

MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Thursday November 8th, 2018
Utah State Board of Education—Board Rooms

DRAFT

Members Present:

Chair Kristin Elinkowski (refrains from voting, unless otherwise noted).
Vice Chair DeLaina Tonks
Member Cynthia Phillips
Member Jim Moss
Member Krystle Bassett
Member Bryan Bowles
Member Michelle Smith

Staff Present:

Jennifer Lambert
Rabecca Cisneros
Michael Clark
James Madsen
Amber Hellstrom
Brett Campbell
Assistant Attorney General David Jones
Stewart Okobia

Others Present:

Scott Jones (USBE), Max Lang (USBE), Teresa Theurer (Board of Regents), Richard Wolfgram (Mana Academy), Anapesi Ka'ili (Mana Academy), Feleti Matagi (Mana Academy), Suzi Ramo (Dual Immersion Academy (DIA)), Angela Fangul (DIA), Diane Nelson (C.S. Lewis Academy), Cody Laird (C.S. Lewis Academy), Josh Daniels (Utah Connections Academy (UCA)), Erin Talor (UCA), Eric Robins (Entheos Academy Magna), Alisha Cartier (Entheos Academy Magna), Hollie Peterson (Ed Direction).

Call to Order

Chair Elinkowski called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM.

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Board Chair Report

Chair Elinkowski invited those who attended the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) 2018 Leadership Conference to report their experience. Spanish speakers being excluded as separate but equal in Orange County, population and growth, looking at underserved populations, ensuring charter school accountability and autonomy, and an entertaining motivational speaker at the conference was discussed.

Chair Elinkowski reported topics that were discussed at the Governor's Education Excellence Commission, including mental health and school safety, and early childhood development in pre-K.

Mr. Stewart Okobia, the State Charter School Board staff's new finance auditor was introduced.

Consent Calendar

A) October 11, 2018 Minutes, B) Monthly Financial Report, C) Vanguard Academy Charter Agreement, D) Member Code of Conduct Policy.

Motion

Member Smith moved, and Vice Chair Tonks seconded, "to approve the Consent Calendar." The motion carried unanimously.

School Spotlight—SAGE Performance and Growth

Mana Academy Charter School

Mr. Michael Clark introduced Mana Academy board leadership and school administration.

Coming out of state Turnaround, implementing culture of strong student performance, data, growth, school transformation team of administrators and paraprofessionals, rigor and adherence to core standards, peer-to peer feedback, community involvement, opt-out rates and discussions with stakeholders, framing SAGE test as a precursor to college testing students will have to take for entrance, becoming goal oriented, utilizing benchmarks and teaching students how to analyze their results, and a focus on heritage and culture were discussed.

Students from Mana Academy sang two songs, "Teu Fakatulou," a Tongan song written for Mana Academy by Wayne Ngaluafe & Mele To'o, and "Ua Fa'afetai," a traditional Samoan song of gratitude. Representatives of Mana Academy were presented with a certificate and took a picture with the board.

Charter Schools from Utah School Turnaround Cohort 1

State School Turnaround Information: *Max Lang & Leslie Evans, Education Specialists, USBE*

Executive Director Lambert explained that no decision should be made at this time.

Mr. Max Lang, USBE Turnaround specialist, discussed the process that schools go through when they are on Turnaround, including the development of a plan based on a needs assessment, root-cause analysis, and schools exiting by improving by one letter grade.

Report by Charter Schools in Cohort 1. Successfully Exited: Mana Academy Charter School, Dual Immersion Academy (DIA), and C.S. Lewis Academy

Representatives of Mana Academy Charter School, Dual Immersion Academy (DIA), and C.S. Lewis Academy were questioned together on their experience.

Representatives of Mana Academy discussed initially struggling to understand what Turnaround meant, their first vendor (School Improvement Network) not being present, switching vendors to Ed Direction and seeing progress, the importance of setting school's own goals, and confusion over expectations/milestone achievements needed to exit the program. When looking for a provider, Mana Academy suggested schools meet the coaches ahead of time and ensuring that those they meet will be the ones serving the school directly.

