel in higher education and by developing the knowledge and skills required for community leadership and social commitment. Merit College Preparatory Academy will be a 9-12 grade school located in the Nebo School District, in Springville.

Chair Scott Smith raised the concern over the amount of funds the developer would receive; "...that the lease will increase each year at the same rate as the increase in WPU funding". Mr. Mike Griffiths explained they have scaled down the lease agreement from their previous application, and the Memorandum of Understanding that is now in the charter is the agreement they had at the time, but things have changed since the charter was written and the builder will use a different method. Mr. Griffiths also stated this Memorandum of Understanding is a "worse case scenario". Chair Smith questioned what their new method entailed. Mr. Griffiths informed the SCSB that the contractor receive a bond while they build, and once the students are in the classroom that can be transferred to the school, or worse case, one year of lease, and then transferred. The budget is based on the new understanding with the developer. Member Julie Adamic requested new documentation concerning the new lease agreement between Merit College Preparatory Academy and the builder/developer.

Chair Scott Smith questioned their at-will status. The SCSB was informed they had included at-will status in their revised charter and an appeals process was removed. Member Eric Smith informed the representatives from Merit College Preparatory Academy that if there were any type of appeals process in their employee contract, they were no longer considered at-will status.

Chair Scott Smith questioned founders/board members receiving a salary. The SCSB was informed that when the decision of who would fill the position of the director of the school, and if it were the founder, that person would step down before receiving any funds because of conflict of interest issues. Chair Smith also questioned the amount of salary for the director, stating he felt it was higher than typical. Member Julie Adamic suggested the school take the principal/director salary and split it with a business manager. Ms. Adamic stated their plan does not allow for a business manager, but she recommended they have one in their first year of operation.

Member Joel Wright inquired if the school had athletic plans for the school. The SCSB was informed the school would be offering some sports, but would not offer football because of the liability and cost. Member Julie Adamic questioned if the school has an agreement with Nebo School District regarding sports. The SCSB was informed that at this time there is no plan in place.

Member Joel Wright inquired of those representing Merit College Preparatory Academy who has had previous charter school experience. The SCSB was informed that Jennifer Theobald and Michael Griffiths have both been involved with Reagan Academy.

Member Julie Adamic stated she felt the school was using very pricey means of advertising; billboards, yellow book pages etc. but those amounts were not reflected in their budget. The SCSB was informed that it depends on the contract one has with companies, and bill boards also donate their spare time to non-profit organizations.

Member Julie Adamic questioned the salary for their specialized assistants. Ms. Adamic cautioned they may not find highly qualified specialized assistants willing to work for a low rate. The SCSB was informed they plan on using university undergraduates that work at a lower rate, but have a university level of knowledge.

Member Julie Adamic questioned their process of promoting the student that does not meet the 90% mastery. The SCSB was informed their plan is for those students that do not meet the 90% mastery will have opportunities to increase class scores by doing extra papers and/or hands-on projects that show mastery of the subject that are agreed upon by the teacher.

Member Julie Adamic inquired if their Board of Trustees and Founding Council were one in the same. The SCSB was informed that the Founding Council becomes the Board of Trustees after the school has been approved and in operation.

Member Julie Adamic questioned not finding a media specialist salary in the budget. The SCSB was informed the media specialist salary is included in the faculty salary budget.

Member Julie Adamic questioned their food services; there is mention in their plan to provide lunch, but is not listed in the budget. The SCSB was informed that they expect the food services to be a self-sufficient unit and has their own budget.

- Venture Academy-Representative from Venture Academy presented to the SCSB the school's mission to inspire the rising generation to reach the heights of their potential, ignite their curiosity to venture into challenging new learning experiences, and through service, empower them to be leaders who are committed to family and community. Then they can achieve their dreams and shape their world. Venture Academy will be a K-8 grade school located in the Weber School District.

Chair Scott Smith stated in their budget it reflects Federal Start-Up funds, however it had been requested those funds be removed from your budget. The SCSB was informed that they had removed several items from their budget, but had opted to not remove the start-up funds.

Member Joel Wright questioned how Venture Academy would reach students that are less financially advantageous. The SCSB was informed they are covering areas of low income and minority communities and finding most of the interested parents are coming from those areas. Also passing out flyers and distributing to different diverse communities with a very large land area.

