

**MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**
Thursday January 11th, 2018
USBE – Board Rooms

APPROVED

Members Present:

Chair Kristin Elinkowski
Vice Chair DeLaina Tonks
Member Dean Brockbank
Member Cynthia Phillips
Member Bruce Davis
Member Jim Moss
Member Michelle Smith

Staff Present:

Jennifer Lambert
Armando Venegas
Rebecca Cisneros
Michael Clark
Reed Bramble
Jessica Hardy
David Thomas
James Madsen

Others Present:

Scott Jones (Deputy Superintendent), Terryl Warner (USBE), Teresa Theurer (Higher Ed), Jerry Record (USBE), Lani Rounds (Bridge), Sam Gibbs (Vista), Tina Smith (UAPCS), Kim Duhren (Academica West), Kevin John (USBE) Craig Frank (UCN), Nic Shellabarger (Bridge), Debbie Nelson (Bridge), Jace Johansen (LEAP), Bruce Browning (LEAP), Stephanie Speicher (LEAP), Chaz Walker (LEAP), Monty Hardy (Esperanza), Juan Fraga (Esperanza), Patricia Mathews (Esperanza), Eulogio Allejandre (Esperanza), Richard Veasey (Lakeview) Anne Bills (Lakeview), Alan Daniels (Lakeview), Tyler Shimakenis (Lakeview), Peter Chamberlain (Lakeview), Amy Watts (Salt Lake Arts Academy)

Call to Order

Chair Elinkowski called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Public Comment

Mr. Jim Johnson made public comment about bullying and personalized learning tracks for students.

Board Chair Report

Chair Elinkowski had nothing to report.

General Consent Calendar

Including: A. minutes from the December 14, 2017 meeting, B. St. George Academy Charter Agreement Amendment.

Motion

Member Smith moved, and Member Davis seconded, to adopt the consent calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

ISIP Grant Spotlight: Salt Lake Arts Academy Ukulele Performance

Students from Salt Lake Arts Academy performed “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star,” and the “ABC” songs, along with: C, F, G7, and Am chords; a twelve bar blues progression, and one verse and chorus from “The Lava Song.”

Principal Amy Watts commented that students cycle through all of the arts to figure out where their passion is and what specifically to pursue. Those students who study music are taught it as a language and a math, and learn sight reading, scales, intervals, and classical and ancient Greek music.

Introduction to New Applications and Reader’s Report

Ms. Rebecca Cisneros introduced Sam Gibbs, Executive Director of Vista at Entrada Academy and SCSB Application Reader.

Proposal and application process, timelines, attendance of boot camp, mentors from SCSB and USBE at trainings, rubric, scores, comments and concerns, drafts vs final document of reader evaluations, quality of readers who are unbiased and devoid of conflict of interest, interview process, agenda, straw poll, time for vote, handout from UAPCS, market analysis, list of questions to ask, and the note-taking sheet were discussed.

Mr. Gibbs presented the application readers’ feedback for Bridge elementary, noting that they believed:

- If the mission was implemented well, its students would succeed
- There was not a strong feeling of ownership from board members
- The idea was not community generated
- There were issues with the proposed location
- There was a lack of parent/community involvement
- A wide range of potential curriculum
- The personal learning plans would strain teachers with limited experience
- The application needed to be strengthened

- The true break-even budget would require maximum enrollment, and not the 80% that was suggested

Mr. Gibbs presented the application readers' feedback for LEAP Academy, noting that they believed:

- Students would be exposed to the best practices in teaching
- They had a strong board
- The growth model and opening process are realistic
- Model is more akin to professional development than a school
- They may struggle to maintain enrollment
- They did not demonstrate a community need

New School Capacity Interview: Bridge Elementary

Bridge Elementary presented on ownership of learning for students, goals, and implementing practices of feedback and microteaching.

Bridge Elementary were questioned on: how its board was formed, the roles of each individual, if they will have relatives attending the school, experience with personal learning model, if board members are planning to be employees of the school, method for hiring director, the exit of previous board members, board members having monetary dealings with the school, procurement, purpose and mission, how the board handles a director resigning, how they would handle vocal and unruly parents, what program and services they would utilize for special education, what policy decision they believe will be the most important in first year, their engagement with the community and how they know they want the school there, how they will differentiate themselves from other schools in the area, what process they would employ to address disagreements among board members, expected enrollment, preliminary discussions with lenders and builders, role of paraprofessionals vs teachers, experience of teachers and why they want new teachers, how they will know students are receiving personalized learning when every kid has a plan, how they will know what the kids will need presently and in the future, the role of a guidance counselor, why the average citizen will want to send their student to Bridge Elementary, experience with starting charter schools, elevator pitch, how would other board members carry forward if they lost their chair, how to implement small group classrooms, how much time students would be on a computer a day, expected student-teacher ratio compared to paraprofessional-student ratio, and the approximate average salary for prospective employees.

