MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, July 14, 2016
USOE – Board Rooms

APPROVED

Members Present:
Chair Howard Headlee
Vice Chair Kristin Elinkowski
Member DeLaina Tonks
Member Tim Beagley
Member Bruce Davis
Member Robert Enger
Members Excused:
Member Dean Brockbank

Staff Present:
Jennifer Lambert
David Thomas
Blanca Estrada
Rabecca Cisneros
Jo Schmitt

Others present:
Joylin Lincoln, David W. Jones, Steve Wattles, Craig Frank, Tammi Ross, Brittni Donnelson, Susan Goers, Aaron Stringer, Christopher Gonnel, Jeff Biesinger, Jeremy Brown, Julie Adamic, Judy Pond, Kim Dohrer, Tina Smith, Debby Llewelyn

Call to Order
Chair Howard Headlee called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance
Chair Howard Headlee led the board and those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Chair Report
Chair Howard Headlee stated he has received communication from the Governor's office stating they have not yet made recommendation for appointments for those members that terms expire June 20, 2016; with the request that those on the board continue in their service until decisions can be made.

Chair Headlee informed the SCSB they have been asked to recommend someone to serve on an equalization committee, which is being held during this meeting.

Consent Calendar
Chair Headlee proposed a change and get the SCSB input. The minutes for May 12 and June 1, 2016, and the Start-up and Implementation Grant fund recommendation amounts. Also, new charter agreements are part of the consent calendar. Chair Headlee stated that is feels they should not be part of the consent calendar.

MOTION: Member DeLaina Tonks moved and Member Robb Enger seconded to take Item C. Charter Agreements from the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by those in attendance.

MOTION: Member DeLaina Tonks moved and Member Bruce Davis seconded to approve the amended Consent Calendar. The motion carried by those in attendance.

Staffing Committee report

Member DeLaina Tonks reported to the SCSB the first task of the staffing committee was to successfully transition from the Executive Director, Marlies Burns' resignation; second, to transition over to Jennifer Lambert as the Interim Director to make sure she has the tools needed to be a successful interim director; third, the applications to fill that position closed and the committee reviewed, ranked, and chose which candidates would be moved forward for consideration.

MOTION: Member DeLaina Tonks moved and Member Bruce Davis seconded to propose Jennifer Lambert as the Interim Director of the State Charter School Board until that position is filled with a permanent replacement. The motion carried by those in attendance.

St. George Academy – Charter Agreement and Status Report

Jennifer Lambert, Interim Director, informed the SCSB of the status of St. George Academy in regards to enrollment numbers and facility.

MOTION: Member DeLaina Tonks moved and Vice Chair Kristin Elinkowski seconded to amend St. George Academy's charter to delay opening one school year. The motion carried by those in attendance. Members Tim Beagley and Dean Brockbank were not available for the vote.

Voluntary Charter Improvement Process – Aristotle Academy

Chair Howard Headlee reminded the SCSB that in their last meeting they approved Aristotle Academy to enter into the Voluntary Improvement Process and gave them 30 days to provide interest in partnering with them in that process. Two letters of interest were received (Renaissance Academy and Summit Academy) and the SCSB felt there was enough interest to move forward. Julie Adamic, representing Aristotle Academy, informed the SCSB they have proceeded forward to find qualified applicants, which have written letters of intent, and are now in the process of writing their proposals. Ms. Adamic requested guidance in regards to timeframe and direction on how to proceed forward.

MOTION: Member Bruce Davis moved and Member Robb Enger seconded to approve Aristotle Academy to advance into the next step of the Voluntary Charter Improvement Process and return with that proposal in the SCSB's August meeting and waive the 2 week requirement. The motion carried by those in attendance. Members Tim Beagley and Dean Brockbank were not available for the vote.

New School Proposals

Six applicants submitted proposals to open a charter school in the 2018-2019 school year.

- **Arc Instructional Academy** proposes to open in the Davis County School District with an ultimate enrollment of 530 students in grades K-6, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year.
- **Advantage Arts Academy** proposes to open in the Jordan and Davis County School Districts with an ultimate enrollment of 1,176 students in grades K-6, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year. Advantage Arts Academy's mission in alignment with the Beverly Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program, is to effectively increase their student's performance in every subject, as well as improve students' social skills, emotional well-being, arts awareness, and core academic capacity.
- **Mountain Sunrise Academy** proposes to open in the Alpine School District with an ultimate enrollment of 700 students in grades 6-12, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year. Mountain Sunrise Academy's mission empowers children to impart purpose and direction to their lives and truly know

themselves through developing capacities of thinking, feeling, and willing. Mountain Sunrise Academy is a public charter school utilizing a Waldorf pedagogical approach and upholding the virtues of goodness, beauty, truth, imagination, responsibility, reverence, and charity as well as respect for self, others, and the environment.

- **Capstone Classical Academy** proposes to open in the Weber County School District with an ultimate enrollment of 700 students in grades 6-12, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year. Capstone Classical Academy's mission is providing quality instruction in all subjects through a multi-disciplinary model alike to Finland. Fostering positive role models while promoting the family unit. Challenging scholars to establish the foundation of knowledge that created "One Nation under God". Empowering scholars to discover their gifts and leadership skills. Connecting business, faith-based organizations, and families with the school to support a healthy and balanced life.

- **The Tiaina Seau Jr. Football Academy** proposes to open in the Jordan School District with an ultimate enrollment of 500 students in grades 6-12, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year. The Tiaina Seau Jr. Football Academy exists to assist student-athletes reach their full potential in academia and athletics. Through a personalized, focused, intensive and successfully proven academic curriculum coupled with advanced athletic training and competition, student-athlete achievement is elevated and preparatory to academic and athletic pursuits at the collegiate level and beyond for the lives of our student-athlete.

