

Utah State Charter School Board Meeting  
Minutes  
February 17, 2005  
North & South Board Rooms  
Utah State Office of Education

Members present: Brian Allen, Barbara Killpack, David Moss, Scott Smith

Members excused: Anne Peterson, Eric Smith, Sonia Zisumbo

Staff present: John Broberg, Jo Schmitt

Others present: Ray Timothy, Mark Cluff, Janene Bowen, Nathan Rathborn, Jeff Hardy, Monty Hardy, Christopher Was

Media present: Tiffany Erickson, Tanna Barry

1.Call to Order

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

2.Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Member Barbara Killpack and seconded by Member David Moss to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2005 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

3.Executive Session

Motion was made to go into executive session by Member David Moss and seconded by Member Barbara Killpack for purposes of discussing personnel issues. The board was polled and by unanimous consent of those present the Board moved into executive session.

Motion was made by Member Barbara Killpack and seconded by Member David Moss to move out of executive session, the board was polled and by unanimous consent, the board moved out of executive session.

4.Legislative Report

Chair Brian Allen briefly brought the board up to date on the bills that are in legislature that concerned education and charter schools. House Bill 36 about zoning issues. James Ferrin is sponsor. In it's final form, the bill seemed to be a workable bill, and everyone seemed satisfied with it. The governor would be signing the bill that day.

House Bill 206 requires Charter Schools to provide annual reports on innovations being done in their school. Chair Brian Allen reported that the bill passed out of the House committee, but he was unsure of the final status.

James Ferrin ran a bill on TLC. It was meant for all schools, but then it became a charter school bill. The bill failed, on two tries.

Senate Bill 178 – Howard Stephenson’s bill. This bill made it out of committee, with unanimous vote. Chair Brian Allen commented that he felt the bill started out concerning items that the State Charter School Board wanted from legislature. Such as change the application process, remove the cap so the board could change the application process, clarification of authorizing and determining charters. But he feels it has become a “pile-on” bill where other groups have gone to Senator Stephenson and put in some of their own issues. After Chair Brian Allen made his presentation to the legislative committee, an amendment was made to the bill to restrict the ability for anyone to deny a charter school based on geographic location or the impact on a local school district. The bill has yet to go through the Senate floor and then the House.

James Ferrin has another bill concerning proximity. Chair Brian Allen pointed out to James Ferrin that if there are stipulations put on charter schools concerning proximity and enrollment preferences, it will effect their federal funding.

Chair Brian Allen informed the Board that he had gone to the education appropriations meeting and asked for two additional staff positions and an enhancement in administrative funding. After working with the fiscal analyst and Senator Stephenson the formula that would be presented was a base of 10 wpu per school and for every additional 50 students the schools would get an additional wpu up to a maximum of 12. The funding for additional staff members, he has been told is in place. Chair Brian Allen reported that the Charter School Association has lobbied for one-time money to help supplement the federal startup money. There was discussion concerning funding for new schools being made by formula; possibly base plus enrollment.

Associate Superintendent Ray Timothy informed the board about House Bill 84, concerning reading requirements for student advancement. He mentioned that the bill would affect Charter Schools. Students have to be on grade level before they can be promoted, up to the first three years of school.

House Bill 183, fee waivers. The bill is still in the senate. The bill requires anyone applying for a fee waiver is required by the school official to see an income tax return or payroll stub. An amendment to the bill has a check box by the signature line showing that a school official has seen documentation. Member David Moss inquired whether there was a concern of abuse when it comes to fee waivers. Assoc. Superintendent Ray Timothy replied that there has been no data showing that there has been abuse. The state board took a position with the legislature that it was unnecessary and because of the negative impact on people that qualify for fee waiver.

House Bill 188, increase in teachers salaries with mentoring program. Amended in senate to have it replaced by the job enhancement program, such as signing bonuses, scholarship opportunities for teachers. Strictly for science, math and technology, but special education was not included.

#### 5. Conversion Document

A modified and simplified version was presented for approval by the State Charter School Board. Chair Brian Allen stated that he felt the most important item added to the form was concerning effectiveness goals, by adding fourth column “Documentation on How Goals Have

Been Achieved”. Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member David Moss to approve the conversion document. The motions carried unanimously.

