MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Thursday April 12th, 2018
USBE – Basement West

Approved

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

Members Absent:
Member Bruce Davis

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

Others Present:
Jerry Record (USBE), Jared Ferguson (UCAS), Tara Merryweather (UCAS), Students from North Davis Preparatory Academy (NDPA), Jefferson Brewer (RAF), Bryan Gates (RAF), Suzi Ramos (DIA), Jeanette Fogle (DIA), Rick Stowell (DIA), Debby Llewelyn (UAPCS), Angela Fanjul (DIA), Anna Trevino (UCAS), Kim Frank (UCN), Brittony Griffin (Treasurer's Office), David Damschen (Treasurer's Office), Ivy Smith (UT Elementary Students).

Call to Order

Chair Kristin Elinkowski called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM.

Public Comment

No one made public comment.

Board Chair Report

Chair Elinkowski reminded everyone that May's meeting will be held at the Layton campus of

Weber State University, staff will prepare information for discussion, and board members need to complete their self-evaluations.

Students from North Davis Preparatory Academy who won first place at "Ciencia en Action" in Spain gave a short presentation and were congratulated for their accomplishments.

General Consent Calendar

Including: A. minutes from the March 8, 2018 meeting, B. Early Intervention Grant Awards, and C. Monthly Financial Report

Motion

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

School Spotlight – Dual Immersion Academy

Mr. Reed Bramble and representatives of Dual Immersion Academy (DIA) presented on the school's substantial improvements within the last year, including 68% growth, increasing their letter grade from an F to a C; and significant progress in math, language arts, and science.

Representatives of DIA and Mr. Bramble credited the improvements can be credited to parent and student surveys, connection with community, use and publicly displayed data and reinforcing it with teachers and students, reframing of "bad" data to get past negative connotation and instead frame it as a learning resource, strong role-modeling culture, displaying student work on the walls of hallways, employing signage to encourage good etiquette and behavior, having students attend Latino in Action Community Conference, selecting and being receptive to their qualified and accessible Turnaround team, and participating in professional development opportunities.

The future of DIA includes hoping to exit Turnaround, continue improvements on SAGE testing, emphasizing higher achieving students at the school/supporting their potential, and continuing to trend upward.

My Bramble referred to DIA as the shining star of Turnaround, then discussion ensued about the percentage of English Language Learners and the school's Latino population, teaching methodology, incredible proficiency on SAGE testing for students who had been attending DIA for a year or more, having SAGE testing being conducted in English while teaching Spanish, Response to Intervention (RTI), commitment to the model of their charter, hiring practices, retention of bilingual teachers, and following the data for improvements.

An eighth-grade student read a poem that she written for and presented at the Latinos in Action conference. The poem was about "dreams and striving to reach them, despite the trials along the way."

Representatives of DIA were presented with a certificate before taking a photo with members of the SCSB.

Utah County Academy of Sciences (UCAS) –Expansion Request

Ms. Rabecca Cisneros explained that UCAS is requesting an additional 750 students to house at a new facility for next year. UCAS' projected growth model over the next three years, transfer and retention rates, school grade, outperformance of peers in community, current facilities, and a current contract for the property were explained.

UCAS was questioned on location of current/new facilities, transportation between campuses, worries of meeting the dramatic increase in enrollment, community input, recruitment of students, scheduling, distribution of grades at campuses, CTE, concurrent enrollment , distribution of teachers and hiring new ones, special education, universities lack of recognizing Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and preferring 504 plans, correlation between minority and low income students, free and reduced lunch and hesitation of students and their families to fill out the application in current political climate, Title IV grant, and concerns of expansion changing the school's already successful culture.

Member Brockbank referred to UCAS as a shining star.

Motion
Member Brockbank moved, and Member Phillips seconded, to approve UCAS' Expansion Request as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Fast Track Application Policy and Process

Ms. Cisneros presented this policy/process as a voluntary alternative application for Satellite and Replications for schools who are in good standing, have charter fidelity, and successful academic metrics. Those applying without meeting those standards would not be excused. Applications would be allowed anytime throughout the year, so long as the October 1 Rule could still be adhered to. Ms. Cisneros further explained that NACSA has gathered national data showing this process is a way for authorizers to increase their portfolios of high-performing schools, and that the burden is placed on the requesting school to prove how their request would not impact their continued success.

