

MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Thursday May 10th, 2018

Weber State University Davis Campus—Building D3 Rm 201

DRAFT

Members Present:

Chair Kristin Elinkowski (refrains from voting, unless otherwise noted).
Vice Chair DeLaina Tonks
Member Dean Brockbank
Member Cynthia Phillips
Member Jim Moss
Member Michelle Smith
Member Bruce Davis

Staff Present:

Jennifer Lambert
Armando Venegas
Rabecca Cisneros
Michael Clark
Reed Bramble
James Madsen

Others Present:

Scott Jones (Deputy Superintendent)

Call to Order

Chair called the meeting to order at 9:12 AM

Public Comment

No one made public comment.

Board Chair Report

Chair Elinkowski reminded board members of their graduation visits. A change to Pinnacle Canyon Academy's graduation date.

General Consent Calendar

Including: A. minutes from the April 12, 2018 meeting, B. Amended March 24, 2017 Authorizing and Amendment Committee minutes, C. Early Light Academy Charter Agreement, D. Revolving Loans, E. Monthly Financial Report.

Motion

Member Davis moved, and Member Smith seconded, to approve the General Consent Calendar as presented in the day's materials. The motion carried unanimously.

Threat Assessment Model Resources

Executive Director Jennifer Lambert led a discussion on safety in schools, prevention of violence, dealing with bullying, setting up a round table discussion meeting with charter school directors, adopting the Virginia model for addressing school safety, increasing knowledge of who to contact, and educating schools on the resources available to help them address safety issues and handle problems as they arise.

Meeting Schedule for SY2019

Executive Director Lambert presented the proposed SY2019 meeting schedule. Not holding a July meeting was discussed.

Motion

Member Brockbank moved to hold twenty-four meetings.

Motion

Vice Chair Tonks moved to renew Member Brockbank's term.

Motion

Member Phillips moved, and Member Smith seconded, to adopt the meeting schedule that Jennifer (Executive Director Lambert) presented, minus the July meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

SCSB Self-Evaluation

Mr. Reed Bramble initiated the discussion, defined the purpose as a self-evaluation of the board and its staff, and described the survey as a springboard for discussion. Mr. Bramble explained that negative responses could mean the SCSB believes it is doing worse, or that they have higher expectations. The response rate, averaging middling scores, and looking for constructive criticism was emphasized.

Stakeholders disagreeing greatly on the handling of prior school closures, the relationship the SCSB has with its schools, whether SCSB makes evidence based decisions, where SCSB ranks itself and where its stakeholders rank them, Charter Agreements, Exhibit As, staff's belief that the SCSB needs to clarify its mission and vision and operate according to them, potential biases and special interest groups, perception of staff amongst schools, the impacts of school closure,

staff's desire to do more in-depth presentations when bringing schools before the SCSB so stakeholders can understand the process, the integrity of the data and validity of all responses, the Charter School Accountability Framework (CSAF), School Closure Manual, importance of site visits at schools, becoming more balanced, strength of systems and processes to keep continuity in times of board turnover, summaries of board meetings, Directors Meetings, collaboration meetings, and the Reporting Calendar were also discussed.

Vice Chair Tonks moved, and Member Smith seconded, to go in to Executive Session for the purposes outlined on the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call:

Vice Chair Tonks—yes Member Davis—yes. Member Phillips—yes.
Member Moss—yes. Member Smith—yes. Member Brockbank—yes.
Chair Elinkowski—yes.

Working Lunch/Executive Session

To discuss Jennifer Lambert

Member Smith moved, and Member Brockbank seconded, to exit out of Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously by those members present.

Roll Call:

Vice Chair Tonks—yes Member Davis—absent (restroom). Member Phillips—yes.
Member Moss—yes. Member Smith—yes. Member Brockbank—yes.
Chair Elinkowski—yes.

Continuing SCSB Self-Evaluation Discussion

Chair Elinkowski asked “what’s one thing you would like to see improve on our board,” then called on members of the board and staff to answer said question:

Member Brockbank commented that he is a huge believer in slow and measured decision making, and that he hopes due process will continue to be given to schools when closure is at stake, because it is better to error on hearing from every impacted party, and to be steady.

Member Brockbank left the meeting at 2:09 PM.

Member Smith commented that she thinks the board works really well, and that it would be nice to work strategically to promote and establish that the SCSB is a separate body from the USBE. Ms. Rebecca Cisneros expressed a desire for having a clear and explicit mission and vision that the board acts accordingly with.

Member Moss commented on improving the core vision and telling the story of what charters are uniquely capable of doing, and that what the SCSB Research Consultant does is part of that.

Mr. Michael Clark echoed the sentiments of Member Moss and Ms. Cisneros.

Mr. Armando Venegas commented on a perceived lack of trust between the board and staff at times, and posited that it could be due to a lack of communication from both parties.

Member Davis commented that bringing on a couple of new members would be a good idea (he and Member Brockbank's terms expire at the June 14, 2018 SCSB meeting), and expressed a desire for the SCSB to spend time talking and thinking through strategic issues.

Mr. James Madsen commented on a need for a clear mission and vision, as well as promoting the unique stories of the SCSB and its schools.

Mr. Bramble commented on his surprise of a lack of questions concerning materials presented in board binders.

Executive Director Lambert commented that staff's perspective of special interests playing a role in board decisions stems from not receiving expected questions on the kinds of materials staff gives to the board.

Member Phillips commented that she would like to see the SCSB embrace the dual roles of supporter and enforcer, with vigor.

Vice Chair Tonks commented on wanting to see more done in the way of communications, public relations, marketing, having a clearer mission and vision, and strategy.

Chair Elinkowski commented that other people define what happens with a lot of other things in education, but that she would like to see more innovation, and that she would like to see the SCSB be more proactive instead of reactive.

Mission

Members began brainstorming mission statements. The following were proposed, but none settled on:

- Choice, innovation, and success in education
- Promote student success through innovation and choice
- Promote student success through authorizing and school oversight
- Promote positive student outcomes and choice by authorizing innovative, successful charter schools
- Promote student success through innovation and school choice
- Authorize and promote successful charter schools

Vision

Defining success, excellence, non-traditional data sources, and what constitutes a positive student outcome was discussed.

Member Phillips proposed "to authorize innovative and successful charter schools in order to promote positive student outcomes."

Executive Director Lambert suggested continuing the discussion on the mission and vision at the June 14, 2018 meeting.

Bylaws

Executive Director Lambert explained that the SCSB is not following its bylaws when running committees.

Goals

Executive Director Lambert strongly recommended adopting new goals.

Committees

Executive Director Lambert commented on Member Dean Brockbank's and Member Bruce Davis' terms expiring after the June 14, 2018 meeting, so the board needs to discuss if it wants to have two new members (when appointed) to join the same committee.

Policy Review Schedule

Executive Director Lambert asserted that the SCSB needs to have a Policy Review Schedule.

Future Policies

Executive Director Lambert asked members to consider new policies they would like to see.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Utah State Board of Education

Executive Director Lambert commented that the MOA has gone back to the drawing board, and both SCSB and USBE staff are discussing the needs that should be addressed, as well as what parts of the agreement should be in an MOA format or addressed in Board Rule. The next phase of the discussion would be amongst the two board leaderships.

Adjourn

Vice Chair Tonks moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.