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MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 7, 2019
Utah State Board of Education—Basement West

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:

Dan Cafee (Roots Charter High School), Tyler Bastian (Roots), Erick Workman (Roots), Carol Lloyd (GreenWood), Stephanie Hawthorn (GreenWood), Greg Tarsa (GreenWood), Jessie Kidd (GreenWood), Alisha Peterson (GreenWood), Jayme Nay (GreenWood), Gene Trombetti (Athenian eAcademy), Karen Ellingson (Athenian), Tracy Hendrickson (Athenian), Kami Alvarez (Athenian), Amy Smith (Athenian), Brett Nielsen (Athenian), Matt Throckmorton (Athenian), Ryan Marshall (Ignite Entrepreneurship Academy), Heidi Long (Ignite), Joy Askren (Ignite), Marianne Ludlow (Ignite), Tammi Ross (Capstone Classical Academy).

Call to Order

Chair Elinkowski called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM.

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Public Comment

No one made public comment.

Board Chair Report

Chair Elinkowski informed the audience of the room microphones' sensitivity.

Consent Calendar

A) February 14, 2019 Minutes, B) Monthly Financial Report, C) Innovative Student Improvement Program (ISIP), D) Salt Lake Arts Academy Expansion, E) Advantage Arts Academy Start Date and Waiver Request.

Motion

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

Report for Schools Identified for School Turnaround, Cohort Three

Executive Director Jennifer Lambert discussed previous meetings, possible actions, process, and making a determination on each school.

Roots Charter High School

Representatives of Roots Charter High School (Roots), discussed their approval and opening, fast-track criteria, mission of charter and focusing on kids who are disengaged with education, high credit deficiency among student population, habits of incoming students, school farm and its animals, graduation rates, ACE scores, and the experience of board members.

Roots' representatives were questioned on applying for alternative status, low attendance rates, student performance, growth scores, extra supports, improving students reading on grade level, internal assessments and data tracking, transfer rate and where students are going, personalized student plans, male-female ratio, fidelity to charter, plans for improvement, pros and cons of Turnaround, and getting a new Exhibit A.

Motion

Vice Chair Tonks moved, and Member Smith seconded, "to move on to the next school." The motion carried unanimously by those members present.

GreenWood Charter School

Representatives of GreenWood Charter School introduced themselves, and discussed excitement for Turnaround and having a needs assessment at their school, being proud of financial situation, student retention, percent of building payment in overall budget, training on the Open and Public Meetings Act, visions for the school, board members' experience with students at the school, and the school's philosophy.

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Representatives of GreenWood were questioned on background checks, plans to address assessment scores, student performance before they attended GreenWood compared to after, switching curriculum, teacher retention and reasons for them leaving, student data, MTSS and adjusting it with current data to move metrics in the desired way, expansion of resources, and RTI.

Motion

Vice Chair Tonks moved, and Member Bassett seconded, “to move on to the next school.” The motion carried unanimously by those members present.

Athenian eAcademy

Representatives of Athenian eAcademy introduced themselves and discussed areas of improvement in their comprehensive board review and completing items by the end of the week, recognition of needing help, special education population, successes of students post-graduation, data from root-cause analysis, NWEA testing, SAGE opt-out rates, the amount of students reading on grade level, educating parent community on benefits of state assessments, importance of reliable data, partnerships with out-of-state schools and learning “Habits of Success,” reading and math coaches for tier II and III interventions,

Representatives of Athenian eAcademy were questioned on approach to board oversight, their number of annual reports, consistency of meetings, school’s rank, and Turnaround money.

Motion

Vice Chair Tonks moved “to consider closure for Athenian eAcademy.” Vice Chair Tonks withdrew this motion before it was seconded.

Motion

Vice Chair Tonks moved, and Member Smith seconded, “to propose termination of Athenian eAcademy.” The motion failed with the following votes:

- Member Bassett—No
- Member Smith—No
- Vice Chair Tonks—No
- Member Phillips—No
- Member Moss—No

Discussion to the Motion

Benefits of other statuses, possibilities of amending motion, due process for the school, root-cause analysis data, wanting something from the school that inspires confidence, Turnaround not interfering with authorizer’s process but possible issues with funding, purpose of Warning and Probation as a disciplinary action, general support for all schools, reiteration that the motion is to initiate the process and not close the school, possible other actions as an intermediary step, intent of motion, internal process and support offered to school already, needs assessment, status of an old Notice of Concern, education of students and if they are being well served, and potential pushbacks from USBE if action against the school were to be taken during Turnaround.