New School Capacity Interview: LEAP Academy

LEAP Academy presented an elevator pitch on the virtues of coaching and its demand in the marketplace.

LEAP Academy was questioned on: their advisors, role each member played in developing school model and application, if any relatives would be attending the school, if board members would be employees of the school, how they would choose and hire key administrative positions,

if any members had business interests in the school, contractual agreements, purpose and mission of LEAP, how they would implement professional development beyond coaching, what they would do if their chosen building location was no longer available and they were already late on breaking ground per the January 1 deadline, how they would respond to significantly lower assessment scores for the area, how the school would function and look different than a traditional district school, why more schools are not using coaching in their efforts, the most difficult decision they had to make so far, anticipated enrollment, if they would consider a new location, primary focus for the first year, how the context of a Townsend school in eastern Europe translate to Kaysville, UT, how the governing board and director would know if they are meeting the student and school's goals for learning, how they plan to overcome the perception that students are just athletes, how they will overcome reluctance in area for students to attend a charter junior high, if they researched the profile of the type of kids who would be attracted to the coaching model, and the main coaching techniques that would be used.

Quarterly Budget Review

Executive Director Jennifer Lambert presented on the budget, noting that current and expected expenditures are on track for underspending this fiscal year. Director Lambert also commented that this budget was presented to USBE at its last meeting, which brought up the role of oversight, prompting USBE to decide that they would seek counsel from the Office of the Utah Attorney General.

Introduction to Satellite and Replication Applications

Ms. Cisneros commented that Beehive Academy withdrew its application.

Market analyses, financial reporting, an explanation of provided documents, data on enrollment, assessment, and compliance were discussed.

Replication School Interview: Esperanza School

Esperanza was questioned on: if they had relatives who attend the school, mission and vision, what they see as key elements of their charter and how they envision achieving those in operation, assessments and plans for improving on them at existing campus, how they are meeting contractual goals as indicated in their charter, if it would be more prudent to amend their current charter's practical goals before requesting replication, why they want to replicate now, retention of teachers who are qualified to implement their mission, what if enrollment is not what they expect, how opening another campus helps achieve other goals, board's process for evaluating performance of director, capacity to replicate, hierarchy of administration, tools for monitoring performance as a board, and the board's role in financial oversight.

Replication School Interview: Lakeview Academy

Lakeview Academy was questioned on: if they had relatives attending the school, their school mission and vision, how they are working to fulfill key elements and contractual goals of their charter, why they want to replicate their school at this time, why they are applying for a replication instead of an expansion, what they would do if the second school was hurting the first school, what their plan is if they don't achieve the budgeted enrollment, three successful things that prompted them to seek replication, location, marketing, and surveying of waitlisted parents.

Discussion and Motions on New School and Satellite/Replication Applications

Motion (Lakeview Academy):

Member Davis moved, and Member Smith seconded, to approve Lakeview Academy's replication. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion (Esperanza)

Vice Chair Tonks moved, and Member Smith seconded, to deny Esperanza School's replication. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion to Motion (Esperanza)

Addressing goals, updating existing charter, and the need for a school like Esperanza in Ogden were discussed.

Bridges Elementary Discussion

Similar model in current struggling schools, the need for personalized learning, teacher and mentor connections, a belief in the model if Ms. Lani Rounds were the director, a need for better articulation in the application, concerns over competitive advantage, attracting teachers, community interest, and the need for a motion were discussed.

Motion (Bridge Elementary)

Member Smith moved, and Vice Chair Tonks seconded, to deny Bridge Elementary and urge them to resolve some of the concerns we (SCSB members) have all expressed. Try to work with staff, and encourage them to come back next year. The motion carried unanimously.

LEAP Academy Discussion

Attracting and retaining students, strength of founding board, uniqueness of model, encouraging a relocation, and delaying a year were discussed.

Motion (LEAP Academy)

Member Davis moved, Member Smith seconded, to approve LEAP Academy. The motion carried with Chair Elinkowski, Member Davis, Member Moss, and Member Smith voting in the affirmative, and Vice Chair Tonks, Member Brockbank, and Member Phillips dissenting.

Adjourn

Member Brockbank moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.