

Utah State Charter School Board Meeting  
Minutes  
**January 9, 2013**  
North & South Board Rooms  
Utah State Office of Education

**APPROVED**

Members present: Tim Beagley, Laura Belnap, Dean Brockbank, Kristin Elinkowski, Robert Enger, Howard Headlee

Members excused: John Pingree

Staff present: Marlies Burns, Paul Crawford, Jo Schmitt

Others present: Deputy Superintendent Brenda Hales, Freddie Cooper, Brian Baker, David Damschen, Tina Smith, Judi Clark, Linda Harless, Rick Kempton, Jeanne Whitmore, Lincoln Fillmore, Bob Bell, Gary Fullmer, Noah Williams, Michael Westover, Alan Shino, Daniel Smith, Lynne Herring, Ken Parkinson, Chris Helvey, Lisa Winegar, Mark Peterson

Call to Order

Chair Tim Beagley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Public Comment

Judi Clark, representing Parents for Choice in Education, expressed her concerns regarding proposed changes to 53A-1a-508 *Content of a charter – Modification of charter* and stated that Parents for Choice in Education would not be supporting those changes.

Consent Calendar

Motion was made by Member Robert Enger and seconded by Vice Chair Dean Brockbank to approve the consent calendar. The motion was carried unanimously.

Amendment Request – Utah Connections Academy

Chair Beagley informed the SCSB that representatives of Utah Connections Academy were not able to attend today's meeting; therefore their request will be placed on a future SCSB meeting agenda, most likely March.

Graduation Rates

Director Marlies Burns shared with the SCSB a report showing charter school graduation rates since 2008 using the Federal 4-year formula. The report indicated that statewide charter school graduation rate is 8% lower than the statewide district graduation rate, noting the difference could be the way schools are reporting their data.

Amendment Request – Provo Freedom Academy

Representatives of Freedom Academy informed the SCSB their amendment request to make changes to the school's charter agreement; change the name of the school to Freedom Preparatory Academy; modify their mission statement; removal of most of the governance section; removal of library committee; removal of student goals using disaggregated subgroups; and removal of school remediation for students not meeting goals. Freedom Academy also requests to add 345 new students over the next three school years.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Dean Brockbank and seconded by Member Laura Belnap to recommend for approval to the USBE the amendment request to make multiple changes to the charter, change the name of the

school to Freedom Preparatory Academy and to add 145 additional students in the 2014-2015 school year for a total enrollment of 1220 students. The motion was carried unanimously.

Matriculation agreement request – Provo Freedom Academy & Noah Webster Academy

Representatives of Freedom Preparatory Academy and Noah Webster Academy informed the SCSB their request to continue their matriculation agreement.

Motion was made by Member Howard Headlee and seconded by Member Robert Enger to recommend for approval to the USBE the request to continue their matriculation agreement, with an extension for up to five years. The motion was carried unanimously. Chair Beagley requested a follow-up report to include any conversations with parents regarding their feelings of the matriculation agreement.

Presentations by schools with high at-risk population and high UCAS performance

Lynne Herring, Director of Freedom Preparatory Academy, and Rick Kempton, Director of Noah Webster Academy, shared reasons they perceive their students do well academically, as well as some best practices other charter schools could use to improve student performance.

Utah Charter School Finance Authority report

David Damschen, Deputy State Treasurer and Brian Baker, from Zions Bank Public Finance, informed the SCSB of the proposed standards being put in place regarding the Utah Charter School Credit Enhancement Program.

Final recommendations on legislation and rules

Recommended changes to 53A-1a-508 – *Content of a charter-Modification of a charter* were discussed along with some additional changes. Director Burns informed the SCSB of changes that had been made from their input at the last board meeting.

Motion was made by Member Howard Headlee and seconded by Member Robert Enger to adopt the proposed language changes to 53A-1a-508. The motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Member Howard Headlee and seconded by Member Kristin Elinkowski to submit to legislature for adoption, the recommended language changes. The motion was carried unanimously.

Recommended changes to R277-470 – *Charter Schools-General Provisions* were discussed along with some additional changes. Director Burns informed the SCSB of changes that had been made from their input at the last board meeting.

Motion was made by Member Laura Belnap to recommend the proposed the language changes to the USBE in R277-470. Because of no second to the motion, the motion failed.

Motion was made by Member Howard Headlee and seconded by Member Robert Enger to amend language to include “without prior written notification to the USBE” and recommend the changes to the USBE for approval. Members Laura Belnap, Kristin Elinkowski and Dean Brockbank opposed the motion. The motion did not pass.

Member Dean Brockbank proposed to direct staff to develop a training module to include best practices procedures regarding incentive programs.

Report from Quail Run Primary School

Representatives from Quail Run Primary School reported to the SCSB the school's progress regarding enrollment numbers and financial plans. A budgetary corrective action plan was distributed to the SCSB members.

The SCSB requested an update from the school at the March 14, 2013 meeting to address academic and enrollment concerns along with their FY14 budget.

#### Report from Aristotle Academy

Representatives from Aristotle Academy reported to the SCSB the school's progress regarding enrollment numbers and financial status.

The SCSB requested an update from the school at the March 14, 2013 meeting to provide the board with updated FY13 revenue and expenditure report, their FY14 budget, FY14 enrollment projections, FY14 drop dead number, and student academic progress.

#### Performance Framework

Director Burns reminded the SCSB the purpose of the performance framework is threefold: 1) to provide best practice targets for charter school governing boards so they can see where they should be heading; 2) to act as an early warning system to alert charter school governing boards where they may be getting off track; and 3) to help us, as a board, perform our statutory duty of monitoring charter school performance and holding the schools accountable. Recommendations were made regarding the measures, metrics, and targets and suggested options to be used when considering how charter schools will be monitored and evaluated.

#### Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn at 2:40 pm. by Member Kristin Elinkowski.