

**MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

Thursday November 9th, 2017

USBE – Board Rooms

DRAFT

Members Present:

Chair Kristin Elinkowski
Vice Chair DeLaina Tonks
Member Dean Brockbank
Member Cynthia Phillips
Member Bruce Davis
Member Jim Moss

Members Present:

Member Michelle Smith

Staff Present:

Jennifer Lambert
Armando Venegas
Rabecca Cisneros
Michael Clark
Reed Bramble
Jessica Hardy
David Thomas
James Madsen

Others Present:

Scott Jones (Deputy Superintendent) Teresa Theurer (Higher Ed), Jerry Record (USBE), Kelli Booth (NUAMES), Steve Davis (NUAMES), Tina Smith (UAPCS), Kim Frank (UCN), Craig Frank (UCN), Liz Taylor, Brett Wilson (NUAMES), Nate Taggart (NUAMES), Kevin Long (PHS), Renee Edwards (PHS), Erin Preston (PHS legal counsel), Gil Jarvie (PHS), Monty Hardy (Red Apple for PHS), Steven Finley (Red Apple for PHS). Jennifer Price, (FDA), David Macfarlane (FDA), Lisa Arbogast (legal counsel for FDA), Wendy Porter (FDA), Cindy Bissard (FDA).

Call to Order

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

Board Chair Report

Chair Elinkowski. Discussed changing April 2018 board meeting to April 19th, and January 2019 to the third Thursday. NACSA trip was discussed, being passive vs active. Social media was discussed.

General Consent Calendar

Including: A. minutes from the September 14, 2017 meeting, B. Terra Academy Charter Agreement, and C. Bridges Elementary School Governing Board.

Motion

Member Phillips moved, and Member Davis seconded, to approve the Consent Calendar as stated on the website and in the information staff distributed. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

No one made public comment.

Early College Alliance Waiver Request

School Days

Itineris Early College High School (IECHS) and Utah County Academy of Sciences (UCAS) are part of the Early College High School Alliance (ECA). Each school has university partnership. The universities have drastically altered their academic calendars. To allow students to follow a single academic schedule, these schools request the ability to align their academic calendar with their partnering University's calendar. This requires a waiver from the 180 day requirement. Each school provides at least, and often more than, the 990 instructional hours required in the same rule. Four of the six ECA High Schools are requesting this waiver; two of the six are authorized by other agencies. NUAMES and AMES, are not requesting this waiver. Waiver from R277-4194.

Motion

Vice Chair Tonks moved, and Member Brockbank seconded, to approve the waiver request to allow the schools to align their calendar days with their respective universities. The motion carried unanimously.

Course Offerings

The Academy for Math Science Engineering (AMES), Itineris Early College High School (IECHS), and Utah County Academy of Sciences (UCAS) are part of the Early College Alliance (ECA). Each school has a primary STEM and Early College education focus and mission. As such, to better align with their mission and partnering University requirements, the schools are requesting to reduce the requirements for PE and Art by 0.5 credit in each subject area. This 1.0 credit hour would be replaced by a STEM focused class offered by either the high school or the University partner. Five of the six ECA High Schools are requesting this waiver; two of the six are authorized by other agencies. NUAMES, due to its satellite, is the only ECA school not requesting this waiver.

Motion

Member Davis moved, and Member Phillips seconded, to approve the early college course offerings waiver request as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

School Spotlight—NUAMES

NUAMES was recognized for their consistently high growth and proficiency scores on state assessments.

Mr. Reed Bramble presented on the school's growth and proficiency scores, and representatives of the school showed a video.

Teacher buy-in, small administration staff, resources from Weber State University, support of Davis School district in assisting with reporting, a 23:1 teacher-student ratio, mid-year study skills class to help students, local business investment, capstone projects, facilities, intervention and supports, and the school's Ogden campus expansion were discussed.

SAGE and School Grade Report

Mr. Bramble presented on the SAGE/School Grade Report, highlighting: the schools who were placed on turnaround for two straight years in the bottom 3%, the schools in the bottom 3% of performers for the 2017 school year, and the schools that earned a letter grade of "A" for the 2017 school year.

Pre-Turnaround Policy

The lack of alternative school designation for charter schools, internal vs. existing USBE policy, USBE rule-making authority, and the naming of this policy was discussed.

Motion

Member Brockbank moved, and Member Davis seconded, to approve the "Pre-Turnaround Status Policy that will reflect the changes as discussed here—such as changing the word "status" and replacing it with "support" or "mentoring" as staff deems appropriate. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion to the Motion

Member Moss commented that the document's clause that reads "already designated in Pre-Turnaround ~~Status~~ (Support)" should be "designated for Pre-Turnaround Support." Member Phillips commented that it should say "automatically provided support/intervention—that there is no status. Executive Director Lambert commented that she will have it read "automatically provided support, designed to help the school avoid entering..."

