

August 9, 2019

MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, August 9, 2019

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 Bryan Bowles
Member Krystle Bassett
Member Michelle Smith

Staff Present:

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

Others Present:

Chair Mark Huntsman (USBE), Nephi Aiono (CNTI), Cliff Mosezes (CNTI), Marv Aiono (CNTI), Magdalena Cabrera (Anchor), Bonni Jones (Imagineer), Alisha Mayer (Imagineer), Jared Howell (Imagineer), Josh Daniels (Canyon Grove), Kim Goates (Canyon Grove), Brian Sommers (DCAU), Ryan Clark (DCAU), Michelle Walter (Vista), Sam Gibbs (Vista), Joylin Lincoln (UAPCS)

Call to Order

Chair Elinkowski called the meeting to order at 9:09 AM.

Pledge of Allegiance

A flag was present so the Pledge of Allegiance was made by those present.

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Board Chair Report

Chair Elinkowski discussed NACSA 2019 Leadership Conference travel, board elections, and encouraging innovation,

A certificate was presented to Ms. Rabecca Cisneros celebrating her work as authorizing coordinator, then a photo was taken with her and the board.

Vice Chair Tonks made a point of privilege to present a certificate to Chair Elinkowski for being accepted to the Master of Applied Positive Psychology program at the University of Pennsylvania.

Executive Director Jennifer Lambert noted sadness at Ms. Cisneros leaving, then expressed excitement while introducing Mr. Greg Connell as the SCSB's new research consultant, and Ms. Marie Steffensen (who will be taking the responsibilities previously held by Ms. Cisneros) as the SCSB's new authorizing and school support specialist.

Representatives of the Innovations Committee discussed the three areas of influence: 1) pockets of innovation and amplifying them, 2) not reinventing the wheel because out-of-state innovation that is already working, 3) macro-idea collaboration with stakeholders.

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Consent Calendar

A) June 13, 2019 and July 16, 2019 Minutes, B) Monthly Financial Report, C) George Washington Academy Charter Agreement, D) Canyon Rim Academy Charter Agreement, E) Bridge Elementary School Charter Agreement, and F) FY20 Innovative Student Improvement Program Grant Awards

Motion

Member Bowles moved, and Member Phillips seconded, to "approve the Consent Calendar." The motion carried unanimously.

Introduction to Proposals and Process

Ms. Rabecca Cisneros discussed the structured template, purpose, scoring rubric, instructions given to the applicant groups, objectives of presentations, summary documents, reports about proposals and intended markets, maps of local charter schools, comparable missions, and list of questions provided.

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Camino Nuevo Technical Institute

Members of Camino Nuevo Technical Institute (CNTI) introduced themselves and discussed proposed location, opportunity to teach, making a difference, data from community survey, demographics, personal histories of governing board members, partnerships with concurrent enrollment, extracurricular activities, curriculum, benefits of military enlistment, intent to occupy building next to Dual Immersion Academy, and providing options for students.

Members of CNTI were questioned on background information, incomplete proposal, previous proposal with Crest Academy, CNTI board members not being present, identity - members, main responsibility of board, finances and enrollment, the Touchstone company listed in proposal, business management structure, academic programs, payment structure with landlord, occupancy cost percentage of budget, building, identity of developer, existing schools in neighborhood, and the expense of programs.

Anchor Academy Middle School

Representatives of Anchor Academy Middle School (AAMS) introduced themselves, explaining reasons for absent board members, then discussed the reason for requested grade band, empathy, cultural understanding, contemplating hypothetical situations, chemical reactions, onsite childcare, teaching students how to do laundry and wash dishes, students working in the kitchen, pace of speaking and reading.

Members of AAMS were questioned on location and demographics, market analysis, enrollment, funding for student transportation, classroom size, and current teaching experience.

Excelsius Academy

This agenda item was tabled because the group withdrew their proposal prior to the meeting.

Imagineer Academy

Representatives of Imagineer Academy introduced themselves and absent board member, then performed a live-action demonstration about what it would be like to attend Imagineer Academy, depicting asking questions, trial and error, and receiving badges for skill mastery.

Imagineer Academy representatives were questioned on potential location, how they will appeal to economically disadvantaged populations, transportation, collaboration of design and coaching personnel, teacher certification, curriculum creation, iterative process to adapting curriculum, projected enrollment, multiple campuses, if there would be an online component, and specifics of model

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Destinations Career Academy of Utah

Representatives of Destinations Career Academy of Utah (DCAU) introduced themselves and their experience and the need for their school, discussing stakeholder feedback, workforce demand, and the envisioned typical day of a student.

