Utah State Charter School Board Meeting
Minutes
March 11, 2010
North & South Board Rooms
Utah State Office of Education

APPROVED

Members present: Julie Adamic, Brian Allen, Tim Beagley, Yolanda Francisco-Nez, John Pingree, Scott Smith
Members excused: Tom Morgan

Staff present: Marlies Burns, Paul Crawford, Cory Kanth, Jeannie Rowland, Georgia Loutensock, Jo Schmitt

Others present: Deputy Superintendent Martell Menlove, Janet Cannon, Natalie Grange, Janene Bowen, Joel Wright, Howard Headlee, Shannon Kelley, Cody Claver, Darrin Porter, Chuck Walker, Kim Dohrer, Ryan Lunt, Dianne Walker, Janette Howell, Steve Crandall, Pat Laystrom, Josh Solomon, Darren Beck, Monty Hardy, Steve Winitzky

Application Workgroup
Prior to the State Charter School Board Meeting, representatives from Utah Connections Academy and Baer Canyon High School of Sports and Medical Sciences presented their charter school applications to the State Charter School Board for their consideration of recommended approval to the Utah State Board of Education.

Call to Order
Chair Brian Allen called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Public Comments
Janene Bowen, representing Jordan School District, requested the SCSB to consider postponing APA-Accelerated School opening because of APA-Accelerated School not meeting the requirement of securing a physical site by January 1st. Ms. Bowen stated she was unaware of them looking for a location in South Jordan. Their application had indicated they were looking for a location in Midvale or North Sandy, which at the time was in Jordan School District.

Howard Headlee, chairman of APA-Accelerated School, informed the SCSB the difficulty they have had locating a site for the school in Midvale or Sandy, and their desire to locate in South Jordan.

Joel Wright requested the SCSB to encourage school districts to inform and share information with charter schools so there can be a balanced view, not unlike the way charter schools communicate with their local districts. Mr. Wright also expressed his concern regarding the ”enrollment cap” placed on Charter Schools.

Shannon Kelley expressed her feelings regarding the necessity of approving the charter school application for Utah Connections Academy.

Approval of Minutes
Motion was made by Member John Pingree and seconded by Member Yolanda Francisco-Nez to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2010 State Charter School Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Charter School Board Chair’s Report

Chair Brian Allen stated the Legislature is still working through the Education Budget, and he feels Charter Schools will be funded for their anticipated needs. Chair Allen reminded the SCSB and the school applicants that any action that is taken as a board needs to be approved by the USBE and is still subject to the funding mechanism that is passed by legislature.

Information Items

Performance Management Recommendations from Charter Schools

Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB of the feedback she had received regarding the Performance Management Proposal. Ms. Burns clarified that this is not a new report that schools are being asked to submit and there is not more work that is being asked of the schools.

Action Items

Board Standing Committee Reports

Jeannie Rowland informed the SCSB the Accountability Committee met and discussed the status of the NAAS process and implementation.

Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB the Legislative and Rule Review Committee met and discussed legislation impacting charter schools – S.B. 2 and S.B. 188.

Board Committee Assignments

Director Burns distributed a Charter School Committee Assignment document recommending the reduction of the number of committees to four, instead of the original seven showing the board committee name, chair, and vice chair of the committees.

Motion was made by Member John Pingree and seconded by Member Tim Beagley to approve the distributed Charter School Board Committees and assignments. The motion was carried unanimously.

State Charter School Board Bylaws

A work group was organized, chaired by Tim Beagley with Yolanda Francisco-Nez, Scott Smith, and Janet Cannon being members of the group, to evaluate changes to the Charter School Board Bylaws and incorporate those changes made by the legislature.

Amendment Request – Utah Virtual Academy

Representatives from Utah Virtual Academy presented to the SCSB their amendment to add 2,050 students for a total of 4,100 students for the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion was made by Member John Pingree and seconded by Member Julie Adamic to defer approval recommendation of the amendment request until there is improvement with test scores and the school's budget issues are resolved. The motion was carried unanimously.

Amendment Request – Spectrum Academy

Spectrum Academy is requesting an amendment to add 220 students for a total of 558 students for the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member John Pingree to recommend for approval to the USBE Spectrum Academy's amendment request. The motion was carried unanimously.

Amendment Request – Good Foundations

Representatives from Good Foundations Academy presented to the SCSB their amendment request to open in the 2010-2011 school year, instead of the 2011-2012 school year, that the school was previously approved.

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member Tim Beagley to recommend for approval Good Foundations Academy amendment request. The motion was carried unanimously.

New Charter Presentation – Utah Connections Academy
Representatives from Utah Connections Academy presented to the SCSB their charter school application.

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member Tim Beagley to recommend for approval to the USBE. The motion was carried unanimously.

New Charter Presentation – Baer Canyon High School for Sports and Medical Sciences
Representatives from Utah Connections Academy presented to the SCSB their charter school application.

Motion was made by Member Tim Beagley and seconded by Member Scott Smith to recommend for approval to the USBE. The motion was carried unanimously.

Executive Session
Motion was made by Member Scott Smith to move into an executive session for the purposes of (1) discussing pending litigation and (2) character and professional competence regarding charter schools. The Charter School Board was polled and by unanimous consent of those present the Charter School Board moved into an executive session at 12:30 p.m.

Motion was made by Member Yolanda Francisco-Nez and seconded by Member Scott Smith to reconvene into open meeting. Motion carried with Members Julie Adamic, Brian Allen, Tim Beagley, Yolanda Francisco-Nez, John Pingree, Scott Smith voting in favor; Member Tom Morgan absent. The board reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Adjourn
Motion was made to adjourn at 1:10 p.m. by Member Yolanda Francisco-Nez.