- **Everest Academy** proposes to open in the Morgan County School District with an ultimate enrollment of 500 students in grades K-8, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year. Everest Academy's mission is to educate students to become leaders who display interdependence through service project based learning while following our values of responsibility, respect, hard work, accountability, and self-reliance.

MOTION: Member Bruce Davis moved and Vice Chair Kristin Elinkowski seconded to invite Arc Instructional Academy, Advantage Arts Academy, Mountain Sunrise Academy and Capstone Classical Academy to submit a full application. The motion carried by those in attendance. Member Tim Beagley abstained from the vote.

MOTION: Member Robert Enger moved to invite The Tiaina Seau Jr. Football Academy to submit a full application. Because of no second to the motion, the motion failed.

Executive Session

MOTION: Vice Chair Kristin Elinkowski moved and Member Bruce Davis seconded 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.

MOTION: Member Bruce Davis and Robert Enger seconded to reconvene into open meeting. The motion carried by those in attendance.

Follow-up Discussion on June's Strategic Planning Meeting

Member Bruce Davis led the Strategic Planning discussion.

Mission: "Our mission is to provide for positive student outcomes by authorizing, overseeing and elevating successful public charter schools through a rigorous approval process, effective oversight and meaningful collaboration."
Vision: "Our vision is to advance public education in Utah."
Values: Innovation-We foster the development of a vibrant, diverse and sustainable statewide system of high performing public charter schools that foster innovation and experimentation.

Chair Headlee inquired if there was any order in values. Member Davis indicated there was not.

Choice-We provide choice for parents and students and leverage limited resources to provide the best possible education experience for school children.

Member Davis suggested some sequencing of the values for a better flow. Chair Headlee stated autonomy works nicely to innovation, because it builds on the innovation value.

Autonomy-We understand that autonomy is an essential requirement for innovation, experimentation and diverse approaches to educating students. We encourage and support charter school autonomy with accountability and work with schools to ensure that they stay true to their charters. We work to share successful charter school educational innovations with other public schools.

Bruce suggested the last sentence might fit better under the innovation value.

Accountability-We hold schools accountable for the education of their students and their stewardship of public funds. As a board, we hold ourselves accountable for our responsibilities to support charter schools.

Chair Headlee inquired if "support" was the correct word, and inquired if there is a statutory basis for that. Chair Headlee suggested ….to "govern" charter schools.

Member Davis felt each school has their own governing board and the SCSB wouldn't want to overstep there. The word "oversee," "oversee contracts," or "enforce contracts."

Member DeLaina Tonks stated she felt "oversee" fits well, and not get into specifics to how, and leaving it with "oversee" supports the what.

David Thomas stated from statute…the powers and duties of the State Charter School Board, to authorize and promote the establishment of charter schools to review and evaluate and to monitor.

Member Davis stated that the committee did refer to the statute when these values were put together.

Member Tonks inquired if "oversee" encapsulates all five verbs from the statute?

Chair Headlee stated he feels he would like to lead with the Excellence value, because it ties in with the Vision.

Member Davis stated he feels there may be a need to consolidate some of the language in the values.

Excellence-We are advocates for high quality charter schools and work collaboratively with the State Board of Education and the state legislature to secure funding and other support. We understand that school performance may vary significantly. We encourage the growth and expansion of successful high performing charter schools, work with low performing schools to identify and make necessary improvements through guidance, training, and mentoring. As necessary we work to find new leadership and governance structures for charters schools, or close schools that continue to struggle over time.

David Thomas inquired is it "struggle" or who have "failed?" Isn't closure only when we determine the school failed to meet the objectives of being a charter school?

Member Davis responded closure is the last element. This did come up in earlier discussions. Sometimes finding new leadership in governance structure is sufficient to turn it around.

Member Tonks stated she feels the other values are "what" oriented, as to what we are doing, where this value has a lot of "how." Is that necessary? Can we end the value after ….to secure funding and other support?

Member Davis stated if we wanted to keep some of this language, we could take that "As necessary…." last sentence and put in under accountability. Also add a value of collaboration could be added. Member Davis

also stated he feels they are trying to do too much with the Excellence value, too long, with multiple things "plugged" in.

Chair Headlee stated the collaboration could be with other charters, other districts, other boards, legislature, etc. Chair Headlee suggested the committee look into the addition of a collaboration value.

Integrity-We hold ourselves and those with we work to the high standards of honesty and integrity. We strive to be as open and transparent as possible in all our dealings.

Goals:

1. Create systems and processes for evaluating school performance.
2. Improve and enhance the SCSB mentoring program for charter schools.
3. Organize and fund the size and mix of the SCSB staff to provide necessary support to charter schools.
4. Implement a more effective charter agreement process.
5. Promote exchange and dialog between district and charter schools.
6. Establish and implement a school closure process, a strategic intervention process for consistently low performing or poorly managed schools.
7. Strengthen relationships between the SCSB and charter schools.
8. (9)Share innovative public charter schools practices with the larger public education domain, community.
9. (10)Develop a communication plan to better inform the public about the SCSB and its mission.

Objectives:
One objective was set, which was to hire a new executive director.

Member Davis stated there was a suggestion in Goal #7, to strengthen relationships with the SCSB, USBE, and charter school governing boards.

Member Davis stated he would take the document, along with suggestions and compile into a four page Executive Summary Strategic Plan with page 1 being mission, vision and values; page 2 will be the SWOT analysis; page 3 will be the long term goals, over the next four years; and page 4 will be annual objectives.

Chair Headlee stated besides hiring a new executive director being part of the annual objectives, also restructuring staff, start-up grant re-appropriations, and mentoring funds.

Adjourn

MOTION: Member DeLaina Tonks moved to adjourn at 1:45, p.m. The motion carried unanimously.