

MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, December 13, 2018
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
Member Krystle Bassett
Member Michelle Smith

Members Absent:

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), Janice Christiansen (Spectrum Academy), Marney DeVroom (Spectrum Academy), Jason Slemplik (Spectrum Academy), Brad Nelson (Spectrum Academy), Eric Robins (Entheos Academy Magna (Entheos)), Jaren Gibson (Entheos), Fabian Castro (Entheos), Alisha Cartier (Entheos), Erin Preston (Entheos), Nathan Picher (Entheos), Corey Mecham (Entheos), Mathew Edvik (Entheos), Brian Storis (Entheos), Stephanie Gibson (Entheos), Diane Johnson (American Internation School of Utah (AISU)), Janae Powell (AISU), Mobey Wallace (AISU), Kent Burggraaf (AISU), Tasi Young (AISU), Lincoln Filmore (AISU).

Call to Order

Vice Chair DeLaina Tonks called the meeting to order at 10:13 AM, informing those present that Chair Kristin Elinkowski was stuck in traffic and would join the meeting as soon as possible.

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Board Chair Report

Chair Elinkowski was stuck in traffic, so this agenda item was skipped.

Student Retention and Enrollment Report

Mr. Brett Campbell presented, discussing how the growth of the Utah student population has affected the growth of charter schools, charter schools comprising almost 12% of student population, SCSB schools serving more students with IEPs and 504s but less ELL and socio-economically disadvantaged, SCSB schools growing more diverse by twice the level as other public schools, the average retention rate for 2018 at 81.1% being consistent with the five-year trend, and the SCSB schools with a low retention rate.

School Spotlight—Student Retention

Spectrum Academy—Pleasant Grove

Chair Elinkowski joined the meeting.

Mr. Michael Clark presented, discussing Spectrum Academy—Pleasant Grove’s retention rate, percentage of students considered mobile and/or chronically absent before attending the school, science scores compared to statewide average for special education students, and academic growth.

Representatives of Spectrum Academy discussed the environment at the school, opportunities for developing life-skills, in-school programs of carpentry, and transportation.

Representatives of the school received a certificate, took a picture with board members, then Spectrum Academy students served the SCSB delicious desserts they had prepared.

Consent Calendar

A) November 8, 2018 Minutes, B) Monthly Financial Report, C) C.S. Lewis Academy Charter Agreement, D) Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy Charter Agreement, E) Mountain Heights Academy Charter Agreement, F) The Ranches Academy Charter Agreement.

Vice Chair Tonks recused herself and exited the room for this agenda item.

Motion

Member Smith moved, and Member Phillips seconded, “to adopt the Consent Calendar.” The motion carried unanimously by those members present.

Recommendation to Board of Education on Entheos Academy Magna

Mr. Michael Clark noted that: Entheos Academy did not receive an extension to exit State Turnaround. Authorizer input, the school's governing board member terms, bylaws, administration structure, and rotation in leadership were discussed.

Mr. Brett Campbell discussed data, Entheos' board meeting minutes, Turnaround provider reports, focus groups, meeting with parents, parent surveys, complications with report cards, student-led conferences with parents and teachers, parents struggling with feedback, teacher turnover, intentional learning, core values, gifted programs, RTI, MTSS, discovery learning, and possible options for recommendations to the State Board of Education.

Representatives of Entheos Academy Magna, and the SCSB, discussed data, differences with other schools, teacher retention in the first year of Turnaround, needs assessment, mid-year reviews, implementing plans to fidelity, middle-school math, Curriculum Associates' i-Ready utilization and growth, governance structure, rotation in leadership, teacher PLC, retention, SCSB as advocates, extension with accountability per the Charter School Accountability Framework (CSAF), if the State Board of Education has the authority to waive its own rule, ongoing formative assessments, offer of a mentor, and the process of the Oversight Model.

Motion

Vice Chair Tonks moved, and Member Smith seconded, "that the State Charter School Board recommends to the State Board of Education that they take other appropriate action by granting an extension to Entheos Academy Magna." The motion carried unanimously by those members present.

Motion

Member Moss moved, and Member Phillips seconded, "to place Entheos Academy Magna on Warning status within the Charter School Accountability Framework (CSAF), with all the tools that are outlined within that framework, for a one year period to be reevaluated a year from now—and to direct staff to work with the Oversight Committee on the terms of that status with the ability to use all the tools that are outlined in our accountability framework, and to communicate to the State Board of Education that that Warning has been issued in support of our recommendation for an extension of Turnaround." The motion carried unanimously by those members present.

Authorizer Oversight of American International School of Utah (AISU)

Notice of Concern, processes of the Oversight Model, history of interactions with SCSB staff, steps taken to address deficiencies, goals as outlined in AISU's Charter Agreement, graduation rate, DIBELS, and Uniform Growth Goal were presented by Mr. Michael Clark.

Mr. Stewart Okobia presented, discussing AISU's financial viability and how it relates to the Charter School Accountability Framework (CSAF), consultation with USBE Financial Operations, metrics for evaluating AISU's finances, questioned costs; and forthcoming audits from USBE's Title I and Special Education departments.

Representatives of AISU and the SCSB discussed foreign investments, interest rates, differences/relationships of AIS and AISU, initial funding sources when the charter was approved, property tax assessment, CLA (Clifton, Larson, Allen) report findings, comingling of funds in past years, academics, board member expertise, unresolved issues with the Notice of Concern, and the termination of the initial director for improper use of funds.

Motion

Vice Chair Tonks moved, and Member Smith seconded, to “place AISU on Warning status and, along with that, provide them with all the tools and resources available to move them off of Warning status with the idea that the mentoring and the deficiencies and terms and timeline be identified, and direct them to work with staff so they can move off of Warning status as quickly as possible—and staff works with the Oversight Committee to determine the terms of the Warning status. The motion carried unanimously.

Charter School Oversight and Bonding

Treasurer David Damschen discussed the moral obligation pledge, interest rate schools receive, debt financing and contracts, bond holder rights, negative effects on the marketplace if a school defaulted, need for well informed decisions, and where a policy addressing the handling of schools who are bonded should live.

Treasurer Damschen and the SCSB came to an understanding that bond counsel would include a failure covenant summary in its initial process.

Authorizing Report

Ms. Rabecca Cisneros and Executive Director Lambert presented nationwide data vs state data, SCSB receiving similar number of applications as national average but having a higher approval rate, enrollment caps, history of authority, proposals, capacity interviews and presentations, impact of decisions on growth, enrollment measures, negative impact of schools opening outside of their approved cohort, schools that opened early or late having lower outcomes compared to those who opened on time, cohort size, proximity of Satellite to sponsor, and the criticality of a school leader.

Board Training—Strategic Authorizing & Board Capacity Interviews

Ms. Rabecca Cisneros presented on strategic authorizing, discussing: meeting the SCSB vision, fulfilling need of students, achieving core values, schools achieving their visions and how it relates to the SCSB’s, capacity interviews, rigorous application process, seeking schools with strong plans and capacity, reasons for schools existing and how they accomplish their missions, pre-operational boot camp, and the number of people on a high functioning governing board.

Adjourn

Member Moss moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.