Member John Pingree inquired of their contact and discussions with Weber School District. The SCSB was informed they have met with the Weber School District and have invited them to participate in their professional development activities.

Chair Scott Smith asked about site location, building, and contractor. The SCSB was informed they would like to use the same contractors, based in Logan, that built Entheos Academy because they were able to give them a lease at \$12 square foot, come in on time, under budget and then give them an option to purchase the building within five years at a certain percentage over cost.

Member Julie Adamic cautioned Venture Academy about having three family members on their board, informing them it could be perceived as a conflict with parents. Ms. Adamic also questioned their two board structure. The SCSB was informed one of the two boards is strictly an advisory board, with no voting or governance responsibilities, relying on them for information and guidance. Ms. Adamic questioned if they were planning on giving the advisory board founding preference. She was given the answer that some of them would be given founding member status.

Director Marlies Burns stated their application addresses having an employee twelve months prior to their opening. She questioned how do they plan on paying for that employee? The SCSB was informed they have a perspective individual that is on their advisory board that they would like to become their CAO. He would be a volunteer for six months and then consult for 3-4 months. Ms. Burns again asked how they planned on paying for that at-will letter of agreement or consulting individual prior to receiving state funds. She was given the answer that they would most likely acquire a loan or supply the money themselves. Ms. Burns suggested they change the language in their charter that states having a part-time employee for six months moving to a full-time employee for the next six months.

- Quest Academy-Representatives from Quest Academy presented to the SCSB the school's mission to provide students a challenging, technology rich environment, enabling young citizens to become leaders prepared for the challenges of an evolving global community. Quest Academy will be a K-9 grade school located in the Weber School District.

Member Joel Wright questioned the jump in their rent from year one to year two. The SCSB was informed the first year is a partial year, a school year, which is not an entire twelve months.

Member Joel Wright inquired about the possibility of the school having smaller classes in grades 7, 8 and 9, and what would be the affect? The SCSB was informed they would be willing to entertain that idea if it was a necessity, but they were more concerned with helping the students than making sure they are at enrollment capacity. Quest Academy suggested a compromise to phase in the upper grades and ballooning up to capacity. Chair Scott Smith again stated that if the SCSB recommended all seven charter school applicants, the enrollment number would be 160 students above the allowed number of students. Mr. Smith stated that the SCSB can only recommend or not recommend to the State Board of Education applications as they are presented, without any recommended changes to their charter.

Member Julie Adamic questioned what the management company would provide to the school for the \$400 a student fee they were requiring. The SCSB was informed that that amount was based on dialogue they had with other charter schools.

Member Joel Wright asked if there would be an option for them to buy their building. The SCSB was informed they didn't anticipate an option to buy the building would be included in their lease, but if the finances make sense, certainly they would like to have the asset of the building.

Information

Director Marlies Burns presented to the SCSB a chart reflecting the Maximum Student Enrollment the 2008-2009 school year of 5000 students in HB 164. The Charter School Office had gone back through all the existing schools enrollments and made adjustments based on requests that have already been approved. The chart shows a requested ultimate enrollment total of 4225 students; showing a negative of 155 students, which does not allow for any expansions of existing schools. Member Julie Adamic questioned Director Burns of the number of schools that have expressed an interest in expanding. Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB that the deadline is May 31, 2007 and has not necessarily heard of any school that is looking to expand, but doesn't have the belief that there will be no one looking to expand. Ms. Burns did however state that Thomas Edison desires to have a satellite school, so there would be potential expansion.

Director Marlies Burns reminded the SCSB of the committees that will have their first meeting, May 17 at 8:00 a.m. The four committees that will be meeting are lead by Brian Allen, Scott Smith, John Pingree and Barbara Killpack. Ms. Burns stated she has sent out requests for participation on these committees to any charter individual, with limiting it to one representative per school.

Director Marlies Burns stated she feels very badly about the confusion of this meeting. She said when the Charter School Office had made reminder phone calls, we were told there was more than one member of the board that had no idea the meeting had been changed. Ms. Burns stated she had sent out the information in a letter, but asked what would be the best way to communicate with the board. Email was the suggested form of communication, because of that information to get to them immediately after she has been informed of issues. In addition, it was suggested to put the critical information in all caps, and at the beginning of the email.

