

Utah State Charter School Board Meeting
Minutes
November 20, 2008
North & South Board Rooms
Utah State Office of Education

APPROVED

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

Staff present: Marlies Burns, Paul Crawford, Mark Long, Jeannie Rowland, Jo Schmitt

Others present: Superintendent Patti Harrington, Mark Cluff, Tim Slocum, Kathy Clements, Larry Smith, Carolyn Sharette, Robert Dowdle, Sol Garcia, Lance Davis, Tom Pitcher

Call to Order

Chair Brian Allen called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Public Comment

Lance Davis – Monticello Academy, expressed his concerns regarding the administration of Monticello Academy.

Robert Dowdle – Canyons School District, expressed the Canyons School District Board is neither opposed to nor in favor of Summit Academy's proposal for expansion. Mr. Dowdle informed the SCSB the piece of land named in the Summit Academy's proposal is the same piece of land the Canyons School District is going to conduct a feasibility study prior to considering building a school on that property. Mr. Dowdle also stated the district is looking forward to a positive working relationship to all charter schools located in the Canyons School District.

Tom Pitcher – Hallmark School Development, expressed his concerns regarding the financial crisis in regards to financing new charter schools. Mr. Pitcher made a proposal for the SCSB to consider forming a finance committee to study ideas and processes that schools can consider while making plans for operation.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member Tim Beagley to approve the minutes from the October 22, 2008 State Charter School Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Charter School Board Chair Report

Chair Brian Allen expressed his concerns regarding the upcoming Legislative Session and the pressures regarding funding. Mr. Allen informed the SCSB that the Legislature has asked the USOE to look at \$73 million in cuts. He stated that he feels that is a significant amount of money to cut out of a budget and suggested the SCSB help with solutions and not add to the problems of budget cuts.

Board Standing Committee Reports:

- Rule Review Committee: Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB that no committee members were in attendance, therefore there were no recommendations coming forward to the SCSB for consideration.

Information Items:

- Presentation of demographic data for 2007-2008 – Paul Crawford distributed a demographic comparison spreadsheet showing the population changes within the charter schools, how they are matching up with district schools and how they are progressing as far as addressing certain populations. Mr. Crawford

stated the comparison shows overall the charter schools are increasing racial diversity as well as economically disadvantaged and special education population.

- Purchase agreements –Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB that along with the purchase agreements, Mark Long checks for completion against the self-monitoring checklist that was created for new charter schools. Ms. Burns stated the Charter School Section does not give schools advice, only ensures completion of the checklist.
- Facilities update for schools opening in 2009-2010 - Mark Long distributed facilities information and the progress regarding the schools that will be opening in 2009-2010 and stated he feels the schools are proceeding reasonably well.

Action Items:

- Bear River Charter School (formerly Cache Valley Learning Center) recommendation – Motion was made by Member John Pingree and seconded by Vice Chair Scott Smith to recommend for approval Bear River Charter School’s application for operation in the 2010-2011 school year. The motion was carried unanimously.
- Summit Academy recommendation – Motion was made by Vice Chair Scott Smith and seconded by Member John Pingree to recommend for approval Summit Academy’s amendment to their charter, with the motion to include a variance on the site location rule. The motion was carried unanimously.
- NUAMES-changes to charter application – Motion was made by Member John Pingree and seconded by Vice Chair Scott Smith to recommend for approval the changes to the school’s charter application. The motion was carried unanimously.
- Revolving Loan Committee Recommendation-Beehive Science & Technology Academy – Motion was made by Member Tim Beagley and seconded by Member Tom Morgan to recommend for approval Beehive Science & Technology Academy’s revolving loan application. The motion was carried unanimously.

Director Marlies Burns presented to the SCSB a revised Charter School Revolving Loan Application for their information, review and recommendations.

- Response to USBA/USSA/USABO Joint Legislative Committee key decisions – Chair Brian Allen stated his concerns regarding the budget cut recommendations by the comment to freeze charter school expansions in 2010. Mark Cluff of the SBE informed the SCSB that the State Finance Committee and then approved by the SBE to agree with all recommendations, except the freezing of charter school expansions.
- R277-101-4 Reconsideration of previous Board action – Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB that the State Board realized they do not have a rule to reconsider their own actions and asked for any feedback the SCSB would like her to report to the SBE. Chair Brian Allen stated he felt the SCSB is in support of the reconsideration of the SBE action.
- R277-462-3(A)(5) Comprehensive Counseling and Guidance Program Approval and Qualifying Criteria – Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB schools that receive funding, are required to have an onsite review. Ms. Burns stated she has asked the SBE to include the language that they would charge charter schools in accordance with how traditional schools are charged for accreditation with other program models.
- Accountability Committee Recommendation-Changes in accountability process – Member Tom Morgan presented an Accountability Committee proposal for the accreditation process. Motion was made by Vice Chair Scott Smith and seconded by Member Tim Beagley to request the UAPCS to communicate with Tom Morgan to investigate different accreditation possibilities and report back to the SCSB in their January meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.
- Communications Committee Recommendation – deferred until January’s meeting when Member Yolanda Francisco-Nez would be in attendance.

Director Burns informed the SCSB that she had received two letters this past week, one from Mr. Tippitts' expressing his concerns regarding a charter school and another letter regarding a charter school neglecting to administer a required standardized test. Chair Brian Allen informed the SCSB that he had received a letter from Rockwell Charter High School apologizing for missing the testing deadline and explained they were operating under an old timeframe and not the new, or current timeframe.

Mark Long informed the SCSB he had given his notice to terminate his employment with USOE that morning and would be moving on to another state agency. Mr. Long stated he felt this job had been the most interesting he has had, but will be looking forward to getting his weekends and evenings back.

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn at 12:40 by Member Scott Smith.