Bylaws

Executive Director Lambert recapped previous discussions and stated there was no public comment to report.

Motion

Member Phillips moved, and Member Davis seconded, that the bylaws, as now constituted, be approved.

Amendment to the Motion

Member Phillips amended her motion to “direct staff to check on subject-verb agreement in section D,” thus the motion because “that the bylaws, as now constituted, be approved if staff checks the subject-verb agreement in section D.” The motion carried unanimously.

Budget Report and Carry Forward Spend Plan

Ms. Jessica Hardy presented the budget, noting that some charges have not cleared the State’s Data Warehouse, and explained when they are expected to appear, as well as the amounts they are estimated to be. Ms. Hardy commented that the budget will be presented quarterly and included in the packet every month.

The Carry Forward Spend Plan consists of: \$120,000 for a Time Limited IT Analyst position To complete development of the Utah Charter Access Point (UCAP) application, \$250,000 Time Limited position (2 years) 2-year time limited position to help create SCSB procedures, and also to design and oversee innovative pilot projects, \$50,000 for special projects, \$120,000 in moving expenses to relocate SCSB offices from 1st floor of the USBE building to the 2nd floor (plus to purchase Varidesks and other furniture as needed for new and existing staff), \$20,000 for a consultant to conduct board training, \$50,000 to add to existing mentoring funds as needed to provide mentoring support to schools in turn-around, warning, or probation, \$15,000 to travel to conferences and to visit other authorizers., \$400,000 to be set aside and used if needed to assist schools during closure. Items can include, but not limited to: final audit fees, contractors needed to file final reports, and effect closure, \$360,000 of funds for competitive grants to SCSB schools for innovative programs that improve student outcomes (funds were previously approved, but the funds were not allocated until after the close of FY17), \$267,000 for s chools could request reimbursement for professional development and training opportunities, \$93,087 to further supplement the Start-up Grant awards to support new schools, \$112,116 of FY17 and FY18 unobligated carry forward funds to act as a reserve fund to cover any overages in identified obligated projects.

Motion

Member Davis moved, and Vice Chair Tonks seconded, to approve the SCSB Carry Forward Spend Plan for FY18. The motion carried unanimously.

Innovative Student Improvement Program (ISIP) Presentation

Ms. Rabecca Cisneros presented on the \$417,000 that has been awarded to nine schools who demonstrated innovative programs aimed at providing positive student outcomes, noting that:

- Promontory School of Expeditionary Learning is creating an outdoor learning space designed by the students;

- American Preparatory Academy's West Valley campuses are teaching kindergarteners violin via the Suzuki method;
- Itineris Early College High has a third party vendor takes 25 students and connects them with industry leaders from Adobe, Microsoft, Natural Geographic, etc., to build job and networking skills;
- Salt Lake Arts Academy enhanced its fine arts program by building a space (black box theater/cafeteria) to harness improvisation and implement technology;
- Noah Webster Academy used the money to use Edivate: School Improvement Network's educational resources; City Academy has implemented Cambridge program assessments fully;
- AMES used the money for language arts with a very low student-teacher ratio;
- Bear River Charter School implemented a morning direct instruction kindergarten;
- Hawthorn Academy is implementing cross-curricular simulations and will be collecting the data from those simulations as well.

Franklin Discovery Academy (FDA)

Mr. Armando Venegas commented that the SCSB Performance Oversight Committee recommended Franklin Discovery Academy attend this meeting to report on: financial stability, special education compliance, and school governance.

The school's budget and keeping of 30 days cash on hand, enrollment, the appointment of Julie Chacon as the school's Special Education Director, governance vs management, statute for declaring conflicts of interest, addressing concerns outside of a public meeting, Warning status, the purpose and limitations of closed sessions, and the inability to discuss items on the school's November 15th file review until after that date has passed were discussed with representatives of Franklin Discovery Academy.

Pioneer High School for the Performing Arts

Mr. Armando Venegas commented that Pioneer High School for the Performing Arts (PHS) was requested to attend by the Performance Oversight Committee in order to answer questions regarding the school's financial stability and break-even budget, enrollment, building and occupancy status, and lack of communication with SCSB staff.

The school's Warning status, school grade, communications being directed to PHS' legal counsel, Charter Agreement establishing contract between SCSB and PHS' governing board, building inspections, ADA accessibility, E occupancy, building code at time of construction, lease accommodations, cash reserve, stability and qualifications of PHS' administration and governing board, course offerings, graduation, legality of charging parents for online courses, frequency of dual enrollment, part-time students, ASPIRE, USBE Membership Audit, and academics were discussed.

Adjourn

Vice Chair Tonks moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.