Director Burns informed the SCSB that she had sent a letter via email on March 17, 2007 to Liberty Academy, a letter that the SCSB had instructed her to send requesting them to turn in their specific amendment request for the April meeting. Liberty Academy has not submitted their amendment as requested and the school is not being compliant with the SCSB request. Chair Scott Smith offered to visit with the school personally. Gary Belliston stated he feels Mike Brockbank, who has been in contact with the AG's office, and no

longer desires to step down, because of a line in HB 164 that states the CAO is the only person on the board that can have a contract with their school.

Director Burns also stated Gary Belliston had completed a follow-up with the new schools planning to open in the 2007-08 school year regarding their facilities and felt they are track for being in their facilities at the beginning of the school year. It was reported that member Julie Adamic attended the ground breaking of C.S. Lewis Academy; Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy is refurbishing a bowling alley; Dual Immersion Academy is remodeling the Glendale Shopping Center. Also, Walden School is having difficulty with their new facility but are in contact with an attorney that should help them get the necessary permission and permits.

Director Burns informed the SCSB that two different press releases were put out last week. One for virtual charter school applicants and the second a call for applicants for the 2009-2010 school year, letting them know again of the importance of attending the mandatory training. Ms. Burns was questioned if she knew of any virtual charter schools ready to apply. She stated she has heard nothing official, but has had information from the authorizing agent for the virtual charter school application that was previously submitted will be resubmitting that application.

Presentations of New Charter School Applicants cont.

- Rockwell Charter High School-Representatives from Rockwell Charter High School presented to the SCSB the school's mission to assist students in obtaining the tools which will lead to academic, social, and career success by providing a supportive community that fosters student inquiry and discovery and empowers students to take responsibility for their own education. Rockwell Charter High School will be a 9-12 grade school, located in Saratoga Springs, in the Alpine School District.

Member Eric Smith stated he felt the facilities money allotted in their budget, seemed excessive. The SCSB was informed that they had intentionally went high on their facilities budget, but because land being less expensive in their area, hopefully they will not have to go that high for adequate facilities.

Chair Scott Smith inquired of the need for two directors. The SCSB was informed the school plans on a director and an assistant director, but on the budget sheet itself, it states administration costs.

Chair Scott Smith inquired also about the grants and donations that are stated in the application. Mr. Smith pointed out that if they did not receive the grants and donations, they would be in a negative cash flow. The SCSB was informed they feel confident that with fund raising or writing grants they will be able to obtain at least the amount or additional funds that is allotted in the budget. The independent auditor that had set up the budget was unavailable for the meeting, but those that were present felt the amount in the budget was for the third year start-up money. The SCSB was informed they are fully aware they need to operate within the allotted funds.

Member Julie Adamic requested the representatives for Rockwell Charter High School to discuss their governance structure. Darren Beck informed the SCSB they had combined the Board of Trustees and School Council to create one tier instead of having two structures governing the school. They have opted for one level of executive oversight for the day to day management. Ms. Adamic recommended the school's by-laws be changed to reflect the one tier governance structure.

Member Julie Adamic questioned the schools goals stating "significant growth" with no definition of significant. The SCSB was informed that "significant" referred to one year's academic growth.

Member Julie Adamic questioned if they have had any discussion with Alpine School District regarding athletics. The SCSB was informed the charter application had been given to the district, but any communication from the district had referred them back to the state. Their plan at this time is to have their own athletics, with smaller programs, based on the student interest.

Member Julie Adamic requested an explanation of the Friday's schedule with the clubs, projects and tutoring. The SCSB was informed in addition to the lunch time mentoring, Friday's would include more mentoring time, and become club day, special projects, and service learning, to provide a more ample opportunity for those students needing more remediation and help with school work; the classroom teachers become the mentors and helping with remediation.

Member Julie Adamic questioned their at-will status. She stated with the school giving the employee a certain time frame by which they can dispute an issue or grievance or ten days for written complaint and the way your application is written actually jeopardizes their at-will status. The SCSB was informed because of the concerns raised, they will revise that portion of the application stating they do not want to endanger at-will status and will contact an employment attorney so the wording is corrected.

Member Joel Wright questioned why the decision was made to offer grades 9-12 instead of the configuration of grades 10-12 that is typically offered in the Alpine School District. The SCSB was informed the reason for the 9-12 grade configuration

was because of the budgeting based on numbers of students, they felt it would let them offer a fuller depth and breadth of opportunity for the students.

