

Utah State Charter School Board Meeting
Minutes
January 17, 2008
North & South Board Rooms
Utah State Office of Education

APPROVED – 02/21/08

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

Staff present: Marlies Burns, Gary Belliston, Melinda Fatani, Jeannie Rowland, John Taggart, Jo Schmitt

Others present: USBE Vice Chair Mark Cluff, Janene Bowen, Daren Beck, Deb Richards, James Costello, Monty Hardy, Duane Miles, Tally Johnson, Scott Jackson, Eldon Budge, Jim Peterson, Sharon Moss, Rick Kempton, Charles Weber, representatives from CS Lewis Academy including Reba Vest, Jim Monsen, Noele Corrigan, Marilyn Roberts, Jason Finch, Lincoln Fillmore.

Others excused: Superintendent Patti Harrington

Call to Order

Chair Julie Adamic called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

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

Charter School Board Standing Committee Reports

- Communication Committee-Member Scott Smith and Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB of the discussion in their meeting of the Consolidated Utah Student Achievement Plan (CUSAP) and the possibility of streamlining reports as well as charter school participation in application completion. Also, the committee discussed a charter school public relations campaign through advertisement, education and promotion of charter schools as a choice in Utah public education.
- Rule Review Committee-Member Brian Allen informed the SCSB the Rule Review Committee continued their discussion of R277-481.
- Annual Report Committee-Member Barbara Killpack informed the SCSB of the timeline for 2007-2008. Also, the committee reviewed the 2006-2007 report and discussed any obvious changes and potential hurdles.
- Grants Committee-Member John Pingree informed the SCSB the Grants Committee discussed and reviewed a draft of Utah's grant application due February 1. The draft will include the grant's objectives, project measures, and proposed budget.

Information Items:

School construction concerns and guidelines

Larry Newton from the Finance and Statistics Section at USOE informed the SCSB that all construction occupancy permits now go through the USOE's office. Mr. Newton stated that it is very important that the USOE ensure all facilities be built to the proper specifications and the building complies with the School Construction and Inspection Resource Manual, which is required by statute. Mr. Newton suggested the SCSB direct the CSS to draft language they feel should be included in the resource manual, to make it clear that no matter what their relationship; lease, rent, or purchase, it is important that charter schools adhere to the resource manual.

Report on charter school's financial audits

Gary Belliston reported that all AFR's, APR's and all financial statements have been submitted by all charter schools. Mr. Belliston distributed a financial report reflecting ending assets for 2006 and 2007 showing a change in their net assets. The report also showed the greatest change in the school's net assets.

DaVinci Academy, Fast Forward High, East Hollywood High, and Moab Charter School audits

Gary Belliston distributed audit reports for DaVinci Academy, Fast Forward High School, East Hollywood High School, and Moab Charter School.

Gary Belliston formally announced he has been hired as the Director of Internal Accounting at the USOE and would no longer be employed in the Charter School Section. Mr. Belliston thanked the SCSB and the CSS for their friendship and support while he has been with the Charter School Section. Member Joel Wright stated Mr. Belliston's leaving will leave a huge hole, and that he has been critical for the charter school movement in the State of Utah. All members of the SCSB expressed their thanks to Mr. Belliston.

Superintendent review of SCSB recommendations

Director Marlies Burns distributed a list detailing recommendations from the SCSB to the USBE that would allow Superintendent Harrington to review and give approval for specific items, without the necessity of presenting those recommendations to the USBE. The USBE would still be reviewing those items that would need more attention and consideration.

2009-2010 Applications for New Schools

Director Marlies Burns presented an updated list of the new charter school applications, with their first year enrollment request. Ms. Burns informed the SCSB that ten of the fifteen applicants scored 75% or higher and would be allowed to continue with the Charter School Application process.

NACSA Conference October 27-28, 2008 - Indianapolis, IN

Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB of the NACSA Conference being held in Indianapolis, October 27-28. Ms. Burns stated this conference is specifically for Charter School Authorizers and invited any and all of the SCSB members to attend.

Action Items

Proposed legislation 2008 – SCSB Position

Board Chair Julie Adamic suggested postponing discussion on the proposed legislation until the Charter School Board retreat that would be held later that afternoon.

