

Utah State Charter School Board Meeting
Minutes
June 15, 2006
North & South Board Rooms
Utah State Office of Education

APPROVED

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

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

Others present: Ray Timothy, Mark Cluff, Larry Newton, Steve Winitsky, Susan Soliel, Kim Frank, Janene Bowen, representatives from Thomas Edison – Ogden Valley, Venture Academy, Providence Hall, New Horizons Academy, and Dixie Preparatory Academy

Media present: Tiffany Erickson, Celia Baker

Call to Order

Vice Chair Scott Smith called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Swearing in of New Charter School Board Member

Deputy Superintendent Ray Timothy swore John Pingree in as a new member of the State Charter School Board.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Member Brian Allen and seconded by Member Eric Smith to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2006 State Charter School Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Action Items

Director John Broberg presented to the State Charter School Board the meeting schedule for FY2007. He pointed out the schedule reflected meetings held every third Thursday of each month, with no meeting held in the month of December. Motion was made by Member Brian Allen and seconded by Member Julie Adamic to approve the proposed schedule. The motion was carried unanimously.

Discussion Items

Director John Broberg informed that State Charter School Board that rule R277-470 was on the agenda because of the need to make changes to include more parental involvement in the governance of Utah's Charter Schools. Additional issues were brought up because of requested changes to charters. One of those issues regarded satellite charter schools vs. expansion charter schools. Deputy Superintendent Ray Timothy informed the State Charter School Board that the State Board of Education took action in their last meeting to approve R277-470 on first and second reading. The State Board of Education took that action because of the State Charter School Board's recommendation to approve the first ten sections of the rule. The State Board of Education did not approve Section 11 which pertains to expansions of approved charter schools. Mr. Timothy informed the State Charter School Board that he and Carol Lear, Director of the Government and Legislation Relations Section at USOE, have received input from State Charter School Board Members, the Charter School Community and the

State Office of Education Board Members. Mr. Timothy went through the suggested changes of the Board Rule with the State Charter School Board and asked for comments and suggestions be made before the State Office of Education's August Board Meeting.

After much discussion the State Charter School Board made the decision to have suggestions and recommendations concerning R277-470-11 to Ray Timothy and Carol Lear before the State Charter School's July 20th Board Meeting, so the rule could be reworked and be presented to the State Board of Education in their August 4th meeting.

Vice Chair Scott Smith informed the State Charter School Board that the SCSB has been asked by the Utah State Board of Education to compile State Charter School By-Laws. Gary Belliston, Accountant in the Charter School Section at USOE presented to the State Charter School Board a partial State Charter School Board By-Laws document for their review. Director John Broberg informed the State Charter School Board that the By-Laws that were being presented were developed from the Utah State Board of Education By-Laws and from the Utah Charter School Rule.

Deputy Superintendent Ray Timothy informed the State Charter School Board that the State Board of Education will be having a Work Session on October 5th that will focus on Charter Schools. In that work session the State Board of Education wants to have a better understanding of the role of the State Charter School Board; to review the statutory responsibilities the State Charter School Board has been given; to review the Charter School By-Laws, (operational procedures of how the board is organized and operates); the philosophical statement of the purpose of a charter school; and the criteria being used to recommend approval of a charter school.

Thomas Edison-South Charter School Amendment

Representatives from Thomas Edison-South informed the State Charter School Board of the amendment request to their charter. The school is requesting to change the number of board members from 7 to 5 and to change the board selection process.

Motion was made by Member Brian Allen and seconded by Member Julie Adamic to approve the proposed amendment to change the number of board members and board selection process of Thomas Edison-South Charter School. The motion was carried unanimously.

Thomas Edison-Ogden Valley

Representatives from Thomas Edison-Ogden Valley informed the State Charter School Board that the school would serve grades K-8, and be located in Eden, Utah. The mission of the school is to provide all students the fundamental knowledge, tools, and discipline to become successful, reputable citizens in our country and to become high achievers in our evolving, demanding, and complex society. This mission is carried out through a stimulating academic curriculum, focused on elemental skills development, in a structured classroom environment, with strong parental involvement.

Members Brian Allen and John Pingree questioned the school's financial statement and the results and success of the other Cache Valley Thomas Edison Charter Schools.

Venture Academy

Representatives from Venture Academy informed the State Charter School Board that the school would serve grades K-8, and be located in Ogden, Utah. The mission of the school is to inspire the rising generation to reach the heights of their potential, ignite their curiosity to venture into challenging new learning experiences, and to empower them to be leaders through service, who are committed to family and community.

Members Barbara Killpack, Brian Allen, and Julie Adamic inquired of the school's teacher development program, timeline in regards to their facility, and if their intended program of Expeditionary Learning has correlation with state standards.

Providence Hall

Representatives from Providence Hall informed the State Charter School Board that the school would serve grades K-9, and be located in Riverton, Utah. The mission of the school is to guide students into realizing their full potential and provide them the tools and confidence they need to achieve their dreams. Through an unparalleled educational program, students create a better future for themselves and the world. The school's result-oriented learning environment creates leaders and empowers students to live fulfilling, responsible, and successful lives. As the students achieve academic excellence, they become life-long learners, and create for themselves a life of distinction.

Janene Bowen, from Jordan School District, expressed the district's concerns. Ms. Bowen referred to letter sent by the Jordan School District. In that letter the concerns pertained to Providence Hall's governance, curriculum and instructional program, IB application/implementation, lottery, and Special Education.

Members Brian Allen, Barbara Killpack, Julie Adamic and Vice Chair Scott Smith expressed their concerns of the school's Special Education Plan, the founding board's role once the school begins operation, their Dual Language Program, the school's math program, a second campus, and their plans to include grade 9.

New Horizons Academy

Representatives from new Horizons Academy informed the State Charter School Board that the school would serve grades K-8, and be located in Kaysville, Utah. The mission of the school is to provide the environment, resources and support to assist students and their families in their educational pursuits. Through participation in the school's programs they are empowered and fully self expressed in their learning as they identify personal talents and abilities, set and accomplish academic goals and develop personal character.

Members Eric Smith, Brian Allen, Barbara Killpack, and Julie Adamic expressed their concerns of the No Child Left Behind status of the area, use of Saxon Math, budget concerns, parental involvement, the school's library budget, partnering with other schools, the school's organizational chart missing in application, student classroom size, and the school's curriculum program.

Dixie Preparatory Academy

Representatives from Dixie Preparatory Academy informed the State Charter School Board that the school would serve grades K-7, and be located in Washington, Utah. The mission of the school is to provide a well-rounded educational experience that will prepare critically thinking, socially capable, and culturally aware young adults who can use English and Spanish as tools for success in the 21st century. The school seeks to inspire a love of learning and to instill a strong sense of moral behavior through discipline, high standards of excellence, and parental involvement.

Members Brian Allen, Barbara Killpack, and Julie Adamic expressed their concerns regarding funding for Special Education teachers, the school's dual language program, teacher recruiting process and salary, the school calendar, "school within a school" computer intervention program, election process for board members, reading endorsement, professional development, ability grouping, and at-will employees.

Adjourn:

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 p.m. by Eric Smith.