

Utah State Charter School Board Meeting  
Minutes  
**August 11, 2011**  
North & South Board Rooms  
Utah State Office of Education

**APPROVED**

Members present: Tim Beagley, Laura Belnap, Tom Morgan, John Pingree, Scott Smith, via phone conference Yolanda Francisco-Nez

Members excused: Dean Brockbank

Staff present: Marlies Burns, Paul Crawford, Cory Kanth, Jo Schmitt

Staff excused: Jeannie Rowland

Others present: Martell Menlove, Dave Crandall, Todd Hauber, Natalie Grange, Mary Kimball, Dallis Nordstrom, Chris Ord, Shelly Nordick, Kim Frank, Max Meyer, Erin Preston, Sonya Peterson, Stephanie Soper, Alicia Hansen, Jolynne Jimenez, Joel Wright,

Call to Order

Chair Tom Morgan called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Vice Chair Tim Beagley and seconded by Member Laura Belnap to approve the minutes from the July 14, 2011 State Charter School Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Amendment Request – Weilenmann School of Discovery

Representatives from Weilenmann School of Discovery informed the SCSB of the school's amendment request to modify its charter to increase its individual class size maximum to 25 students per class.

Chair Tom Morgan questioned the school's number of teaches not properly licensed or endorsed for their teaching assignments. Mr. Morgan was informed there are 11 teachers currently at the school not properly licensed. The SCSB was informed by Principal Mary Kimball that she is aware of the circumstances of the individual teachers' not in compliance and they are in process and moving towards appropriate certification with the State of Utah.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Tim Beagley and seconded by Member Scott Smith to recommend to the USBE approval of the amendment request. Additionally, the school was directed to report to the charter school staff the teacher licensing status by December 2011 and staff was directed to schedule training on how the licensure process works for a future SCSB Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Chair Tom Morgan made a quick comment stating that he personally takes offense with an individual when they decide to argue with the Charter School Staff about an issue. Chair Morgan went on to say that the Charter School Staff works very hard to be ensure things are in order, they are the advocate of Charter Schools and when there is an issue that is to be discussed, it is usually because they have done a lot of homework related to the matter.

Amendment Request – Providence Hall

Representatives from Providence Hall informed the SCSB of the school's amendment request to add 50 students this fall and 50 students in fall 2012 (100 additional students, 1450 total).

After much discussion, it was determined that Providence Hall had requested the additional students in an amendment in October 2010, but the approval letter that was sent to the school incorrectly stated 1,350 students total and not the 1,450 students that was authorized.

David Crandall, a member of the USBE, read from the October 2010 minutes of the USBE meeting stating the school was granted an amendment request to its charter agreement to add grades 7-9 and 750 students in the 2011-2012 school year. Providence Hall opened in the fall of 2007 and currently serves grades K - 6 and 700 students.

Motion was made by Member John Pingree and seconded by Member Scott Smith to concur with the USBE decision that was made in their October 2010 meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### Charter Agreement Changes & R277-470, R277-481, R277-482

Vice Chair Tim Beagley expressed his thanks to the SCSB for their patience while going through the process over the last 18 months working to put in place the performance framework and to establish how it would be used. Vice Chair distributed a hardcopy of five proposed motions that would implement the Performance Framework:

- 1) That the Utah State Charter School Board accepts R277-470 Charter Schools General Provisions, R277-481 Charter School Oversight and R277-482 Charter School Timelines as presented by staff and that we send them to the Utah State Board of Education for consideration.
- 2) That the Utah State Charter School Board direct staff to create a document called Utah Charter School Best Practice Guidelines. This document shall contain a listing of recommended financial, governance and academic guidelines for Utah charter schools. This document will be presented to the Utah State Charter School Board for review, comment and adoption at the SCSB October meeting.
- 3) That once these guidelines are adopted, we direct staff to report to the Utah State Charter School Board on a five year rotating basis how well the charter schools authorized in 2011 and before are adhering to the Utah Charter School Best Practice Guidelines and to their charter agreements.
- 4) That once adopted, the Utah Charter School Board Best Practice Guidelines be included in fill-in format for all future charter school applications. This would allow all future applicants to establish their own benchmarks as part of the approval process and competition. Once a charter is approved by the Utah State Charter School Board and the Utah State Board of Education, those benchmarks are copied verbatim into the Charter Agreement for that school and they formally become part of the contract.
- 5) That for Charters approved after 2011 the Utah State Charter School Board direct staff to report to the SCSB at 3 years of operation and every 5 years thereafter how well the schools are meeting their self-described benchmarks and the rest of the school's charter agreement.

Chair Tom Morgan stated he recognized the tremendous amount of work that has gone into the Performance Framework and complemented Vice Chair Tim Beagley and the different individuals and groups for the time they have spent. Also Chair Morgan thanked Vice Chair Beagley for making himself available to negotiate, teach and mentor the Performance Framework ideas to the different groups.

After much discussion, motion was made by Vice Chair Tim Beagley and seconded by Member Scott Smith to recommend to the USBE approval of the proposed Performance Framework as presented. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn at 11:00 a.m. by Member Scott Smith.