

**MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**
Thursday, November 14, 2013 – 9:00 a.m. – Board Rooms

APPROVED

Members Present:

Chair Tim Beagley
Member Laura Belnap
Member Kristin Elinkowski
Member Robert Enger
Member Bruce Davis

Members Absent:

Vice Chair Dean Brockbank
Member Howard Headlee

Staff present:

Marlies Burns
Jennifer Lambert
Janene Bowen
Jo Schmitt

Others present:

Deputy Superintendent Brenda Hales, Tina Smith, Joylin Lincoln, Sol Garcia, Susie Scherer, Kami Orr, Brent Pace, Mike Glauser, Jason Haskell, John Thoons, Aaron Garrett

Call to Order

Chair Tim Beagley called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Tim Beagley led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval Consent Calendar

MOTION: Member Laura Belnap moved and Member Robert Enger seconded to approve the consent calendar (minutes of SCSB meeting held October 10, 2013). The motion was carried unanimously.

State Board of Education Update

Member Laura Belnap reported to the SCSB discussions, actions and motions taken by the USBE at their last meeting: approval of recommended amendment requests for Vista at Entrada, Good Foundations Academy, Early Light Academy, Jefferson Academy and Mountainville Academy. American Preparatory Academy's request was not approved as requested, but was approved for high school students only; Charter School mentoring program; monitoring system within the board with stewardship over new charters, waivers to State Board rule, revolving loans, expansion of enrollment, mission and purpose of schools and changes to grades served.

Amendment Request – The Ranches Academy

Representatives of The Ranches Academy informed the SCSB of their request to modify the language in the organizational structure of the governing body section of their charter agreement, and bylaws, to include all Board of Trustee positions will be filled by appointment by the existing board.

MOTION: After discussion, Member Bruce Davis moved and Member Kristin Elinkowski seconded to recommend approval to the USBE the amendment to The Ranches Academy's charter to modify the language in the organizational structure of the governing body section of their charter agreement, and bylaws, to include all Board of Trustee positions will be filled by appointment by the existing board. The motion was carried unanimously.

Application process and recommended changes to UCA 53A-1a-508

Director Marlies Burns led the discussion regarding the application process for new charter schools.

Member Kristen Elinkowski shared information she received at the NACSA conference regarding application processes.

MOTION: After discussion, Member Bruce Davis moved and Member Robert Enger seconded the motion to accept the proposed changes to statute UCA 53A-1a-508 and provide a sponsor to address recommended changes to the legislature. The motion was carried unanimously.

Amendment request policy

Director Marlies Burns led the discussion regarding the amendment request policy.

After discussion, the SCSB directed the Charter School Staff to formulate a list of amendment requests for action at next month's meeting. That list would consist of items that the USBE would approve; items the SCSB would approve; and agenda items that would be placed on the consent calendar for approval.

Charter School Performance Standards report and use

Director Marlies Burns and Jennifer Lambert led the discussion regarding the Charter School Performance Standards report.

Member Robert Enger shared information he received at the NACSA conference regarding charter school performance standards.

School Land Trust Funds – Board Chair Report

Aaron Garrett, Specialist in the School Children's Trust Section at USOE, presented a power point presentation regarding the distribution of School Land Trust Funds.

Reauthorization of charter agreements

Director Marlies Burns led the discussion regarding the reauthorization of charter schools in the State of Utah.

Member Howard Headlee was not in attendance at the meeting and was unable to report to the SCSB information received at the NACSA conference.

Strategic Plan

Director Marlies Burns led the discussion regarding a Strategic Plan and mission statement for the SCSB.

Member Laura Belnap shared information she received at the NACSA conference regarding strategic plans.

A task force was formed with Member Laura Belnap chairing and Member Bruce Davis as a member of that task force. Charter School staff members and individuals from the charter school community would be additional members of the task force.

Staffing plan and budget request

Director Marlies Burns presented to the SCSB a staffing plan and budget requests to include additional charter school staff members and some contracted positions. In addition, budget items discussed included SCSB meeting attendance, training for schools, travel, supplies and materials, and consultants.

Update – Liberty Academy

Representatives of Liberty Academy informed the SCSB of their steps and actions addressing the school being placed on warning status regarding repeat audit findings.

MOTION: After discussion, Member Bruce Davis moved and Member Kristin Elinkowski seconded the motion to continue with warning status and request Liberty Academy to report back to the SCSB in their March 2014 meeting with updates to their charter and a more detailed plan and data on how their attendance policy is being implemented.

After additional discussion, a **SUBSTITUTE MOTION** was made by Member Robert Enger moved and Member Laura Belnap seconded the substitute motion to place Liberty Academy on probation, with the stipulation that their next audit, on or about September 15th, be a clean audit, with no repeat audit findings and return early next calendar year with charter changes and amendments. Members Robert Enger and Laura Belnap voted in favor of the substitute motion; Members Bruce Davis and Kristin Elinkowski voted in opposition. Because of a tie vote, the substitute motion failed.

Because the substitute motion failed, the original motion was brought back to the board for vote. Members Bruce Davis and Kristin Elinkowski voted in favor of the motion; Members Robert Enger and Laura Belnap voted in opposition. Because of a tie vote, the motion failed.

After further discussion, with representatives of Liberty Academy's input, **MOTION** was made by Member Robert Enger and seconded by Member Laura Belnap to place Liberty Academy on probation until the September 15th audit report is available, showing no repeat findings, and require the school to return early next calendar year with charter changes and amendments. The motion was carried unanimously.

Adjourn

MOTION: Member Robb Enger moved to adjourn at 1:50 p.m.