#### 6. Charter School Agreement

Chair Brian Allen suggested that the Charter School Agreement approval be placed on hold until legislature has completed its session. The final form of the charter school bill will have an impact on the agreement. Chair Brian Allen desires to have three things included in the agreement; 1) the monthly financial report, 2) local board meeting minutes, 3) certificates of insurance, and specify the coverage's that are being asked for. Chair Brian Allen asked the board to review the document and let him know of their input. Member Barbara Killpack suggested that the items in the Agreement Document should be included in the Charter School Application. Director John Broberg stated that he felt that the Agreement was a summation of the application. Motion was made by Member David Moss and seconded by Member Barbara Killpack to hold the discussion concerning the charter school agreement until the March Charter School Board Meeting pending legislation. The motion carried unanimously.

#### 7. Reporting Process

Director John Broberg presented a template for the charter schools to use in reporting to the Charter School Board their financial records. Chair Brian Allen suggested having the schools use their own forms, to make it easier for the schools to report. He also suggested in the enrollment report, having the schools report the transitory nature of their population. Chair Brian Allen also suggested having the schools provide board-meeting minutes to the State Charter School Board; knowing that not all boards meet monthly, some every other month, and some quarterly. Member Scott Smith questioned Director John Broberg whether the schools were doing some type of unified accounting program. Chair Brian Allen pointed out that TAPS has a Chart of Accounts template that they provide to the schools for them to use. Member David Moss questioned how often charter school boards actually meet. He feels that the schools need to be encouraged to meet on a monthly basis. Director John Broberg restated Member David Moss' feelings about encouraging the schools to meet monthly. Member David Moss stated that because of the schools using public funds, there is a higher expectation from the public that the board is meeting more often, just to be sure things are in line, and that the funds are being spent as they should be. Member Scott Smith stated that the school should be having at least an executive meeting monthly. Chair Brian Allen suggested preparing a two-day event for charter schools administrative staff and their local boards to receive training modules on fiscal procedures, special education, curriculum mapping, and board governance. The State Charter School Board feels the need to mandate the board governance training for all school boards. Motion was made by Member Barbara Killpack and seconded by Member Scott Smith to table the reporting process and look further into the chartering agreement that includes the monthly reports.

#### 8. Board Retreat

Chair Brian Allen suggested a board retreat to discuss the vision and mission statement of the State Charter School Board. Chair Brian Allen stated that by meeting for one day only, and with the right facilitator, the board could accomplish what was needed in terms of vision and mission statement. Chair Brian Allen recommended that Director John Broberg survey the board with some suggestions as to date and times. The consensus of the members of the board in attendance

felt the week of March 6 would be a better time than in April. Director John Broberg suggested holding the retreat in St. George and incorporating the March Charter School Board meeting. Director John Broberg was asked to contact Superintendent Patti Harrington to get her available times and then to poll the board as to when the whole board would be available.

Motion was made by Member Barbara Killpack and seconded by Member Scott Smith to move the last two items on the agenda before the presentation of the charter school comparison analysis by Chris Was. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### 9.Determination of Approval of Start-up Funds

Director John Broberg asked for clarification by the board on the process approval of start-up funds for new schools. Chair Brian Allen stated that in the previous process, the board approved the schools and the State Director of Charter Schools executed the disbursements. He added that the State Director of Charter Schools is the administrator of the grant. The board requested copies of the start-up grants being sent to them for their approval.

#### 10.Approval to Hire Temporary Grant Writer

Discussion was made concerning hiring a temporary grant writer for the purposes of preparing the PCSP grant. Motion was made by Member Scott Smith to give the approval to hire a temporary grant writer for the purpose of writing the PCSP grant. The motion was carried unanimously. There was concern expressed about the amount of funding available to the schools. Director John Broberg stated that there was \$120 million available in the previous grant; this grant has \$91 million available.

#### 11.Charter School Comparison Analysis

An Analysis of Charter vs. Traditional Public Schools in Utah was presentation by Chris Was. This study was broken down by geographic regions; schools in proximity of three miles of each other. The analysis showed there isn't much difference between one area or district to another, but schools within a district or geographic area, there are large differences. Special education students in charter schools are performing better than traditional schools. However, that trend was not significant. Minority students in charter schools are performing slightly better than their traditional school counterparts. Chris Was recommended to continue collecting the CRT data and to do a trend analysis in the next three to five years.

Motion to adjourn by Barbara Killpack. Adjourned at 12:45 pm.