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Representatives of Athenian eAcademy requested reconsidering or a tabling of the motion until after April, noting that their staff is engaged and recognizes areas of improvement, growth in SAGE scores, increase of NWEA scores, purpose of legislation of Turnaround, showing signs of life, and a receptiveness to change.

Motion

Vice Chair Tonks moved, and Member Smith seconded, “to put Athenian eAcademy on Probation through the State Charter School Board’s December 2019 meeting, for low academic performance and board governance issues—and direct staff to take the conversations that we’ve had here, as the board, to put together a probation plan and work with the school to implement it with fidelity.” The motion carried unanimously with the following votes:

- Member Bassett—Yes
- Member Smith—Yes
- Vice Chair Tonks—Yes
- Member Phillips—Yes
- Member Moss—Yes

Discussion to the motion:

The SCSB implored representatives of Athenian eAcademy to take this motion seriously, noting the short amount of time the school would have to demonstrate improvement, stressing the necessity for planning and use of assessment tools to demonstrate improvements.

Ignite Entrepreneurship Academy

Seeking to amend districts served to statewide

Ms. Rebecca Cisneros introduced the changes to the Exhibit A, noting that the school is requesting two changes that are dependent upon one another.

Representatives of Ignite Entrepreneurship Academy introduced themselves and were questioned on plans and logistics of distance sites, how to get students to the sites, willingness to amend request to be more selective about areas of access to protect Ignite and to be direct with students who wish to enroll, and the minimum cost of establishing distance learning sites.

Motion

Member Phillips moved, and Member Smith seconded, “that the State Charter School Board grant a material amendment to the “Exhibit A” in Ignite Entrepreneurship Academy’s Charter Agreement that amends the location of their distance program to locations to be specified with staff, and that this State Charter School Board grant a change to the goal targets in the Exhibit A—amending those targets based on current student needs and the performance of other schools they have identified in the literacy goals submitted to the state.” The motion carried unanimously by those members present.

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Capstone Classical Academy Waiver and Amendment Requests

Seeking a waiver to minimum instructional hours per day in R277-419-2(31). Seeking to amend to add a distance program

Ms. Cisneros introduced Capstone Classical Academy's requests, which would create an Exhibit B, and Capstone's waiver request which would constitute a contractual change needing approval by the State Charter School Board before the State Board of Education would consider it.

Representatives of Capstone Classical Academy were questioned on enrollment and intent, year the school opened and why they are already requesting amendments, and fidelity to their charter.

Motion

Member Phillips moved, and Member Smith seconded, "that the State Charter School Board grant the material amendment to Exhibit A, requested by Capstone Classical Academy, which includes adding a full distance program, and 2) that this board request a waiver from the State Board of Education to Rule R277-419-2(32) which defines a school day as four hours; so that, specifically, Fridays at Capstone Classical Academy, which run for only 3.5 hours will count as a full day towards the 180 day requirement required by Board Rule." The motion carried unanimously by those members present.

Review of Legislation

The Legislative Committee updated the SCSB on HB250 to allow UMA to use distinct uniforms, HB260 to meet needs of early college high schools, charter funding equity from UAPCS, HB250 that deals with school fees, HB273 removing fees on elementary students, a bill of charter trust lands councils to include grandparents, ISIP which wouldn't be ongoing but funded this year and allow for a future ask, and UCN pushing minimum of \$40,000 for administrative cost.

HB 198, HB260-S3,

That the board directs us to be supportive of

Motion

Member Phillips moved, and Member Smith seconded "that the board directs us to be supportive of HB 198, (Rep.) Poulson's bill, which is the education accountability amendment that does away with a specific school letter grade and adopts the governor's report card." The motion carried unanimously by those members present.

Motion

Member Phillips moved, and Member Bassett seconded, "that this board direct the (Legislative) Committee to be supportive of HB260-S3, Representative Owens' bill, which restores regents and new century scholarships, and does a few other things—:stacking is not allowed by this bill, these scholarships are last options after all other options are exhausted, requires FAFSA to be completed, scholarships can be used for tuition and fees only, cannot be used at private universities within our state but at the public ones they can be, and it creates a new scholarship

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called the Access Utah Promise scholarship for low income students and adults.” The motion carried with the following votes:

- Member Bassett—Yes
- Member Smith—No
- Vice Chair Tonks—Yes
- Member Phillips—Yes
- Member Moss—No
- Chair Elinkowski—Yes

Discussion to the Motion

The unfairness of HB260-S3 not including private colleges was discussed.

Adjourn

Member Smith moved “to adjourn.” The motion carried unanimously by those members present.