Representatives of C.S. Lewis Academy discussed having the same initial vendor as Mana Academy (School Improvement Network), switching to Ed Direction in third year, different companies having different ideas, stress on teachers when changing approaches, and crediting UAPCS staff as helping clarify what they needed to do. When looking for a Turnaround provider, CS Lewis Academy suggests researching and talking with schools because there are a lot of salesmen out there.

Representatives of Dual Immersion Academy (DIA) reported that they used Innovations Ed as their Turnaround provider. Moving targets from the state, knowing they were failing, and the importance of Academic Parent Teacher Teams (APTT) that bring parents together to reflect on academics was discussed. DIA suggests schools in Turnaround look for a provider that wants to understand the school's model and has a desire of fulfilling it.

A vendor evaluation report was discussed with Mr. Max Lang.

Did Not Exit, Granted Extension: *Utah Connections Academy (UCA)*

Representatives of UCA discussed data that came from Turnaround, working with Innovations Ed as their Turnaround provider, replacing the school's administration, curriculum auditing, math standards, internal audit of alignment, concern with graduation rate, root-cause analysis, taking the accountability very seriously and working towards being one of Turnaround's success stories were discussed.

Mr. Max Lang explained the extension means UCA has another year to meet Turnaround exit criteria, and if progress has not been made the school would not exit and the case would then go to the state review panel for further action. Contract negotiations and payments to providers, vetting of vendors, and oversight, were also discussed with Mr. Lang.

Did Not Exit: *Entheos Academy Magna*

Executive Director Lambert reiterated that the board would not be taking action, but gathering information and thinking about what recommendation they will give to USBE.

Representatives of Entheos Academy Magna discussed benefits of having additional coaches show up to help teachers, differences between Kearns and Magna campuses, parents and teachers panicking when designated as a Turnaround school, town hall meetings, being shocked when not granted an extension to exit Turnaround, benchmark data not giving them the correct information, and switching to Curriculum Association's i-Ready to help students prepare for end-of year testing.

Ms. Hollie Petersen (Ed Direction) discussed the progress that Entheos Academy Magna is making, strategic decision to focus on science with SAGE testing because they believed it would impact both math and English scores, and barriers with recruiting and retaining a secondary match teacher.

Mr. Max Lang clarified that the SCSB and the state review panel will make their recommendations to the USBE.

The Turnaround reports, having all necessary data before making a recommendation, and the process and criteria for determining who will exit/not exit Turnaround was discussed.

Legislative Priorities and Update

Member Moss reported on the Innovative Student Improvement Program (ISIP), and legal understanding of involuntarily transfer a charter, noting that the ISIP is being well received by legislators and the Legislative Committee will meet with more soon; while the involuntary transfer of a charter needs more legal review to determine what would happen with the school's assets and teachers/employees in such an event.

Board Training

Open and Public Meetings Act: *AAG David Jones*

AAG David Jones discussed electronic communications, Public Body, chance meetings, quorum, public notice with reasonable specificity to topics that are discussed, including actionable items on agenda, public comment, written minutes and recordings including substance, third parties being allowed to record meetings, process for entering and exiting closed meetings, reasons for closed meetings, records of closed meetings, sworn affidavit for closed meetings, perils of group emails, perils of texting during an open meeting, required annual training, removal of disrupting person, penalties for intentional violations of the Open and Public Meetings Act, GRAMA, state phones, state email addresses, definition of record, board business with stakeholders vs discussing the board with others, and being allowed to interview employees in closed session.

Robert's Rules of Order: James Madsen

Mr. James Madsen presented on the Robert's Rules of Order, including: motions being recorded as verbatim, main motions, seconding a motion, withdrawing a motion, discussion and acknowledgement, amending a motion, omitting language, adding language, omitting and adding language simultaneously, Suspending the Rules, Orders of the Day, Point of Privilege, Point of Information, tabling, reconsidering, Call the Question, and adjourning.

Adjourn

Member Smith moved, and Member Phillips seconded, "to adjourn the meeting." The motion carried unanimously.