

Utah State Charter School Board Meeting
Minutes
April 21, 2008
North & South Board Rooms
Utah State Office of Education

APPROVED

Members present: Julie Adamic, Joel Wright, Scott Smith, Barbara Killpack, Brian Allen

Members excused: John Pingree, Eric Smith

Staff present: Marlies Burns, John Taggart, Jeannie Rowland, Mark Long, Jo Schmitt

Others present: Mark Cluff, Superintendent Patti Harrington, Carol Lear, representatives from various charter schools, members of the media

Call to Order

Chair Julie Adamic called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Executive Session

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member Joel Wright to move into an executive session for the purpose of discussing staffing issues and potential litigation. The SCSB was polled and by unanimous consent of those present the Board moved into executive session at 1:10 p.m.

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member Brian Allen to reconvene into open meeting. The SCSB was polled and by unanimous consent of those present the Board reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member Brian Allen to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2008 State Charter School Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Charter School Board Chair's Report

Chair Julie Adamic informed the SCSB the Accountability Committee met and discussed different options for Charter School accountability, in addition to North West Accreditation and the accountability process that is already in place.

Member Barbara Killpack requested the SCSB to review the question and answer portion of the Annual Report and determine if that information is accurate and are there additions that need to be made. Chair Julie Adamic suggested the SCSB bring their recommendations to next Charter School Board Meeting. Ms. Killpack informed the SCSB that questionnaires for next year's report will be due June 20, 2008 and will be distributed on May 12, 2008.

Discussion Items:

- **Articulation agreements between charter schools**-Director Marlies Burns presented several questions regarding articulation of students between schools and charter schools. Ms. Burns reminded the SCSB of the need of a process and some criteria to be in place. Member Brian Allen questioned if there is a need for the SCSB to approve or not approve articulation agreements. The suggestion was made to involve the Rule Review Committee in the decision making of articulation between district schools and charter schools.
- **Changes to planning year visits**-Director Marlies Burns requested direction from the SCSB to move the charter school site visits timeline forward to accommodate a more adequate facility update. Member Brian Allen suggested the charter school staff to establish a timeline that works best for the Charter School Office and the schools.

- **Revolving Loan**-Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB that the USBE has asked for input as to their definition of a “new charter school” or an “urgent facility need”. After discussion, the SCSB determined a “new charter school” is any school through the first day of their second year, or their second year with students, and a new location and/or campus. An “urgent facility need” to obtain an occupancy permit, bring the facility up to code, and accommodate an expansion on an existing location.

Motion was made by Member Joel Wright and seconded by Barbara Killpack to change the agenda moving Recommendations of new schools and Recommendations of expansions to existing schools to items #1 & #2 and to follow the rest of the items in order as they appear on the agenda. The motion was carried unanimously.

Action Items:

Recommendations of expansions to existing schools-Because of the ranking sheet results, there is a clear break with Emerson Alcott Academy, Monticello Academy and Beehive Science and Technology not being recommended for approval because of the number of students available. Member Joel Wright suggested looking at the new school application numbers and if any slots were available, once the new school enrollment numbers had been determined, to revisit Emerson Alcott Academy and Monticello Academy’s requests.

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member Barbara Killpack to recommend for approval to the USBE Venture Academy, Syracuse Arts Academy, Ogden Preparatory Academy, Entheos Academy, CS Lewis Academy, Dual Immersion Academy, Soldier Hollow Charter School, Legacy Preparatory Academy, Utah Virtual Academy. The motion was carried unanimously.

Member Brian Allen suggested the possibility of recapturing students from schools that have a large enrollment that has never been filled, and use those student numbers to approve for recommendation Emerson Alcott Academy and Monticello Academy’s amendment requests.

Member Joel Wright stated if Emerson Alcott Academy could open on schedule and Monticello Academy resolve issues presented in the March 20, 2008 Charter School Board Meeting, he would like them placed on a SCSC agenda and receive the additional students.

School	Adamic, Julie	Allen, Brian	Killpack, Bobbie	Smith, Scott	Wright, Joel	Average		
Venture Academy	1	5	4	3	1	<i>2.80</i>	50	50
Syracuse Arts	5	1	1	7	3	<i>3.40</i>	400	450
Ogden Preparatory Academy	2	2	2	5	8	<i>3.80</i>	450	900
Entheos	3	9	5	2	2	<i>4.20</i>	60	960
CS Lewis Academy	7	3	7	4	4	<i>5.00</i>	100	1060
Dual Immersion Academy	8	7	6	1	5	<i>5.40</i>	100	1160
Soldier Hollow	6	4	8	6	7	<i>6.20</i>	216	1376
Legacy Preparatory Academy	4	8	9	9	6	<i>7.20</i>	254	1630
Utah Virtual Academy	9	11	3	8	9	<i>8.00</i>	750	2380

