

Utah State Charter School Board Meeting
Minutes
August 21, 2008
North & South Board Rooms
Utah State Office of Education

APPROVED

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

Staff present: Marlies Burns, John Taggart, Mark Long, Jeannie Rowland, Jo Schmitt

Others present: Dr. Patti Harrington, Dr. Christine Kearl, Mark Cluff, Joel Wright, Janene Bowen, Logan City School District Superintendent Marshal Garrett, Patty Murphy, Representatives of Weilnenmann School of Discovery, Cache Valley Learning Center, Lyceum Academy, Utah Military & Science Preparatory Academy, Quail Run Primary School, Maria Montessori Academy, Monticello Academy, Providence Hall.

Call to Order

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

Chair Allen introduced the newest Charter School Board Member, Tom Morgan, and welcomed him to the State Charter School Board. Mr. Morgan informed the SCSB that he is a Regional President with Zion's Bank, and has been with Zion's Bank for 20 years. He attended Fresno State University and University of Washington and he and his wife have five sons. He serves as Chairman of the Board of Select Health and serves on several other community boards. Mr. Morgan expressed being thankful for the opportunity to serve on the State Charter School Board.

Swearing in of new State Charter School Board Members

Dr. Christine Kearl, on behalf of Governor Huntsman, thanked the State Charter School Board for the leadership they provide charter schools, the direction being given, and the work they put forth to help charter schools be successful. Dr. Kearl performed the swearing in of Yolanda Francisco-Nez, Tim Beagley, and Tom Morgan as members of the State Charter School Board.

Public Comments

Monty Hardy, representing Emerson Alcott Academy, informed the SCSB that Emerson Alcott Academy is facing some significant challenges in the Uintah Basin; difficulty in finding housing for teachers, high cost of construction, and the tight credit market. Mr. Hardy stated he feels Emerson Alcott Academy has made the right decision in choosing not to open this school year. Mr. Hardy urged the SCSB to give Emerson Alcott Academy the opportunity to succeed as a charter school by approving their request for an additional planning year.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Member Tim Beagley and seconded by Vice Chair Scott Smith to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2008 State Charter School Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Charter School Board Chair's Report

Chair Brian Allen announced that Charter School Staff Member John Taggart has accepted a position with the Tooele School District. He thanked Mr. Taggart for his service and insight and for the success charter schools have had regarding the grants Utah has received. Mr. Allen informed the SCSB that Utah was one of five states in the country to receive the latest start-up grant award and Mr. Taggart was very instrumental in Utah obtaining that grant award. Member John Pingree also expressed his thanks for Mr. Taggart's efforts, ideas, initiative and foresight on the Grants Committee.

Board Standing Committee Reports

Communications Committee-Vice Chair Scott Smith informed the SCSB the Communications Committee Meeting had been postponed, and would reschedule to address statewide initiative for public relations.

Accountability Committee-Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB the Accountability Committee discussed the opportunity for Charter Schools to select accreditation programs not specific to Northwest Accreditation, which would include elementary schools. The second item the committee discussed was incentives for schools that do an outstanding job in their accountability process.

School Assistance Committee-Jeannie Rowland informed the SCSB the committee discussed avenues for charter schools to inform both staff and board of “good things” that are happening in their schools. Also, concern was expressed regarding the Satellite School application and process. Ms. Rowland also informed the SCSB that the School Assistance Committee members would like to see some help in training and support regarding CUSAP (Consolidated Utah Student Achievement Plan).

Action Items:

State Charter School Board Committee Assignments

It was determined the chair for each committee is as follows:

Communication-Yolanda Francisco-Nez

Rule Review-Julie Adamic

Annual Report-Scott Smith

Accountability-Tom Morgan

State Grants-John Pingree

School Assistance-Tim Beagley

Legislative-Brian Allen

Changes to Assurances

Chair Brian Allen informed the SCSB of an added assurance to Attachment H of the Charter School Application that would require governing board members at the schools to attend annual human resource trainings. The SCSB was informed that Risk Management would be conducting the training.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Scott Smith and seconded by Member Tom Morgan to accept the amended Utah State Charter School Assurances, with “one-day” being struck from the wording of the assurance. The motion was carried unanimously.

Emerson Alcott Academy – Request

Director Marlies Burns reminded the SCSB that Emerson Alcott Academy had been requested by them to present a Plan of Action regarding the postponing of their opening from fall of 2008 to fall of 2009. It was determined the document that was submitted was a timeline, and not a Plan of Action.

Motion was made by Member John Pingree to request Emerson Alcott Academy to reapply as a new school, with no preconditions. There was no second to the motion, therefore the motion died without taking any action.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Scott Smith and seconded by Member John Pingree for Emerson Alcott Academy to postpone opening for one year with a caveat they are not guaranteed a 2009 opening; have thirty days to comply with all requests from the Charter School Staff with a detailed Plan of Action presented at the September SCSB Meeting. Member Tim Beagley requested a detailed list from the Charter School Staff of the compliance issues they would be requiring from Emerson Alcott Academy, and the results from that request. The motion was carried unanimously.

Monticello Academy – Amendment

Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB of Monticello Academy’s amendment request for proposed changes to their charter policy and procedures. Ms. Burns informed the SCSB the charter school staff expressed a minor concern of no minimum number of board members indicated inside their charter. Ms. Burns reminded the SCSB that Utah Law does require a minimum number of board members being stated in a charter. Joel

Coleman, from Monticello Academy's board, informed the SCSB they intend to have seven members on the school's board, and would include the language of having a minimum number of board members.

Motion was made by Member Tim Beagley and seconded by Vice Chair Scott Smith to accept the amendment request and recommend for approval to the Utah State Board of Education. The motion was carried unanimously.

Providence Hall – Amendment

Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB of Providence Hall's amendment request for proposed changes to their charter agreement. Ms. Burns informed the SCSB the charter school staff expressed their concern of the school's proposed change to increase their number of preferential enrollment of students from 10% to 15%, raising that number to about 100 students out of their 700. This preference would be to include grandparent's children to have preference. Ms. Burns stated preference is allowable in state law, but it would negate the school from receiving federal funding. Representatives from Providence Hall stated they felt they had removed the grandparent provision in a revised amendment request.

Motion was made by Member Tim Beagley and seconded Vice Chair Scott Smith to accept the proposed amendments with the 15% maximum on preferential student acceptance, provided the grandparent language be removed and recommend for approval to the Utah State Charter Board of Education. The motion was carried unanimously.

Information Items:

Chair Brian Allen informed the new charter school applicants they have 10 minutes to make their presentation to the SCSB and the SCSB would then have 20 minutes for questions and comments. Chair Allen also reminded the applicants that no decisions or recommendations would be made during this SCSB Meeting, but would be made in the October meeting.

Weilenmann School of Discovery

The school will be located in the Park City School District, grades K-8, total enrollment of 650 students.

Cache Valley Learning Center

The school will be located in the Logan City School District, grades K-8, total enrollment of 180 students.

Lyceum Academy

The school will be located in either Alpine or Jordan School District, grades 9-12, total enrollment of 400 students. Lyceum Academy will present their application in the September Charter School Board Meeting.

Utah Military & Service Preparatory Academy

The school will be located in the Alpine School District, grades 7-12, total enrollment of 600 students. Utah Military & Service Preparatory Academy will present their application in the September Charter School Board Meeting.

Quail Run Primary School

The school will be located in the Alpine School District, grades K-8, total enrollment of 648 students.

Maria Montessori Academy

The school will be located in the Weber School District, grades K-8, total enrollment of 450 students.

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn at 3:00 p.m. by Member Tim Beagley.