Chair Scott Smith cautioned Rockwell Charter School Academy about their statement in their application of never exceeding 20% of founding board members children attending the school; he stated there is no number set by law, but states a “small amount”. Mr. Smith stressed keeping the number of founding members’ children attending the school to a small amount.

- Gateway Preparatory Academy-Representatives from Gateway Preparatory Academy presented to the SCSB the school’s mission to provide children with a competency based classical education with an emphasis on the tools of learning and using practical applications for learning opportunities; also, to provide individual attention and second language acquisition in a safe, respectful, disciplined, and supportive environment. Gateway Preparatory Academy will be a K-8 grade school located in Enoch, in Iron School District.

Director Marlies Burns related Iron School District’s feelings and comments regarding Gateway Preparatory Academy to the SCSB. Ms. Burns informed the SCSB that Gateway Preparatory Academy had changed their charter from their initial application which was K-12 to a K-8 school based on recommendations and meeting with other schools in the area. Superintendent Johnson expressed his support to charter schools in that they provide alternatives to interested students and families.

Chair Scott Smith suggested Gateway Preparatory Academy change the grade configuration in the Articles of Incorporation portion of the application. It states the school is a K-12 school, instead of K-8. Their response was they would make that correction in their application.

Chair Scott Smith inquired if they have chosen a management team with which to work. The SCSB was informed they are still negotiating and looking for the best option, but haven’t made final decisions.

Member Joel Wright asked what the typical high school grade configuration was in Iron School District. The SCSB was informed that in Iron School District’s high schools are grades 9-12. Mr. Wright commended Gateway Preparatory Academy for filling their 8th grade slowly and feels they are wise for that decision.

Member Julie Adamic questioned how Core Knowledge and a Montessori concept could meld together. The SCSB was informed that in the beginning the school will be working strictly with a Montessori model and then will be transitioning into an integrated interdisciplinary program, which is Core Knowledge. The early grades are purely Montessori and the later grades are not Montessori and the transition takes place in between.

Member Julie Adamic questioned if the classrooms would be multi-age classrooms. The SCSB was informed that if the student was a first grade student, they would be registered in the first grade, which is a level one, and if their mathematic skills are not at first grade level competencies, then the teacher will work with the other teachers in that team to make sure those problems are being addressed. Each student could be enrolled in several different levels of understanding and have a specific mentor that would be aware and could address their problems. The ratio of student to mentor is 1 to 25. Ms. Adamic cautioned Gateway Preparatory Academy of being able to hire highly qualified teacher assistants at the low salary stated in their budget.

Member Julie Adamic expressed she felt the school’s goals are very vague and general, with nothing measurable, only stating competency or competent use.

Chair Scott Smith questioned what the school has to offer the student that does not master each lesson at 100%. The SCSB informed the student works in a competency form. Once the student masters the concept they move to the next level. The teachers have the ability to adjust and work with the model, if the student doesn’t have the ability to fully reach 100%.

Member Julie Adamic questioned their governing board having as few as three members. The SCSB was informed they will have a minimum of three, but looking at having seven members. Chair Scott Smith recommended the school to have a minimum of five. Ms. Adamic also questioned if all board positions were elected. The answer was given as ultimately yes, all board positions are elected. The SCSB was also informed that four to five of the initial board would stay at the beginning of school and two to three elected positions once school opens, and then staggered board terms.

Member Julie Adamic cautioned Gateway Preparatory Academy that once the school opens, if Aime DiBrienza were to be hired as a teacher, it would be problematic for a founder to be a teacher of the school. The SCSB was informed that if Ms. DiBrienza were to be hired, she would resign from the board. Ms. Adamic reminded her she is a founder, and would be a better fit to be a director than a fellow peer.

Director Marlies Burns commented that the Charter School Office understood that David Harris was the point of contact because he was named as the authorized agent for Gateway Preparatory Academy, but the Charter School Office had been

contacted by multiple board members showing they had not communicated with each other first regarding who was going to contact the state office. It is an area of concern to the Charter School Office that Gateway Preparatory Academy seems to have a lack of communication amongst their board.

Member Joel Wright questioned what grades are in a traditional Jr. High in Iron School District. The SCSB was informed that 6, 7 and 8 grades are served in a Jr. High in Irons School District. Mr. Wright asked Gateway Preparatory Academy if the school only had 50 students in 6, 7 and 8 grade, what the effect would be on the school. The SCSB was informed the biggest criteria would be financial and then they would need to consider bubbling up students in the younger grades to keep financially afloat and reduce the 6, 7 and 8 grade enrollment in the initial years.