Representatives of DCAU were questioned on need for school, relationships with businesses and if MOU's have been established, educational expertise on board, curriculum and pairing K12 content with project-based learning components, knowledge of other service providers and willingness to pursue one.

Discussion and Vote on Proposals/Invitation to Submit Full Applications

Motion

Vice Chair Tonks moved, and Member Smith seconded, "not to move Camino Nuevo Technical Institute forward in the application process." The motion carried unanimously.

Concerns of prospective board member involvement, deadlines, reports, accountability framework, lack of a solid plan, admiration of the proposed focus, lack of planning, demonstration of capacity, and poor articulation of how the school would offer something different from district schools was discussed.

Motion

Member Smith moved, and Member Moss seconded "not to invite Destinations Career Academy to submit a full application." The motion carried unanimously.

Appropriateness of curriculum, strength of industry experience, and respectfulness towards staff was discussed.

Motion

Vice Chair Tonks moved, and Member Bowles seconded, "not to invite Anchor Academy to submit a full application." The motion carried unanimously.

Passion of founder, needing a more fleshed out proposal, and community engagement was discussed.

Motion

Member Phillips moved, and Member Bassett seconded, "to allow Imagineer be allowed to move forward and submit a full application." The motion carried unanimously.

Well considered proposal, wanting to see more, budget, location, scale of school, and if could school operate with lower enrollment was discussed.

Gratitude was expressed to groups who withdrew their proposals when they felt were not ready, noting that said action was interpreted as a sign of maturity.

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Introduction to Expansions

Ms. Marie Steffensen informed the board of the schools seeking expansions, where to find the data, increased enrollments, and accreditations.

Canyon Grove Expansion Request

Representatives of Canyon Grove introduced themselves, discussing utilization of school facilities to better meet the needs of the community, leveraging space to accommodate more students, and working on an Exhibit A amendment to charter to best meet demand in their area.

Requirements of statute and Board Rule that the SCSB is required to evaluate when reviewing Expansion Requests, opt-out rates, and the history of previous charter amendments were discussed.

Motion

Vice Chair Tonks moved, and Member Bowles seconded, “to not approve the Expansion Request for Canyon Grove Academy.” The motion carried with Member Smith, Member Phillips, and Member Moss dissenting.

Discussion to the Motion

Data trends of academic achievement, transfer and retention rates, and demand for program was discussed. Provided data was elaborated on by staff.

Motion

Member Smith moved, and Member Moss seconded, “to approve Canyon Grove Academy’s Expansion Request pending satisfactory resolution with the issues of their Charter Agreement.” The motion failed unanimously.

Discussion to the Motion

The SCSB discussed Board Rule dictating Expansion Requests needing to be approved before October 1 or needing a waiver, and having the school re-apply in September if the issues with their Charter Agreement are resolved by then.

Vista School Expansion Request

Representatives of Vista School introduced themselves and discussed the motives for their Expansion Request, including wait list, a need for professional grade performance facilities, and personal histories with the school, ACT scores, and Sterling Scholar students.

Representatives of Vista School were questioned on financials, board chair communications, current enrollment caps, assurances, and status of certified and licensed teachers.

Motion

Member Bowles moved, and Vice Chair Tonks seconded, “to approve the (Vista School’s) Expansion Request.” The motion carried unanimously.

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Discussion to the Motion

Vice Chair Tonks noted that Vista School: is in good standing, neutral on two years of academic data, performance is in-line with schools in area, being in an acceptable financial position, in compliance with having a waitlist for enrollment, school facility and safety issue are adequate, resolved compliance issues with reporting,

Discussion and Vote on Expansion Requests

This discussion item was not needed because the relevant motions and discussions occurred in the previous agenda items.

Motion

Member Phillips moved, and Member Bassett seconded, “to go into closed session to discuss potential pending litigation.” The motion carried with the following votes:

- Chair Elinkowski—Yes
- Vice Chair Tonks—Yes
- Member Moss—Yes
- Member Phillips—Yes
- Member Bassett—Yes
- Member Smith—Yes
- Member Bowles—Yes

Closed Session

Motion

Vice Chair Tonks moved, and Member Phillips seconded, “to come out of closed session.” The motion carried unanimously with the following votes:

- Chair Elinkowski—Yes
- Vice Chair Tonks—Yes
- Member Moss—Yes
- Member Phillips—Yes
- Member Bassett—Yes
- Member Bowles—Yes

Member Smith left during closed session.

Adjourn

Motion

Member Phillips moved to adjourn The motion carried unanimously.