

MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, January 17, 2019
Utah State Board of Education—Board Rooms

DRAFT

Members Present:

Chair Kristin Elinkowski (refrains from voting, unless otherwise noted).
Vice Chair DeLaina Tonks
Member Cynthia Phillips
Member Jim Moss (via telephone)
Member Krystle Bassett
Member Michelle Smith
Member Bryan Bowles

Staff Present:

Jennifer Lambert
Rabecca Cisneros
Michael Clark
James Madsen
Amber Hellstrom
Brett Campbell
Assistant Attorney General David Jones
Stewart Okobia

Others Present:

Scott Jones (USBE), Angela Stallings (USBE), Joylin Lincoln (UAPCS), Preston Allen (UAPCS), Gina James (UAPCS), Emily Morris (Mountain Sunrise Academy—MSA), Rebecca Stone)MSA), David Fawson (MSA), Krystelle Rose (MSA), Alyssa Sorenson (MSA), Emily Ashby (MSA), Karren Pyfer (Utah Mountain School—UMS), Tim Owen (UMS), Chris Wright (UMS), Mike Johnson (UMS), Betty Sawyer (UMS), John Stein (UMS), Howard Stephenson (Bridge), Matt Morrison (Bridge), Debbie Nelson (Bridge), Kim Duponce (Bridge), Lani Rounds (Bridge), Kim Coleman (Monticello), Gienni Assinks (Bridge), Joel Coleman (Monticello), Dane Roberts (Monticello), Montell Withers (Monticello), Steve Carroll (Utah Military Academy—UMA), Matt Throckmorton (UMA), Kelly Mack (UMA), Hanifi Oguz (Beehive Science and Technology Academy), Sudha Karghi (Beehive), Calvin Zullic (Beehive), Chris McCandless (Beehive),

Call to Order

Chair Elinkowski called the meeting to order at 10:13 AM.

Public Comment

Mr. Matt Throckmorton of Utah Military Academy commented on frustration after the previous day's meeting, changing assessments, recognizing the tough job of the State Charter School Board, and hoping the SCSB approves at least one school to give choice to students.

Ms. Giennie Assink, board chair of Monticello Academy, commented on equity, transparency, inflammatory information, due process, requesting Member Smith (and other members who have received non-transparent information) recuse themselves from voting on Monticello Academy.

Board Chair Report

Executive Director Jennifer Lambert reminded SCSB members of the Utah STEM and Charter Expo on January 26th.

Chair Elinkowski thanked the readers, staff, and the applicants for their efforts with the application process.

Consent Calendar

A.) December 13, 2018 Minutes, B.) Monthly Financial Report, and C.) Vista School Charter Agreement.

Motion

Member Smith moved, and Vice Chair Tonks seconded, to approve the General Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

New School, Replication, and Satellite Requests Discussion and Vote

Merits of a straw poll was discussed, but none was done.

Mountain Sunrise Academy

Motion

Member Smith moved, and Member Phillips seconded, "to approve Mountain Sunrise Academy's application." The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

- Member Smit—yes
- Member Bowles—no
- Vice Chair Tonks—no
- Member Bassett—yes
- Member Phillips—yes
- Member Moss—yes

Discussion

Confidence in the board, model, concerns about assessment and achievement, multiple measures

of success, concerns with meeting standards and accountability, curriculum, and potential challenges with enrollment were discussed.

Utah Mountain School

Motion

Vice Chair Tonks moved, and Member Smith seconded, “to approve Utah Mountain School.” The motion carried unanimously with the following roll call vote:

- Member Smith—yes
- Member Bowles—yes
- Member Bassett—yes
- Member Phillips—yes
- Member Moss—yes
- Vice Chair Tonks—yes

Discussion

Initial hesitancy, strength of presentation, expertise of governing board, optimism for the school, potential Turnaround designation in the future, motives for denying schools, mission and vision of the school, innovation, choice, needs of students, the Ogden community, rigorous approach to pedagogy, and the difficulty of marketing and getting enrollment were discussed.