Member Phillips asked to amend items "2," "4," and the last bullet point so;

Item "2" became:

> "SCSB staff shall conduct a criteria review which includes a site visit. The review shall be timely so as to allow the application to be heard on the next regularly scheduled board meeting if the school meets each performance criteria"

Item "4" became:

> "The school shall present their Satellite or Replication plan in an open and public meeting. The presentation should provide clear evidence of capacity to operate a new school successfully – academically, financially, and operationally; while maintaining

quality in the existing school(s). The school should demonstrate the ability to manage both the scale and pace of proposed growth."

The last bullet point became:

"The SCSB may determine, for good cause, to excuse a single deficient criterion in Student Engagement, Finance, or Governance. However, the SCSB will not excuse a deficiency in Charter Fidelity nor Academics when considering certification."

Motion
Member Smith moved, and Vice Chair Tonks seconded, to release the *Fast Track Application Policy and Process*, with the amendments suggested by Member Phillips, for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Facilities Review Policy

Executive Director Jennifer Lambert presented the *Facilities Review Policy*, explaining that statute requires that authorizers must review facilities contracts and schools must additionally submit these contracts to an attorney for review. Executive Director Lambert explained that the SCSB's current and past practice for such contracts is/was having these reviews performed by an attorney, but feedback from these attorneys describe this task as difficult to accomplish because of the wide scope of financial and situational knowledge needed. Executive Director Lambert further clarified that all reviews that have been/are currently/will be done by the SCSB are advice only.

Timeframe and the onus being on the school to submit additional information, liability, legal review, and public comment were discussed.

Member Phillips suggested adding the following language to the last sentence of the *Facilities Review Policy*, "or any other such contracts or agreements not presented to the SCSB for review outside of the prevue of U.C.A. 53G-5-404(9)."

Motion
Member Phillips moved, and Member Smith seconded, to put for review the proposed *Facilities Review Policy* with her additional amended language at the bottom. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff was directed to seek legal review.

Charter School Finance Authority, Bonding, and Credit Enhancement – Treasurer David Damschen

Utah State Treasurer David Damschen presented on the Money Management Act, Money Management Council (charter schools can contact Ann Pedroza at 801-538-1883 about this), the Public Treasurer's Investment Fund (PTIF) that yields a higher return on investment (that charter schools can also invest in), merchant services for facilitating credit card payments, statewide cooperative contracts available at Purchasing.Utah.Gov, P-Card options for replacing petty cash

and merchant code restricted travel cards, Request for Proposals (RFP), and the Utah Charter School Finance Authority (UCSFA) bonding and Credit Enhancement Programs.

Concerning UCSFA programs, the Maximum Annual Debt Service (MADS), program reserve fund, and the importance of the moral obligation pledge between state and school board (not their business management company), developer contract terms, schools seeking bonds because they are under financial duress, schools seeking Credit Enhancement because they are currently carrying expensive unenhanced bonds, schools seeking bonds after five years of operations when biggest damage to a school is done at inception by developer terms, and a need for competition and transparency, post-issuance compliance and reporting that schools are required to complete even after their current governing board leaves to maintain integrity of the bonds and State credit were discussed.

Executive Director Lambert invited Treasurer Damschen to present at a future Directors Meeting.

Credit Enhancement Certification Policy

Timeline, Information required on the certification, including: enrollment, retention, Average Daily Membership (ADM), academic performance was discussed.

Member Phillips was not present for this agenda item, so Executive Director Lambert expressed the notes/concerns/amendments she had prepared before leaving; which altered the following to:

First paragraph about Timeline:

> "Requests for Credit Enhancement certification that are complete and received by the SCSB prior to the 15th day of the month will be considered at the next regularly scheduled SCSB meeting (as per the 15th deadline)."

Second Paragraph about Timeline:

> "The information listed below must be included in a school's request to the SCSB for Credit Enhancement certification:"

Paragraph about Certification:

> "Once the SCSB receives a completed request, staff will review the data and prepare the certification. Unless there is a concern or a cause for delay, the certification will be placed on the consent calendar for approval. If approved, SCSB will send the certification to the school for inclusion in their Credit Enhancement Program application."

Motion
Member Smith moved, and Member Moss seconded, to put this out to review, incorporating Member Phillips' suggestions. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Elinkowski participating in the vote.

FY2019 SCSB Budget

Executive Director Lambert presented the FY2019 SCSB Budget for adoption, noting that the Budget Committee had reviewed it earlier that morning.

Motion
Member Moss moved, and Member Smith seconded, to approve the budget as presented by staff. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Elinkowski participating in the vote.

Adjourn

Member Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.