

**MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD
Amendment Authorizing Committee**

Friday, March 24, 2017
USBE – Board Rooms

Re-Drafted April 18, 2018

Members Present:

Chair Bruce Davis
Vice Chair DeLaina Tonks
Member Michelle Smith

USBE Members Present:

Member Lisa Cummins
Member Alisa Ellis

Staff Present:

Rabecca Cisneros
James Madsen

Others present:

Royce Van Tassell, Erin Preston, Debby Llewelyn

Call to Order

Chair Bruce Davis called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

Current Application Process

Education Specialist Rabecca Cisneros commented that NACSA prefers preference be given to replication and satellite schools, because they have a proven track record. Ms. Cisneros commented that applicants are required to attend pre-applicant training in order to understand the statute and rules they will be subject to. Ms. Cisneros informed the committee that that proposals are due by June 30th, with articles of incorporation, governing bylaws, and minutes dating approvals being required with submissions. Ms. Cisneros said applicants would then do a mini interview with the SCSB, then afterwards they would be invited to apply. Ms. Cisneros elaborated that there is five weeks' time to turn a proposal into an application, with proposals being transformed and submitted as draft applications for the readers to read and give feedback on, ranking schools based on experience. Ms. Cisneros explained that applicants may make corrections to drafts and resubmit, and In January those applications go to the SCSB, and if approved they go to the USBE in February.

Ms. Cisneros asked if the process was lacking or too rigorous. Member Lisa Cummins commented that she thought it to be a little rigorous. Member Alisa Ellis asked about laws and rules checklist, and if they know what to look for concerning child abuse? Ms. Cisneros said child abuse is covered in the pre-applicant training, with links, rules and laws being disseminated, further explaining that a child abuse training and policy adopted each applicant board is required, and the readers look for elements that show an understanding.

USBE Member Elis asked how it is assessed if a school is truly ready and able to handle extreme cases of special needs, to which Ms. Cisneros explained data is given in pre-applicant training, prior to proposal, and

training clearly defines how all IEPs must be honored. Ms. Cisneros further explained that there are always one or two SPED professionals on the reading panel, and applications are sent to the SPED department at USBE as part of the process, with pre-application, post proposal, and application trainings being required to expound on the seriousness of special education.

USBE Member Cummins asked what the process is for changing a charter. Ms. Cisneros said the applicant would do an amendment, and if the applicant was a Satellite, the school would be asked to fill out an Exhibit A to show what makes the requested school unique.

The committee commented that they were unanimous in offering a favorable recommendation to the SCSB.

Charter Amendment Form and Process

Ms. Cisneros described the goal as hearing amendment requests twice a year, allowing schools to make as many amendments as needed.

Public Comment and Discussion on Charter Amendment Form and Process

Ms. Erin Preston commented that some of the clauses in the agreements aren't legally binding, explaining that her and Mr. David Thomas have not had the same opinion. Ms. Preston asked to review the Charter Amendment Form before the SCSB votes on it.

Royce Van Tassell, of UAPCS, commented that it would be helpful to have these documents posted on SCSB's webpage in advance of the meeting, and echoed Ms. Preston's desire to review before the SCSB votes.

USBE Member Cummins said it would be a good opportunity to postpone the decision with this form, because the USBE does not meet until May; which, if posted online, would allow stakeholders enough time to review. Member Cummins suggested the USBE web designer put the forms on the front page of the website, to help the public easily find documents under review. USBE Member Ellis commented that following the minimum statute isn't enough, asking that notifications be sent out through parent networks and emailed to directors.

Ms. Preston comment that everyone might not need to see these forms, but it would be a good idea to email it to those who have been involved in it, because the prior version had potential terminations and oversight changes. Ms. Preston explained that, in the past, she has argued certain things are not in the scope of SCSB and USBE power.

Ms. Debby Llewelyn commented that she is very comfortable with what is being recommended, and that there are not significant changes, then recommended the forms move forward so those looking to open schools have enough time to do so.

Member Smith said she is supportive of moving forward, as long as forms get put on the website.

Member Davis, Member Cummins, and Member Ellis commented that they were not favorably disposed to recommend this to the rest of the SCSB presently.

Application Forms – Amendment, Expansion, Replication, Satellite, 2017 Proposal, and 2017 New School.

Ms. Cisneros said these were largely already covered and the only changes were reformatting for visual appeal.

The committee said they were unanimous in offering a favorable recommendation to the SCSB.

Startup and Implementation Grant Proposal

Ms. Cisneros explained that the original bill had sunset, and that the grant was far exceeding any requirement and statute. Ms. Cisneros explained that changes make year one become the largest funding amount, with funds tapering in year two. Ms. Cisneros explained that large schools would get the full amount, Replications would receive slightly less than new schools since they have access to state funding already, and maximums and distribution are fixed on a per pupil unit. Ms. Cisneros explained that schools with over 600 students would receive full amount, with 50% paid in July of each year, and the assurances would require schools to inform the SCSB of changes to their staff.

The committee said they were unanimous in offering a favorable recommendation to the SCSB.

Requirement for Training of New Applicants

Vice Chair DeLaina Tonks commented that applicants who are attending the trainings are doing well, while those who are not attending are struggling.

USBE Member Cummins asked if simulations of how to handle those with special needs are being offered in trainings, citing CRT training as an example. Ms. Cisneros said she agrees with the theory, but doesn't know there is a way to prepare applicants for everything they are going to encounter, but said the trainings do go in depth with a lot of issues.

The committee said they were unanimous in offering a favorable recommendation to the SCSB.