Member Julie Adamic requested Gateway Preparatory Academy to provide the competencies through 6th grade aligned with state standards regarding Montessori and Core Knowledge to clarify the school's educational model. Director Marlies Burns requested them to be sent through the state office so it could be disseminated to the entire SCSB. Ms. Burns also suggested Gateway Preparatory Academy to include that documentation in their application under Section 24 to be included in their permanent charter. Ms. Burns reminded Gateway Preparatory Academy the changes to their charter must be submitted to the Charter School Office no later than May 2, 2007.

- Emerson Alcott Academy-Representatives from Emerson Alcott Academy presented to the SCSB the school's mission to elevate students to their greatest potential by enhancing core curriculum with literature, fine arts, and creativity; to navigate students on a course to success while learning to enjoy the journey. Emerson Alcott Academy will be a K-6 grade school located in Roosevelt, in Duchesne School District.

Member Joel Wright questioned Emerson Alcott Academy why they feel the local schools in their area are doing so poorly. The SCSB was informed that one area the schools in the area are doing poorly is poor management and they feel Emerson Alcott Academy can make a change.

Member Joel Wright questioned the possibility of busing students from Vernal to Roosevelt to attend the charter school. The SCSB was informed that currently there is no transportation included in the school and would encourage car pooling, but would help facilitate a car pooling program.

Member Brian Allen questioned if they have a sense of how many parents actually drive their children to school or are they relying on the school district busing. The SCSB was informed that most parents do drive their children to and from school every day. Some parents are also driving their children to Vernal to attend school there.

Member Eric Smith questioned what the head count for grades K-8 in the area. The SCSB was informed there are 600 students in grades K-3 in Roosevelt elementary schools.

Chair Scott Smith questioned if there were any contingency plans in place if the school did not get the enrollment they are counting on in their budget. The SCSB was informed that they will find the students, go door to door, they have several marketing plans. They plan to educate people about charter schools, educate people about Emerson Alcott Academy, and inform the public that Emerson Alcott is not part of the local school district, but a district of their own.

Member John Pingree questioned their perspective business donors and inquired of the amount they feel would be raised. The SCSB was informed that Emerson Alcott Academy has approached the management of businesses, and has working relationships or acquaintances with those businesses. The SCSB was informed that purchasing acreage and subdividing is the most likely option for their budget to succeed.

Member Eric Smith also questioned how they plan on obtaining the finances as a brand new school to purchase property and if using a management company, how do they feel there is enough funds in the budget. The SCSB was informed they are currently working with different investors with different options.

Member Julie Adamic recommended making a language change in their statement of only hiring highly qualified teachers by stating they would only hire appropriate licensed teachers.

Member Julie Adamic questioned the measurements regarding their goals; there are no academic measurements, excluding the area of science. The SCSB was informed they would fix that part of their application.

Member Julie Adamic questioned if the school was starting out as a K-6 grade school, and moving to K-8, would the school always be a self-contained model K-8 school. The SCSB was informed that at this time the elementary teachers would be teaching 7th and 8th grade.

Member Julie Adamic suggested adding the complaint procedure for Special Education to their charter. Ms. Adamic reminded Emerson Alcott Academy that a typical complaint procedure is different from a Special Education complaint procedure.

Discussion

- Positions of Charter School Board Members

Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB that Brian Allen and Julie Adamic's terms end on May 4, 2007. Ms. Burns also informed the SCSB the governor has stated he does not want lobbyists on boards and that has been confirmed by his office. Their intent at this point is to reappoint Julie Adamic for a full term and replace Brian Allen with an individual from the charter school community at large. After discussion, it was determined that Brian Allen was nominated by the business community and not the charter school community. The decision was made to contact Christine Kearn from the Governor's office to determine what information that office has concerning the terms, nominations and appointments of the members of the State Charter School Board.

- Modification of R277-470

Director Marlies Burns presented the recommended changes to R277-470 that will be presented to the State Board of Education in their May 3rd, 2007 meeting.

Motion was made by Member Eric Smith and seconded by Member Brian Allen to make recommendation to the State Board of Education regarding rule changes to R277-470 that were presented. The motion was carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn at 3:00 p.m.