

State Charter School Board  
Minutes  
September 16, 2004  
USOE, Boardroom

Attending: Brian Allen, Anne Peterson, Scott Smith, Barbara Killpack, David Moss, Patricia Bradley, Jo Schmitt  
Eric Smith

Excused: Sonia Zisumbo

Guests:

Brian Allen welcomed the board and guests and called meeting to order at 10:05.

Bobbie Killpack moved approval of the August 19, 2004 minutes. Dave Moss seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as mailed.

The Board was reminded of its support of the request from Timpanogos Academy to the State Board that the TLC course requirement be waived. Dave Moss reported that he attended the State Board Curriculum Committee meeting where the request was heard. In brief he related that some of the discussion surrounded the efforts small traditional schools make to satisfy the requirement and the willingness the Board and staff expressed to work toward some adjustments to the class, but not support the waiver. The Committee did not recommend waiving the requirement to the full board and the State Board later in its meeting on Sept. 3 denied the waiver.

Brian Allen commented that we hope for innovation in charter schools and that they were established to try to do things differently. He asked that everyone remember that they are schools of choice based on full and open disclosure. The challenge for the movement is to challenge the mold. Don't be hesitant to continue to look at creative ways to do things because parents choose. Waivers will be a necessary part of what we do.

Bobbi Killpack commented that things happened very quickly. If the school wants to do a waiver for good reasons and comes with detailed plan and the board, the board can proceed in a more informed and prepared way.

Allen replied that we are going to be challenging the status quo by what we do. The Board and the Charter School's charge is to see if there is a better way.

Ray Timothy commented that we have had examples of ways that innovation or charter practices have influenced "traditional" public education and cited the Jean Massieu/USDB discussions. USDB is more receptive to the philosophy of Jean Massieu. If Jean Massieu dissolves, it will

not be a failure. USDB will be a different institution than it was before the establishment and experience of Jean Massieu.

Allen commented that it is the intent of legislature that we be less bureaucratic and that he does not have a problem with some parts of the core waived entirely and not even addressed ancillary, but that is his perspective. Charter schools that are formed around achievement in basic skills should be allowed to keep that focus. While he doesn't see the issue arising too often, it will arise.

Brian announced to the board that he will email them ideas for his presentation to the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee, October 5, and invited members to reply to Brian with ideas and edits.

The Board is also on the agenda for the October 20, 2004, Education Interim Subcommittee. The topic is proposed exemptions from statutes and rules for charter schools. The legislative subcommittee will meet and continue discussions on these items.

Brian asked Ray Timothy how legislators would view the addition of a staff position to the State Charter School Board. Timothy confirmed the need for expertise around finance and accountability.

Patricia Bradley requested direction on how to deal with incomplete applications. Board directed Bradley to allow applicants to modify only sections of applications that are incomplete and to provide the missing information by end of business, Tuesday, September 21. Board suggested that readers comments on applications be provided electronically. Readers will be trained on Sept. 24. Comments should be submitted to USOE by Oct. 15. Comments will be synthesized and provided to CS Board. In person interviews will be scheduled with applicants on November 8 and 9. Interviews will begin mid-day on the 8<sup>th</sup> and in the morning on the 9<sup>th</sup>. A schedule will be prepared and mailed to the board allowing for 30 minutes with 10 minute breaks. The Board wants to keep the interviews on schedule. The Board may discuss the possibility of an extra meeting after the end of interviews on the 9<sup>th</sup>. The CS Board process for application review will be presented to the Law and Policy Committee of the State Board on Oct. 1. At that meeting we will share that finance, special education/equity and curriculum are major areas of focus for the State CS Board. We will ask if there are additional areas of concern for the State School Board. We will present to the State Board that we do not want to create a second public hearing for the applicants when the recommendations for charter come before the State Board in December. Members of the CS Board will share in presenting recommendations to the State Board at the Dec. 3 meeting.

Decision was made to fund the second year of Dissemination Projects for Tuacahn and City Academy from FY 05 Charter School Program Grant. Decisions regarding the remainder of the awards will be delayed until the Dept. announces Utah's award sometime later this month.

DaVinci conversion was discussed. Final action was tabled. Conversion documents will need to be received one week before the State CS Board meetings in order to have them placed before the board.

Some discussion occurred on the topic of administrative credentials for Charter School Principals. No decisions were made.

Patricia presented PowerPoint information on Utah's State Facilities Enhancement Program. Awards will be made based on Oct. 1 enrollment counts.

Chris Was, Ph.D. from U of U presented findings from his analysis of 2003 CRT scores in *Analysis of Charter vs. Traditional Public Schools*. Chris answered questions and outlined need for additional analysis of 2004 data.

Meeting adjourned 1:15  
Next Meeting Oct. 20, 2004