

Utah State Charter School Board Meeting
Minutes
June 19, 2008
North & South Board Rooms
Utah State Office of Education

APPROVED

Members present: Julie Adamic, Brian Allen, John Pingree, Barbara Killpack, Scott Smith, Joel Wright
Members excused: Eric Smith

Staff present: Marlies Burns, John Taggart, Jeannie Rowland, Mark Long, Jo Schmitt

Others present: Jeneane Bowen, Tim Beagley, Yolanda Francisco-Nez, Darren Beck, Steve Crandall,
Representatives of Monticello Academy

Call to Order

Chair Julie Adamic called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Member Brian Allen and seconded by Member Barbara Killpack to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2008 State Charter School Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Charter School Board Chair's Report

Chair Julie Adamic thanked those individuals involved with the Annual Charter School Conference that was held June 16-17 on the UVU campus in Orem, UT. She stated there were approximately 400 participants. Ms. Adamic felt it was a great opportunity for everyone to get together to network, learn from each other and learn from experts.

Board Standing Committee Reports

Accountability Committee-Director Marlies Burns stated she was the only attendee and there was no information to report.

Communication Committee-Member Scott Smith recommended the book "Disrupting Class" by Clayton Christenson and suggested having the book available to all the SCSB and the Charter School Staff. Mr. Smith stated the committee recommended holding a Board Summit to discuss communication, abilities to work with the media, advertising, and formulating ideas for reporting, etc. The committee's suggestion is to hold the summit in September or October in St. George with Clayton Christenson as guest speaker.

Information Items:

Monthly Charter School Directors' Training Summary

Jeannie Rowland, Education Specialist at USOE, distributed a summary of the trainings that had been held throughout the year. Ms. Rowland stated she has had input from several directors, and they feel the trainings have been very worthwhile and informative. She felt the only training that was not attended well was the training in May, and that next May there would not be a training meeting.

Member John Pingree suggested a "new" director of a school being teamed up with a "seasoned" or experienced director as a mentor. Ms. Rowland informed Mr. Pingree there has been discussion previously as the need for mentoring, and have not gone into depth, but would look into that possibility.

Entheos Academy Purchase Agreement

John Taggart, Education Specialist at USOE, presented to the SCSB the lease agreement for Entheos Academy. Mr. Taggart stated that Entheos Academy has followed all the requirements on the approved SCSB checklist. He went on to say they have provided all the necessary documentation and financial analysis showing they had given proper credence and done due diligence in researching out the lease agreement before signing.

Upcoming SCSB Agendas

Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB that the Charter School Section, for the 2010-2011 school year, had received six new charter schools applications that are moving on in the approval process, six existing charter schools that have asked for expansions and three charter schools that are asking for satellites. The SCSB scheduled the six new charter schools to present in the August SCSB Meeting; and the six existing school expansions, along with the three satellite schools to present in the September SCSB Meeting. In the October SCSB Meeting, the final recommendations would be determined.

Chair Julie Adamic recognized Yolanda Francisco-Nez and Tim Beagley as the new SCSB Members and thanked them for attending today's meeting.

Action Items:

School LAND Trust Plans for FY09

John Taggart informed the SCSB that the goal of the School LAND Trust money is to increase student achievement. He stated there are various ways the schools can accomplish that goal. If that increase cannot be measured by test scores, the school is required to show measures that the students are utilizing what was provided and purchased with the School LAND Trust funds.

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member John Pingree to approve as outlined the School LAND Trust plans. The motion was carried unanimously.

Reconsideration of Non-Recommended Schools

Emerson Alcott Academy-Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB that when Emerson Alcott Academy submitted their application, the founding board was under the impression their enrollment plan was very flexible. Ms. Burns stated that that is not the case and when a school submits an enrollment plan, the school is held to those numbers. Emerson Alcott Academy is requesting their enrollment plan be accelerated. They are not asking for more students than originally requested, but at a quicker rate than what was outlined in their original charter application. Ms. Burns informed the SCSB that Emerson Alcott Academy is asking for 268 students in the 2009-2010 school year. That amount would put the school at full capacity their second year, rather than waiting for their fourth year of operation.

Monticello Academy-Kim Coleman, Director and former Board Member, presented to the SCSB their desire to add grades 9-12 and increase enrollment by 525 for 1,275 students total. The request is broken down into a three year growth model, rather than a one year request. For the 2009-2010 school year the request is 225 additional students (75 9th grade students and 150 10th grade students), 150 11th grade students in the 2010-2011 school year, and 150 12th grade students in the 2011-2012 school year.

After much discussion, motion was made by Member Joel Wright and seconded by Member John Pingree to recommend for approval Emerson Alcott Academy and Monticello Academy amendment requests. The motion was carried with positive votes from Members Joel Wright, John Pingree, Scott Smith and Brian Allen. Chair Julie Adamic and Member Barbara Killpack voted in opposition of the motion.

Elect Charter School Chair & Vice Chair for 2008-2009

Motion was made by Member Barbara Killpack and seconded by Member Scott Smith to nominate Brian Allen as Chair of the SCSB for the term of July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009. The motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Member Joel Wright and seconded by Member Barbara Killpack to nominate Scott Smith as Vice Chair of the SCSB for the term of July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009. The motion was carried unanimously.

Chair Julie Adamic thanked Eric Smith, Barbara Killpack and Joel Wright for their service and dedication to public education via charter schools. Ms. Adamic also stated their input did make a difference and their influence will always be felt.

Director Marlies Burns followed up with the SCSB regarding Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy with the reason she did not forward their request to the USBE. She stated the Charter School Staff received the school's raw scores. Ms. Burns went on to say the raw scores are correct and accurate, but those scores do not reflect proficiency. Proficiency takes into account how hard the test was, and how many students took the test. Karl G. Maeser Prep Academy had very low percentages, raw score wise, but that does not mean the school is not proficient. She informed the SCSB that as soon as she receives Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy's proficiency scores and that they have met proficiency in most areas; she will add them to the USBE agenda.

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn at 11:50 a.m. by Member Joel Wright.