Timeline for schools applying 2010-2011

Director Marlies Burns reminded the SCSB of the November 30th timeline for all schools needing approval. Ms. Burns requested an extension to June 13th for the applicants to submit a final application. Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member Barbara Killpack to accept the proposed timeline, including an exception for those applicants that have previously applied and are not accepted in the 2009-2010 school year to have an extension to June 13th to reapply for the 2010-2011 school year. The motion was carried unanimously.

Emerson Alcott Academy Update

Representatives from Emerson Alcott Academy addressed the school not meeting the ground breaking deadline that had been set by the SCSB. Deb Richards, Board Chair, informed the SCSB they have their survey complete and very close to receiving their deed. Next week they will be meeting with the architect, and the plans will be completed by March 25 and given to the builder; the builder is in place and ready to start. Their projected date of completion is July 31st, and scheduled to open August 25th. Chair Julie Adamic directed Emerson Alcott Academy to have all agreements, contracts and permits submitted to the CSS by February 15; those necessary documents include their contract with Blake Dursteller, the contract with USU, the deed, as well as approvals from planning commissions and city approval departments.

Amendments:

- Ranches Academy-Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB that Ranches Academy has requested to eliminate grades 7-8, which would decrease its enrollment by 100 students; also a waiver to begin this amendment request in the school year 2008-2009 rather than waiting for 2009-2010 school year. Motion was made by Member John Pingree and seconded by Member Barbara Killpack to recommend for approval Ranches Academy's amendment request. The motion was carried with affirmative votes from Chair Julie Adamic, Members John Pingree, Barbara Killpack, Brian Allen and Scott Smith. Member Joel Wright recused himself from the vote.
- Rockwell Charter High School-Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB that Rockwell Charter High School has requested to add grades 7-8, which would increase its enrollment by 100 students; also a waiver to begin this amendment request in the school year 2008-2009 rather than waiting for 2009-2010 school year. Motion was made by Member John Pingree and seconded by Member Barbara Killpack to recommend for approval Rockwell Charter High School's amendment request. The motion was carried with affirmative votes from Chair Julie Adamic, Members John Pingree, Barbara Killpack, Brian Allen and Scott Smith. Member Joel Wright recused himself from the vote.
- Thomas Edison Charter School – South-Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB of the school's amendment request to become a satellite school and to waive the timeline, to have the satellite school open in the 2008-2009 school year. Motion was made by Member Barbara Killpack and seconded by Member John Pingree to recommend for approval Thomas Edison's amendment request for a satellite school. The motion was carried unanimously. Motion was made by Member Barbara Killpack and seconded by Member John Pingree to recommend for approval of the timeline waiver request for the 2008-2009 school year. The motion was carried unanimously.
- Noah Webster Academy-Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB of Noah Webster Academy's amendment request to add grade 7 in the 2008-2009 school year, with no additional students. Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member Barbara Killpack to table Noah Webster Academy's amendment request and to address the request to add grades 7-8 in the February Charter School Board Meeting. The motion was made unanimously.
- Soldier Hollow Charter School-Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB of Soldier Hollow Charter School's amendment request to add grade 9 in the 2008-2009 school year, with no additional students. Motion was made by Member Brian Allen and seconded by Member Scott Smith to table the amendment request until the February Charter School Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.
- CS Lewis Academy-Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB of CS Lewis Academy's amendment request to add grade 7 in the 2008-2009 school year, and grade 8 in the 2009-2010 school year, with no additional students. Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member John Pingree to recommend for approval CS Lewis Academy's amendment request to add grades 7 and 8 over two years, with no enrollment increase. The motion was carried unanimously.

Monthly financial reports

Gary Belliston distributed a spreadsheet reflecting compliance by the charter schools of submitting requested financial reports and board meeting minutes. Member Scott Smith suggested placing on the February's agenda to discuss repercussions to the Charter Schools that are in non-compliance; to hold funds, the process of holding funds, or to recommend to the USBE to take action for those schools that are not compliant.

Member Joel Wright requested placing on February's or March's Charter School Board Agenda to discuss free and reduced lunch qualifications for charter schools.

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn at 1:25 p.m. by Member Scott Smith.