

**MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**
Friday, January 17, 2014 – 12:00 p.m. – Board Rooms

APPROVED

Members Present:

Chair Tim Beagley
Vice Chair Dean Brockbank
Member Laura Belnap
Member Bruce Davis
Member Kristin Elinkowski
Member Howard Headlee

Members Absent:

Member Robert Enger

Staff present:

Marlies Burns
Jennifer Lambert
Jo Schmitt

Others present:

Heather Groom, Freddie Cooper, Tina Smith, Joylin Lincoln, Angie Peterson, Kent Fuller, Kim Frank, Bradden Blair, John Thorn, Linda Harless, Vickie Peterson, Paul Michalczyk, Rob Lee, Kelsy Alsup, Andy Burt

Call to Order

Chair Tim Beagley called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Tim Beagley led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval Consent Calendar

MOTION: Member Howard Headlee moved and Member Laura Belnap seconded to approve the consent calendar (minutes of SCSB meeting held December 12, 2013, Utah Charter School Finance Authority Credit Enhancement Program certification, and Proposed change to R277-480-4(D)(2)(a). The motion was carried unanimously.

Amendment Request – Channing Hall

Representatives of Channing Hall informed the SCSB of their amendment request to revise effectiveness goals to better reflect how the school measures student outcomes; remove references to tests no longer required by the state; update language to improve readability; and technical corrections.

MOTION: Member Bruce Davis moved and Member Howard Headlee seconded to approve Channing Hall's amendment request to revise effectiveness goals to better reflect how the school measures student outcomes; remove references to tests no longer required by the state; update language to improve readability; and technical corrections. The motion was carried unanimously.

State Board of Education Update

Member Kristin Elinkowski reported to the SCSB discussions, actions and motions taken by the USBE at their last meeting: Part A of Aristotle Academy's amendment request was approved; however Part B-Bridge Learning Program was tabled, and sent back to the SCSB for further consideration. The USBE recommended the SCSB place Aristotle Academy on "Warning Status" for noncompliance of their charter.

Ms. Elinkowski also suggested the SCSB be included on the USBE legislation tracking sheet. Chair Tim Beagley stated the USBE meet often during the legislative session and enables them to keep a tracking sheet updated; however the SCSB does not meet often enough to participate fully in the process. Mr. Beagley also suggested the SCSB would be willing to convene a special meeting to take position on certain bills, if necessary.

Heather Groom, a member of the USBE suggested to the SCSB that in their February meeting they discuss some of the legislation that would impact charter schools and public education, and be available should a need for a special meeting be necessary.

Chair Beagley suggested setting aside time in March for a tentative two hour meeting based legislation results.

Amendment Request – Aristotle Academy

Representatives of Aristotle Academy informed the SCSB their amendment request to add the "Bridge Learning Program" for home-schooled children to their school.

Chair Tim Beagley requested Director Marlies Burns to give the SCSB some background information regarding Aristotle Academy's amendment request. Ms. Burns reminded the SCSB that Aristotle Academy had a two part amendment request; Part A, which has been approved and the remaining Part B Bridge Learning Program. Ms. Burns stated there is misunderstanding between what the Bridge Learning Program actually is. What was presented at the SCSB meeting was not exactly the same that was presented to the USBE meeting. The information that was presented at the USBE meeting is helpful, and is something the SCSB should have knowledge. The USBE had the following concerns: the \$250 being paid to each family upon successful completion of the CRT tests; who is the teacher of record or who is in charge of the education of the Bridge Learning Program students; the 25 students that are currently enrolled in a program that is not approved in Aristotle Academy's charter.

Chair Beagley informed the SCSB that currently there is an audit being conducted in regards to schools that are performing on-line education where it may not be necessarily part of their charter. That audit should be released to the USBE sometime next month. Chair Beagley stated that the SCSB may not have all the information they need to make a decision regarding Aristotle Academy's amendment request.

USBE Member Heather Groom informed the SCSB that the audit would be presented to the USBE in their next meeting and that the report addresses distance learning programs, not just involving charter schools.

Chair Beagley suggested to Aristotle Academy that based on what the audit finds when it is released, the school may want to make additional changes to their charter and to withdraw the request at this time and come before the SCSB at a later date.

MOTION: After much discussion, Member Kristin Elinkowski moved to place Aristotle Academy on "warning status" because of non-compliance with their charter. After discussion, Member Elinkowski withdrew her motion.

MOTION: Member Howard Headlee moved and Member Kristin Elinkowski seconded to place Aristotle Academy on "warning status" with the direction to comply with current charter. Member Headlee, as part of his motion, he directed staff to provide recommendations to the school for removal from warning status which would be to remove the school from the Bridge Learning Program that is not complaint with their charter and to reach academic and performance goals. The conditions of the warning status must be complied with by March

31, 2014. The school was invited to return back to the SCSB in April to report the progress of their warning status.

The motion passed with affirmative votes from Chair Tim Beagley, Members Howard Headlee, Kristin Elinkowski, Bruce Davis and Laura Belnap. Vice Chair Dean Brockbank abstained from the vote, stating he was not present for most of the discussion. Member Robert Enger was not present to vote.

School reports

Chair Tim Beagley informed the SCSB that a group of schools have been found in the bottom quartile of charter schools in terms of academic performance two years in a row and have been invited to attend this meeting to address the school's performance as well as provide a one to two page written summary of the:

- School mission
- Student population
- School analysis of the data points included in our academic performance report (i.e., academic proficiency, academic growth, graduation rate, ACT scores, student retention (year-to-year reenrollment), student transfer rate (within year enrollment), and Average Daily Membership compared to October 1 count).
- Needed supports to improve the school's academic and engagement performance
- School action plan to
 - procure needed supports identified in #4,
 - provide assistance to students/teachers, and
 - achieve school's 'Overall Score' goals for school years 2014 and 2015

Representatives from the following schools CS Lewis Academy, Utah Connections Academy, Endeavor Hall, East Hollywood High School, and Gateway Preparatory Academy informed the SCSB of circumstances that are happening at the school that is causing the low performance and plans, as a board, to address the issues and support the school in the process.

The discussion with CS Lewis Academy raised concerns regarding a distance learning program the school has implemented, that has not been approved by the USBE.

MOTION: Member Howard Headlee moved and Member Kristin Elinkowski seconded to place CS Lewis Academy on "warning status" because of non-compliance with the school's charter with the directive to eliminate the academic performance differential between the school's distance learning students and their in-seat students by the end of this school year; and report to the SCSB in March the status of the school's progress in compliance to their charter.

Because of a tie vote, and not the number of votes needed to carry, the motion failed. Affirmative votes from Members Howard Headlee, Kristin Elinkowski and Laura Belnap. Votes in opposition were cast by Chair Tim Beagley, Vice Chair Dean Brockbank and Member Bruce Davis.

Chair Dean Brockbank restated the expectations the SCSB would need addressed when the school returns in March.

1) Understand their adherence to the school's charter; 2) Understand other amendment requests that have allowed you to perceive a diametrically opposed approach than allowed by the charter; 3) Understand the school's relationship with the vendor of the distance learning program, including the legal obligations and direction.

Adjourn

MOTION: Vice Chair Dean Brockbank moved to adjourn at 4:00 p.m.