

Utah State Charter School Board Meeting
Minutes
June 11, 2009
Law & Justice Center

APPROVED

Members present: Julie Adamic, Brian Allen, Tom Morgan, John Pingree, Scott Smith

Members excused: Tim Beagley, Yolanda Francisco-Nez

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

Others present: Representatives from Utah Virtual Academy, Joel Wright, Mary Gifford, Paul Glanton

Call to Order

Chair Brian Allen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Member Tom Morgan and seconded by Member John Pingree to approve the minutes from the May 14, 2009 State Charter School Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Board Chair Report

Chair Brian Allen informed the SCSB that he had attended a charter school graduation. Mr. Allen stated that it was a moving experience to listen to the students talk about their experience at their school and what it meant to them personally and to see the level of bonding that occurs at charter schools.

Chair Allen stated the law administration has authorized an increased funding to charter schools in the form of grants. Mr. Allen informed the SCSB that Secretary of Education, Mr. Duncan stated that the law administration is going to prioritize the money in states where there are no caps on charter schools and where there is a more supportive environment.

Information Items

Application update 2011-2012

Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB that there were seven charter school applications that were recommended to move forward in the approval process, and all seven have submitted revised applications. After much discussion, the decision was made for existing schools that were requesting amendments to present their request in the SCSB August meeting and the new charter school applications present in the September and October Board Meetings.

Report on waivers requested for the USBE

Member Julie Adamic informed the SCSB that the USBE has approved many waiver requests, but feels the requests that have been approved are not significant waivers. She went on to state that any substantial or significant changes have been denied by the USBE. Ms. Adamic stated she feels there is no different innovation or different program requested changes to charters being approved by the USBE. Ms. Adamic also stated she feels the charter schools are continually being forced to look like district schools, when they are trying to promote innovation. Ms. Adamic requested suggestions from the SCSB ways to help the USBE understand why waivers would be a good thing for the state charter schools. Chair Brian Allen stated he feels if there are no significant waivers requested, we cannot fault the USBE. He feels there needs to be discussion between the SCSB and USBE as to why the USBE has denied the requests and the SCSB has approved those requests. Member Scott Smith suggested meeting with the USBE and informing them of different and great innovations that are being successful in other states. Mr. Smith also suggested that the USBE would love to see some innovation, but when they are presented with the requests, they are not certain how to react to those requests; because there has not been conversation beforehand. Director Marlies Burns stated she feels there is a

lack of explanation of the request from the documentation that is given to the USBE. Ms. Burns suggested adding more to the charter school requirements when asking for an amendment by showing the research based reason for asking for the amendment and/or explaining why it is good for their school.

Demonstration on how virtual schools work-Utah Virtual Academy

Jeff Herr, head of school for the Utah Virtual Academy, and other representatives from the school presented a demonstration about Utah Virtual Academy.

Action Items

Board Standing Committee Reports

- Rule Review Committee-Julie Adamic discussed concerns and recommended changes with R277-470. After much discussion, motion was made by Member Julie Adamic and seconded by Vice-Chair Scott Smith to approve the proposed rules with amended language. The motion was carried unanimously.
- Accountability Committee-Tom Morgan reported that the committee met and discussed the next steps needed by the committee to continue in the accountability process.

Board leadership elections

Member Julie Adamic nominated Brian Allen for Chair of the SCSB, seconded by Member John Pingree. Member Scott Smith nominated Tom Morgan for Chair, seconded by Member Tim Beagley, via phone conference. The vote was tied with three members voting for Brian Allen as Chair and three members voting for Tom Morgan as Chair. Member Tom Morgan recommended withdrawing his name for nomination as Chair and be placed as Vice-Chair and have Brian Allen remain as Chair for FY10. Because of no other names nominated for Chair, by acclamation Brian Allen would remain Chair of the State Charter School Board for one more year. Member Scott Smith nominated Member Tom Morgan for Vice-Chair; Member Julie Adamic seconded the nomination. With no other nominations for Vice-Chair, by acclamation Tom Morgan will hold the office of Vice-Chair for the SCSB for FY10.

Facility decision for schools scheduled to open fall 2009

Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB that representatives from the charter schools that will be opening in fall 2009 have been invited to the Board Meeting to give an update to the SCSB as to the progress of the school's facility. Excelsior Academy, Vista at Entrada, American Preparatory Academy-School for New Americans, Early Light Academy, Hawthorn Academy, and Oquirrh Mountain Charter School are the schools that are scheduled for opening. After the presentations, the SCSB felt all schools are in line for opening and can move forward as planned and will not have to move to their contingency plans.

Executive Session

Motion was made by Vice Chair Tom Morgan and seconded by Member Scott Smith to move into an executive session for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. The Board was polled and by unanimous consent of those present the Board moved into an executive session at 2:00 p.m.

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member Julie Adamic to reconvene into open meeting. Motion carried with Members Brian Allen, Julie Adamic, John Pingree, Tom Morgan, and Scott Smith voting in favor; Members Tim Beagley and Yolanda Francisco-Nez absent. The board reconvened at 3:40 p.m.

Strategic Planning Session

Ellen Richardson led a discussion regarding goals, objectives, measurements and implementation strategies for Charter Schools and the Charter School Board as it relates to Total Quality Management.

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn at 4:30 p.m.