Bridge Elementary Discussion

Motion

Member Smith moved, and Member Phillips seconded, “to approve Bridge Elementary.” The motion carried unanimously with the following roll call vote:

- Member Smith—yes
- Member Bowles—yes
- Member Bassett—yes
- Member Phillips—yes
- Member Moss—yes
- Vice Chair Tonks—yes

Discussion

Initial concerns, belief in each child’s learning capabilities, the good job Bridge Elementary’s governing board did with taking direction, and excitement for Roy were discussed.

Monticello Academy Replication (and waiver request to open SY2019-20) Discussion

Discussion

Member Smith commented on not receiving extra information, and not recusing herself.

Information in packets, response to racial slurs and special education findings vs complaints, requirement to notify districts, timeframe of expedited opening as cause for concern, desire to

see Monticello Academy return in a future year, and expertise of governing board, being weary of approving schools who missed technicalities, concerns about property availability, timeline, and support without waiver were discussed.

Ms. Kim Coleman, director of Monticello Academy, was questioned on timeline, financing and property availability.

Motion

Member Bowles moved, and Member Phillips seconded “to approve Monticello Academy’s Replication—just that piece of it.”

Substitute Motion

Member Phillips moved, and Member Bassett seconded, “to grant Monticello Academy’s Replication on the normal timeline, and even though there is a waiver request on the table, it is not part of this motion. This motion is to approve on the normal timeline.” The motion carried unanimously with the following roll call vote:

- Member Smith—yes
- Member Bowles—yes
- Member Bassett—yes
- Member Phillips—yes
- Member Moss—yes
- Vice Chair Tonks—yes

Utah Military Academy Replications (2 Campuses) Discussion

Discussion

Academics, inviting Utah Military Academy to return in a future year, amending charter goals, student opportunity, and quantity of schools requested was discussed.

Motion

Vice Chair Tonks moved, and Member Bowles seconded, “to deny the requests for the Utah Military Academy Replications.” The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

- Member Smit—no
- Member Bowles—yes
- Vice Chair Tonks—yes
- Member Bassett—yes
- Member Phillips—yes
- Member Moss—yes

Beehive Science and Technology Academy Satellite Discussion

Discussion

Concerns over changing culture with massive enrollment jump, support for the school and elementary kids, benefits of growth, and a belief in leadership were discussed.

Motion

Member Phillips moved, and Vice Chair Tonks seconded, “that we grant Beehive Science and Technology Academy as per their request.” The motion carried unanimously with the following roll call vote:

- Member Smit—yes
- Member Bowles—yes
- Vice Chair Tonks—yes
- Member Bassett—yes
- Member Phillips—yes
- Member Moss—yes

State Accountability and State Turnaround Reports

Mr. Michael Clark presented the data of the schools in the top 5% and bottom 3%, noting that there could be minor changes.

Charter School Accountability Framework (CSAF) timeline, charter, state statute, root cause analyses, and the providing of a mentor was discussed.

Public Comment

Mark Hunstman (chair of the Utah State Board of Education) thanked State Charter School Board members for their dedication to students, hospitality, and asked for feedback about USBE’s board or staff.

School Spotlight – Graduation Rate

Pinnacle Canyon Academy

Representatives of Pinnacle Canyon Academy joined via telephone and introduced themselves.

Mr. Michael Clark presented the school’s successful graduation rate, then representatives of the school discussed: supports for students, belief that students should graduate, developing career goals, skill development, job placement, Project HOPE, internships, student-teacher ratio, sports, administration actively tracking each senior, building relationships, meal programs, college courses, economy, and connections with tech companies.

Mailing a congratulatory certificate, and taking a picture at a future board meeting was discussed.

Entheos Academy Amendment Request

Governing Board Membership

Representatives of Entheos Academy introduced themselves.

The recommendation language the SCSB gave to the USBE, of providing an extension vs providing Entheos Academy Magna with two more years, was discussed.

Staff was told that their interpretation was correct, then directed them to continue making said clarification of intent.

Entheos Academy Magna's governing board member terms, changes to board, and the proposed amendments to their bylaws were discussed.

Motion

Member Phillips moved, and Vice Chair Tonks seconded, "that the amendment request from Entheos Academy, relative to their charter and board bylaws, be accepted, including the timeline that they have laid out for transitioning to the now determined terms for board members." The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Member Smith moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.