Emerson Alcott Academy	10	6	15	10	11	10.40	210	2590
Monticello Academy	11	10	10	15	10	11.20	225	2815
Beehive Science	15	15	15	15	15	15.00	275	3090

- **Recommendations of new schools**-Director Marlies Burns instructed the SCSB to use the spreadsheet that was provided to rank the new charter schools in order of their preference beginning with a #1, and rank any school they were not comfortable in recommending for approval with #15. Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member Barbara Killpack to recommend for approval to the USBE American Preparatory Academy, Vista at Entrada, Open High School of Utah, Hawthorn Academy, Early Light Academy, Excelsior Academy, and Oquirrh Mountain Charter School. The motion was carried unanimously.

School	Adamic, Julie	Allen, Brian	Killpack, Bobbie	Smith, Scott	Wright, Joel	Average		
American Preparatory Acad.	2	1	1	2	4	2.00	570	570
Vista at Entrada	3	2	3	X	1	2.25	675	1245
Open High School of Utah	1	5	2	1	5	2.80	125	1370
Hawthorn Academy	4	6	5	5	3	4.60	750	2120
The Early Light Academy	5	8	4	4	2	4.60	675	2795
Excelsior Academy	7	3	7	6	6	5.80	648	3443
Oquirrh Mountain Charter	6	7	6	7	15	8.20	624	4067
Lyceum Academy	15	4	15	8	15	11.40	400	4467
Wellness Learning Academy	15	15	8	15	15	13.60	410	4877
Beehive Science	15	15	15	15	15	15.00	975	5852

- **Noah Webster Academy**-Joel Wright, representing Noah Webster Academy as their attorney informed the SCSB that Noah Webster Academy was requesting a change in their bylaws because of the change of governmental entity status. Motion was made by Member Brian Allen and seconded by Member Scott Smith to approve the amendment to Noah Webster Academy’s bylaws. The motion was carried unanimously.
- **Liberty Academy**-Director Marlies Burns reminded the SCSB of compliance issues that needed to be addressed by Liberty Academy. Member Joel Wright recused himself from anything related to Liberty Academy, as well as to not vote on any issue. Member Brian Allen suggested to request a plan from Liberty Academy of how the school plans to comply with issues and concerns raised by the SCSB and dates for their compliance.
- **Quest Academy**-Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB that in the rule, it currently states “new schools must attend the trainings that are designated”. Ms. Burns stated there were eight designated trainings and Quest Academy attended two of the required trainings. Member Brian Allen posed the

question is the school getting the training and skill development in other places, other than the trainings that are offered by the USOE. Member Scott Smith suggested requesting from the school to either attend the trainings or supply a plan of action as to how they would receive training, such as attending a national conference, working with a management company, from outside resources, etc. Chair Julie Adamic pointed out that currently in the board rule, those schools that do not attend those trainings; they receive fewer points towards their start-up and implementation grant. Members Scott Smith and Barbara Killpack suggested supplying a waiver plan for attending the mandatory trainings if the school's management company or if they as individuals already have the knowledge covered in those trainings.

- **Changes to R277-470**-Director Marlies Burns presented to the SCSB the comments and recommended stricken language to the board rule. Chair Julie Adamic stated the SCSB would not adopt any changes at this point, and move it to next month's agenda with potential language.
- **Formation of new State Charter School Board committee**-Director Marlies Burns reminded the SCSB that at last month's meeting Member John Pingree had suggested putting together a Legislative Committee. It was recommended to make new assignments in July for the committees and relook at the function of the committee as well as the number of members for each committee.
- **Recommendations for Charter School Revolving Loan Committee**-Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB that one of the schools that had received a revolving loan in January 2008 had turned the funds back to the state, and that amount of money has been recommended for reallocation to the original nine schools that received a revolving loan. Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member Brian Allen to recommend the reallocation of the returned funds. The motion was carried unanimously.
- **Postponement of opening until the 2009-2010 school year**-Director Marlies Burns distributed progress reports from the new schools that will be opening in the fall of 2009.
- **Adoption of 2008-2009 meeting schedule**-Director Marlies Burns presented the SCSB Meeting schedule for FY09. There were two suggested changes be made, in October and April, because of conflicts of seasonal scheduling.
- **Approval of new hire**-Director Marlies Burns introduced Mark Long, a new employee in the Charter School Section at USOE. He is replacing Gary Belliston. Motion was made and seconded for the hiring of Mark Long. The motion was carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn at 4:30 p.m.