

Utah State Charter School Board Meeting  
Minutes  
**December 9, 2010**  
North & South Board Rooms  
Utah State Office of Education

**APPROVED**

Members present: Tim Beagley, Laura Belnap, Dean Brockbank, Tom Morgan, John Pingree, Scott Smith  
Members excused: Yolanda Francisco-Nez

Staff present: Marlies Burns, Paul Crawford, Cory Kanth, Jeannie Rowland, Georgia Loutensock, Jo Schmitt

Others present: Deputy Superintendent Martell Menlove, Janet Cannon, Susie Scherer, Sandy Shepard, Dan Rip, LaWane Boltz, Dee Tanner, Amy Hughes, John Tobin, Janene Bowen, Chris Bleak, Kim Dohrer, Maria Ruf, Benjamin Larsen, Jennifer Perry, Becky Deppe, Nicole Coombs, Greg Robinson, Raquel Timpson, Dorene Turner, JoDee Harding, Rick Veasey, Brian Allen, Linda Harless, Robert Osborne, Richard Bigler, Sage Ukena, Jordan Jeppsen, Blake Petersen, Lane Blackmore, Alisha Humphries-Martin, Megan Gatlin

Call to Order

Chair Tom Morgan called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

***Information Items***

Presentation of Dissemination Grant – C-MAP

Wasatch Peak Academy received a dissemination grant in FY10 and FY11 for the purpose of sharing a best practice of the school. The selected project included compiling best practices for new teachers. Sandy Shepard, Project Director, shared an update of the project. Susie Scherer introduced and explained the binders that were distributed to charter schools.

Charter School Accreditation Report

According to Board Rule (R277-470), all charter schools must be accredited by Northwest by the end of this school year. Georgia Loutensock prepared an update regarding charter school participation and status in the accreditation process.

Update regarding Performance Framework

Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB that the Charter School Staff had been researching information to help set minimum targets for the board approved Performance Management system indicators, measures and metrics. There was some feedback received regarding the targets for the Operational Quality section, specifically the financial indicators; because there was not much feedback Ms. Burns suggested taking no action at this time, but next month the Charter School Staff would be sharing a timeline with specific dates for completion.

***Action Items***

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Vice Chair Tim Beagley to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2010 State Charter School Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Public Comments

Chris Bleak, President of Utah Association of Public Charter Schools (UAPCS) expressed the association's commitment regarding the Performance Management framework by ensuring Charter School Board's receive important and necessary information.

#### Charter School Board Chair's Report

Chair Tom Morgan expressed his gratitude to the SCSB members for the time, energy and effort being put into the work of the Charter School Board. Mr. Morgan went on to say he feels this is a unique learning experience. Mr. Morgan counseled the SCSB to operate at the highest level of integrity related to the board's responsibility and to operate on a level of education rather than vast distinction.

#### Amendment Request – Wasatch Peak Academy

Dan Rip, Wasatch Peak Academy's Board Chair, informed the SCSB the amendment request to change from "dual language instruction" to "Spanish Emphasis."

Motion was made by Vice Chair Tim Beagley and seconded by Member John Pingree to recommend the amendment request for approval to the USBE. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### Amendment Request – Reagan Academy

Maria Ruf, representing Reagan Academy, informed the SCSB the amendment request to modify several items, including the purpose(s) of the school and the school's instructional program.

After much discussion, Reagan Academy withdrew the amendment request, will make suggested/needed changes and resubmit the request.

#### Amendment Request – Renaissance Academy

Dorene Turner, Renaissance Academy's Board Chair, informed the SCSB the amendment request to modify several items, including the purpose(s) of the school and the school's instructional program.

After much discussion, Renaissance Academy withdrew the amendment request, will make suggested/needed changes and resubmit the request.

#### Amendment Request – Utah Connections Academy

Linda Harless, Principal of Utah Connections Academy, informed the SCSB the amendment request of seeking waivers from Board Rules: R277-400: School Emergency Response Plans; R277-433-3: School District and Charter School Policies on Disposal of Textbooks; R277-454: Construction Management of School Building Projects; R277-470-7: Timelines – Charter School Starting Date; R277-471: Oversight of School Inspections; and R392-200: Design, Construction, Operation, Sanitation, and Safety of Schools.

After discussion, Utah Connections Academy withdrew the amendment request acknowledging there is no need for a waiver for the stated Board Rules. In addition Mr. Allen stated the school will formulate an emergency plan that is relevant to the school; also concerning construction related issues, the school will provide a statement of compliance by stating there is no need for compliance in that particular area and justify the truthfulness of noncompliance.

#### New Applicant – Endeavor Hall

Endeavor Hall proposes to open a charter school in the Granite School District serving 750 students in grades K – 9, beginning in the 2011-2012 school year (grades 1 – 6 and 300 students in 2011-2012; grades K – 7 and 625 students in 2012-2013; grades K – 8 and 675 students in 2013-2014, and grades K – 9 and 750 students in 2014-2015). The focus of the school is to serve students desiring to acquire superior writing skills in the context of an academically challenging curriculum as in preparation for collegiate studies and careers.

Motion was made by Member John Pingree and seconded by Member Dean Brockbank to table approval recommendation until the SCSB had heard Valley Academy's presentation. The motion was carried unanimously.

After revisiting the request for authorization, motion was made by Member Dean Brockbank and seconded by Member John Pingree to recommend Endeavor Academy's application for approval to the USBE, along with recommendation of the waiver to open in 2011. The motion was amended by Vice Chair Tim Beagley and seconded by Member John Pingree to direct the Charter School Staff to request this application be considered at the next USBE meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### New Applicant – HighMark Charter School

HighMark Charter School proposes to open a charter school in the Davis School District serving 695 students in grades K – 9, beginning in the 2012-2013 school year (grades K – 8 and 580 students in 2012-2013; grades K – 9 and 695 students in 2013-2014). The focus of the school is to equip students with the highest quality education while fostering an entrepreneurial spirit by integrating practical business applications throughout the core curriculum.

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member Dean Brockbank to recommend HighMark Charter School application for approval to the USBE. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### New Applicant – Valley Academy

Valley Academy proposes to open a charter school in the Washington School District serving 525 students in grades K – 8, beginning in the 2011-2012 school year (grades K – 6 and 525 students in 2011-2012; grades K – 7 and 525 students in 2012-2013; grades K – 8 and 525 students in 2013-2014). The focus of the school is to provide a superior, character building academic program enhanced by integrated training in the fine and performing arts and a technologically advanced curriculum

Motion was made by Chair Tom Morgan and seconded by Member John Pingree to decline the application as presented. The motion was amended by Vice Chair Tim Beagley and seconded by Member John Pingree to encourage the applicant to work with the Charter School Staff to strengthen and rework the application for resubmission for the 2012-2013 school year. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### ***Executive Session***

Motion was made by Chair Tom Morgan to move into an executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation. The Board was polled and by unanimous consent of those present the Board moved into an executive session at 12:25 p.m.

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member Dean Brockbank to reconvene into open meeting. Motion carried with Members Tim Beagley, Laura Belnap, Dean Brockbank, Tom Morgan, John Pingree, and Scott Smith voting in favor; Member Yolanda Francisco-Nez absent. The board reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

#### Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn at 1:10 p.m. by Member Scott Smith.